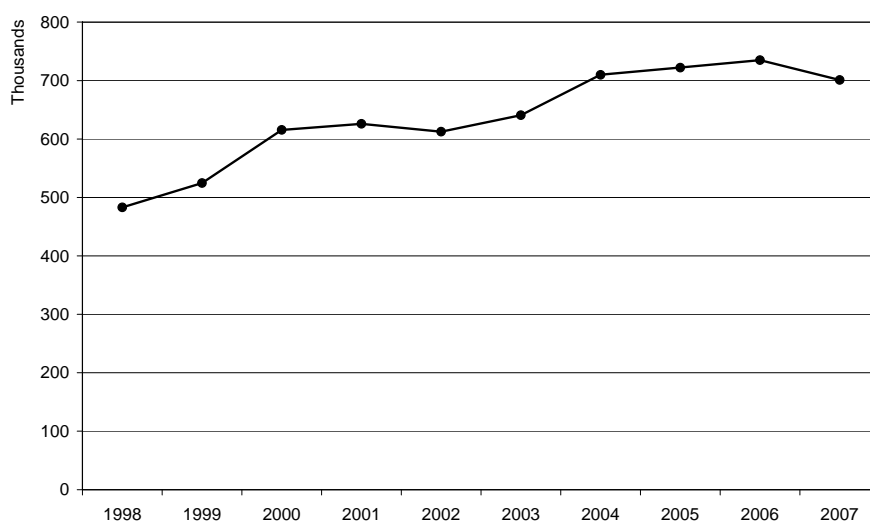


## Acquisition of citizenship in the European Union

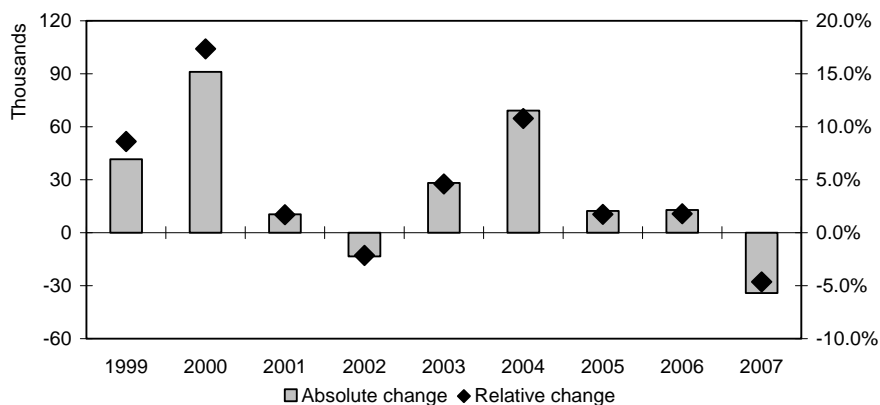
Total number of acquisitions of citizenship slightly decreasing in 2007 compared to previous years

Figure 1: Total acquisitions of citizenship in the EU-27



Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_acqctz](#))

Figure 2: Total acquisitions of citizenship in the EU-27, absolute and relative change on previous year



Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_acqctz](#))

