

Asylum decisions in the EU

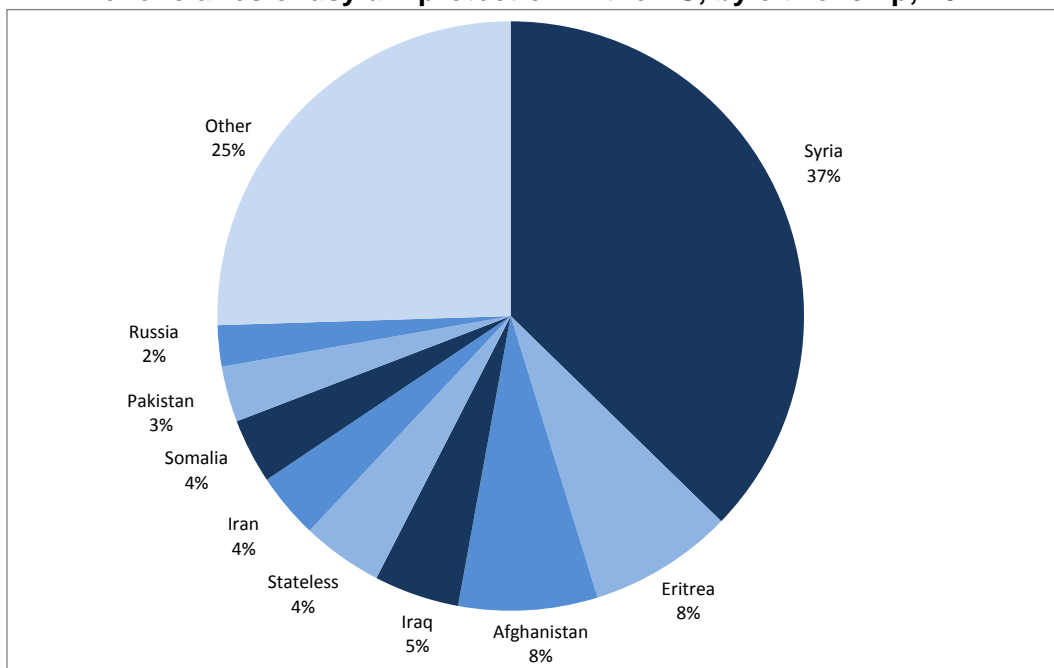
EU Member States granted protection to more than 185 000 asylum seekers in 2014

Syrians remain the main beneficiaries

This News Release has been revised on 21 May following errors in the data transmission by the Czech Republic and Finland. The impact on EU aggregates is however almost insignificant. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

The 27 EU Member States¹ for which data are available granted protection status² to around 185 000 asylum seekers in 2014, up by almost 50% compared with 2013. Since 2008, more than 750 000 asylum seekers have been granted protection status in the EU.

Beneficiaries of asylum protection in the EU, by citizenship, 2014



These data³ on the results of asylum decisions⁴ in the EU are released by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

More than 1 out of 3 persons granted protection status in the EU was Syrian

The largest group of beneficiaries of protection status in the EU in 2014 remained citizens of Syria (68 300 persons or 37% of the total number of persons granted protection status in the 27 EU Member States for which data are available), followed at a distance by citizens of Eritrea (14 600 or 8%) and those of Afghanistan (14 100 or 8%). Together, these three citizenships accounted for more than half of all persons granted protection status in the EU in 2014.

Syrians, whose number has almost doubled compared with 2013 and quadrupled since 2012, represented in 2014 the largest group granted protection status in nearly half of the Member States. Of the 68 300 **Syrians** granted protection status in the EU, more than 60% were recorded in two Member States: **Germany** (25 700) and **Sweden** (16 800). Of the 14 600 **Eritreans** granted protection, more than three-quarters were registered in three EU Member States: **Sweden** (5 300), the **Netherlands** (3 600) and the **United Kingdom** (2 300). Of the 14 100 **Afghans**, 5 000 were granted protection status in **Germany** and 2 400 in **Italy**.

