

*Data extracted on 17 June 2019.
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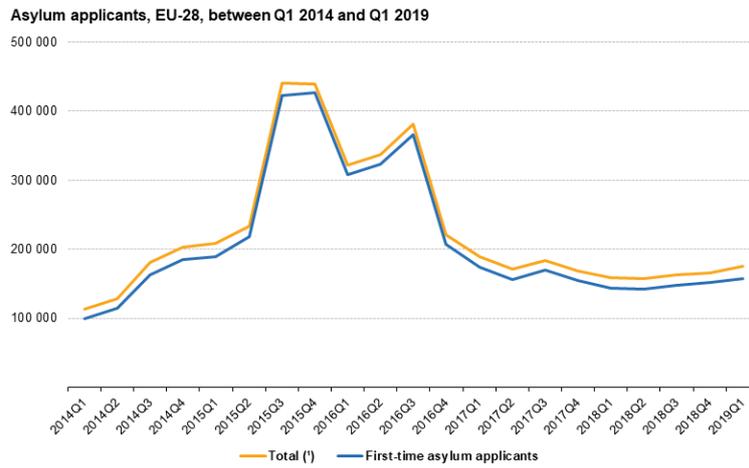
This article describes recent developments in relation to numbers of **asylum applicants** and first instance decisions on **asylum applications** in the **European Union (EU)**. Asylum is a form of international protection given by a state on its territory. It is granted to a person who is unable to seek protection in his/her country of citizenship and/or residence, in particular for fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.

Main trends in the number of asylum applicants

The number of **first-time asylum applicants**¹ in the EU-28 increased by 10 % in the first quarter of 2019 compared with the same quarter of 2018 and increased by 4 % compared with the fourth quarter of 2018. As such, the number of persons seeking asylum from non-EU countries in the **EU-28** during the first quarter of 2019 was 158 000, a number around the levels recorded in 2014, before the peaks of 2015 and 2016 (Figure 1, Table 2).

The number of first-time asylum applicants in the EU-28 accounted for 90 % of the total number of asylum applicants (175 000), including repeated applicants, recorded in the first quarter of 2019 (Figure 1, Table 2).

¹First-time applicant for international protection is a person who lodged an application for asylum for the **first time** in a given Member State. The indicator 'First-time asylum applicants' excludes repeated applicants i.e. persons applying for asylum more than once in one country and therefore more accurately presents the number of persons applying for international protection in the EU Member States. The use of this indicator is possible as all Member States are able to provide it to Eurostat since 2014.



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Figure 1: Asylum applicants, EU-28, Q1 2014 – Q1 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm)

Where do asylum applicants come from?

Citizens of 149 countries sought asylum for the first time in the EU in the first quarter of 2019. Syrian, Venezuelan and Afghan were the top 3 citizenships of asylum seekers, lodging 17 100, 10 800 and 10 800 applications respectively (Table 1).

First-time asylum applicants in the EU-28 by citizenship, Q1 2018 – Q1 2019

	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Absolute change		Change in %		Last 12 months
						between Q4 2018 and Q1 2019	between Q1 2018 and Q1 2019	between Q4 2018 and Q1 2019	between Q1 2018 and Q1 2019	
Non-EU	143 700	142 870	148 095	151 575	157 970	6 395	14 270	4	10	600 505
Syria - (SY)	21 290	20 965	21 290	17 415	17 090	-325	-4 200	-2	-20	76 760
Venezuela - (VE)	4 185	7 630	4 500	5 890	10 790	4 900	6 605	83	158	28 810
Afghanistan - (AF)	8 195	9 445	11 225	12 225	10 750	-1 475	2 555	-12	31	43 640
Iraq - (IQ)	10 925	9 080	10 115	9 730	8 430	-1 295	-2 490	-13	-23	37 355
Nigeria - (NG)	6 990	6 190	4 870	4 450	6 320	1 870	-670	42	-10	21 830
Georgia - (GE)	5 065	3 765	3 750	5 500	6 090	585	1 025	11	20	19 100
Pakistan - (PK)	5 910	5 645	6 245	7 055	5 840	-1 215	-70	-17	-1	24 780
Colombia - (CO)	1 310	3 345	2 385	3 015	5 720	2 705	4 410	90	337	14 470
Iran - (IR)	4 260	4 490	6 650	7 845	5 650	-2 195	1 390	-28	33	24 635
Albania - (AL)	4 225	4 040	4 895	6 190	5 525	-665	1 300	-11	31	20 645
Turkey - (TR)	3 755	4 570	7 455	6 270	5 320	-950	1 565	-15	42	23 615
Guinea - (GN)	3 260	2 685	3 190	4 270	3 560	-710	300	-17	9	13 700
Bangladesh - (BD)	3 765	3 205	2 725	2 965	2 895	-65	-865	-2	-23	11 795
Russia - (RU)	2 945	2 775	3 185	2 835	2 835	-5	-110	0	-4	11 630
Eritrea - (ER)	4 225	4 110	3 635	2 940	2 810	-125	-1 415	-4	-33	13 495
Somalia - (SO)	2 915	2 855	3 050	2 480	2 505	25	-410	1	-14	10 890
Ukraine - (UA)	2 225	2 270	2 190	2 330	2 435	110	210	5	10	9 225
Palestine - (PS)	1 325	1 440	2 195	2 275	2 390	115	1 065	5	81	8 305
El Salvador - (SV)	1 075	1 665	1 165	1 350	2 325	975	1 250	72	116	6 500
Morocco - (MA)	2 050	1 840	1 950	1 825	2 195	370	145	20	7	7 810
Algeria - (DZ)	2 550	2 100	2 100	2 450	2 185	-265	-360	-11	-14	8 840
Ivory Coast - (CI)	2 325	2 140	1 920	2 135	1 930	-200	-395	-9	-17	8 120
CD - (CD)	1 835	1 685	1 675	1 720	1 890	170	55	10	3	6 965
Nicaragua - (NI)	25	150	625	1 125	1 795	675	1 770	60	6 552	3 695
Mali - (ML)	1 805	1 525	1 160	1 805	1 700	-100	-105	-6	-6	6 190
Honduras - (HN)	430	975	675	775	1 640	865	1 210	111	282	4 070
India - (IN)	1 130	1 350	1 370	1 485	1 620	135	490	9	43	5 825
China - (CN)	1 180	1 265	1 590	1 775	1 600	-170	425	-10	36	6 230
Sudan - (SD)	1 690	1 880	2 790	1 835	1 555	-280	-140	-15	-8	8 060
Cameroon - (CM)	1 300	1 185	1 310	1 360	1 520	160	220	12	17	5 375
Other (non-EU)	29 540	26 605	26 220	26 270	29 060	2 790	-480	11	-2	108 150

Countries selected here are those with the highest number of asylum applicants registered during Q1 2019

(*) CD – Congo, the Democratic Republic of the

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctzm)



Table 1: First-time asylum applicants in the EU-28 by citizenship, Q1 2018 – Q1 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm)

Venezuelans (6 600 more applicants compared with the first quarter of 2018) contributed most to the overall increase in first-time asylum applicants in absolute terms, followed by Colombians (4 400 more) and Afghans (2 600 more). By contrast, the number of asylum applicants decreased most in absolute terms for citizens of Syria (4 200 fewer), Iraq (2 500 fewer) and Eritrea (1 400 fewer) (Table 1).

