



**EASO COI QUERY
FINAL ANSWER**

Research in countries of origin with the aid of trusted third parties

Date of the query 24 February 2016

Completion date 08 March 2016

Question/Subject

Does your country conduct research in countries of origin with the aid of trusted third parties?

Disclaimer

The response to this COI query has been elaborated according to the EASO COI Query User Guide, the Common EU Guidelines for Processing COI and the EASO COI Report Methodology. The information provided has been researched, evaluated and processed with utmost care within a limited time frame. However, this document does not pretend to be exhaustive neither conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection status. If a certain event, person or organization is not mentioned in the response, this does not mean that the event has not taken place or that the person or organization does not exist.

Terminology used should not be regarded as indicative of a particular legal position.

The information in the report does not necessarily reflect the opinion of EASO and makes no political statement whatsoever.

The target audience is case workers, COI researchers, policy makers, and decision making authorities.

The answer was finalised in Malta, on 08 March 2016. Any event taking place after this date is not included in this answer.

Contributing Countries

The final answer is based on information provided by COI experts from BE, DE, DK, FI, HR, IE, IT, LT, LU, MT, NO and PL.

Answer

Preliminary note

Seven out of 12 responding EU+ countries indicated they do not conduct research in countries of origin with the aid of trusted third parties.

Five answering EU+ countries do conduct research with the aid of trusted third parties and those mentioned:

BE

Until recently BE worked with lawyers of trust to check judicial documents in Iran, Pakistan and Turkey. For security reasons their identity was not mentioned in the information, only a description and a small C.V. This collaboration had to stop due to a ruling of our supreme court that states that full coordinates have to be provided: name, email, phone etc.

DE

DE conducts research in case of individual claims in countries of origin via their diplomatic representations/embassies in various countries of origin. In some cases, local embassy staff is responsible for conducting research on the spot, mainly in the capitals of the respective countries; in most cases however, the research is conducted with the aid of trusted third parties such as lawyers, doctors/medical practitioners, pharmacists or international, regional or local organizations. In some cases lawyers, doctors and other trusted persons of German origin who are employed by the embassies conduct the research, sometimes not only in the country of origin where the embassy is located but also in neighboring countries.

The trusted third parties are contracted in different ways, they are paid on a fee basis, prices differ depending on the topic and effort, for legal requests in average 250,-€ have to be paid, for medical research approximately 150,- €, in some cases higher fees have to be paid.

Additionally the BAMF works with liaison staff in specific countries of origin. Based on an agreement between the Federal Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to speed up asylum procedures as well as to support the Federal Office's migration research, voluntary return and integration civil servants from the BAMF are working at diplomatic representations and embassies, currently they work in the following countries: Albania (Tirana), Iran (Teheran), Kosovo (Pristina), the Russian Federation (Moscow) and Turkey (Ankara). The liaison officers are responsible for conducting research in cases of specific requests submitted by case workers via the unit responsible for the liaison staff. They also contact trusted third parties working for the embassies in the respective countries of origin.

DK

DK uses lawyers approved by Danish embassies in their asylum determination process, but only to verify the authenticity of documents, i.e. arrest warrants, verdicts etc.

FI

The Finnish Immigration Service can conduct research in the countries of origin if Finnish Embassy exist there. FI Embassies use trusted third parties/lawyers to do the research.

LU

LU has a liaison officer in Kosovo, the only third country where the asylum unit asks for research in the context of a request for international protection.