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A study visit from Romania

A delegation of Romanian site managers and policy experts paid a study visit to the Netherlands on 13 and 14 December. Their interest was mainly in the requirements that we as COA set for new locations to be opened, how we monitor the quality of the reception, how we plan capacity and how we subsequently conclude contracts with external parties.

Romania is in fact working on a new national mechanism for the reception of asylum seekers. They do this in collaboration with the European Asylum Agency EUAA. In doing so, they make use of the EUAA's Assessment of Reception Conditions (ARC) tool, among other things. A Programme of Requirements for locations that has been developed with active input from COA. ARC therefore broadly corresponds to our own Program of Requirements (PoR).

Capacity, SoRs and contractual agreements

Thanks to colleague Wim Bender, policy advisor at the real estate team, the Romanian delegation was extensively informed about our Program of Requirements (PoR) before their arrival in the Netherlands. Wim was one of the founders of our PoR. Once in The Hague, colleagues Arjenne Plaizier, Huub Wilbrink and Sjoerd Posthuma from the central office explained to the visitors how asylum reception is organized in the Netherlands, how we plan capacity with a fluctuating influx of asylum seekers and what is important when contracting external parties. The guests then explained how things are organized in Romania. On the second day, the Romanian delegation visited a camp in Dronten and the emergency reception location in Biddinghuizen. There they received presentations and guided tours from Marc de Vries and Wouko van de Haar, the two deputy location managers of Dronten and Biddinghuizen, and Frank Brugman, real estate and facilities policy advisor.

COA's international knowledge platform

Marcel van der Heijden, project leader of the International Knowledge Platform of COA, one of our COA AMIF projects, talks about the enthusiasm of the Romanian delegation, who asked many questions and shared experiences. Colleagues from Romania were very impressed with how COA organizes the reception. It inspired them, they told Marcel. The Romanian delegation consisted of three managers of regional reception centers (Galați, Timișoara and Giurgiu), a construction specialist from the logistics department of a fourth regional reception center (Rădăuți) and one reception expert from the capital Bucharest. They were guided by the person who supports them from EUAA. The working language was English.

Want to know more?

Take a look at the COA international community. There you will find information about our international work and you can be kept informed of the latest developments via the community.