The most substantial relative decrease in the number of asylum applicants in the EU in the first quarter of 2019 compared with the same quarter of 2018 was recorded for Eritreans (33 % fewer), Bangladeshis and Iraqis (both 23 % fewer). By contrast, Nicaragua (6 552 % more) , Colombia (337 % more), Honduras (282 % more) and Venezuela (158 % more) were the countries of citizenships which increased most in relative terms in

the first quarter of 2019, compared with the same quarter of 2018 (Figure 2, Table 1).

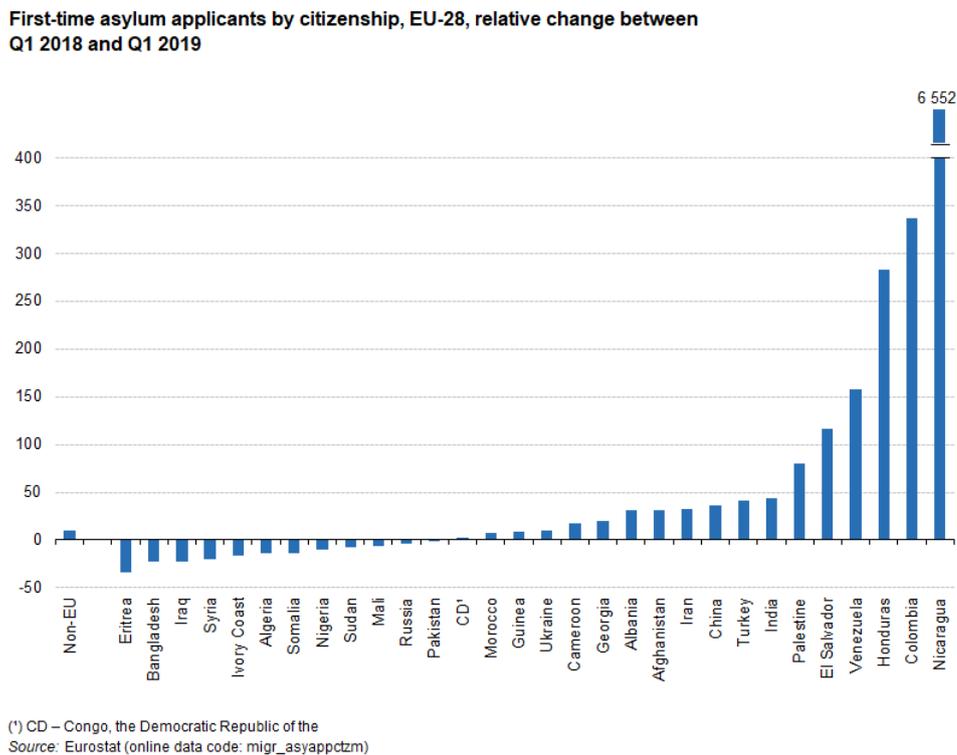


Figure 2: First-time asylum applicants by citizenship, EU-28, relative change between Q1 2018 and Q1 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm), see country codes

Where do asylum applicants go to?

The highest number of first-time asylum applicants in the first quarter of 2019 was registered in Germany (with 40 900 first-time applicants, or 26 % of all applicants in the EU Member States), followed by France (28 100, or 18 %), Spain (25 800, or 16 %), Greece (15 900, or 10 %), the United Kingdom (11 100, or 7 %) and Italy (8 400, or 5 %). These six Member States together account for 82 % of all first-time applicants in the EU-28 (Table 2).

