

Acquisition of citizenship in the EU

EU Member States granted citizenship to almost 900 000 persons in 2014

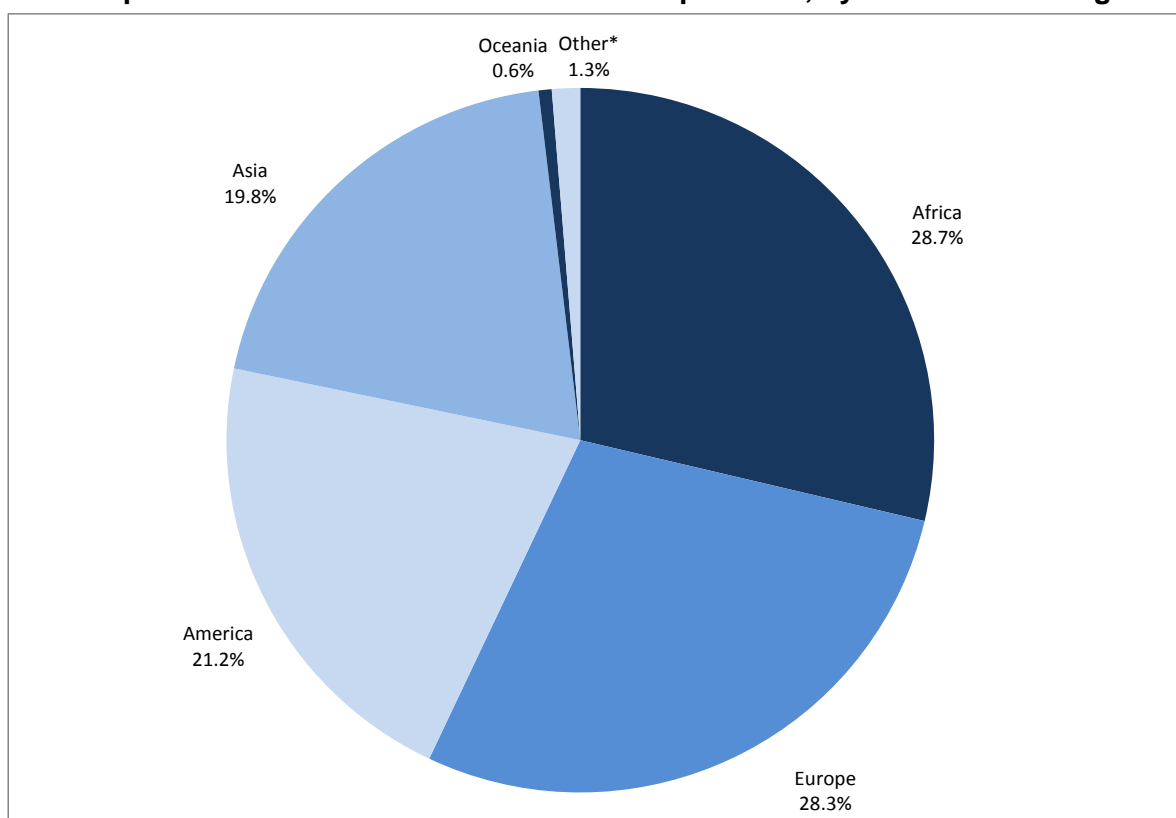
Moroccans continue to be the main recipients

In 2014, around 890 000 persons acquired citizenship of a Member State of the **European Union** (EU), down from 981 000 in 2013. Since 2009, more than 5 million persons in total were granted a citizenship of an EU Member State. Of the total number of persons obtaining the citizenship of one of the EU Member States in 2014, 89% were non-EU citizens.

The largest group acquiring citizenship of an EU Member State in 2014 was citizens of **Morocco** (92 700 persons, of which 88% acquired citizenship of Spain, Italy or France), ahead of citizens of **Albania** (41 000, 96% acquired citizenship of Greece or Italy), **Turkey** (37 500, 60% acquired German citizenship), **India** (35 300, almost two-thirds acquired British citizenship), **Ecuador** (34 800, 94% acquired Spanish citizenship), **Colombia** (27 800, 90% acquired Spanish citizenship) and **Pakistan** (25 100, around half acquired British citizenship). Moroccans, Albanians, Turks, Indians, Ecuadorians, Colombians and Pakistanis represented together a third (33%) of the total number of persons who acquired EU citizenship in 2014. **Romanians** (24 300 persons) and **Poles** (16 100) were the two largest groups of EU citizens acquiring citizenship of another EU Member State. Overall, a rich diversity of recipients prevails in the EU.