## Almost 60% of total citizenships in the EU-27 granted by the United Kingdom, France and Germany

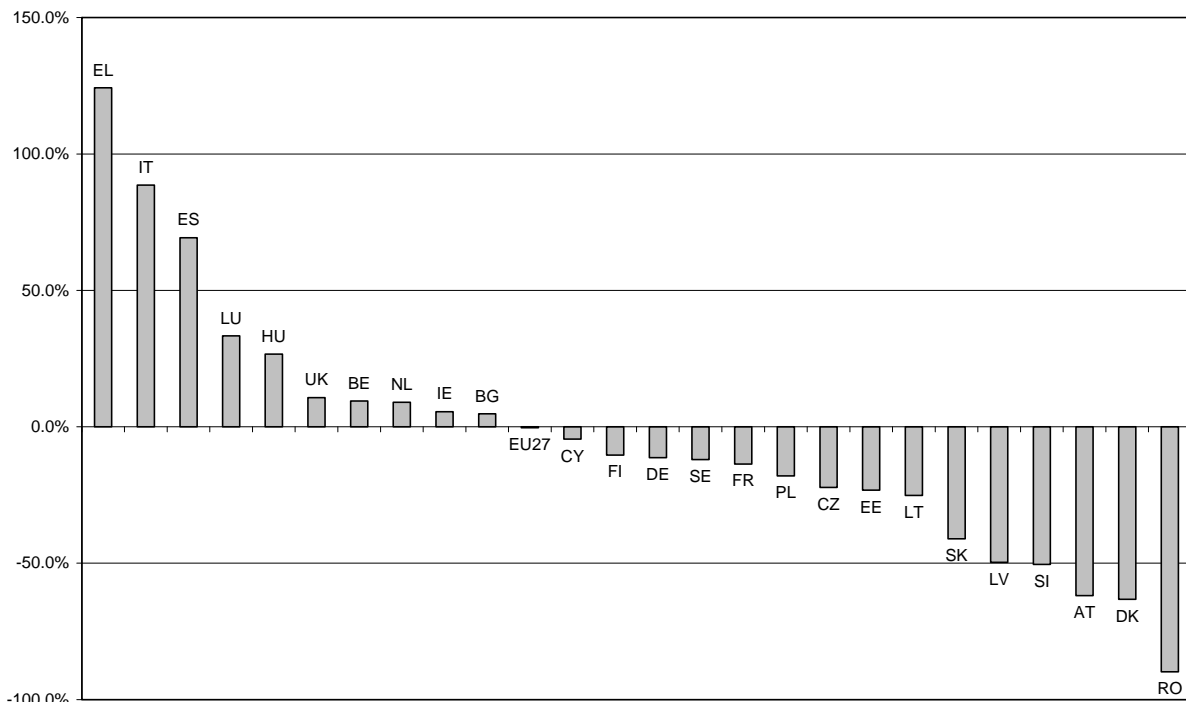
**Table 1: Total acquisitions of citizenship, 1998-2007**

Country	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
EU-27 **	699,791	735,033	722,169	709,893	640,796	612,630	626,075	615,644	524,627	483,047
Belgium	36,063	31,860	31,512	34,754	33,709	46,417	62,160	:	24,196	34,000
Bulgaria	5,966	6,738	5,882	5,783	4,382	3,544	:	:	:	:
Czech Republic	2,371	2,346	2,626	5,020	2,199	3,261	:	:	7,309	:
Denmark	3,648	7,961	10,197	14,976	6,583	17,300	11,902	18,811	12,416	10,262
Germany *	113,030	124,566	117,241	127,153	140,737	154,547	180,349	186,688	143,120	106,790
Estonia	4,242	4,781	7,072	6,543	3,706	4,091	3,090	3,425	4,534	9,969
Ireland	4,649	5,763	4,079	3,784	3,993	:	2,817	1,143	1,433	1,474
Greece	3,921	1,962	1,711	1,425	1,896	:	:	:	:	807
Spain	71,936	62,375	42,860	38,220	26,517	21,805	16,743	16,743	16,384	12,550
France	132,002	147,868	154,827	168,826	139,938	92,552	:	150,025	94,002	81,449
Italy	45,485	35,266	28,659	19,140	13,406	:	:	:	:	:
Cyprus	2,780	2,917	3,952	4,534	247	126	:	296	97	:
Latvia	8,322	18,964	20,106	17,178	9,951	9,421	9,947	13,482	12,914	:
Lithuania	371	467	435	610	471	504	504	490	567	562
Luxembourg	1,236	1,128	954	841	785	754	496	684	549	631
Hungary	8,442	6,101	9,870	5,432	5,261	3,369	8,590	5,393	6,066	6,203
Malta	553	474	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Netherlands	30,653	29,089	28,488	26,171	28,799	45,321	46,667	49,968	62,090	59,173
Austria	14,010	25,746	34,876	41,645	44,694	36,011	31,731	24,320	:	17,786
Poland	1,542	1,064	2,866	1,937	1,653	1,182	1,070	:	:	:
Portugal	:	3,627	1,655	1,346	2,479	255	1,419	1,143	584	519
Romania	31	29	767	282	139	242	363	:	247	:
Slovenia *	1,551	3,204	2,684	3,333	3,306	2,808	1,346	2,102	2,337	3,321
Slovakia *	1,478	1,125	1,393	4,016	3,492	3,484	2,886	:	:	:
Finland	4,824	4,433	5,683	6,880	4,526	3,049	2,720	2,977	4,730	4,017
Sweden	33,629	51,239	39,573	28,893	33,222	37,792	36,399	43,474	37,777	46,520
United Kingdom	164,540	154,015	161,755	148,275	130,535	120,125	90,295	82,210	54,902	53,934