Asylum applicants, Q1 2018 – Q1 2019

	Q1 2018		Q2 2018		Q3 2018		Q4 2018		Q1 2019		First-time asylum applicants			last 12 months			
	First-time asylum applicants	Total asylum applicants	Share of first-time asylum applicants (%)	change in %			per million population (¹) Q1 2019										
												between Q4 2018 and Q1 2019	between Q1 2018 and Q1 2019			between Q4 2018 and Q1 2019	between Q1 2018 and Q1 2019
EU-28	143 700	158 680	142 870	157 800	148 095	163 300	151 575	166 275	157 970	174 765	90	6 395	14 270	4	10	308	600 505
Belgium	4 000	5 260	3 610	4 855	5 565	6 635	4 950	5 780	5 690	6 945	82	740	1 690	15	42	499	19 815
Bulgaria	295	310	260	280	800	820	1 105	1 125	285	310	92	-820	-10	-74	-3	40	2 455
Czechia	300	385	295	385	360	430	400	490	530	620	85	135	230	33	77	50	1 585
Denmark	800	835	765	785	1 085	1 105	815	845	575	590	97	-245	-225	-30	-28	99	3 240
Germany	44 910	50 705	38 680	43 855	42 005	47 820	36 290	41 795	40 900	47 440	86	4 610	-4 010	13	-9	484	157 875
Estonia	10	10	15	15	50	50	20	20	15	15	100	0	10	-6	89	13	100
Ireland	970	975	670	675	990	995	1 025	1 030	1 100	1 125	98	75	130	7	14	228	3 790
Greece	12 945	13 345	16 330	16 835	16 670	17 200	19 030	19 580	15 940	16 480	97	-3 090	2 995	-16	23	1 484	67 970
Spain	8 755	8 965	16 175	16 565	12 670	12 970	15 125	15 550	25 760	26 495	97	10 635	17 005	70	194	552	69 735
France	25 855	28 165	26 290	28 950	27 300	29 325	31 970	33 985	28 065	30 055	93	-3 905	2 205	-12	9	419	113 625
Croatia	215	245	140	165	185	215	135	170	75	110	68	-60	-140	-43	-64	19	540
Italy	19 005	20 475	14 810	16 650	10 065	11 590	9 560	11 235	8 390	10 570	79	-1 170	-10 615	-12	-56	139	42 825
Cyprus	1 325	1 385	1 430	1 455	2 145	2 175	2 705	2 745	2 960	3 015	98	255	1 635	9	123	3 425	9 245
Latvia	50	50	30	30	55	55	40	45	25	25	100	-20	-25	-45	-54	12	150
Lithuania	40	50	90	95	140	145	115	120	115	115	100	5	80	3	205	41	465
Luxembourg	445	465	425	455	660	690	700	730	660	685	96	-35	215	-5	49	1 100	2 440
Hungary	280	290	145	160	105	105	100	110	125	145	86	25	-160	26	-56	13	475
Malta	395	410	425	475	545	560	670	685	585	610	96	-85	195	-12	49	1 234	2 225
Netherlands	4 145	4 830	4 310	4 980	6 185	7 415	5 825	6 800	5 390	6 290	86	-435	1 250	-7	30	314	21 715
Austria	3 445	4 040	2 690	3 180	2 835	3 420	2 610	3 075	2 445	2 875	85	-165	-1 000	-6	-29	277	10 580
Poland	585	1 045	625	1 065	585	970	615	1 030	685	960	71	70	100	12	17	18	2 505
Portugal	245	270	215	220	375	395	405	405	360	365	99	-45	115	-11	48	35	1 355
Romania	355	415	450	480	570	635	575	605	305	350	87	-270	-50	-47	-14	16	1 895
Slovenia	510	525	895	905	905	925	490	520	725	775	94	235	215	47	42	351	3 015
Slovakia	45	50	45	55	30	30	35	40	60	65	92	25	15	76	33	11	170
Finland	765	1 000	710	900	770	1 235	700	1 370	560	1 115	50	-140	-200	-20	-26	102	2 745
Sweden	4 440	5 510	3 995	4 890	4 860	5 685	4 775	5 480	4 510	5 325	85	-265	75	-6	2	446	18 145
United Kingdom	8 575	8 675	8 345	8 435	9 585	9 710	10 785	10 910	11 125	11 305	98	340	2 550	3	30	168	39 840
Iceland	130	135	160	180	190	200	245	260	200	220	91	-45	70	-19	52	571	800
Liechtenstein	50	60	45	55	35	35	15	15	10	15	67	-5	-40	-36	-82	236	105
Norway	430	455	625	675	920	950	550	585	475	500	95	-80	45	-14	10	90	2 570
Switzerland	3 615	4 020	3 310	3 740	3 230	3 650	3 310	3 745	3 235	3 665	88	-70	-380	-2	-11	382	13 085

Note: Total asylum applicants include first-time asylum applicants and repeated applicants.

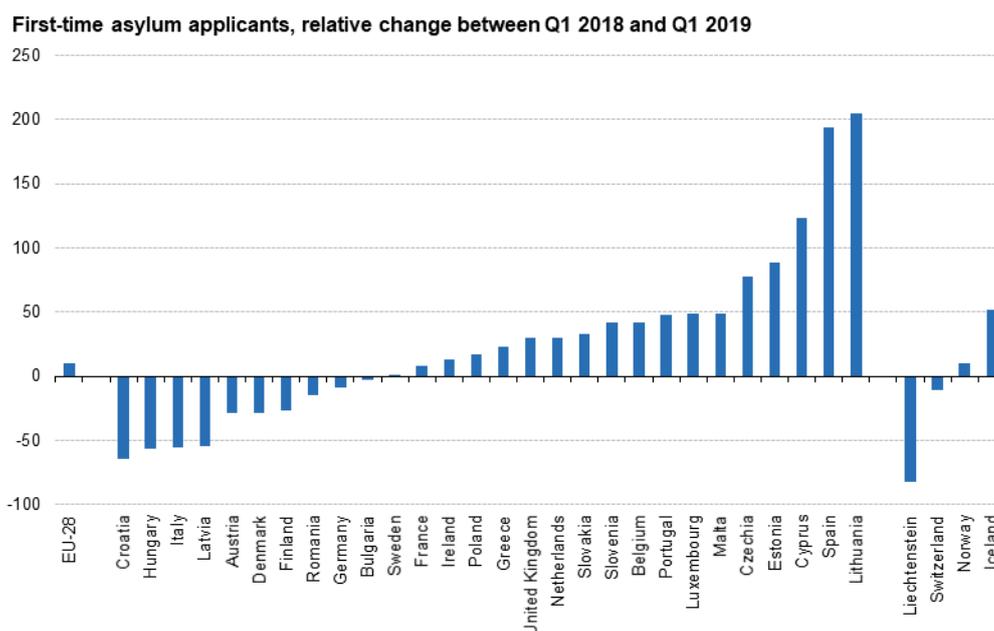
(¹) Relative to population as of 1st of January 2018

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctzm)

Table 2: Asylum applicants, Q1 2018 – Q1 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm)

Trends in the number of asylum applicants varied from country to country in the first quarter of 2019 compared with the same quarter of 2018 (Table 2). Italy (with 10 600 fewer applicants) was the country with the largest absolute decrease in the number of first-time applicants, followed by Germany (4 000 fewer applicants). By contrast, in Spain the number of asylum seekers increased by 17 000 and in Greece by 3 000 in the first quarter of 2019 compared with the same quarter of 2018.

In relative terms, Croatia (64 % fewer), Hungary, Italy and Latvia (about 55 % fewer each) recorded the largest relative decreases in first-time asylum seekers. Among the countries with more than 10 000 applicants in the first quarter of 2019, only Germany recorded a relative decrease (9 % fewer) in the first quarter of 2019 compared with the same quarter of 2018. By contrast, Lithuania (205 % more) and Spain (194 % more) recorded the largest relative increase of first-time asylum seekers in the first quarter of 2019 compared with the same quarter of 2018 (Figure 3).



Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctzm)



Figure 3: First-time asylum applicants, relative change between Q1 2018 and Q1 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm), see country codes

Syrian was the main citizenship of asylum seekers in seven EU Member States (Table 3). Of the 17 100 Syrians who applied for the first time for asylum in the EU in the first quarter of 2019, 64 % were registered in Germany (11 000), while 90 % of Venezuelans (9 700) applied for asylum in Spain and 42 % of Afghans (4 500) in Greece (Table 4).