These data come from a [report](#) issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Recipients of an EU Member State citizenship in 2014, by continents of origin



* Other includes stateless and recipients with unknown citizenship.

Main recipients of an EU Member State citizenship in 2014

Main recipients of an EU citizenship	Total (in 1000)	Main EU Member State granting citizenships	%	Second main EU Member State granting citizenships	%	Third main EU Member State granting citizenships	%
Moroccans	92.7	Spain	37.5	Italy	31.3	France	19.5
Albanians	41.0	Italy	51.6	Greece	44.9	United Kingdom	0.9
Turks	37.5	Germany	60.0	France	15.6	Netherlands	8.4
Indians	35.3	United Kingdom	63.6	Italy	14.2	Ireland	8.3
Ecuadorians	34.8	Spain	94.1	Italy	3.4	Germany	0.6
Colombians	27.8	Spain	90.2	Italy	2.6	France	2.2
Pakistanis	25.1	United Kingdom	51.7	Italy	16.8	Spain	13.2
Romanians	24.3	Italy	26.5	Hungary	25.5	Germany	10.7
Bolivians	21.4	Spain	97.6	Italy	0.5	Sweden	0.5
Peruvians	20.9	Spain	79.5	Italy	15.0	France	1.5
Algerians	20.4	France	74.1	Spain	9.4	Italy	7.0
Russians	19.8	Germany	24.7	France	15.3	Finland	11.7
Iraqis	17.6	Sweden	41.4	Germany	18.0	Netherlands	14.1
Nigerians	17.6	United Kingdom	45.8	Ireland	18.7	Italy	12.6
Ukrainians	17.5	Germany	20.2	Portugal	18.9	Czech Republic	11.7
Poles	16.1	Germany	37.1	United Kingdom	19.6	Sweden	15.1
Dominicans	16.1	Spain	87.8	Italy	7.8	Germany	2.0
Brazilians	14.2	Portugal	32.7	Spain	28.2	Italy	11.1
Tunisians	12.7	France	49.5	Italy	34.8	Germany	8.3
Chinese	11.5	United Kingdom	31.5	France	16.0	Italy	12.5
Filipinos	11.1	United Kingdom	27.8	Ireland	19.6	Italy	17.4
Bangladeshis	11.1	Italy	48.1	United Kingdom	35.1	Spain	5.4
Ghanaians	9.6	Italy	38.4	United Kingdom	32.5	Spain	7.6
Senegalese	9.4	Italy	42.7	France	32.3	Spain	20.7
Somalis	9.4	Sweden	31.1	Netherlands	24.8	United Kingdom	22.3
Serbians	9.0	Germany	24.9	Italy	23.1	France	14.8
Afghans	8.5	Germany	35.4	United Kingdom	16.9	Netherlands	16.2
Iranians	8.0	Germany	31.8	United Kingdom	19.2	Sweden	14.1
Argentinians	8.0	Spain	88.4	Italy	4.1	France	2.1
Cubans	7.3	Spain	77.0	Italy	10.8	Germany	5.3