\* For certain countries only data on acquisitions by naturalisation are available (see Methodological notes); \*\* Estimate

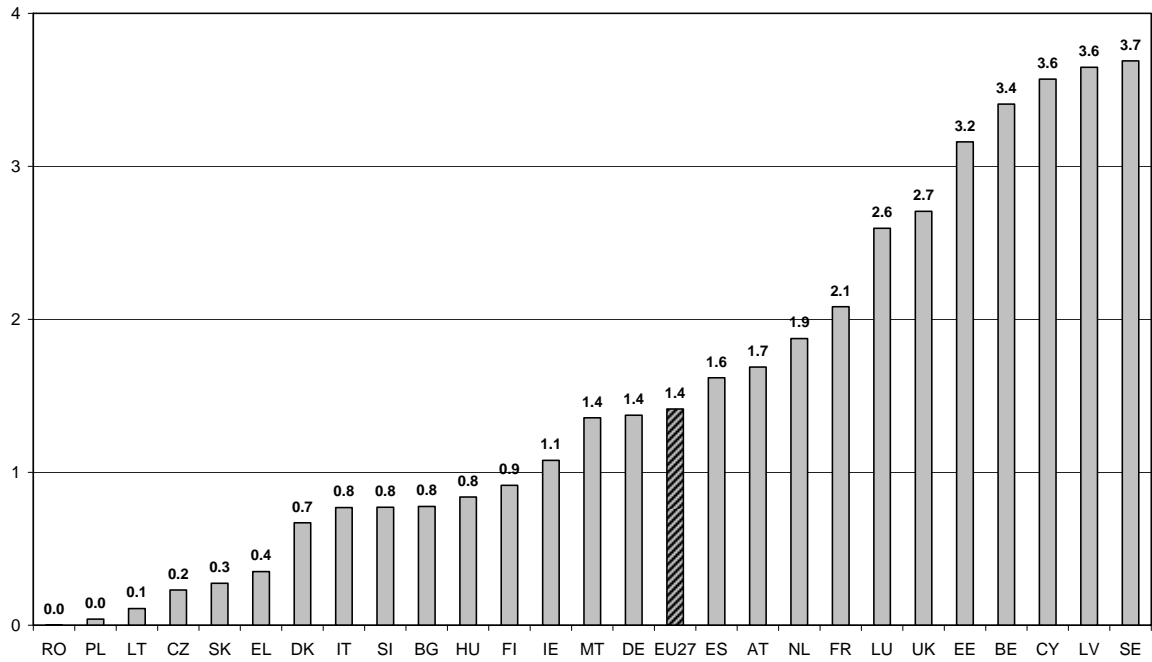
Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_acqctz](#))

