SAM PROJECT

SURVEYS TO UNDERSTAND ASYLUM RELATED-MIGRATION
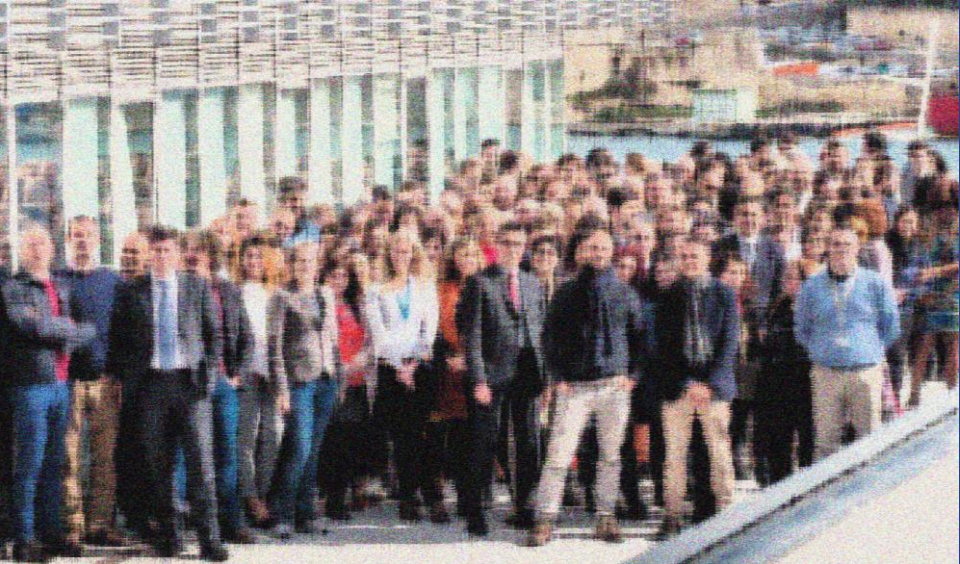
Speaker - Sara Henriques
Research team - Teddy Wilkin, Constantinos Melachrinos, Cinzia Spinazze, Sara Henriques

Data Analysis and Research Sector
European Asylum Support Office

Who We Are?