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

Main recipients of citizenships granted by EU Member States, 2014

	Total number	Main recipients		Second main recipients		Third main recipients	
		Citizens of	%	Citizens of	%	Citizens of	%
EU	889 139	Morocco	10.4	Albania	4.6	Turkey	4.2
Belgium	18 726	Morocco	12.9	Italy	6.4	Romania	4.4
Bulgaria	900	Ukraine	22.4	Russia	16.2	Moldova	14.0
Czech Republic	5 059	Ukraine	40.4	Russia	9.9	Slovakia	9.0
Denmark	4 747	Iraq	33.5	Afghanistan	19.3	Somalia	8.5
Germany	110 610	Turkey	20.3	Poland	5.4	Russia	4.4
Estonia	1 614	Recognised non-citizen*	84.3	Russia	12.7	Ukraine	1.8
Ireland	21 104	Nigeria	15.6	India	13.9	Philippines	10.3
Greece	20 913	Albania	88.0	Russia	1.5	Ukraine	1.1
Spain	205 880	Morocco	16.9	Ecuador	15.9	Colombia	12.2
France	105 613	Morocco	17.1	Algeria	14.3	Tunisia	5.9
Croatia	686	Bosnia & Herzegovina	42.3	Serbia	15.6	Kosovo**	13.4
Italy	129 887	Morocco	22.3	Albania	16.3	Romania	5.0
Cyprus	2 277	Russia	27.1	Greece	15.5	United Kingdom	15.1
Latvia	2 141	Recognised non-citizen*	80.2	Russia	5.1	Ukraine	2.5
Lithuania	183	Russia	33.9	Stateless***	30.1	Ukraine	12.0
Luxembourg	3 206	Portugal	37.8	Italy	12.9	France	9.6
Hungary	8 745	Romania	70.9	Ukraine	9.8	Serbia	4.7
Malta	314	United Kingdom	29.6	Italy	10.2	Russia	7.0
Netherlands	32 675	Morocco	13.1	Turkey	9.6	Iraq	7.6
Austria	7 570	Bosnia & Herzegovina	14.8	Turkey	11.7	Serbia	8.9
Poland	4 073	Ukraine	42.8	Belarus	13.2	Armenia	9.0
Portugal	21 124	Brazil	22.0	Ukraine	15.7	Cape Verde	15.1
Romania	2 426	Moldova	32.0	Serbia	3.0	Iraq	2.5
Slovenia	1 057	Bosnia & Herzegovina	53.9	Serbia	14.7	FYR of Macedonia	11.1
Slovakia	234	Ukraine	26.5	Vietnam	20.9	Czech Republic	15.8
Finland	8 260	Russia	28.1	Somalia	10.1	Iraq	4.9
Sweden	43 510	Iraq	16.8	Finland	7.0	Somalia	6.7
United Kingdom	125 605	India	17.9	Pakistan	10.3	Nigeria	6.4
Iceland	595	Poland	25.0	Philippines	8.7	Thailand	7.2
Liechtenstein	114	Turkey	31.6	Switzerland	19.3	Austria	12.3
Norway	15 866	Iraq	9.0	Afghanistan	8.6	Somalia	7.4
Switzerland	32 836	Italy	13.6	Germany	12.3	Kosovo**	8.0

* A recognised non-citizen is a person who is neither a citizen of the reporting country nor of any other country, and who has established links to the reporting country which include some but not all rights and obligations of full citizenship. A majority of these persons were citizens of the former Soviet Union.

** Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244.

*** A stateless person is someone who is not recognized as a citizen of any country. The source dataset can be found [here](#).

9 out of 10 persons granted an EU citizenship in 2014 were non-EU citizens

In fifteen EU Member States, at least 9 persons out of every 10 who obtained citizenship in 2014 were non-EU citizens: **Estonia** (100%), **Bulgaria** (99%), **Spain, Lithuania and Romania** (all 98%), **Greece and Latvia** (both 97%), **Denmark, Portugal and Slovenia** (all 95%), **Poland** (94%), **Italy** (93%), the **United Kingdom** (92%), **Croatia** (91%) and **France** (90%). In contrast, **Luxembourg** (82%), **Hungary** (77%) and – to a lower extent – **Malta** (52%) were the only Member States where the majority of persons acquiring citizenship in 2014 were citizens of another EU Member State. At **EU** level, 89% (or nearly 788 100 new citizens) of those granted citizenship were non-EU citizens, and 11% (95 700) of another EU Member State.

Acquisition of citizenship in the EU Member States, 2014

	Total number	of which (share of, %)		Citizenships acquired per:	
		Citizens of another EU Member State	Non-EU citizens*	1 000 resident population**	100 resident foreigners***
EU	889 139	11%	89%	1.8	2.6
Belgium	18 726	28%	70%	1.7	1.5
Bulgaria	900	1%	99%	0.1	1.7
Czech Republic	5 059	19%	80%	0.5	1.2
Denmark	4 747	5%	95%	0.8	1.2
Germany	110 610	24%	75%	1.4	1.6
Estonia	1 614	0%	100%	1.2	0.8
Ireland	21 104	14%	86%	4.6	3.9
Greece	20 913	3%	97%	1.9	2.4
Spain	205 880	2%	98%	4.4	4.4
France	105 613	8%	90%	1.6	2.5
Croatia	686	9%	91%	0.2	2.2
Italy	129 887	7%	93%	2.1	2.6
Cyprus	2 277	33%	67%	2.7	1.4
Latvia	2 141	3%	97%	1.1	0.7
Lithuania	183	2%	98%	0.1	0.8
Luxembourg	3 206	82%	18%	5.8	1.3
Hungary	8 745	77%	23%	0.9	6.2
Malta	314	52%	47%	0.7	1.3
Netherlands	32 675	7%	89%	1.9	4.4
Austria	7 570	16%	84%	0.9	0.7
Poland	4 073	6%	94%	0.1	4.0
Portugal	21 124	5%	95%	2.0	5.3
Romania	2 426	1%	98%	0.1	3.3
Slovenia	1 057	5%	95%	0.5	1.1
Slovakia	234	24%	76%	0.0	0.4
Finland	8 260	11%	88%	1.5	4.0
Sweden	43 510	25%	74%	4.5	6.3
United Kingdom	125 605	8%	92%	1.9	2.5
Iceland	595	42%	58%	1.8	2.6
Liechtenstein	114	25%	75%	3.1	0.9
Norway	15 866	12%	88%	3.1	3.3
Switzerland	32 836	52%	48%	4.0	1.7

