

71/2019 - 25 April 2019

## Asylum decisions in the EU

# EU Member States granted protection to more than 300 000 asylum seekers in 2018

Almost 30% of the beneficiaries were Syrians

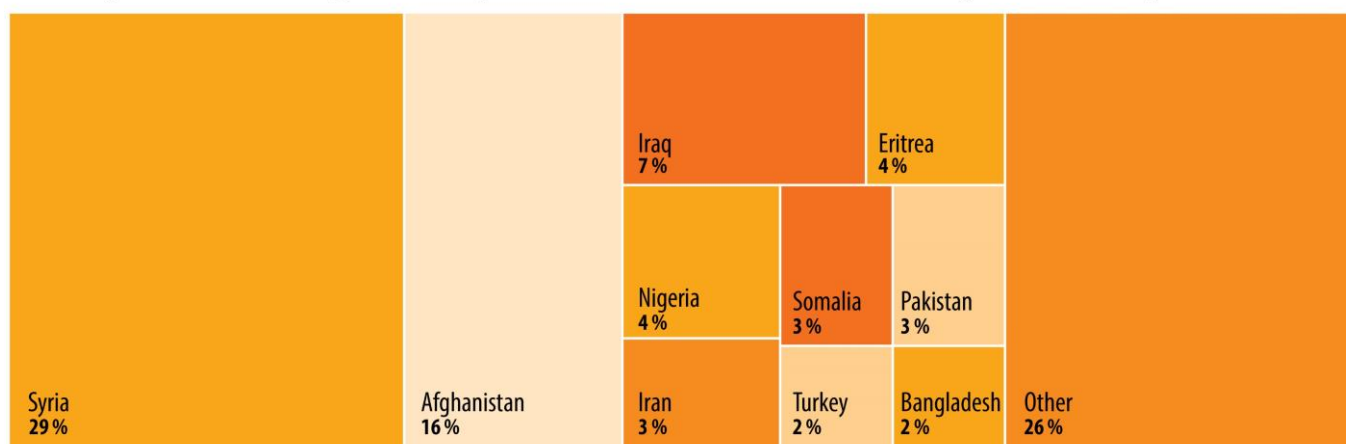
The 28 Member States of the **European Union** (EU) granted protection status to nearly 333 400 asylum seekers in 2018, down by almost 40% from 2017 (533 000). In addition to these, the EU Member States received over 24 800 resettled refugees.

The largest group of beneficiaries of protection status in the **EU** in 2018 remained citizens of **Syria** (96 100 persons, or 29% of the total number of persons granted protection status in the EU Member States), followed by citizens of **Afghanistan** (53 500 or 16%) and those of **Iraq** (24 600 or 7%), as compared with 2017 when 172 900 or 32% of asylum seekers granted protection were **Syrians**, 99 800 or 19% were **Afghanis** and 63 800 or 12% were **Iraqis**.

Syrians were the largest group granted protection status in sixteen Member States in 2018. Of the 96 100 **Syrians** granted protection status in the **EU**, almost 70% were recorded in **Germany** (67 000).

These data on the results of asylum decisions in the **EU** are released by **Eurostat**, the statistical office of the **European Union**.

### Asylum seekers granted protection status in the EU, by citizenship, 2018



"Other" refers to all other citizenships not present in the graph.  
The parts do not add up to 100 % due to rounding.

## More than 40% of all positive decisions in the EU granted in Germany

In 2018, the highest number of persons granted protection status was registered in **Germany** (139 600), ahead of **Italy** (47 900) and **France** (41 400).

Out of all the persons who were granted protection status in 2018 in the **EU**, 163 800 persons were granted refugee status (49% of all positive decisions), 100 300 were given subsidiary protection (30%) and 69 300 authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons (21%). 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.