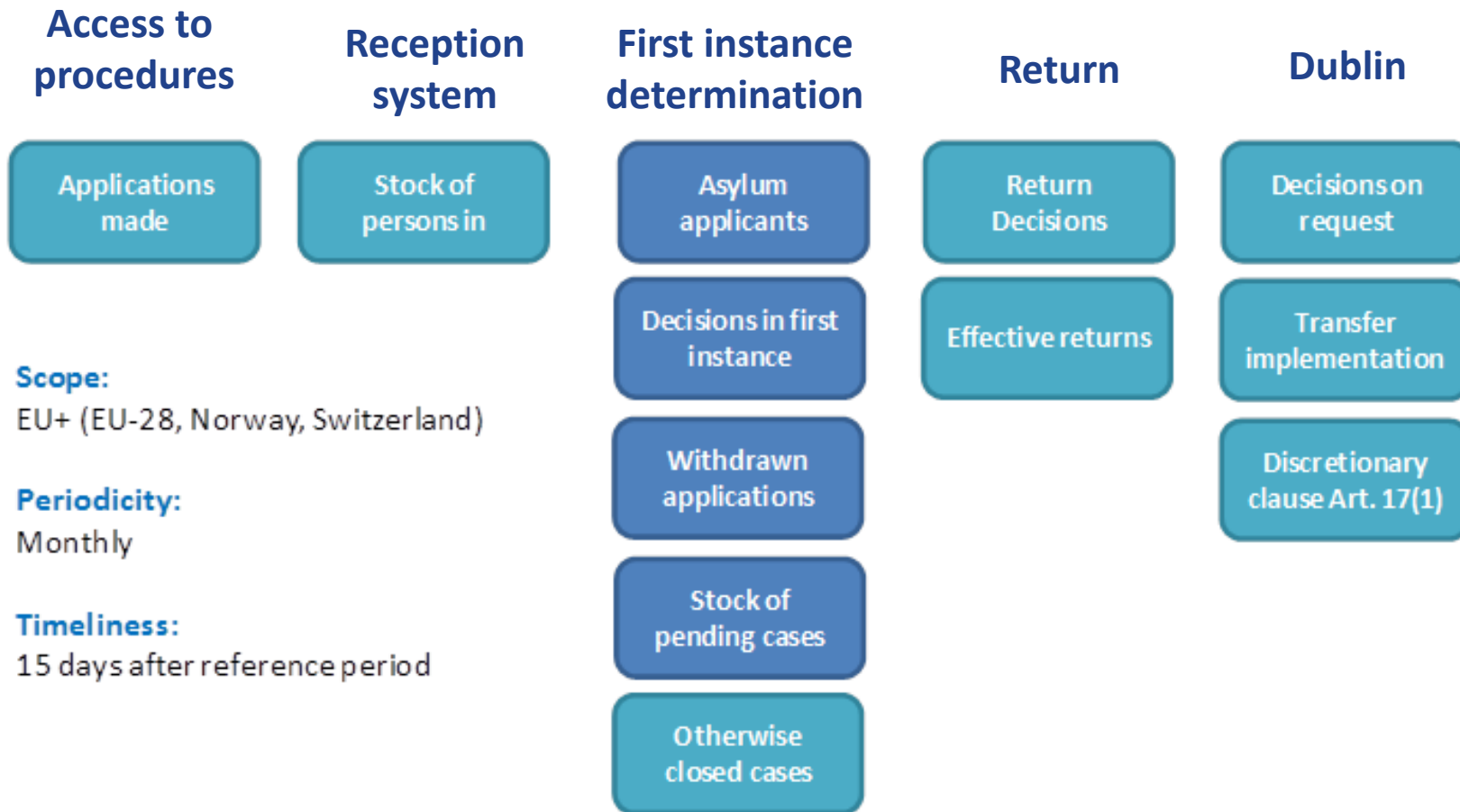## EASO's Research Programme

Surveys' Research Project

Surveys to research asylum-related

migration

Asylum data

Early warning and Preparedness System (EPS) - a data collection system that gathers information on relevant indicators in all key stages of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS).

Access to procedures	Reception system	First instance determination	Return	Dublin
Applications made	Stock of persons in	Asylum applicants	Return Decisions	Decisions on request
		Decisions in first instance	Effective returns	Transfer implementation
		Withdrawn applications		Discretionary clause Art. 17(1)
		Stock of pending cases		
		Otherwise closed cases		

Scope:
EU+ (EU-28, Norway, Switzerland)

Periodicity:
Monthly

Timeliness:
15 days after reference period

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Why surveys?

- Data collected directly from asylum seekers

- Gaps in knowledge

- **Detailed data on journey, expectations, etc**

- Reliability of information (anonymity may improve the report of sensitive data)

- **Asylum situation is a dynamic, continuously changing situation**

- **Large representative sample**
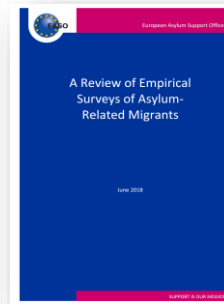
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EASO Surveys project

Previous work

GOAL:

- Test technical and logistical aspects,

- Test the feasibility,

- Explore different methods, procedures and strategies for setting up a permanent system of data collection with surveys.

2017

Call for tender

Call for tender and award for a feasibility study and review of available survey

2018

Feasibility study and Review of available surveys

Surveys Advisory Group

2019

Drafting and launching of the call for tender; Selection and contract award

2020

Survey project kick off BE, FR, NO

A review of empirical surveys of asylum-related migrants

*EASO – by University of Siena and Kantar Public Brussels

Access here: https://www.easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/easo-review-surveys-1-2.pdf

- **Goal – review research designs, methodology, advantages/ disadvantages**

- **N = 157 studies/ 2000 – 2017**

- **76% are single country studies/ 24% were multi-country**

- **Germany, France, UK, Greece, Italy, Spain, Malta**

- **Substantial lack of accurate sampling frames**

- **Non-probability sampling methods (snowball and purposive samplings)**

- **Varied sample sizes (100 – 5000)**

- **Face-to-face interviews (either CAPI or PAPI)**

- **Translation to asylum-seekers native-speaking languages**

- **Importance of having a pilot study**

Feasibility Study Report: Survey among Asylum-Seekers in EU

*EASO – by University of Siena and Kantar Public Brussels

- ➢ **Level of cooperation of national asylum authorities**
- ➢ **Hard-to-reach population (most surveys used non-probability sampling methods)**
- ➢ **Use of complete registers of asylum-seekers**

- **National Asylum Authorities**

- **Short query (interest, n=11) & Questionnaire (specific features of reception centres, n=6)**

- **Asylum-seekers can be reached by mail and phone (DP issues)**

- **Face-to-face VS Online ?**

- **Factors to decide: encouragement/ engagement of having an interviewer, social presence, length of the survey, control, social desirability effect, primacy and recency effects, interviewer effect, participation rate, non-response bias, self-administered, literacy, digital divide, costs, mixed methods**

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Collecting testimonies directly from asylum seekers – the pilot study
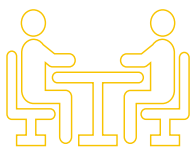
ftf by native speakers (EN, FR, AR, Dari)

Adult third-country nationals or stateless persons who are first time asylum applicants, beneficiaries of international protection, previous applicants who received negative decisions
N ~ 2000
Belgium 400; France 1300; Norway 300

3 MS – FR, BE, NO
Diversity in terms of geographical scope, asylum flows, reception centres, population N

Challenges:
Hard to reach study population,
High turnover of individuals residing in RC,
Obtaining a representative sample,
Quality/veracity of responses,

SAM - Surveys with Asylum-related Migrants

COVID19 Pandemic
Alternative approach?
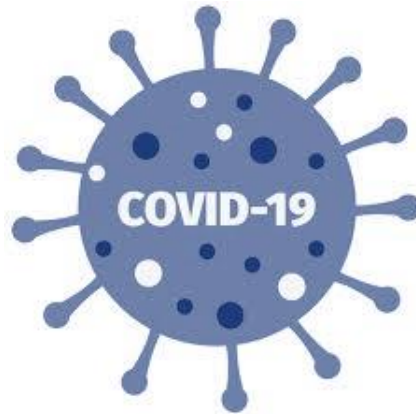
2016-2020