Figures may not add up due to unknown.

* Non-EU citizens are defined as those not having the citizenship of any of the 28 EU Member States. This category also includes stateless persons and recognised non-citizens.

** Resident population refers to persons who have lived at their place of residence for at least 12 months or have the intention of staying there for at least 12 months.

*** The term "foreigners" refers to all persons not having the citizenship of the reporting country and thus includes persons with the citizenship of another country (including of another EU Member State), stateless persons and recognised non-citizens.

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

Highest number of citizenships granted per inhabitants in Luxembourg, Ireland, Sweden and Spain

Almost 1 in every 4 persons who acquired an EU citizenship in 2014 became citizens of **Spain** (205 900 persons, or 23% of all citizenships granted in the EU in 2014). It was followed by **Italy** (129 900 or 15%), the **United Kingdom** (125 600 or 14%), **Germany** (110 600 or 12%) and **France** (105 600 or 12%).

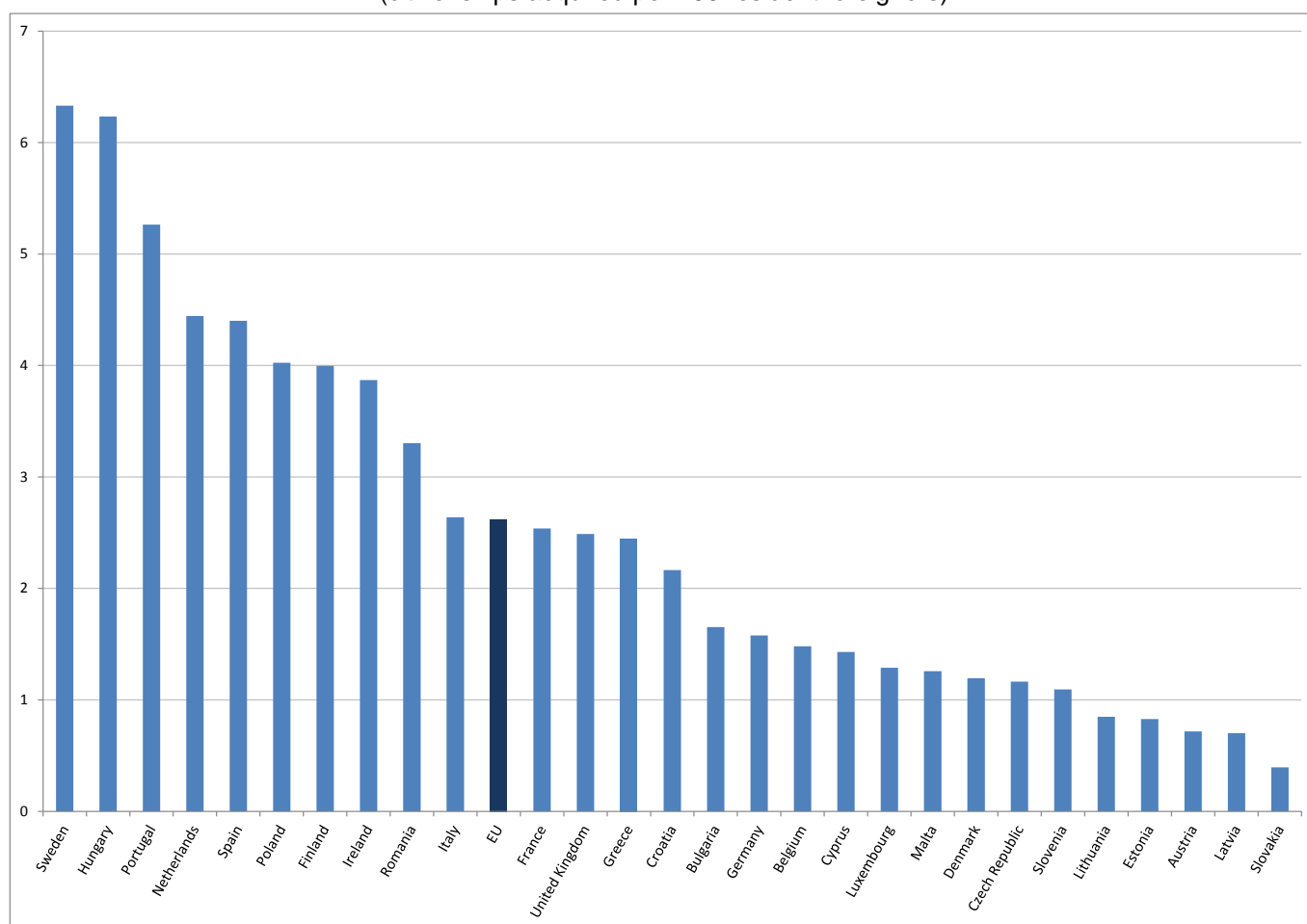
When compared with the total resident population of each Member State, the highest numbers of citizenship granted per 1 000 resident population were recorded in **Luxembourg** (5.8 citizenships granted), **Ireland** (4.6), **Sweden** (4.5) and **Spain** (4.4). At **EU** level, 1.8 citizenships were granted per 1 000 inhabitants.