Thirty main citizenships of first-time asylum applicants by destination country in the EU 28, 1st quarter 2019

			NON-EU		# (%)			
			Germany	40 900	26			
			France	28 065	18			
			Spain	25 760	16			
			Greece	15 940	10			
			United Kingdom	11 125	7			
			Other	36 180	23			
SYRIA - (SY)			VENEZUELA - (VE)		AFGHANISTAN - (AF)			
	#	(%)		#	(%)		#	(%)
Germany	10 965	64	Spain	9 730	90	Greece	4 470	42
Greece	1 505	9	Italy	375	3	Germany	2 230	21
Austria	620	4	France	200	2	France	1 880	17
Belgium	595	3	Germany	155	1	Austria	515	5
Netherlands	575	3	Belgium	125	1	United Kingdom	475	4
Other	2 835	17	Other	210	2	Other	1 185	11
IRAQ - (IQ)			NIGERIA - (NG)		GEORGIA - (GE)			
	#	(%)		#	(%)		#	(%)
Germany	3 860	46	Germany	3 735	59	France	2 520	41
Greece	1 720	20	France	830	13	Germany	1 155	19
United Kingdom	1 135	13	Netherlands	485	8	Spain	595	10
France	335	4	Italy	360	6	Cyprus	430	7
Belgium	225	3	United Kingdom	340	5	Greece	320	5
Other	1 155	14	Other	570	9	Other	1 070	18
PAKISTAN - (PK)			COLOMBIA - (CO)		IRAN - (IR)			
	#	(%)		#	(%)		#	(%)
Italy	1 780	30	Spain	5 120	90	Germany	2 225	39
Greece	1 550	27	Italy	180	3	United Kingdom	1 270	22
Germany	650	11	Sweden	130	2	Greece	580	10
United Kingdom	645	11	Belgium	95	2	Netherlands	470	8
France	450	8	Germany	75	1	Sweden	240	4
Other	765	13	Other	120	2	Other	865	15
ALBANIA - (AL)			TURKEY - (TR)		GUINEA - (GN)			
	#	(%)		#	(%)		#	(%)
France	2 350	43	Germany	2 320	44	France	1 725	48
United Kingdom	1 015	18	Greece	1 165	22	Germany	1 000	28
Greece	660	12	France	565	11	Belgium	335	9
Germany	500	9	United Kingdom	320	6	Spain	255	7
Italy	370	7	Netherlands	300	6	Netherlands	70	2
Other	625	11	Other	655	12	Other	180	5
BANGLADESH - (BD)			RUSSIA - (RU)		ERITREA - (ER)			
	#	(%)		#	(%)		#	(%)
France	1 110	38	Germany	855	30	Germany	895	32
Greece	440	15	France	600	21	United Kingdom	585	21
United Kingdom	405	14	Poland	380	13	France	375	13
Italy	405	14	Spain	245	9	Luxembourg	250	9
Cyprus	265	9	Austria	150	5	Belgium	165	6
Other	275	9	Other	600	21	Other	540	19
SOMALIA - (SO)			UKRAINE - (UA)		PALESTINE - (PS)			
	#	(%)		#	(%)		#	(%)
Germany	920	37	Spain	675	28	Belgium	930	39
France	575	23	Italy	635	26	Greece	835	35
Belgium	205	8	Germany	270	11	Spain	325	14
Austria	135	5	Sweden	220	9	Sweden	105	4
Greece	120	5	France	195	8	United Kingdom	60	3
Other	555	22	Other	445	18	Other	140	6
EL SALVADOR - (SV)			MOROCCO - (MA)		ALGERIA - (DZ)			
	#	(%)		#	(%)		#	(%)
Spain	1 225	53	Spain	635	29	France	650	30
Italy	540	23	Italy	370	17	Netherlands	335	15
United Kingdom	235	10	Netherlands	310	14	Spain	320	15
Belgium	190	8	Germany	240	11	Germany	280	13
Sweden	85	4	France	185	8	Slovenia	225	10
Other	50	2	Other	450	21	Other	375	17
IVORY COAST - (CI)			CD - (CD)		NICARAGUA - (NI)			
	#	(%)		#	(%)		#	(%)
France	1 340	69	France	850	45	Spain	1 570	87
Germany	200	10	Greece	650	34	Sweden	90	5
Spain	175	9	Belgium	130	7	Germany	45	3
Belgium	55	3	Germany	55	3	France	20	1
Italy	50	3	United Kingdom	45	2	United Kingdom	20	1
Other	110	6	Other	155	8	Other	50	3
MALI - (ML)			HONDURAS - (HN)		INDIA - (IN)			
	#	(%)		#	(%)		#	(%)
France	1 225	72	Spain	1 500	91	United Kingdom	460	28
Spain	270	16	Italy	65	4	Cyprus	410	25
Germany	95	6	United Kingdom	40	2	Italy	235	15
Italy	30	2	Germany	10	1	Germany	170	11
Malta	20	1	Sweden	10	1	France	120	7
Other	60	4	Other	15	1	Other	220	14
CHINA - (CN)			SUDAN - (SD)		CAMEROON - (CM)			
	#	(%)		#	(%)		#	(%)
France	720	36	France	645	42	Cyprus	330	22
United Kingdom	300	15	United Kingdom	510	33	Greece	265	17
Germany	145	7	Germany	165	11	Germany	255	17
Italy	140	7	Belgium	60	4	France	230	15
Greece	95	5	Netherlands	55	4	Belgium	115	8
Other	580	29	Other	115	7	Other	325	21

Citizenships selected here are those with the highest number of asylum applicants registered during Q1 2019 in the EU-28

Absolute number of asylum applications

% Percentage shares are calculated on rounded figures and may not add up to totals

CD - Congo, the Democratic Republic of the

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctzm)

Table 4: Thirty main citizenships of first-time asylum applicants by destination country in the EU 28, 1st quarter 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm)

Compared with the population of each Member State, the highest rate of registered first-time applicants during the first quarter of 2019 was recorded in Cyprus (3 425 first-time applicants per million population) and Greece (1 484), followed by Malta (1 234) and Luxembourg (1 100). By contrast, the lowest rates were observed in Slovakia (11 applicants per million population), Latvia (12), Hungary and Estonia (both 13). In the first quarter of 2019, there were in total 308 first-time asylum applicants per million population in the EU as a whole (Table 2).

Decisions on asylum applications

During the first quarter of 2019, 142 000 first instance decisions² were made by the national authorities of EU Member States. Among them, 36 % were positive (i.e. granting a type of protection status) (Table 5).

First instance decisions by outcome and recognition rates, 1st quarter 2019

	Total decisions	Of which					Rate of recognition, %	
		Positive	of which			Rejected	Total	of which Refugee and subsidiary protection status
			Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons			
EU-28	141 975	51 280	33 410	14 210	3 660	90 695	36	34
Belgium	4 250	1 850	1 585	265	-	2 400	44	44
Bulgaria	160	80	20	60	-	85	49	49
Czechia	355	35	15	15	5	320	10	9
Denmark	795	305	150	85	70	495	38	29
Germany	49 215	22 450	14 035	6 380	2 040	26 760	46	41
Estonia	25	10	10	0	0	15	39	39
Ireland	300	115	50	20	40	37	39	25
Greece	8 310	4 450	3 650	800	0	3 860	54	54
Spain	2 845	445	85	125	235	2 400	16	7
France	29 070	7 495	4 635	2 860	-	21 575	26	26
Croatia	65	15	15	0	0	50	20	20
Italy	21 620	3 910	2 130	1 365	415	17 710	18	16
Cyprus	615	235	45	190	0	380	38	38
Latvia	30	5	5	0	-	25	16	16
Lithuania	70	35	30	5	0	40	46	46
Luxembourg	370	240	230	10	-	135	64	64
Hungary	160	15	5	5	0	145	9	7
Malta	385	85	15	65	5	300	22	21
Netherlands	3 185	1 040	515	405	120	2 145	33	29
Austria	4 905	2 360	1 735	405	220	2 545	48	44
Poland	600	85	35	50	0	515	14	14
Portugal	130	75	10	65	-	55	57	57
Romania	260	115	40	75	0	140	45	45
Slovenia	45	25	25	0	-	20	56	56
Slovakia	25	10	0	5	5	15	44	22
Finland	1 250	400	315	60	30	850	32	30
Sweden	5 375	1 655	855	655	140	3 720	31	28
United Kingdom	7 555	3 745	3 170	245	335	3 810	50	45
Iceland	145	30	20	10	0	115	20	20
Liechtenstein	5	0	0	0	0	5	29	0
Norway	525	330	305	10	15	195	63	60
Switzerland	2 605	2 180	1 055	190	930	425	84	48

- Not applicable

Rate of recognition is the share of (first instance) positive decisions in the total number of decisions at first instance. 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.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asydcfstq)

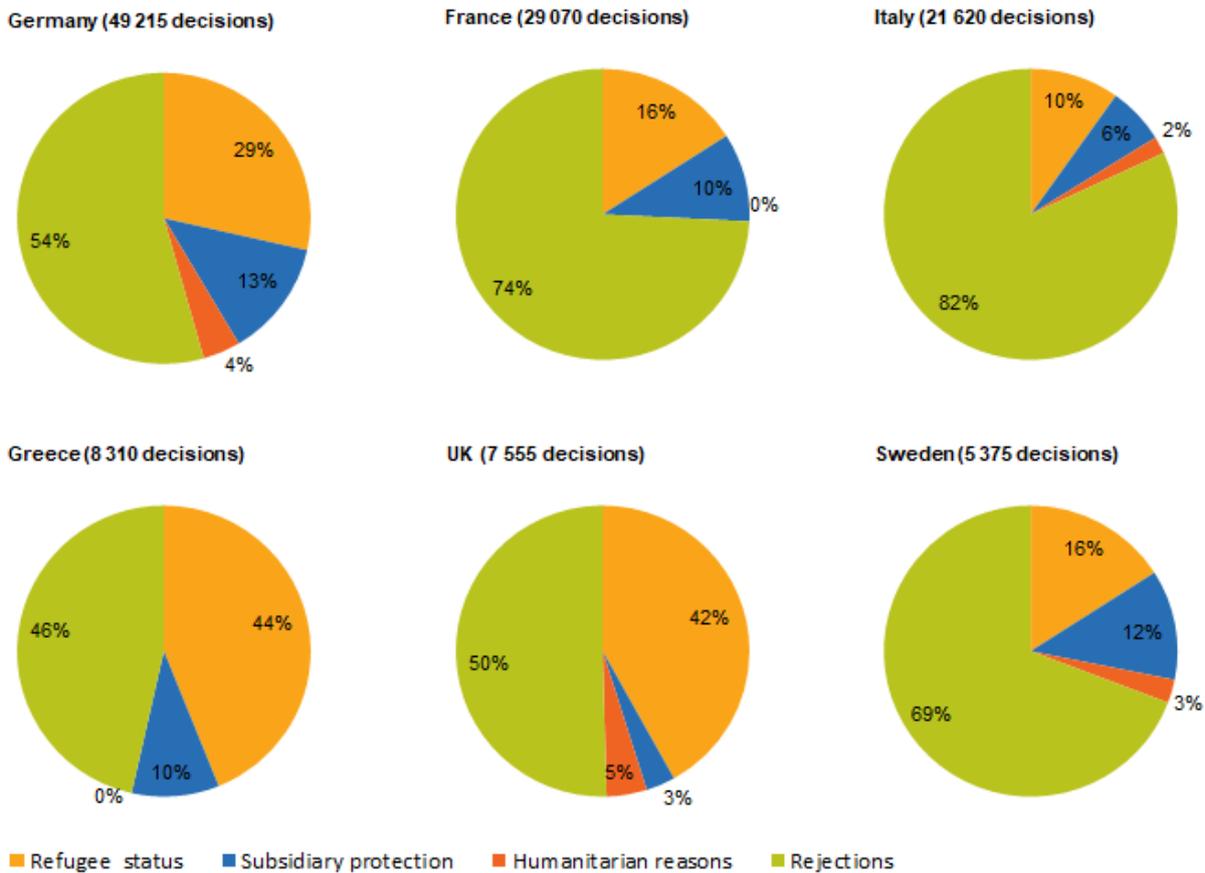
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Table 5: First instance decisions by outcome and recognition rates, 1st quarter 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfstq)

²Data on first instance decisions relate to decisions on applications granted to all asylum applicants i.e. first-time asylum applicants and repeated asylum applicants.

Germany issued by far the most total first instance decisions³ during the first quarter of 2019 (49 200 decisions), followed by France (29 100), Italy (21 600), Greece (8 300), the United Kingdom (7 600) and Sweden (5 400) (Figure 4). For more detailed information about the distribution of decision outcomes please refer to Table 6.

First instance decisions by outcome, selected Member States, 1st quarter 2019



Member States selected here are those reporting the highest number of first instance decisions issued during Q1 2019
 Humanitarian reasons not applicable for France
 Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asydcfstq)



Figure 4: First instance decisions by outcome, selected Member States, 1st quarter 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfstq)

³Total decisions equal to positive decisions plus negative decisions.

First instance decisions by citizenship and outcome, selected Member States, 1st quarter 2019

First instance decisions							
Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	Rejections				
GERMANY (49 215 decisions)							
Syria	6 905	Syria	5 005	Afghanistan	755	Iraq	2 810
Iraq	1 555	Eritrea	335	Iraq	305	Iran	2 085
Turkey	1 505	Iraq	205	Syria	295	Nigeria	1 980
Other	4 075	Other	830	Other	685	Other	19 885
ITALY (21 620 decisions)							
Nigeria	495	Pakistan	190	Nigeria	45	Nigeria	3 765
Pakistan	160	Mali	150	Pakistan	45	Pakistan	2 140
Somalia	130	Venezuela	145	Bangladesh	40	Bangladesh	1 965
Other	1 350	Other	880	Other	285	Other	9 845
UNITED KINGDOM (7 555 decisions)							
Iran	770	Libya	115	Nigeria	85	Iraq	525
Eritrea	450	Iraq	40	Albania	35	Albania	475
Sudan	390	Yemen	35	Pakistan	30	Iran	395
Other	1 560	Other	50	Other	185	Other	2 415
OTHER (20 830 decisions)							
Syria	1 385	Syria	865	Venezuela	240	Iraq	1 365
Afghanistan	555	Afghanistan	255	Syria	70	Afghanistan	1 255
Turkey	510	Eritrea	180	Russia	65	Ukraine	875
Other	2 485	Other	605	Other	360	Other	9 760
FRANCE (29 070 decisions)							
Sudan	630	Afghanistan	1 130	-	-	Albania	2 980
CD	345	Syria	210	-	-	Georgia	1 875
China	300	Albania	170	-	-	Guinea	1 305
Other	3 360	Other	1 345	-	-	Other	15 415
GREECE (8 310 decisions)							
Syria	1 940	Afghanistan	340	-	-	Pakistan	1 350
Iraq	535	Iraq	320	-	-	Albania	615
Afghanistan	375	Somalia	65	-	-	Iraq	430
Other	805	Other	75	-	-	Other	1 465
SWEDEN (5 375 decisions)							
Eritrea	200	Syria	520	Palestine	50	Georgia	490
Iran	95	Yemen	45	Stateless	15	Iran	350
Afghanistan	90	Iraq	25	Afghanistan	10	Iran	245
Other	470	Other	65	Other	65	Other	2 635
EU-28 (141 975 decisions)							
Syria	10 690	Syria	6 605	Afghanistan	845	Nigeria	6 995
Iraq	2 875	Afghanistan	2 060	Iraq	375	Iraq	5 645
Turkey	2 475	Iraq	870	Syria	375	Pakistan	5 560
Other	17 370	Other	4 675	Other	2 060	Other	72 500

Member States selected here are those reporting the highest number of first instance decisions issued during Q1 2019
 Humanitarian reasons are not applicable for FR
 CD – Congo, the Democratic Republic of the
 Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asydcfstq)



Table 6: First instance decisions by citizenship and outcome, selected Member States, 1st quarter 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfstq)

Most first instance decisions in the EU-28 were issued to Syrians (20 000), followed by Iraqis (9 800) and Afghans (9 400) (Table 7, Figure 5).

Syrians received the highest number of decisions granting protection status in the EU Member States, including protection based on national legislations (17 670 positive first instance decisions, or 88 % rate of recognition⁴), followed by Afghans (4 985, or 53 %). By contrast, of the 1 595 first instance decisions issued to North Macedonians and of the 1 200 first instance decisions issued to citizens of Moldova only 10 were positive in both cases (1 % rate of recognition), (Table 7).

For more detailed information on decision outcomes please refer to Table 8.

⁴Rate of recognition is the share of (first instance) positive decisions in the total number of decisions at first instance. In this report, the exact number of decisions has been used for calculations instead of the presented rounded numbers. Rates of recognition for humanitarian status are not shown, but are part of the 'Total recognition rate'.

First instance decisions by outcome and recognition rates, 30 main citizenships of asylum applicants granted decisions in the EU-28, 1st quarter 2019

	Total decisions	Of which					Rate of recognition, %	
		Positive	of which			Rejected	Total	of which Refugee and subsidiary protection status
			Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons			
Non-EU	141 975	51 280	33 410	14 210	3 660	90 695	36	34
Syria - (SY)	20 020	17 670	10 690	6 605	375	2 345	88	86
Iraq - (IQ)	9 760	4 120	2 875	870	375	5 645	42	38
Afghanistan - (AF)	9 350	4 985	2 075	2 060	845	4 370	53	44
Nigeria - (NG)	8 195	1 205	775	130	300	6 995	15	11
Pakistan - (PK)	6 305	745	440	220	85	5 560	12	10
Albania - (AL)	5 800	365	135	180	50	5 435	6	5
Iran - (IR)	5 740	2 210	2 095	65	50	3 530	39	38
Turkey - (TR)	4 690	2 585	2 475	35	75	2 110	55	53
Georgia - (GE)	4 535	160	50	90	20	4 370	4	3
Bangladesh - (BD)	4 020	325	170	95	60	3 695	8	7
Guinea - (GN)	3 670	650	500	105	40	3 020	18	17
Russia - (RU)	3 390	715	495	140	80	2 675	21	19
Somalia - (SO)	3 230	1 610	1 015	480	115	1 620	50	46
Eritrea - (ER)	3 065	2 470	1 810	535	125	590	81	77
Ivory Coast - (CI)	2 475	410	315	65	30	2 065	17	15
Mali - (ML)	2 345	310	120	165	20	2 030	13	12
Ukraine - (UA)	2 230	215	80	100	35	2 015	10	8
Senegal - (SN)	2 230	145	100	20	25	2 085	7	5
Sudan - (SD)	2 100	1 275	1 115	145	15	825	61	60
Gambia - (GM)	1 920	180	115	15	50	1 735	9	7
Serbia - (RS)	1 915	75	55	15	5	1 840	4	4
Algeria - (DZ)	1 640	130	65	60	5	1 510	8	8
CD - (CD)	1 605	490	430	60	5	1 115	31	30
North Macedonia - (MK)	1 595	10	5	5	0	1 585	1	1
Morocco - (MA)	1 465	110	75	20	10	1 355	7	7
Armenia - (AM)	1 255	115	35	35	45	1 140	9	6
Moldova - (MD)	1 200	10	0	0	10	1 190	1	0
China - (CN)	1 195	445	435	5	5	750	37	37
Kosovo - (XK)	1 135	150	95	55	5	985	13	13
Ghana - (GH)	1 080	75	35	10	30	1 005	7	4
Other non-EU	22 820	7 310	4 730	1 815	765	15 505	32	29

Citizenships selected here are those for which the highest number of first instance decisions was issued during Q1 2019. Rate of recognition is the share of (first instance) positive decisions in the total number of decisions at first instance. 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.