SAM 1 – surveys

- ✓ Feasibility study
- ✓ Review of available surveys
- ✓ Surveys Advisory Group
- ✓ Contract and survey kick-off

2020-Onwards

SAM 2 – online surveys

- ✓ Scoping review
- ✓ Pilot study
- ✓ System development study

SAM2 - Conducting <u>online</u> surveys with asylum-related migrants

✓ Online Survey
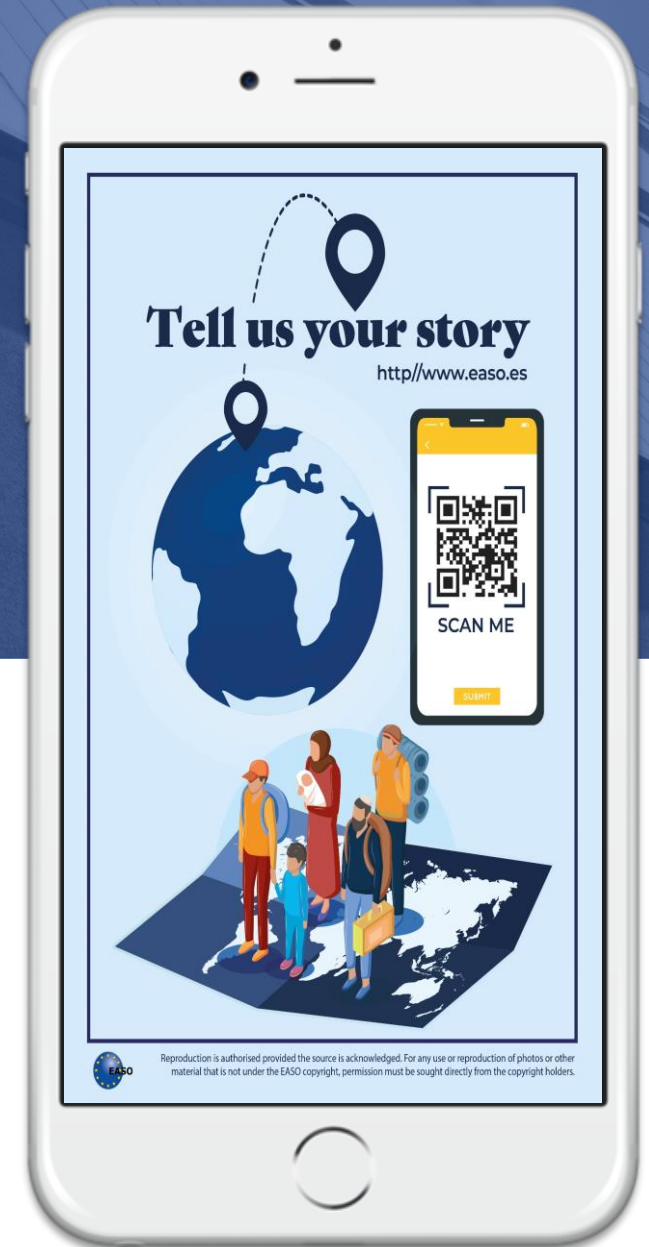
✓ Internet / smartphones

Voluntary

Anonymous

Self-administered

Multilingual

SAM2 Project

Stage 1: Preparatory

Stage 2: Pilot project

Stage 3: System Development

Lessons learned from SAM1

Scoping review

Reception Network Survey

In-house study

Test feasibility of using online surveys

with asylum-related migrants

EU+ countries

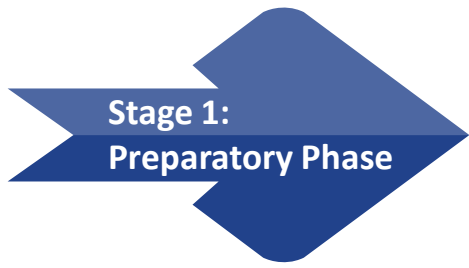**Online survey**

Representative sample

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Stage 1:
Preparatory Phase

❖**Lessons learned from SAM1**

❖**Reception Network Survey**

❖**Scoping review**

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Reception Authority Results

Survey to MS Reception Centres participating in the EASO's Reception Network

01 Main goals

- To explore whether RC have used before online surveys with asylum-related migration;

- To understand best practices of using online surveys with this population: communication channels, survey software, residents' database, topics of interest from RC's perspective, willingness to support EASO).
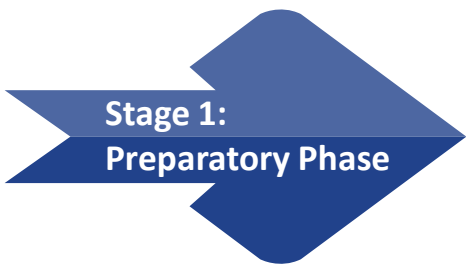
02 Time period