Highest naturalisation rate in Sweden, Hungary and Portugal

The naturalisation rate is the ratio of the number of persons who acquired the citizenship of a country during a year over the stock of foreign residents in the same country at the beginning of the year. In 2014, the highest naturalisation rates were registered in **Sweden** (6.3 citizenships granted per 100 resident foreigners), **Hungary** (6.2) and **Portugal** (5.3), followed by **Spain** and the **Netherlands** (both 4.4). At the opposite end of the scale, naturalisation rates below 1 citizenship per 100 resident foreigners were recorded in **Slovakia** (0.4), **Latvia** and **Austria** (both 0.7), **Estonia** and **Lithuania** (both 0.8). At **EU** level, 2.6 citizenships were granted per 100 resident foreigners in 2014.

Of the five EU Member States that granted the most citizenships in 2014, the naturalisation rate was above the EU average in **Spain** (4.4), around the EU average in **Italy** (2.6), **France** and the **United Kingdom** (both 2.5), and below the EU average in **Germany** (1.6).

Naturalisation rates in the EU Member States, 2014
(citizenships acquired per 100 resident foreigners)



Geographical information

The **European Union** (EU) includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Methods and definitions

The acquisitions of citizenship data are provided 12 months after the reference period to Eurostat by the National Statistical Institutes of the EU Member States in accordance with Regulation 862/2007.

Citizenship is the legal bond between an individual and a state, acquired by birth, naturalisation or other means according to national legislation. **Naturalisation** is the process by which a state grants its citizenship through a formal act on the application of the individual concerned. **Other ways** of granting citizenship may include spouses of nationals, minors adopted by nationals and descendants of nationals born abroad returning to the country of origin of their ancestors. Regulation 862/2007 Art 3.1(d) asks Member States to provide data on "persons having their usual residence in the territory of the Member State and having acquired during the reference year the citizenship of the Member State and having formerly held the citizenship of another Member State or a third country or having formerly been stateless, disaggregated by age and sex, and by the former citizenship of the persons concerned and by whether the person was formerly stateless".

The **naturalisation rate** is the ratio of the number of persons who acquired the citizenship of a country during a calendar year over the stock of foreign residents in the same country at the beginning of the year. The 'naturalisation rate' should be used with caution because the numerator includes all modes of acquisitions and not just naturalisations of eligible residing foreigners and the denominator includes all foreigners and not the relevant population, i.e. those foreigners who are eligible for naturalisation.

For more information

Eurostat [database](#) on migration and citizenship

Eurostat [metadata](#) on acquisition and loss of citizenship

Eurostat [Statistics Explained article](#) on acquisition of citizenship statistics

Eurostat [interactive infographic](#) on acquisition of citizenship in the EU

Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**


Vincent BOURGEAIS
Tel: +352-4301-33 444
eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu

 ec.europa.eu/eurostat

Production of data:

Silvia ANDUEZA-ROBUSTILLO
Tel: +352-4301-33 443
silvia.andueza-robustillo@ec.europa.eu

 [@EU Eurostat](https://twitter.com/EU_Eurostat)

 **Media requests:** Eurostat media support / Tel: +352-4301-33 408 / eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu