



# Study Group on forensic Age diagnostics

## EASO activities on Age Assessment

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Who we are?  
What we do?

## EASO is the EU agency on asylum

- EASO assists EU Member States on asylum matters and to fulfil their European and international obligations to give protection to people in need

## EASO acts as an independent centre of expertise on asylum

- EASO supports the implementation of the CEAS and assists Member States in their efforts to implement a more consistent asylum policy in Europe where similar cases are given a similar treatment resulting in a similar outcome
- EASO provides operational support through emergency, special and joint processing activities, upon the request of Member States whose asylum and reception systems are under particular pressure

## EASO provides asylum support to MS authorities

- EASO fosters the exchange of best practices by mapping Member States' practices, policies and practical needs in implementing the CEAS
- EASO develops practical tools to support asylum officials in their daily work and to foster convergence towards common practice
- Through its Training Curriculum, EASO trains EU asylum and reception officials which contributes to a coherent implementation of the Common European Asylum System
- EASO shares and merges information and data, analyses and assessments at EU level



# Mainstreaming children topics in all EASO activities

## Support tools

Data collection (EPS)

Expert meetings

Practical cooperation tools

EASO Training Curriculum

Child-specific COI

Special Support

## Thematic scope

best interest of the  
child

**age assessment**

family tracing

trafficking of  
children

# EASO activities on Age assessment

- 5 Expert meetings (all MS representatives)
- 2 Working groups (selected group of experts)
- Publications:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> edition EASO Age assessment practice in Europe (December 2013)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> edition under development (to be published in 2017)



# EASO Publication on Age Assessment practice in Europe- key aspects

- Best Interests of the Child
- Procedural measures and safeguards
- **Overview and SWOT of methods in**
- Aspects of decision making
- Forward Look: possible future methods
- Reference tools: Glossary,  
International, European and National Legal Framework  
Overview of the consulted countries' practice
- Available in BG, DE,EN,EL,ES,FR,IT at



<https://easo.europa.eu/asylum-documentation/easo-publication-and-documentation/>



European Asylum Support Office

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# EASO Guidance on Age Assessment (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)

The new edition is structured around four interlinked pillars:

- *Circumstances of age assessment* (when and why is necessary)
- *Best interest of the child and procedural safeguards.*
- *Methodology*
- *Final recommendations: implementing the holistic approach.*

This publication is completed by a series of annexes:

- *Glossary*
- *Legal framework and policy guidance*
- *Best interests assessment checklist*
- *Overview of EU+ States practices*



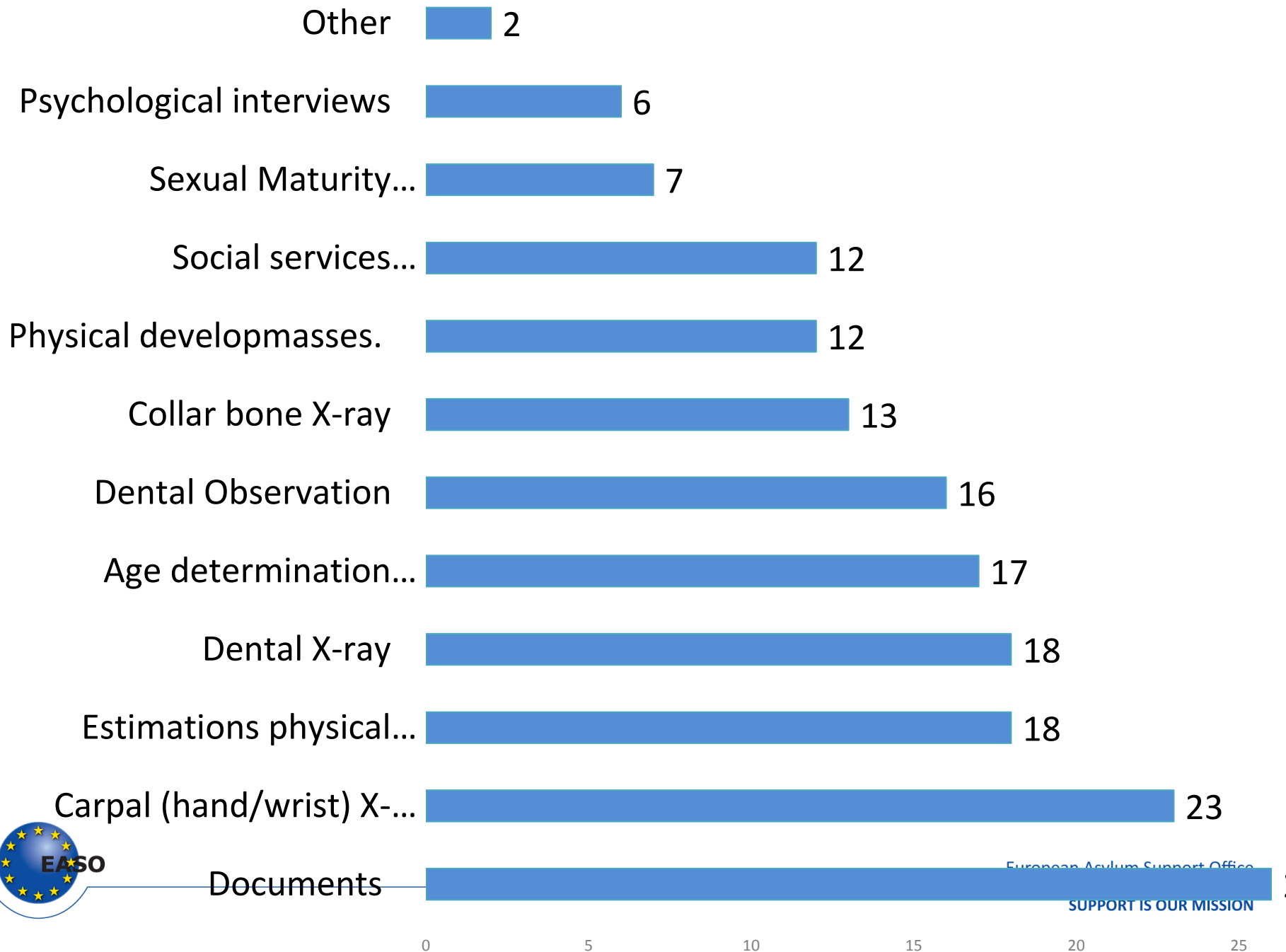
# Why is age assessment necessary in the asylum context?

- to ensure that children rights entitled to them under law are guaranteed,  
(children are treated as children)
- to prevent adults from being placed amongst children and from taking advantage of additional provisions





# Methods and key findings from the 2016 mapping



## Procedural safeguards and age assessment

If necessary, how should age assessment be conducted?

Observing  
procedural  
safeguards

(Article 25.5  
APD)

## **Observing the BIC**

Justification: grounded doubts

### **Benefit of the doubt**

Representative

Qualified professionals

Safety considerations

**Informed** Consent

**Least intrusive** Method

**Most accurate method and documented margin of error**

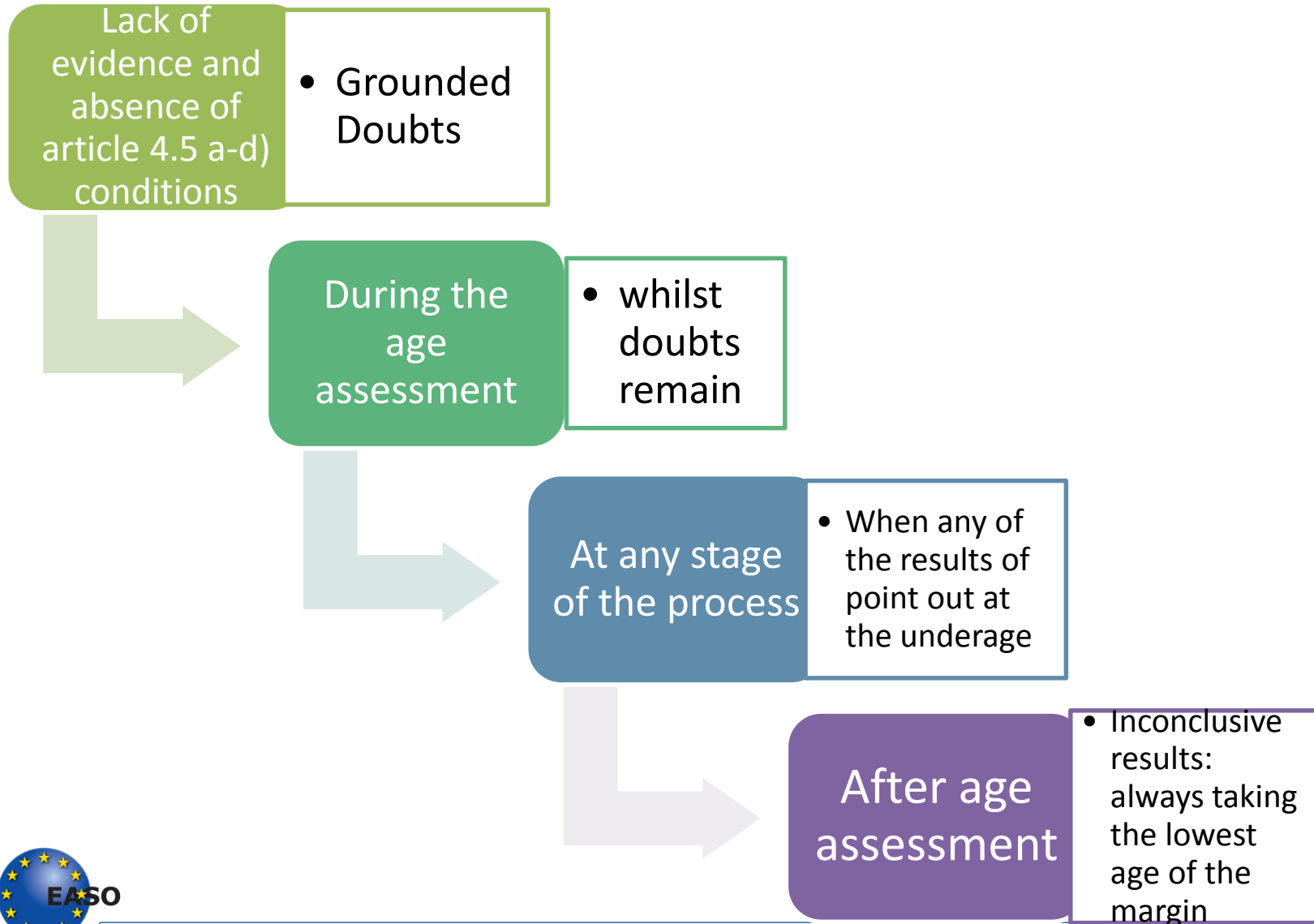
Consequences of refusal

Options to challenge



# The benefit of the doubt applies

Considered and  
treated as a child



# EASO Key Recommendations I

- ✓ **BIC** effectively considered
- ✓ Only undertaken where there are **doubts** about the claimed age
- ✓ **Multidisciplinary and holistic approach** (comprehensive approach, assessing the needs, considering psychological maturity also, panel of experts from different disciplines)
- ✓ Full respect for the **individual's dignity**, selecting the **least invasive** methods

## EASO Key Recommendations II

- ✓ Informed consent and consultation
- ✓ Opportunity to challenge
- ✓ Practitioners should have initial and on-going training
- ✓ Process conducted in a gender appropriate manner by independent experts familiar with the child's cultural background

Thank you very much for the  
attention

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