Available from November 9 to

December 4

03 Sample

17 RC from 16 member States
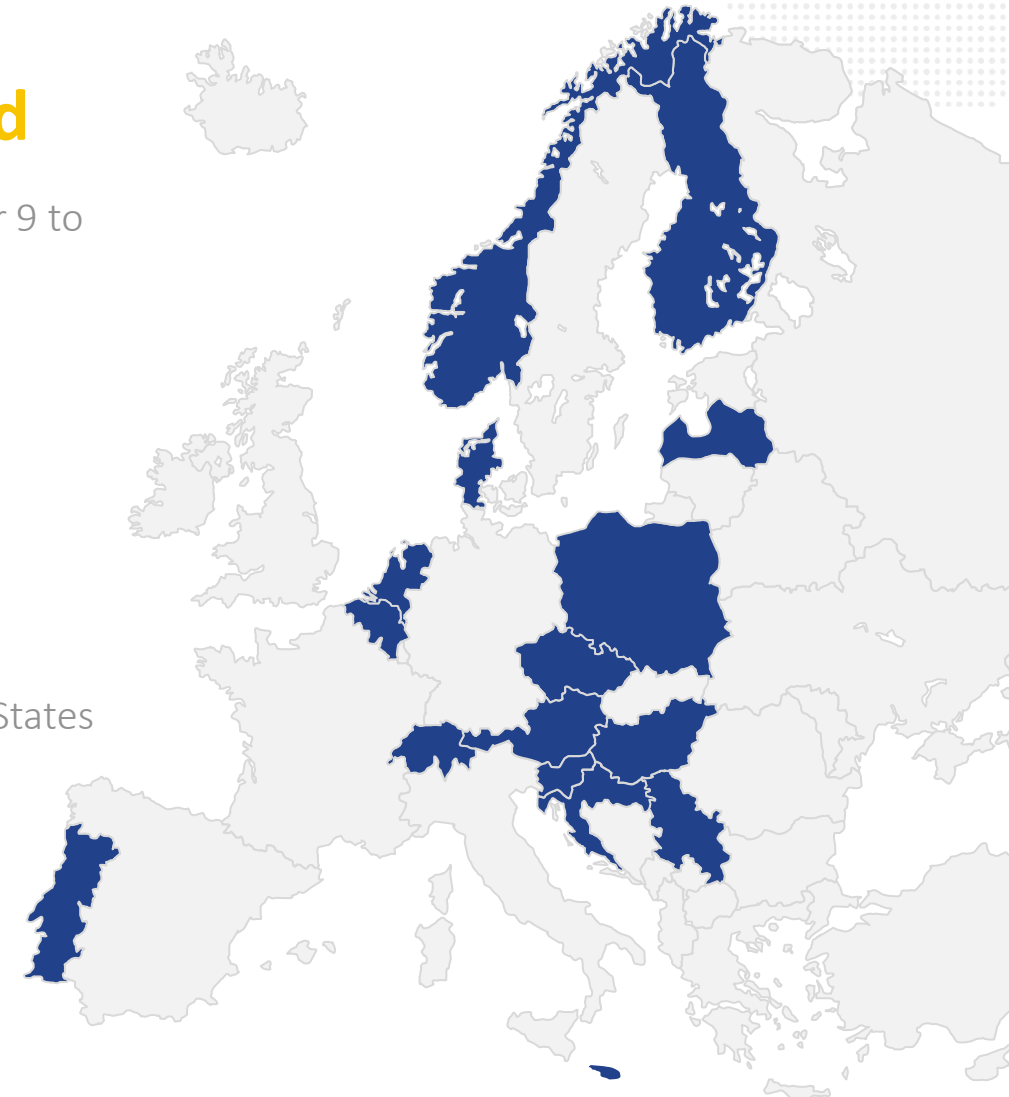
Reception Network Results
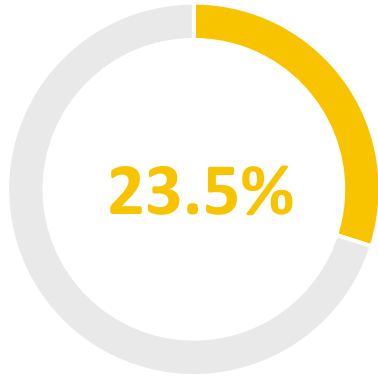
Already used online surveys

23.5%

With residents and asylum-seekers and

people with international protection status,

Used contact numbers.

Residents in reception centres will be able to complete an online survey via smartphones

Realistic
41%

Somewhat realistic
59%

- ■ Realistic
- ■ Somewhat realistic
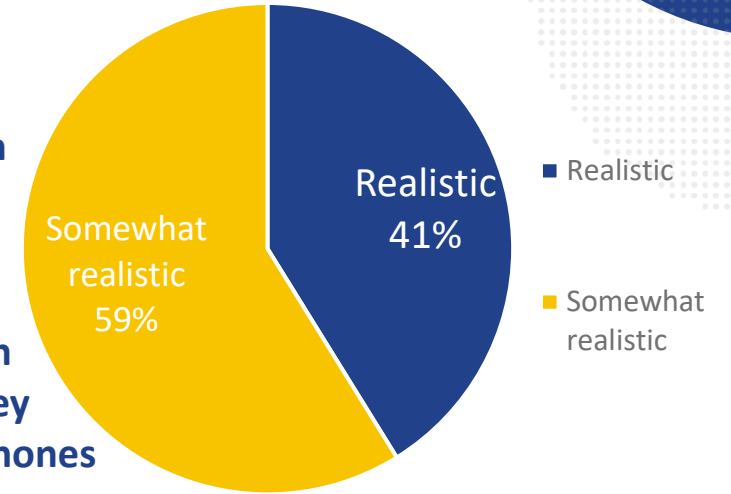
Which tools have been used to contact them?