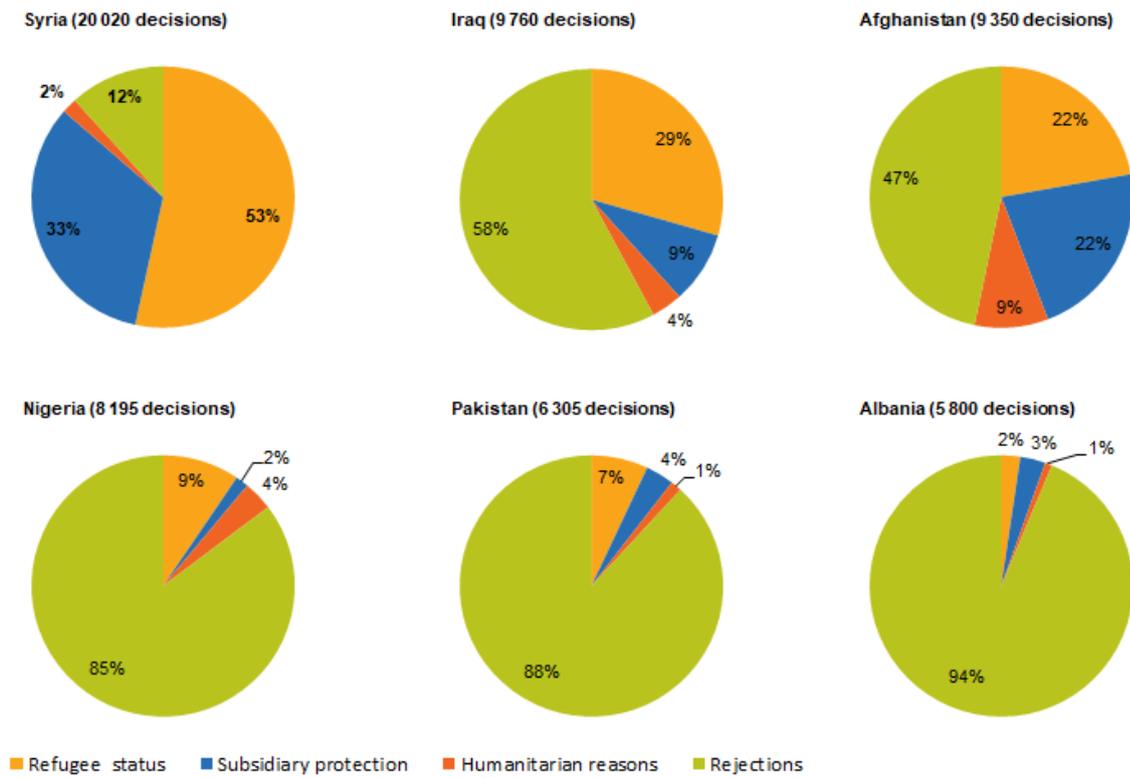
CD – Congo, the Democratic Republic of the

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asydcfstq)

eurostat 

Table 7: First instance decisions by outcome and recognition rates, 30 main citizenships of asylum applicants granted decisions in the EU-28, 1st quarter 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfstq)

First instance decisions in the EU-28 by outcome, selected citizenships, 1st quarter 2019



Citizenships selected here are those for which the highest number of first instance decisions was issued during Q1 2019
 Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asydcfstq)



Figure 5: First instance decisions in the EU-28 by outcome, selected citizenships, 1st quarter 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfstq)

First instance decisions by destination country and outcome in the EU-28, selected citizenships of asylum applicants, 1st quarter 2019

First instance decisions					
Refugee status	Subsidiary protection		Humanitarian reasons		Rejections
SYRIA - SY (20 020 decisions)					
Germany	6 905	Germany	5 005	Germany	295
Greece	1 940	Sweden	520	Denmark	65
Austria	685	France	210	Sweden	10
Other	1 165	Other	870	Other	5
Germany				Germany	1 580
				France	240
				Belgium	160
				Other	365
AFGHANISTAN - AF (9 350 decisions)					
Germany	570	France	1 130	Germany	755
Austria	385	Greece	340	Austria	45
Greece	375	Germany	165	Sweden	10
Other	750	Other	425	Other	30
Germany				Germany	1 695
				France	785
				Austria	595
				Other	1 295
PAKISTAN - PK (6 305 decisions)					
Italy	160	Italy	190	Italy	45
UK	105	France	15	UK	30
Germany	65	Romania	5	Germany	5
Other	110	Other	30	Other	5
Italy				Italy	2 140
				Greece	1 350
				Germany	780
				Other	1 285
OTHER (82 545 decisions)					
Germany	4 770	France	1 275	Germany	535
France	3 875	Germany	965	Italy	305
UK	2 390	Italy	850	Spain	235
Other	5 385	Other	1 055	Other	550
Germany				Germany	17 115
				France	16 055
				Italy	11 570
				Other	15 615
IRAQ - IQ (9 760 decisions)					
Germany	1 555	Greece	320	Germany	305
Greece	535	Germany	205	UK	30
France	290	Italy	135	Austria	15
Other	500	Other	210	Other	30
Germany				Germany	2 810
				UK	525
				Greece	430
				Other	1 880
NIGERIA - NG (8 195 decisions)					
Italy	495	Italy	55	Germany	140
Germany	175	Germany	35	UK	85
UK	45	France	30	Italy	45
Other	60	Other	5	Other	25
Italy				Italy	3 765
				Germany	1 980
				France	715
				Other	535
ALBANIA - AL (5 800 decisions)					
UK	70	France	170	UK	35
France	45	Germany	5	Ireland	5
Italy	10	Belgium	0	Italy	5
Other	10	Other	5	Other	0
UK				France	2 980
				Germany	800
				Greece	615
				Other	1 035
NON-EU (141 975 decisions)					
Germany	14 035	Germany	6 380	Germany	2 040
France	4 635	France	2 860	Italy	415
Greece	3 650	Italy	1 365	UK	335
Other	11 085	Other	3 610	Other	875
Germany				Germany	26 760
				France	21 575
				Italy	17 710
				Other	24 650

Citizenships selected here are those for which the highest number of first instance decisions was issued during Q1 2019

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asydcfstq)



Table 8: First instance decisions by destination country and outcome in the EU-28, selected citizenships of asylum applicants, 1st quarter 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfstq)

Data sources

The data used for this publication are provided to Eurostat by the interior and justice ministries or immigration agencies of the Member States and EFTA countries. Data on asylum applications are collected monthly while data on first instance decisions are collected quarterly. Data are based entirely on relevant administrative sources.

Apart from statistics on first asylum applicants, these data are supplied in accordance with the provisions of Article 4 of the Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection. All data presented in this publication are rounded to the nearest 5, and are provisional (except as otherwise stated) and may be subject to change.

- Country abbreviations: Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), Czechia (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Croatia (HR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE), the United Kingdom (UK), Iceland (IS), Lichtenstein (LI), Norway (NO) and Switzerland (CH).

Context

The Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME) is responsible for developing EU policies on asylum.

The 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the status of refugees (as amended by the 1967 New York Protocol) has, for over 60 years, defined who is a refugee, and laid down a common approach towards refugees that has been one of the cornerstones for the development of a common asylum system within the EU.

Since 1999, the EU has worked towards creating a common European asylum regime in accordance with the Geneva Convention and other applicable international instruments. A number of directives in this area have been developed. The four main legal instruments on asylum — all recently recast — are:

- the Qualification Directive 2011/95/EU on standards for the qualification of non-EU nationals and stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection;

- the [Asylum Procedures Directive 2013/32/EU](#) on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection;
- the [Reception Conditions Directive 2013/33/EU](#) laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection;
- the [Dublin Regulation \(EU\) No 604/2013](#) establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or stateless person.

The Hague programme was adopted by heads of state and government on 5 November 2004. It puts forward the idea of a common European asylum system (CEAS), in particular, it raises the challenge to establish common procedures and uniform status for those granted asylum or subsidiary protection. The European Commission's [policy plan on asylum](#) (COM(2008) 360 final) was presented in June 2008 which included three pillars to underpin the development of the CEAS:

- bringing more harmonisation to standards of protection by further aligning the EU Member States' asylum legislation;
- effective and well-supported practical cooperation;
- increased solidarity and sense of responsibility among EU Member States, and between the EU and non-member countries.

With this in mind, in 2009 the European Commission made a proposal to establish a European Asylum Support Office (EASO). The EASO supports EU Member States in their efforts to implement a more consistent and fair asylum policy. It also provides technical and operational support to EU Member States facing particular pressures (in other words, those EU Member States receiving large numbers of asylum applicants). The EASO became fully operational in June 2011 and has worked to increase its capacity, activity and influence, working with the European Commission and the [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](#) (UNHCR).

In May 2010, the European Commission presented an [action plan for unaccompanied minors](#) (COM(2010) 213 final), who are regarded as the most exposed and vulnerable victims of migration. This plan aims to set-up a coordinated approach and commits all EU Member States to grant high standards of reception, protection and integration for unaccompanied minors. As a complement to this action plan, the European Migration Network has produced a comprehensive [EU study on reception policies, as well as return and integration arrangements for unaccompanied minors](#) .

In December 2011, the European Commission adopted a Communication on ' [Enhanced intra-EU solidarity in the field of asylum](#) ' (COM(2011) 835 final). This provided proposals to reinforce practical, technical and financial cooperation, moving towards a better allocation of responsibilities and improved governance of the asylum system in the EU, namely through:

- introducing an evaluation and early warning mechanism to detect and address emerging problems;
- making the supporting role of the EASO more effective;
- increasing the amount of funds available and making these more flexible, taking into account significant fluctuations in the number of asylum seekers;
- developing and encouraging the relocation of beneficiaries of international protection between different EU Member States.

Other articles

- [Asylum statistics](#)
- [Dublin statistics on countries responsible for asylum application](#)
- [Enforcement of immigration legislation statistics](#)
- [Residence permits - statistics on first permits issued during the year](#)

Publications

- [All publications on asylum and managed migration](#)
- [All publications on migrant integration](#)

Main tables

- [Asylum and managed migration](#) , see:

[Asylum and new asylum applicants - monthly data \(tps00189\)](#)

[Persons subject of asylum applications pending at the end of the month - monthly data \(tps00190\)](#)

[Asylum and new asylum applicants - annual aggregated data \(tps00191\)](#)

[First instance decisions on applications by type of decision - annual aggregated data \(tps00192\)](#)

[Final decisions on applications - annual data \(tps00193\)](#)

[Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors - annual data \(tps00194\)](#)

[Resettled persons - annual data \(tps00195\)](#)

Database

- [Asylum and managed migration](#) , see:

[Applications \(migr_asyapp\)](#)

[Asylum applicants by citizenship till 2007 Annual data \(rounded\) \(migr_asyctz\)](#)

[First time asylum applicants by citizenship till December 2007 Monthly data \(rounded\) \(migr_asyctzm\)](#)

[Asylum and first time asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex Annual aggregated data \(rounded\) \(migr_asyappctza\)](#)

[Asylum and first time asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex Monthly data \(rounded\) \(migr_asyappctzm\)](#)

[Persons subject of asylum applications pending at the end of the month by citizenship, age and sex - Monthly data \(rounded\) \(migr_asyenctzm\)](#)

[Asylum applications withdrawn by citizenship, age and sex Annual aggregated data \(rounded\) \(migr_asywitha\)](#)

[Asylum applications withdrawn by citizenship, age and sex - Monthly data \(rounded\) \(migr_asywithm\)](#)

[Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors by citizenship, age and sex Annual data \(rounded\) \(migr_asyunaa\)](#)

[Decisions on applications and resettlement \(migr_asydec\)](#)

[Decisions on asylum applications by citizenship till 2007 Annual data \(rounded\) \(migr_asydctzy\)](#)

[Decisions on asylum applications by citizenship till December 2007 Monthly data \(rounded\) \(migr_asydctzm\)](#)

[First instance decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex Annual aggregated data \(rounded\) \(migr_asydcfsta\)](#)

[First instance decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex Quarterly data \(rounded\) \(migr_asydcftq\)](#)

[Decisions withdrawing status granted at first instance decision by type of status withdrawn and by citizenship Annual aggregated data \(rounded\) \(migr_asywifsta\)](#)

[Decisions withdrawing status granted at first instance decision by type of status withdrawn and by citizenship Quarterly data \(rounded\) \(migr_asywifstq\)](#)

[Final decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex Annual data \(rounded\) \(migr_asydcfina\)](#)

[Decisions withdrawing status granted as final decision by type of status withdrawn Annual data \(rounded\) \(asywifina\)](#)

[Resettled persons by age, sex and citizenship Annual data \(rounded\) \(migr_asyresa\)](#)

Dedicated section

- [Asylum and managed migration](#)

Data visualisations

- [Asylum statistics](#)

Methodology

- [Applications \(migr_asyapp\)](#) (ESMS metadata file — migr_asyapp_esms)
- [Decisions on applications and resettlement \(migr_asydec\)](#) (ESMS metadata file — migr_asydec_esms)

External links

- [European Commission - DG Migration and Home Affairs - Asylum](#)
- [European Asylum Support Office - EASO](#)
- [European Migration Network - EMN](#)
- [UNHCR - Statistics](#)