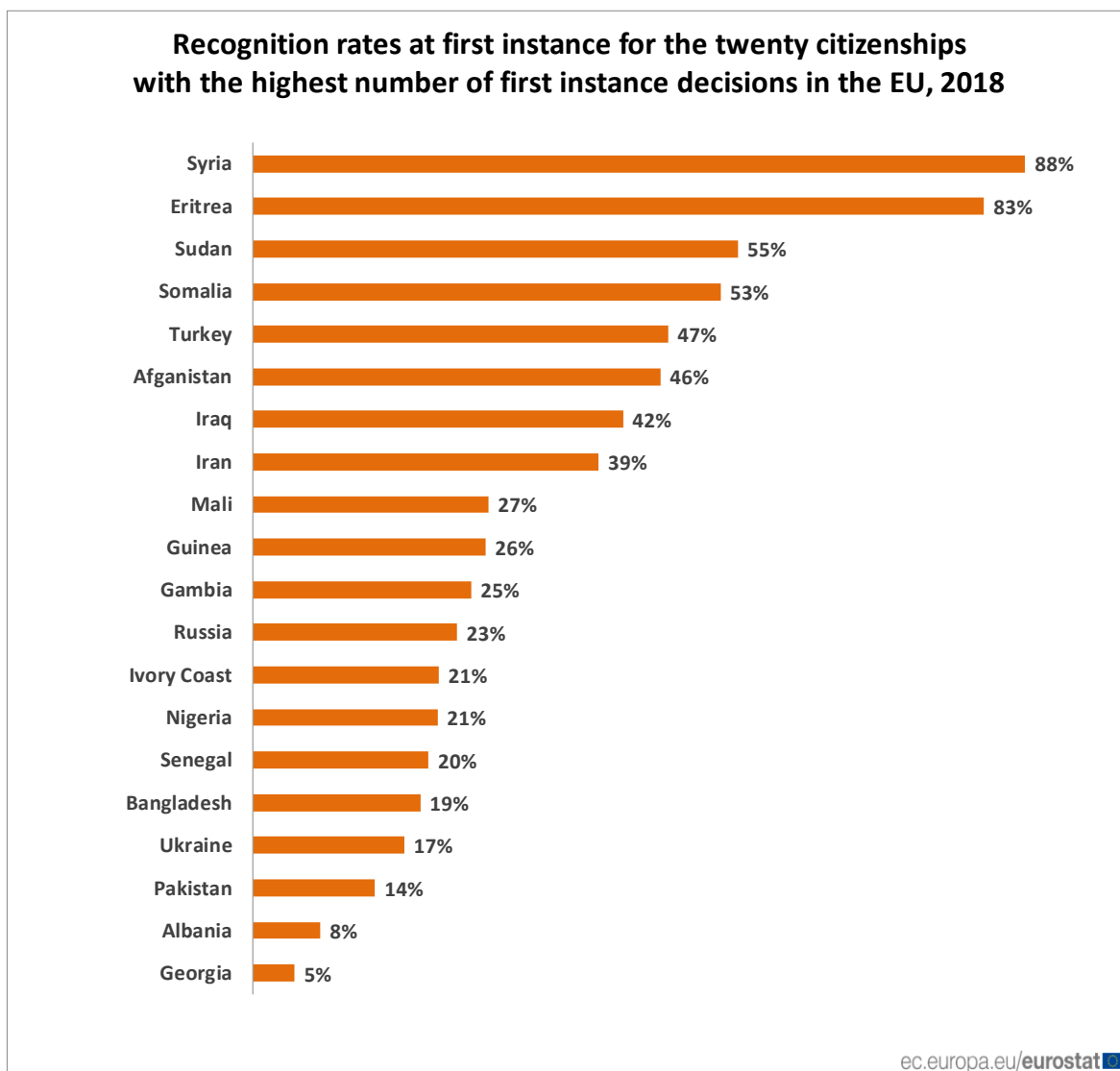
## Above one third of asylum decisions at the first instance made in the EU resulted in protection status

In 2018, almost 582 000 first instance decisions on asylum applications were made in the **EU** Member States and a further 309 000 final decisions following an appeal. Decisions made at the first instance resulted in 217 400 persons being granted protection status, while a further 116 000 received protection status on appeal.

## Recognition rates differ greatly between citizenships

The recognition rate, i.e. the share of positive decisions among the total number of decisions, was 37% for first instance decisions in the **EU**. For final decisions on appeal, the recognition rate was 38%.

The outcomes of decisions on asylum applications, and therefore the recognition rate, vary between countries of citizenship of asylum applicants. Among the twenty main citizenships of asylum applicants on which decisions were taken at first instance in 2018, recognition rates in the **EU** ranged from around 5% for citizens of **Georgia** to 88% for **Syrians** and 83% for **Eritreans** (see graph below).



## Geographical information

The **European Union (EU)** includes Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, 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

Data on asylum decisions presented in this news 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.