Bar chart categories: SMS (3), Whatsapp (3), Apps (2), QR code (2), Social media (2), Website from RC (1)
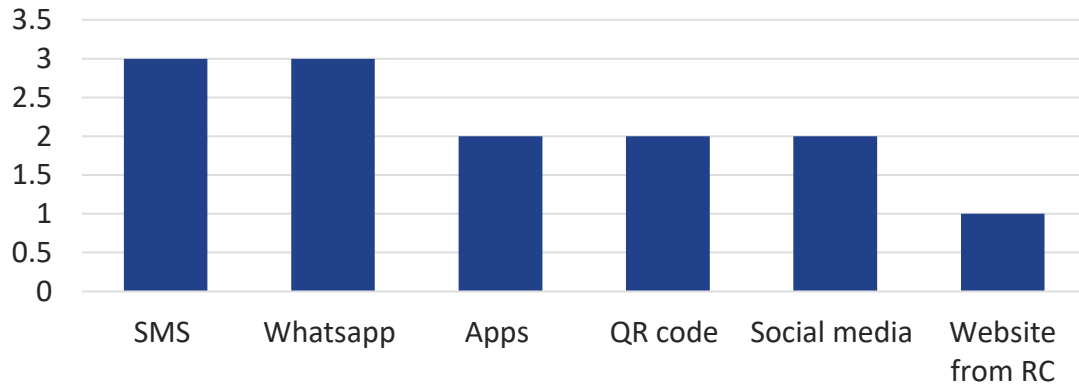
Would you be available to share the survey?

Stacked bar chart categories: sms/whatsapp, email, Link on webpage, Link in apps, Leaflet, Posters

- ■ No
- ■ Yes
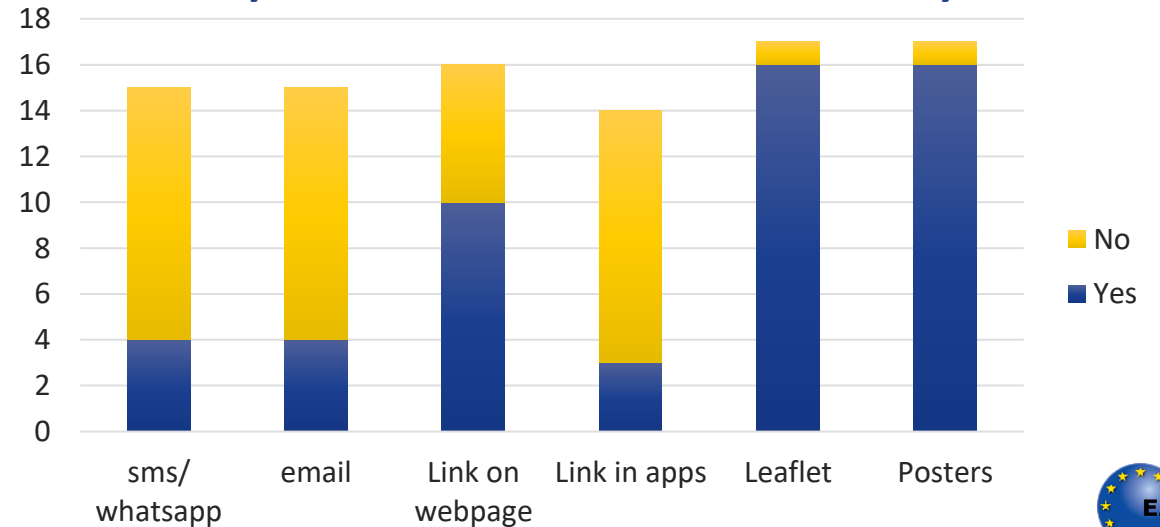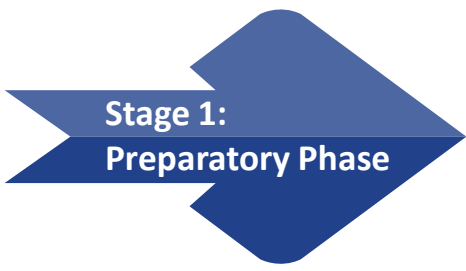
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Reception Network Results

EASO is going to conduct an online survey among asylum seekers in reception centres, would you be interested in joining the project?

Which topics would you prioritize for online surveys?