Main citizenships granted protection status in the EU, 2014

	First			Second			Third		
	Citizens of	#	%*	Citizens of	#	%*	Citizens of	#	%*
EU¹	Syria	68 320	37.3	Eritrea	14 585	8.0	Afghanistan	14 050	7.7
Belgium	Syria	1 685	19.8	Afghanistan	1 265	14.8	Iraq	820	9.6
Bulgaria	Syria	6 410	91.3	Stateless**	430	6.1	Iraq	95	1.4
Czech Rep.	Ukraine	160	39.8	Syria	75	18.4	Cuba	30	7.4
Denmark	Syria	4 000	69.3	Stateless**	555	9.6	Somalia	375	6.5
Germany	Syria	25 735	54.1	Afghanistan	4 965	10.4	Iraq	4 195	8.8
Estonia	Sudan	5	35.0	Kosovo***	5	20.0	Syria	5	20.0
Ireland	Afghanistan	55	11.1	Iraq	55	10.9	Sudan	40	7.7
Greece	Afghanistan	830	21.5	Syria	710	18.5	Pakistan	355	9.2
Spain	Syria	1 160	72.7	Somalia	90	5.7	Palestine	85	5.4
France	Russia	2 080	10.1	Syria	2 015	9.8	Sri Lanka	1 685	8.2
Croatia	Somalia	5	26.9	Nigeria	5	15.4	Belarus	5	11.5
Italy	Pakistan	2 420	11.7	Afghanistan	2 400	11.6	Nigeria	2 145	10.4
Cyprus	Syria	1 125	92.5	Iraq	30	2.6	Somalia	20	1.8
Latvia	Syria	20	79.2	Egypt	0	8.3	Nigeria	0	8.3
Lithuania	Afghanistan	30	40.3	Ukraine	25	31.2	Russia	10	14.3
Luxembourg	Syria	40	30.8	Eritrea	15	10.5	Iraq	10	8.3
Hungary	Syria	185	33.6	Afghanistan	100	18.0	Somalia	65	12.0
Malta	Syria	360	27.7	Libya	300	23.4	Somalia	295	22.9
Netherlands	Syria	5 485	41.4	Eritrea	3 560	26.9	Stateless**	1 390	10.5
Austria¹	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Poland	Russia	325	44.2	Syria	135	18.3	Georgia	40	5.3
Portugal	Guinea	5	10.0	Iran	5	10.0	Pakistan	5	10.0
Romania	Syria	460	59.7	Iraq	120	15.8	Afghanistan	70	9.2
Slovenia	Somalia	20	39.1	Syria	15	28.3	Iran	5	15.2
Slovakia	Afghanistan	50	29.9	Somalia	25	14.9	Syria	15	9.2
Finland	Iraq	440	30.9	Somalia	180	12.5	Afghanistan	125	8.7
Sweden	Syria	16 785	50.8	Eritrea	5 320	16.1	Stateless**	4 510	13.7
United Kingdom	Eritrea	2 275	16.2	Iran	1 650	11.7	Syria	1 455	10.4
Iceland	Iran	5	18.8	Afghanistan	5	9.4	Guinea	5	9.4
Norway	Eritrea	1 960	33.4	Syria	1 300	22.2	Afghanistan	620	10.6
Switzerland	Eritrea	3 655	23.5	Syria	3 650	23.4	Afghanistan	1 885	12.1
Liechtenstein	^	^	^	^	^	^	^	^	^

Data are rounded to the nearest five. For this reason, parts may not add up to totals.

: Data not available

^ No data presented for those countries of citizenship where the number of positive decisions was 2 or less during the reference period.

* Persons with this citizenship granted protection status as a percentage of the total number of persons granted protection in this country.

** A stateless person is someone who is not recognized as a citizen of any state.

*** Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99.

Almost two-thirds of protection status granted in four EU Member States

In 2014, the highest numbers of persons granted protection status were registered in **Germany** (47 600, or +82% compared with 2013) and **Sweden** (33 000, or +25%), followed by **France** (20 600, or +27%) and **Italy** (20 600, or +42%).

Out of all the persons who were granted protection status in 2014 in the 27 **EU** Member States for which data are available, 104 000 persons were granted refugee status (56% of all positive decisions), nearly 60 000 subsidiary protection (32%) and 20 000 authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons (11%). In addition, the **EU** Member States received almost 6 500 resettled refugees⁵. It should be noted that, while both refugee and subsidiary protection status are defined by EU law, humanitarian status is granted on the basis of national legislation.