**Figure 3: Acquisitions of citizenship in 2007 compared to the annual average of 2003-2006**



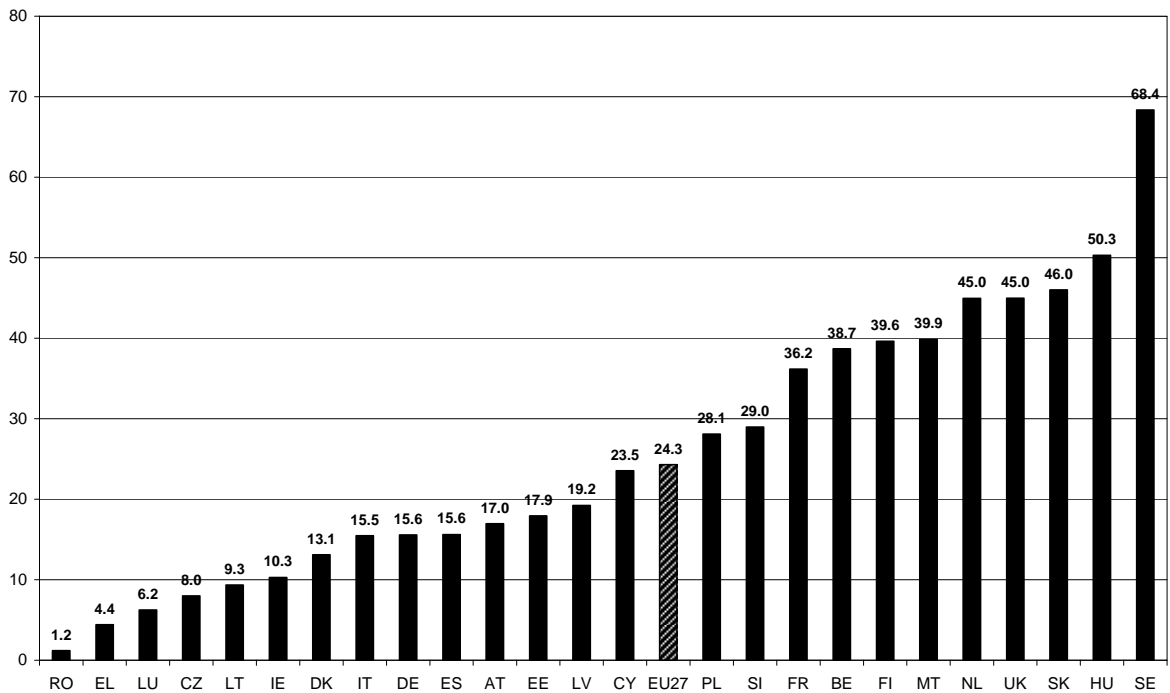
Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_acqctz](#))

**Figure 4: Acquisitions of citizenship per thousand inhabitants, 2007**



Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_acqctz](#))

**Figure 5: Acquisitions of citizenship per thousand non-nationals, 2007 \***

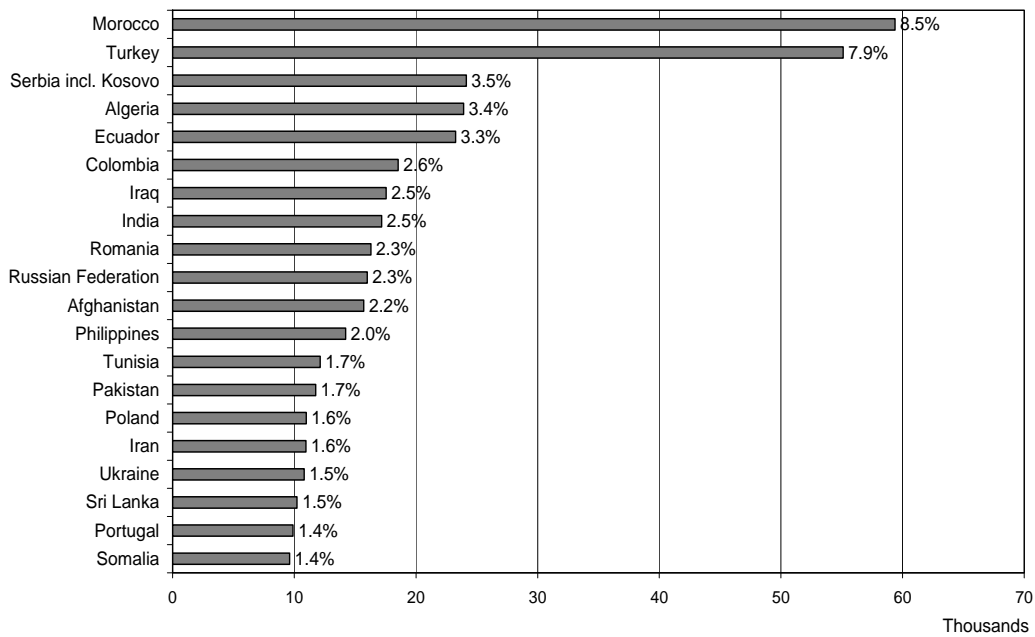


\* The ratio for BG has not been included because the available figures concerning the non-national population are not comparable

Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_acqctz](#))

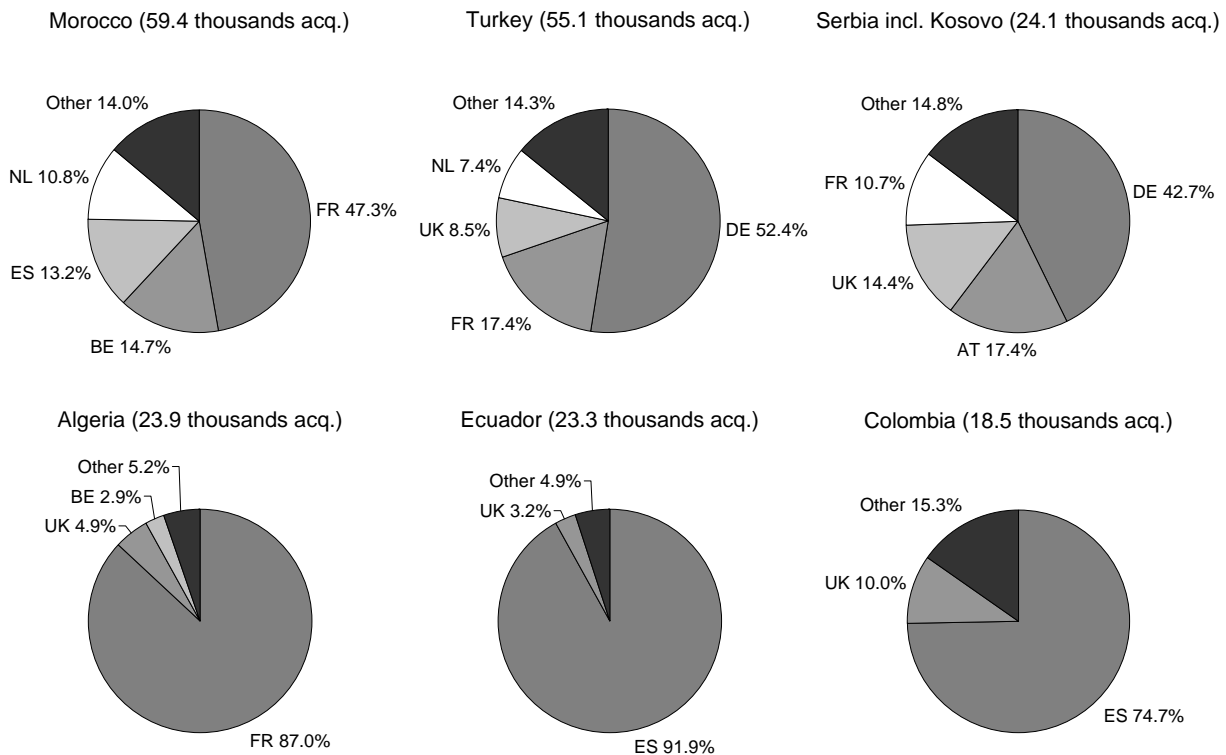
## Turkey and Morocco are the main countries of previous citizenship of those who acquired citizenship of an EU-27 Member State in 2007

Figure 6: Main previous citizenship of persons acquiring citizenship in the EU-27, 2007 (1)



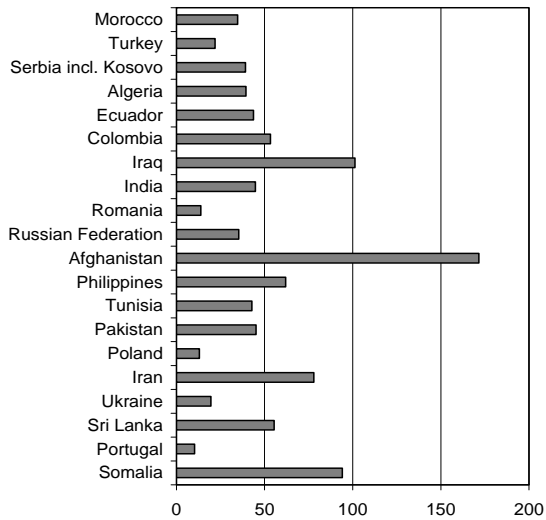
Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_acqctz](#))