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, 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.

**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.

In addition, **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.

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

## For more information

Eurostat [database](#) on asylum and managed migration.

Eurostat [metadata](#) on decisions on applications and resettlement.

Eurostat [Statistics Explained article](#) on asylum annual data.

Eurostat [news release 46/2019](#) of 14 March 2019 on asylum applicants in 2018.

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### Three main citizenships granted protection status in the EU, 2018

	First			Second			Third		
	Citizens of	#	%*	Citizens of	#	%*	Citizens of	#	%*
<b>EU</b>	<b>Syria</b>	<b>96 125</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Afghanistan</b>	<b>53 465</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Iraq</b>	<b>24 605</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	Syria	2 275	22	Afghanistan	1 920	19	Iraq	680	7
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Syria	625	83	Afghanistan	40	5	Iraq	35	4
<b>Czechia</b>	Syria	60	35	Iraq	35	20	Ukraine	20	11
<b>Denmark</b>	Eritrea	605	37	Syria	535	32	Iran	235	14
<b>Germany</b>	Syria	66 990	48	Afghanistan	22 175	16	Iraq	10 970	8
<b>Estonia</b>	Iraq	5	32	Azerbaijan	5	16	Eritrea	5	16
<b>Ireland</b>	Syria	420	33	Zimbabwe	110	9	Afghanistan	80	6
<b>Greece</b>	Syria	6 015	38	Iraq	3 545	22	Afghanistan	2 635	17
<b>Spain</b>	Syria	1 855	63	Palestine	200	7	Ukraine	180	6
<b>France</b>	Afghanistan	6 165	15	Sudan	3 805	9	Syria	3 295	8
<b>Croatia</b>	Syria	80	51	Iraq	35	22	Iran	10	8
<b>Italy</b>	Nigeria	8 615	18	Pakistan	5 440	11	Bangladesh	4 760	10
<b>Cyprus</b>	Syria	1 000	82	Somalia	35	3	Iraq	35	3
<b>Latvia</b>	Russia	10	38	Eritrea	5	22	Afghanistan	5	16
<b>Lithuania</b>	Syria	55	39	Russia	30	21	Tajikistan	25	19
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Syria	310	31	Eritrea	310	31	Iraq	145	14
<b>Hungary</b>	Afghanistan	140	38	Iraq	80	22	Syria	45	13
<b>Malta</b>	Syria	230	35	Libya	225	34	Eritrea	80	12
<b>Netherlands</b>	Syria	1 620	34	Eritrea	535	11	Iran	450	9
<b>Austria</b>	Afghanistan	7 840	38	Syria	5 395	26	Somalia	1 535	7
<b>Poland</b>	Ukraine	95	22	Russia	90	21	Turkey	25	6
<b>Portugal</b>	Syria	295	47	Iraq	105	17	Eritrea	60	9
<b>Romania</b>	Syria	340	51	Iraq	175	26	Iran	40	6
<b>Slovenia</b>	Syria	40	39	Eritrea	25	25	Turkey	10	12
<b>Slovakia</b>	Yemen	20	40	Afghanistan	15	28	Iraq	5	9
<b>Finland</b>	Iraq	1 740	45	Afghanistan	950	25	Somalia	340	9
<b>Sweden</b>	Afghanistan	8 330	43	Syria	3 380	17	Iraq	1 515	8
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Eritrea	2 120	12	Iran	1 875	11	Libya	1 605	9
<b>Iceland</b>	Iraq	50	26	Afghanistan	15	7	Iran	15	7
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	China (including Hong Kong)	5	70	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Norway</b>	Syria	580	33	Eritrea	520	30	Afghanistan	175	10
<b>Switzerland</b>	Afghanistan	4 760	31	Eritrea	3 960	25	Syria	2 690	17

Data are rounded to the nearest five. Parts may not add up to totals due to rounding.

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

- No calculations made if rounded number of decisions is zero

The source dataset can be found [here](#) for first instance decisions and [here](#) for final decisions.

## Positive decisions on asylum applications in 2018

	Positive decisions*					Resettled refugees
	Total number		Of which:			
	Number	Per million of population**	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	
<b>EU</b>	<b>333 355</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>163 790</b>	<b>100 305</b>	<b>69 260</b>	<b>24 815</b>
Belgium	10 250	900	8 340	1 910	-	880
Bulgaria	760	110	320	440	-	20
Czechia	165	15	45	120	5	0
Denmark	1 650	285	1 025	185	440	0
Germany	139 555	1 685	61 350	52 690	25 515	3 200
Estonia	20	15	15	5	0	30
Ireland	1 275	265	815	225	235	340
Greece	15 805	1 470	12 810	2 670	325	0
Spain	2 965	65	620	2 335	10	830
France	41 440	620	27 135	14 305	-	5 565
Croatia	155	40	130	25	0	110
Italy	47 885	790	7 315	8 570	31 995	1 180
Cyprus	1 225	1 415	200	1 025	0	0
Latvia	30	15	25	10	-	0
Lithuania	140	50	120	20	0	20
Luxembourg	1 000	1 660	940	60	-	0
Hungary	365	35	70	280	20	0
Malta	660	1 385	160	480	25	0
Netherlands	4 795	280	2 160	2 110	530	1 225
Austria	20 700	2 345	14 815	4 685	1 200	0
Poland	435	10	185	220	30	0
Portugal	625	60	220	405	-	35
Romania	665	35	320	345	0	0
Slovenia	105	50	100	5	-	35
Slovakia	45	10	0	35	10	0
Finland	3 820	695	2 695	665	460	605
Sweden	19 605	1 935	8 010	4 820	6 770	4 935
United Kingdom	17 205	260	13 845	1 660	1 695	5 805
Iceland	195	560	115	40	40	50
Liechtenstein	10	260	0	5	5	0
Norway	1 755	330	1 445	80	230	2 480
Switzerland	15 550	1 835	6 360	1 150	8 040	1 080

Data are rounded to the nearest five. Parts may not add up to totals due to rounding.

0 means 2 or fewer decisions recorded in the reference period.

- Not applicable.

\* First instance and final decisions on appeal.

\*\* Refers to a resident population on 1 January 2018.

The source dataset can be found [here](#) for first instance decisions and [here](#) for final decisions.

	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 (%)
<b>EU</b>	<b>581 955</b>	<b>217 400</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>309 000</b>	<b>115 955</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>26</b>
Belgium	19 020	9 675	51	51	6 255	570	9	9
Bulgaria	2 110	740	35	35	35	20	57	57
Czechia	1 385	155	11	11	415	10	2	2
Denmark	2 625	1 315	50	33	1 965	335	17	17
Germany	179 110	75 940	42	37	146 545	63 620	43	33
Estonia	75	20	25	25	30	0	0	0
Ireland	1 175	1 005	85	69	645	270	42	36
Greece	32 340	15 210	47	47	7 200	595	8	4
Spain	11 875	2 895	24	24	975	70	7	6
France	115 045	32 725	28	28	46 420	8 715	19	19
Croatia	435	135	31	31	85	20	22	22
Italy	95 210	30 670	32	11	42 970	17 215	40	12
Cyprus	2 475	1 215	49	49	480	15	3	3
Latvia	125	30	24	24	40	0	5	5
Lithuania	270	135	50	50	25	5	15	15
Luxembourg	1 390	1 000	72	72	255	5	2	2
Hungary	960	365	38	36	0	0	-	-
Malta	1 500	645	43	42	685	15	2	2
Netherlands	10 285	3 620	35	32	1 955	1 175	60	52
Austria	34 525	15 020	44	41	10 490	5 680	54	50
Poland	2 735	375	14	13	1 495	60	4	3
Portugal	1 045	625	60	60	465	0	0	0
Romania	1 295	595	46	46	245	70	29	29
Slovenia	235	100	43	43	85	0	2	2
Slovakia	80	45	52	43	25	5	15	12
Finland	4 440	2 405	54	49	2 065	1 420	69	58
Sweden	31 320	10 640	34	32	24 855	8 965	36	11
United Kingdom	28 860	10 100	35	31	12 295	7 105	58	53
Iceland	380	105	28	28	375	90	24	13
Liechtenstein	40	10	23	15	55	0	2	2
Norway	2 115	1 460	69	65	2 235	295	13	6
Switzerland	17 000	15 225	90	43	3 300	320	10	6

Data are rounded to the nearest five. Parts may not add up to totals due to rounding.

0 means 2 or fewer decisions in the reference period.

\* 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.

- Not applicable.

The source dataset can be found [here](#) for first instance decisions and [here](#) for final decisions.