Yes → N = 14

No → N = 3

Topic	Value
Expectations	12
Reasons for selecting a specific country of destination	10
Socio-economic factors (e.g. level of education, work experience etc)	8
Reasons for staying in a specific host country	8
Pull factors	8
Voluntary returns	7
Secondary movements	7
Push factors	6
Routes	5
Other: Quality management on reception/ Evaluation	2
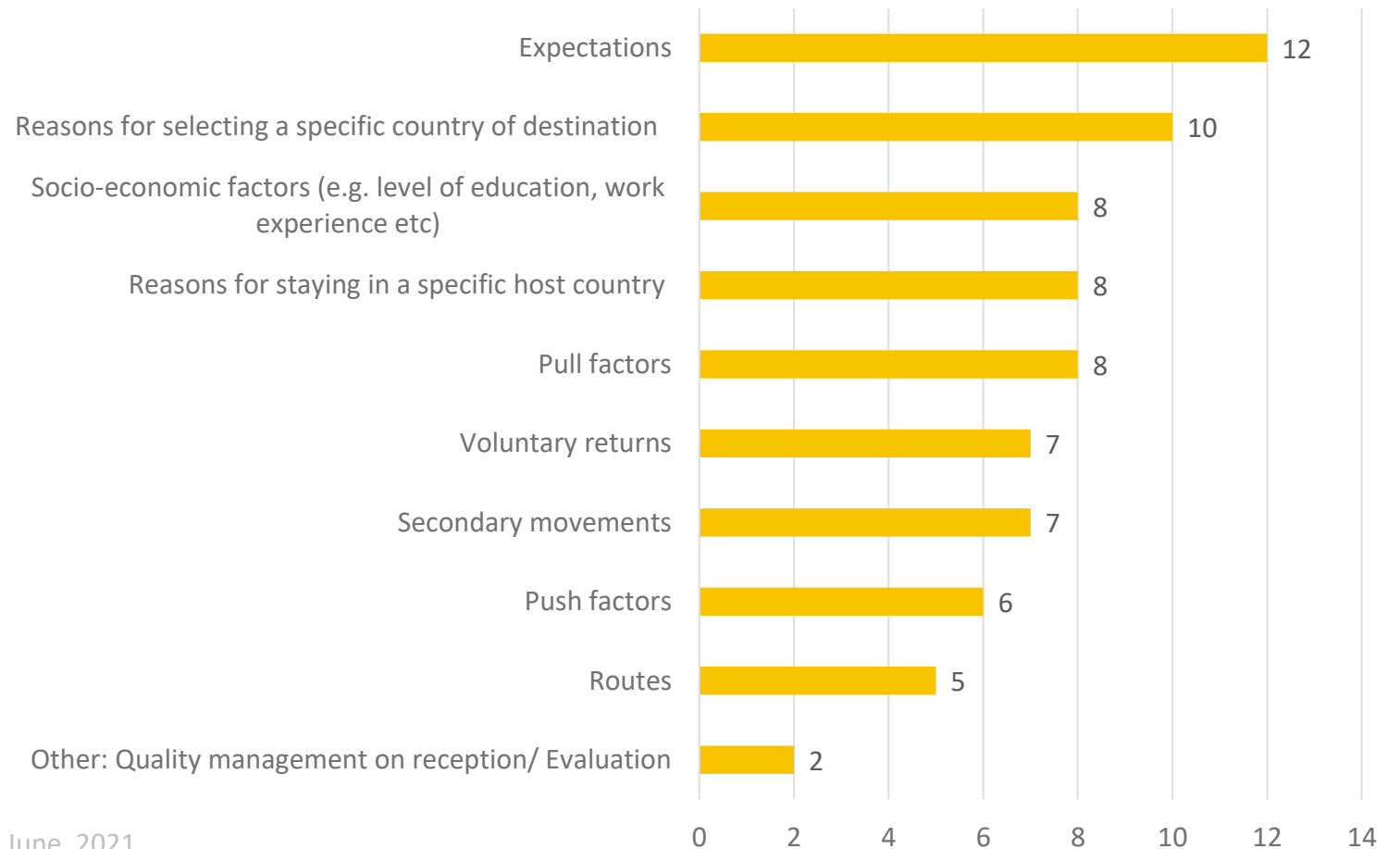
Scoping review

Literature review on conducting online surveys with asylum-related migrants

GOALS:

- To aggregate and explore the best available scientific evidence on researching asylum-related migrants employing online surveys.

- To map existing studies that survey asylum-related migrant populations using online surveys.

- To review the main methodological aspects of these studies.

- To inform SAM2 project

Method:

- Joanna Briggs Institute's methodology for scoping reviews.
- Protocol development.
- Search strategy.
- Eligibility criteria.
- Data extraction and data synthesis

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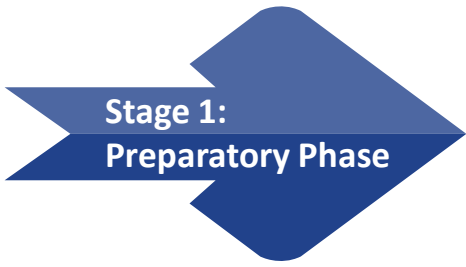
Scoping review results

N= 18

2017 - 2020

Main topics
Social integration and mental health

Recruitment
Mixed strategies – social media, associations and organisations, community leaders, posters and flyers, snowball, official websites pages

Questions
Closed-ended questions, length 18 – 63 questions

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Sample
Asylum-related migrants, 1st generation, mainly beneficiaries of IP.
Non-probability sample.
N= 8 to 28.853
(mean=1686;median=97;SD=5974,589).

Methods
Mixed methods approach (interviews, focus group, observation, surveys)

Survey distribution
Link, QR code via e-mail to organisations and NGOs to send to their contacts, social media, newsletters, mailing lists or personal contacts

Language/ translation
English (11) Arabic (8 studies), French (4), Spanish (2), Farsi (2), Tamil (2), Italian (1), Dari (1), Russian (1), Flemish (1), Kinyarwanda (1), Albania (1), Turkish (1).
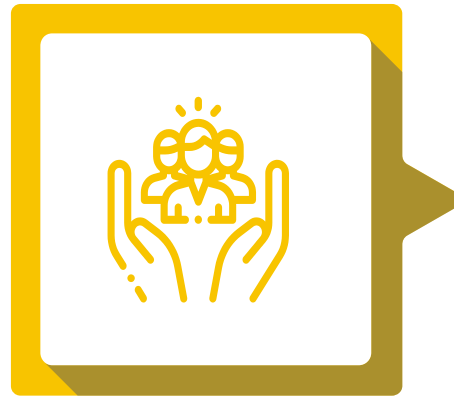
Scoping review results

Questions that remain to answer:

Length of the questionnaire

What is the most appropriate length?

Distribution strategy

Use community members or organisations or both?
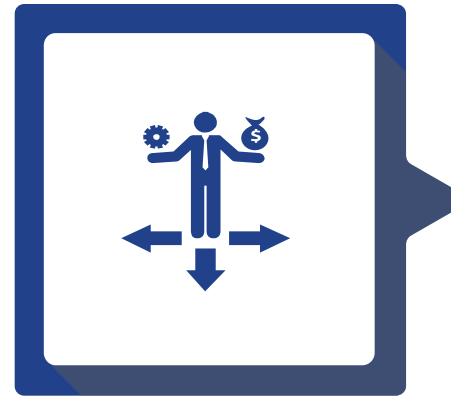
Incentives

What is the impact of using incentives?

Branding

What is the impact of associating a survey with an organization in field of asylum?

Stage 2: Pilot project

❖ In-house study

❖ Exploratory study - feasibility

❖ Experimental study – survey distribution and sample recruitment strategies

Pilot Study – Research Design

- To test the feasibility of conducting online surveys with asylum-related migrants (survey software, field and population characteristics, real-time dashboards, etc)
- Test the best distribution and sample recruitment strategies to promote response rate (incentives, length, branding, etc)

Phase 1: Exploratory design to test feasibility

➢ Feasibility
➢ Software testing
➢ Fieldwork testing
➢ Population characteristics
➢ Questionnaire testing
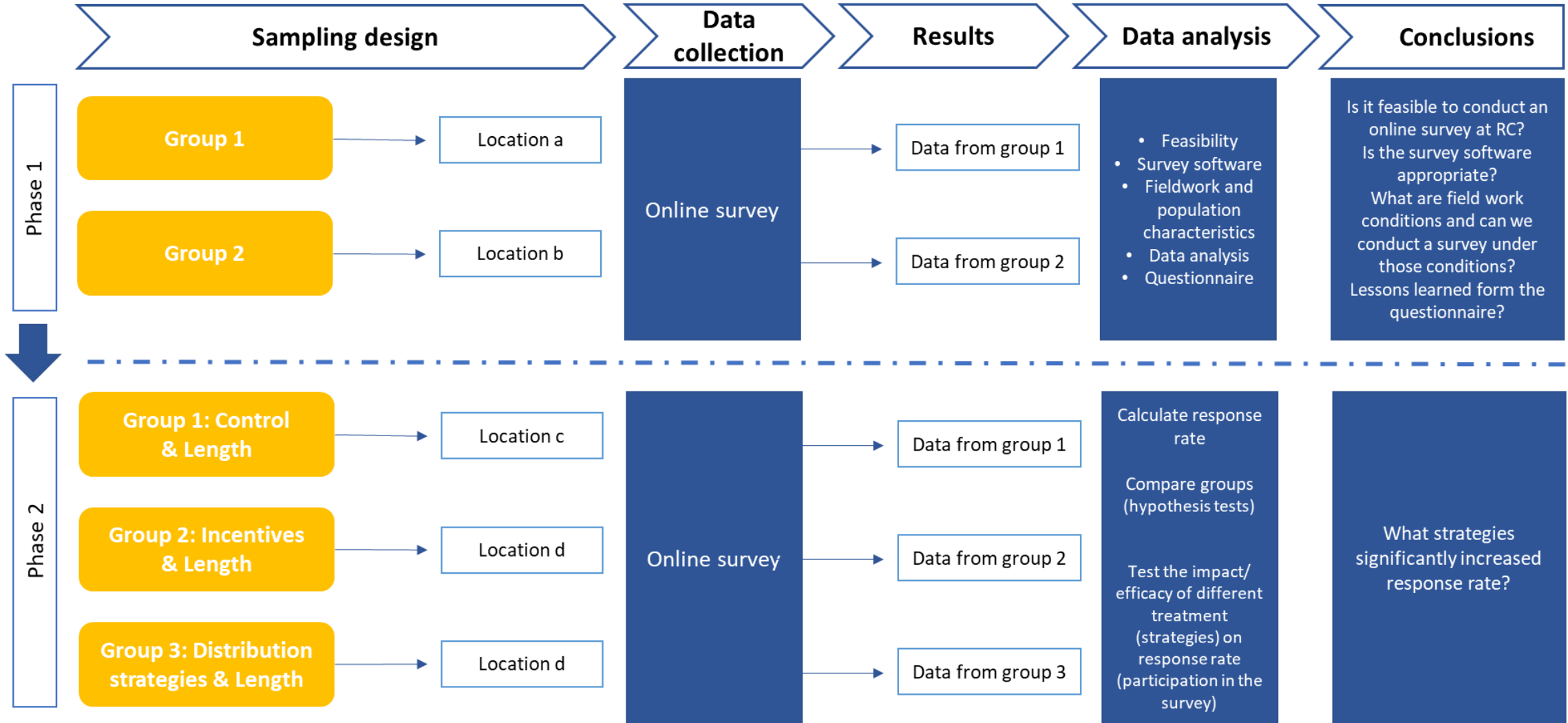➢ Data analysis and report testing

Phase 2: Experimental design to test sample recruitment and distribution strategies

➢ Test the use of incentives
➢ Test distribution strategies: involving community leaders
➢ Test distribution strategies: branding and other institutions and NGOs
➢ Test the length of the questionnaire

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Pilot Study – Research Design

Stage 2: Pilot study

| Sampling design | Data collection | Results | Data analysis | Conclusions |

Phase 1

- Group 1 → Location a
- Group 2 → Location b

Online survey → Data from group 1, Data from group 2

- Feasibility
- Survey software
- Fieldwork and population characteristics
- Data analysis
- Questionnaire

Is it feasible to conduct an online survey at RC? Is the survey software appropriate? What are field work conditions and can we conduct a survey under those conditions? Lessons learned form the questionnaire?

Phase 2

- Group 1: Control & Length → Location c
- Group 2: Incentives & Length → Location d
- Group 3: Distribution strategies & Length → Location d

Online survey → Data from group 1, Data from group 2, Data from group 3

Calculate response rate

Compare groups (hypothesis tests)

Test the impact/ efficacy of different treatment (strategies) on response rate (participation in the survey)

What strategies significantly increased response rate?

Stage 3:
Strategic study

❖**System development / established monitoring tool**
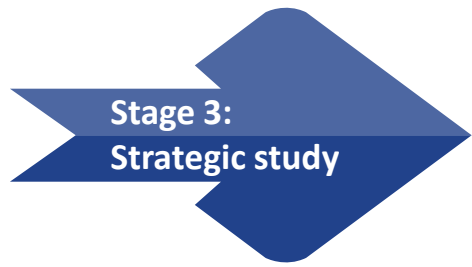
❖ **Real-time data analysis and data visualizations**

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Stage 3: Strategic study
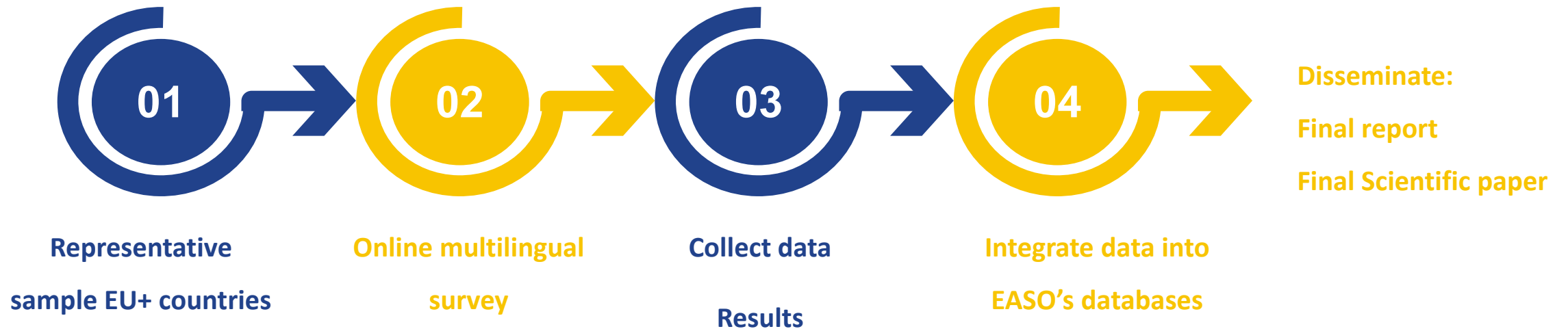
Strategic Study – System development

01

Set-up of a permanent system in the EU+ countries that regularly collects data directly from asylum applicants and people with international protection status in reception centres
Standardised and comparable data.

02
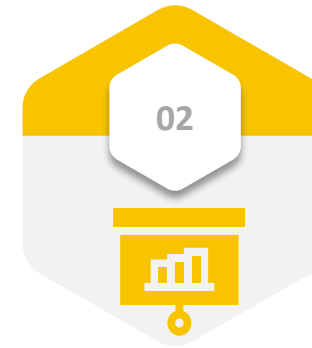
Data collection is collected and transferred to EASO in real-time and easily integrated into EASO's existing informational systems and DB
Real time analysis and dissemination of results

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Strategic Study – System development

01 Representative sample EU+ countries

02 Online multilingual survey

03 Collect data

Results

04 Integrate data into EASO's databases

Disseminate:

Final report

Final Scientific paper

New established monitoring system to collect data directly from asylum seekers across EU+ countries