Figure 7: Main previous citizenship of persons acquiring citizenship in the EU-27 and main EU Member States granting citizenship (1)



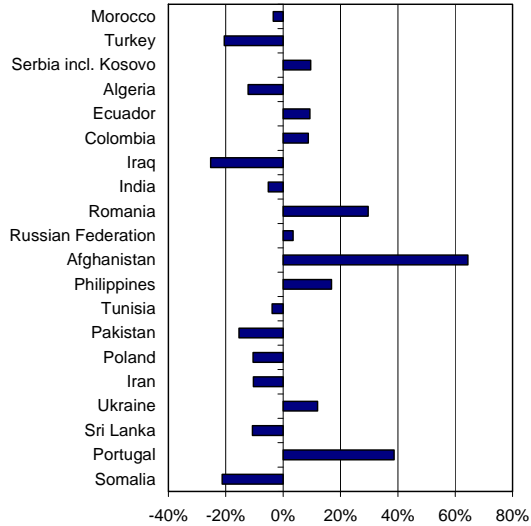
Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_acqctz](#))

**Figure 8: Main previous citizenship of persons acquiring citizenship in the EU-27, per thousand foreign population of the same citizenship, 2007 <sup>(1)</sup>**



Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_acqctz](#))

**Figure 9: Main previous citizenships of persons acquiring citizenship in the EU-27, relative change on previous year <sup>(1)</sup>**



Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_acqctz](#))

**Table 2: Main previous citizenships of persons acquiring citizenship in the EU-27 and main EU Member State granting citizenship <sup>(1)</sup>**

Rank	Previous citizenship	Total acquisitions	EU Member State granting the highest share of new citizenships <sup>(2)</sup>	Percentage
1	Morocco	59,400	France	47.3%
2	Turkey	55,100	Germany	52.4%
3	Serbia incl. Kosovo	24,100	Germany	42.7%
4	Algeria	23,900	France	87.0%
5	Ecuador	23,300	Spain	91.9%
6	Colombia	18,500	Spain	74.7%
7	Iraq	17,500	Sweden	33.9%
8	India	17,200	United Kingdom	84.3%
9	Romania	16,300	Hungary	37.1%
10	Russian Federation	16,000	Germany	25.4%
11	Afghanistan	15,700	United Kingdom	67.2%
12	Philippines	14,200	United Kingdom	76.2%
13	Tunisia	12,100	France	77.1%
14	Pakistan	11,800	United Kingdom	69.2%
15	Poland	11,000	Germany	49.9%
16	Iran	11,000	United Kingdom	40.4%
17	Ukraine	10,800	Germany	41.2%
18	Sri Lanka	10,200	United Kingdom	63.6%
19	Portugal	9,900	France	79.9%
20	Somalia	9,600	United Kingdom	77.6%

Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_acqctz](#))

<sup>(1)</sup> The figures include estimates for the Member States for which detailed data on previous citizenship are not available

<sup>(2)</sup> The percentage indicates the ratio between those who received citizenship in the reported Member State and those who received it in any EU-27 Member State

More than 30 % of total acquisitions in 2007 concern persons that formerly had citizenship of a European country

Table 3: Main previous citizenships of persons acquiring citizenship of an EU-27 Member State, 2007