Positive decisions on asylum applications in 2014

	Positive decisions*				Resettled refugees
	Total number	Of which:			
		Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	
EU¹	183 365	103 595	59 470	20 300	6 380
Belgium	8 515	6 900	1 615	-	35
Bulgaria	7 020	5 170	1 855	-	0
Czech Republic	405	80	295	30	0
Denmark	5 765	3 925	1 750	90	345
Germany	47 555	37 640	6 110	3 810	280
Estonia	20	20	0	0	0
Ireland	495	225	270	-	95
Greece	3 850	2 075	885	890	0
Spain	1 600	385	1 200	15	125
France	20 640	16 225	4 415	-	450
Croatia	25	15	10	-	0
Italy	20 630	3 650	7 660	9 320	0
Cyprus	1 215	65	1 150	5	0
Latvia	25	5	20	-	0
Lithuania	75	15	60	0	0
Luxembourg	135	110	20	-	30
Hungary	550	260	265	25	10
Malta	1 295	200	925	165	0
Netherlands	13 250	2 745	9 635	875	790
Austria¹	:	:	:	-	390
Poland	740	265	180	295	0
Portugal	40	20	20	-	15
Romania	775	375	400	0	40
Slovenia	45	35	15	-	0
Slovakia	175	0	95	80	0
Finland	1 430	565	535	330	1 090
Sweden	33 025	10 995	19 895	2 140	2 045
United Kingdom	14 065	11 635	195	2 235	645
Iceland	30	20	10	5	10
Norway	5 865	3 830	1 250	785	1 285
Switzerland	15 575	6 190	2 655	6 730	0
Liechtenstein	0	0	0	0	5

Data are rounded to the nearest five. For this reason, totals may not add up.

0 means less than 3.

: Data not available

- Not applicable

* First instance and final decisions on appeal.

45% of asylum decisions at the first instance made in the EU resulted in protection status

In 2014, almost 360 000 first instance decisions on asylum applications⁶ were made in the 27 EU Member States for which data are available and 132 000 final decisions on appeal. Decisions made at the first instance resulted in more than 160 000 persons being granted protection status, while a further 23 000 received protection status on appeal.

The rate of recognition of asylum applicants, i.e. the share of positive decisions in the total number of decisions, was 45% for first instance decisions. For final decisions on appeal, the recognition rate was 18%. In the Member States, more than three-quarters of first instance decisions resulted in positive outcome for asylum applicants in **Bulgaria** (94%), **Sweden** (77%) and **Cyprus** (76%), and for final decisions on appeal in **Bulgaria** (86%), **Italy** (84%) and **Finland** (79%).

Recognition rates, 2014

	First instance decisions				Final decisions on appeal			
	Total number	Positive	Rate of recognition (%)*		Total number	Positive	Rate of recognition (%)*	
			Total	Refugee & subsidiary protection status			Total	Refugee & subsidiary protection status
EU¹	357 425	160 070	45	40	132 405	23 295	18	14
Belgium	20 335	8 045	40	40	7 950	470	6	6
Bulgaria	7 435	7 000	94	94	20	20	86	86
Czech Republic	1 000	375	37	36	565	35	6	3
Denmark	8 055	5 480	68	67	1 785	290	16	16
Germany	97 275	40 560	42	40	44 335	6 995	16	12
Estonia	55	20	36	36	5	0	0	0
Ireland	1 060	400	38	38	210	95	45	45
Greece	13 305	1 970	15	14	7 665	1 880	25	14
Spain	3 620	1 585	44	44	920	15	1	0
France	68 500	14 815	22	22	37 085	5 825	16	16
Croatia	235	25	11	11	110	0	0	0
Italy	35 180	20 580	59	32	55	45	84	77
Cyprus	1 305	995	76	76	495	225	45	44
Latvia	95	25	24	24	35	0	3	3
Lithuania	185	70	39	39	15	5	38	38
Luxembourg	885	120	14	14	740	10	2	2
Hungary	5 445	510	9	9	840	40	5	4
Malta	1 735	1 260	73	63	260	35	13	13
Netherlands	18 790	12 550	67	63	1 445	700	48	42
Austria¹	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Poland	2 700	720	27	16	1 380	20	1	1
Portugal	155	40	25	25	95	0	0	0
Romania	1 585	740	47	47	170	35	21	21
Slovenia	95	45	46	46	70	0	3	3
Slovakia	280	170	61	34	60	5	5	2
Finland	2 340	1 270	54	41	210	165	79	65
Sweden	39 905	30 650	77	74	13 130	2 375	18	12
United Kingdom	25 870	10 050	39	35	12 750	4 015	31	21
Iceland	120	30	24	21	55	5	5	2
Norway	7 640	4 905	64	62	8 430	960	11	4
Switzerland	21 800	15 410	71	40	2 460	165	7	3
Liechtenstein	10	0	11	11	0	0	0	0

Data are rounded to the nearest five. For this reason, totals may not add up.

0 means less than 3.

: Data not available

* Rate of recognition is the share of positive decisions (first instance or final on appeal) in the total number of decisions at the given stage. In this calculation, the exact number of decisions has been used instead of the rounded numbers presented in this table. Rates of recognition for humanitarian status are not shown in this table, but are part of the total recognition rate.

1. In this news release, EU aggregates do not include Austria. 2014 data on decisions on asylum applications are not yet available for Austria due to on-going changes to their computer information system.
2. **Protection status** includes three different categories of protection:

Person granted refugee status means a person covered by a decision granting refugee status, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during the reference period. Refugee status means status as defined in Art.2(e) of Directive 2011/95/EC within the meaning of Art.1 of the Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951, as amended by the New York Protocol of 31 January 1967. According to the Art.2(d) of that Directive refugee means a third country national who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group, is outside the country of nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country, or a stateless person, who, being outside of the country of former habitual residence for the same reasons as mentioned above, is unable or, owing to such fear, unwilling to return to it.

Person granted subsidiary protection status means a person covered by a decision granting subsidiary protection status, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during the reference period. Subsidiary protection status means status as defined in Art.2(g) of Directive 2011/95/EC. According to the Art.2(f) of that Directive person eligible for subsidiary protection means a third country national or a stateless person who does not qualify as a refugee but in respect of whom substantial grounds have been shown for believing that the person concerned, if returned to his or her country of citizenship, or in the case of a stateless person, to his or her country of former habitual residence, would face a real risk of suffering serious harm and is unable, or, owing to such risk, unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country.

Person granted authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons means a person covered by a decision granting authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons under national law concerning international protection, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during the reference period. It includes persons who are not eligible for international protection as currently defined in the first stage legal instruments, but are nonetheless protected against removal under the obligations that are imposed on all Member States by international refugee or human rights instruments or on the basis of principles flowing from such instruments. Examples of such categories include persons who are not removable on ill health grounds and unaccompanied minors.
3. The data in this release are provided to Eurostat by Ministries of the Interior or Justice, or immigration agencies, of the Member States. These data are supplied by Member States according to the provisions of Article 4 of the Regulation (EC) 862/2007 of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection.
4. See also **Eurostat Statistics Explained** article on **asylum statistics**:
http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum_statistics
5. **Resettled refugees** means persons who have been granted an authorisation to reside in a Member State within the framework of a national or Community resettlement scheme. Resettlement means the transfer of third-country nationals or stateless persons, on a request from UNHCR, based on their need for international protection and a durable solution, to a Member State where they are permitted to reside with a secure legal status. Data relate to resettled persons who have actually arrived into the territory of the Member State. Resettled refugees are not included in the data on decisions on asylum applications.
6. **A decision on an asylum application** means a decision on an application for international protection as defined in Art.2(h) of Council Directive 2011/95/EC, i.e. including requests for refugee status or for subsidiary protection status, irrespective of whether the application was lodged on arrival at border, or from inside the country, and irrespective of whether the person entered the territory legally (e.g. as a tourist) or illegally.

First instance decision means a decision made in response to an asylum application at the first instance level of the asylum procedure.

Final decision on appeal means a decision granted at the final instance of administrative/judicial asylum procedure and which results from the appeal lodged by the asylum seeker rejected in the preceding stage of the procedure. As the asylum procedures and the numbers/levels of decision making bodies differ between Member States, the true final instance may be, according to the national legislation and administrative procedures, a decision of the highest national court. However, the applied methodology defines that 'final decisions' should refer to what is effectively a 'final decision' in the vast majority of all cases: i.e. that all normal routes of appeal have been exhausted.

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