Belgium		Bulgaria		Czech Republic		Denmark		Germany*	
Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%
Morocco	8,722	24.2	Form. Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	3,247	54.4	Turkey	1,119	527	14.4
Turkey	3,039	8.4	Moldova	1,585	26.6	Iraq	424	515	14.1
Italy	2,017	5.6	Russia	248	4.2	Slovakia	102	317	8.7
Conqo. Dem. Rep.	1,800	5.0	Serbia	235	3.9	Poland	50	224	6.1
Russia	1,533	4.3	Ukraine	229	3.8	Bosnia and Herzegovina	40	178	4.9
Other	18,952	52.6	Other	422	7.1	Afghanistan	636	187	5.1
						Other	1,887	59,822	52.9
<b>Estonia</b>		<b>Ireland</b>		<b>Greece</b>		<b>Spain</b>		<b>France</b>	
Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%
Rec. non-citizens**	3,948	93.1	United States	1,841	39.6	Ecuador	2,558	21,378	29.7
Russia	267	6.3	Australia	299	6.4	Colombia	229	13,853	19.3
Ukraine	19	0.4	Canada	246	5.3	Morocco	222	7,866	10.9
Latvia	2	0.0	South Africa	219	4.7	Peru	104	6,490	9.0
Lithuania	1	0.0	Pakistan	189	4.1	Argentina	93	4,813	6.7
Other	5	0.1	Other	1,855	39.9	Other	715	17,536	24.4
<b>Cyprus</b>		<b>Latvia</b>		<b>Lithuania</b>		<b>Luxembourg</b>		<b>Hungary</b>	
Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%
United Kingdom	216	7.8	Rec. non-citizens**	8,119	97.6	Portugal	184	352	28.5
Australia	184	6.6	Russia	132	1.6	Italy	113	138	11.2
South Africa	157	5.6	Ukraine	32	0.4	Belgium	31	97	7.8
Greece	156	5.6	Belarus	19	0.2	Germany	20	95	7.7
Russia	59	2.1	Lithuania	9	0.1	France	9	75	6.1
Other	2,008	72.2	Other	11	0.1	Other	14	479	38.8
<b>Malta</b>		<b>Netherlands</b>		<b>Austria</b>		<b>Poland</b>		<b>Romania</b>	
Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%
Australia	137	24.8	Morocco	6,409	20.9	Serbia	4,213	665	43.1
United Kingdom	115	20.8	Turkey	4,073	13.3	Bosnia and Herzegovina	3,329	128	8.3
Russia	36	6.5	Sunname	1,285	4.2	Russia	114	114	7.4
Italy	33	6.0	Afghanistan	662	2.2	Croatia	1,349	65	4.2
Libya	27	4.9	China	638	2.1	Romania	455	47	3.0
Other	205	37.1	Other	17,586	57.4	Other	2,588	523	33.9
<b>Slovenia*</b>		<b>Slovakia*</b>		<b>Finland</b>		<b>Sweden</b>		<b>United Kingdom</b>	
Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	548	35.3	Ukraine	704	47.6	Russia	1,665	5,950	17.7
Serbia	420	27.1	Czech Republic	158	10.7	Finland	464	2,757	8.2
Croatia	225	14.5	Serbia	112	7.6	Iraq	443	2,081	6.2
Form. Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	115	7.4	United States	110	7.4	Bosnia and Herzegovina	232	1,459	4.3
Italy	87	5.6	Romania	100	6.8	Iran	218	1,456	4.3
Other	156	10.1	Other	294	19.9	Other	1,802	19,926	59.3
						India	14,490	14,490	8.8
						Philippines	10,840	10,840	6.6
						Afghanistan	10,555	10,555	6.4
						South Africa	8,150	8,150	5.0
						Pakistan	8,140	8,140	4.9
						Other	112,365	112,365	68.3

Percentage of total citizenships granted in 2007 by a particular country; \* Data by previous citizenship available only for acquisitions by naturalisation; \*\* See methodological notes for full definition

Data not available for Portugal and Italy

Source: Eurostat ([migr.acqactz](http://migr.acqactz))

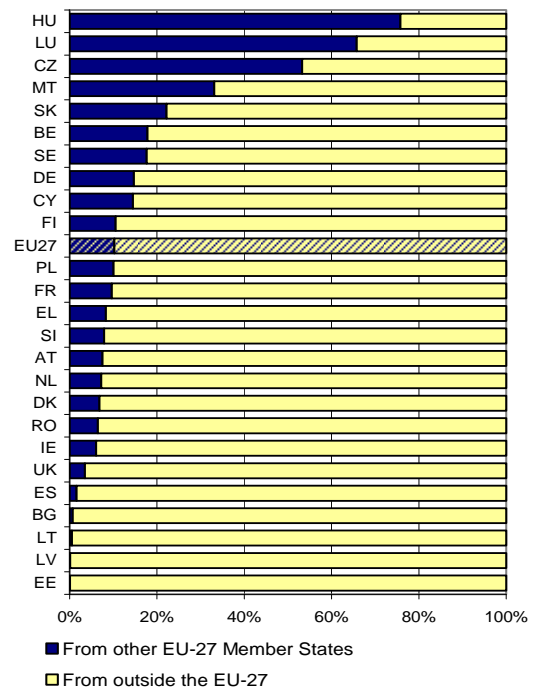
**Table 4: Acquisitions of citizenship by group of previous citizenship, 2007**

Country	Total	EU-27 Member States		Non EU-27 Member States	
EU-27 **	699,791	71,519	10.2%	628,272	89.8%
Belgium	36,063	6,418	17.8%	29,645	82.2%
Bulgaria	5,966	42	0.7%	5,924	99.3%
Czech Republic	2,371	1,262	53.2%	1,109	46.8%
Denmark	3,648	248	6.8%	3,400	93.2%
Germany *	113,030	16,635	14.7%	96,395	85.3%
Estonia	4,242	3	0.1%	4,239	99.9%
Ireland	4,649	283	6.1%	4,366	93.9%
Greece	3,921	325	8.3%	3,596	91.7%
Spain	71,936	1,137	1.6%	70,799	98.4%
France	132,002	12,712	9.6%	119,290	90.4%
Italy	45,485	:	:	:	:
Cyprus	2,780	403	14.5%	2,377	85.5%
Latvia	8,322	9	0.1%	8,313	99.9%
Lithuania	371	2	0.5%	369	99.5%
Luxembourg	1,236	813	65.8%	423	34.2%
Hungary	8,442	6,398	75.8%	2,044	24.2%
Malta	553	183	33.1%	370	66.9%
Netherlands	30,653	2,215	7.2%	28,438	92.8%
Austria	14,010	1,051	7.5%	12,959	92.5%
Poland	1,542	155	10.1%	1,387	89.9%
Portugal	:	:	:	:	:
Romania	31	2	6.5%	29	93.5%
Slovenia *	1,551	122	7.9%	1,429	92.1%
Slovakia *	1,478	328	22.2%	1,150	77.8%
Finland	4,824	508	10.5%	4,316	89.5%
Sweden	33,629	5,937	17.7%	27,692	82.3%
United Kingdom	164,540	5,750	3.5%	158,790	96.5%

\* Acquisitions of citizenship by naturalisation only; \*\* Estimate

Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_acqctz](#))

**Figure 10: Proportion of acquisitions of citizenship by former citizens of another EU Member State, 2007**



Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_acqctz](#))

## Methodology

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Data are provided by the National Statistical Offices of the 27 Member States as part of the annual Joint Questionnaire on International Migration Statistics conducted by Eurostat in cooperation with UNSD, UNECE and ILO.

The data on acquisition of citizenship are disaggregated by previous citizenship of the persons concerned. Until 2003 only total acquisitions were collected, whereas from 2004 onwards a further disaggregation by type of acquisition (naturalisation or other) was introduced.

*Citizenship* - The particular legal bond between an individual and his or her State, acquired by birth or naturalisation, whether by declaration, choice, marriage or other means according to the national legislation.

*Naturalisation* - Process by which a State grants its citizenship to an alien through a formal act on the application of the individual concerned, usually based on a minimum period of legal residence and a certain degree of integration. International law does not provide detailed rules for naturalisation, but it recognises the competence of every State to naturalise those who are not its citizens and who apply to become such. The share of naturalisations among total acquisitions of citizenship varies considerably

across Member States according to the national legislation.

*Other ways of granting citizenship (different from naturalisation)* - International law does not provide detailed rules, but it recognises the competence of every State. Examples: spouses of nationals, minors adopted by nationals, descendants of nationals born abroad returning to the country of origin of their ancestors, etc.

*Recognised non-citizen* - Person who is not a citizen of the reporting country nor of any other country, but who has established links to that country which include some but not all rights and obligations of full citizenship. This category is particularly relevant in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

### ABBREVIATIONS:

Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE) and United Kingdom (UK).

## Further information

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Eurostat website: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>

### Data

Data on "International migration and asylum":

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/data/database>

More information about "International migration and asylum":

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/introduction>

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### European Statistical Data Support:

Contact details for this support network can be found on our Internet site:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

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