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" More first-time asylum applicants in the EU in October to December 2021: up 66% compared with the same period of the previous year, and up 13% compared with the period of July to September 2021."

" Syrian, Afghan and Iraqi were the top 3 citizenships of asylum seekers, lodging 31 500, 29 700 and 10 100 applications respectively in October to December 2021."

" Germany, France and Spain were the main countries of destination for first-time asylum applicants in the EU in October to December 2021."

This article describes recent developments in relation to the number of [asylum applicants](#) 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. The legal basis of the asylum data collection is [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 862/2007](#) . The amendment of this regulation adopted in June 2020 introduced additional new statistics and disaggregations. In addition, from the reference year 2021, Eurostat started to collect statistics on unaccompanied minors (subject to asylum applications, decisions at first instance and final decisions on appeal), on subsequent asylum applicants, on asylum applications under accelerated procedure, on applicants benefiting from material reception conditions and on types of withdrawal of asylum applications. Some of these new data are already presented in this article. In accordance with the amended Regulation, Member States could apply for specific derogations to provide new statistics for a period of up to three years. A complete list of such derogations is provided in the [Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2021/431](#) . Due to the requested derogations, the new statistics are not yet complete for all Member States. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the related introduction of movement restrictions and border closures, some countries applied administrative measures (e.g. temporary closure of asylum authorities, suspension of asylum interviews, suspension of lodging applications), which resulted in a drop in the number of asylum applications as well as in the number of decisions issued, starting from March 2020. This can directly impact the growth rates when comparing data between 2021 and 2020, therefore data should be interpreted with caution.

Main trends in the number of asylum applicants

In the three month period from October to December 2021, there were around 177 700 [first-time asylum applicants](#) ¹(non-EU citizens) for international protection in countries of the [EU](#) . This was up 66 % when compared with the same period of the previous year, and up 13 % when compared with the previous quarter of 2021 (see Figure 1, Table 2).

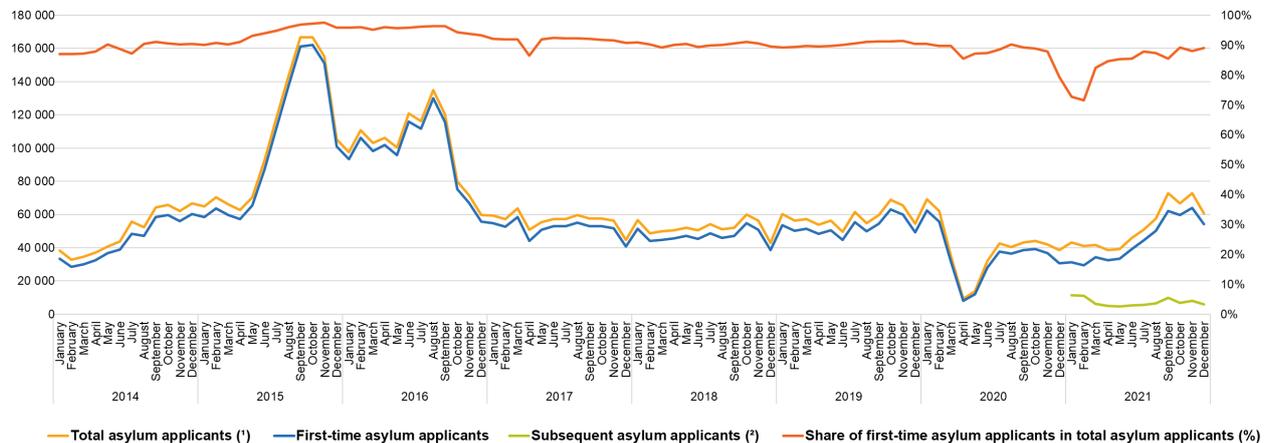
The number of first-time asylum applicants in the EU accounted for a large majority (89 %) of the total number of

¹A first-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 have been able to provide it to Eurostat since 2014.

asylum applicants² recorded in October to December 2021.

Additionally, starting from the reference year 2021, Eurostat collects statistics on subsequent asylum applicants. According to available data, there were 20 700 subsequent asylum applicants³ recorded in the EU in October to December 2021. This was down 6.2 % when compared with the third quarter of 2021.

Asylum applicants (non-EU citizens) in the EU from January 2014 to December 2021
(number, %)



(¹) The category 'Total' includes first-time asylum applicants and repeated applicants.
(²) New data collection from reference year 2021. Subsequent applicant is one of the category of repeated applicant. EU total is calculated based on available data (January-December 2021: missing data for Denmark, Cyprus and Sweden; January-September 2021: missing data for Poland).
Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctzm)



Figure 1: Asylum applicants (non-EU citizens) in the EU from January 2014 to December 2021 (number, %)
Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm)

Where do asylum applicants come from?

Citizens of 138 countries, as well as stateless persons, sought asylum for the first time in the EU in October to December 2021. Syrian, Afghan and Iraqi were the top 3 citizenships of asylum seekers, lodging 31 500, 29 700 and 10 100 applications respectively (see Table 1).

²The indicator 'Total asylum applicants' includes first-time and repeated asylum applicants.

³Subsequent application for international protection is an application as defined in Article 40 of Directive 2013/32/EU. A person subject to subsequent application is one who made a further application for international protection after a final decision (positive/negative/discontinuation) has been taken on a previous application, including cases where the applicant has explicitly withdrawn his or her application and cases where the determining authority has rejected an application following its implicit withdrawal.

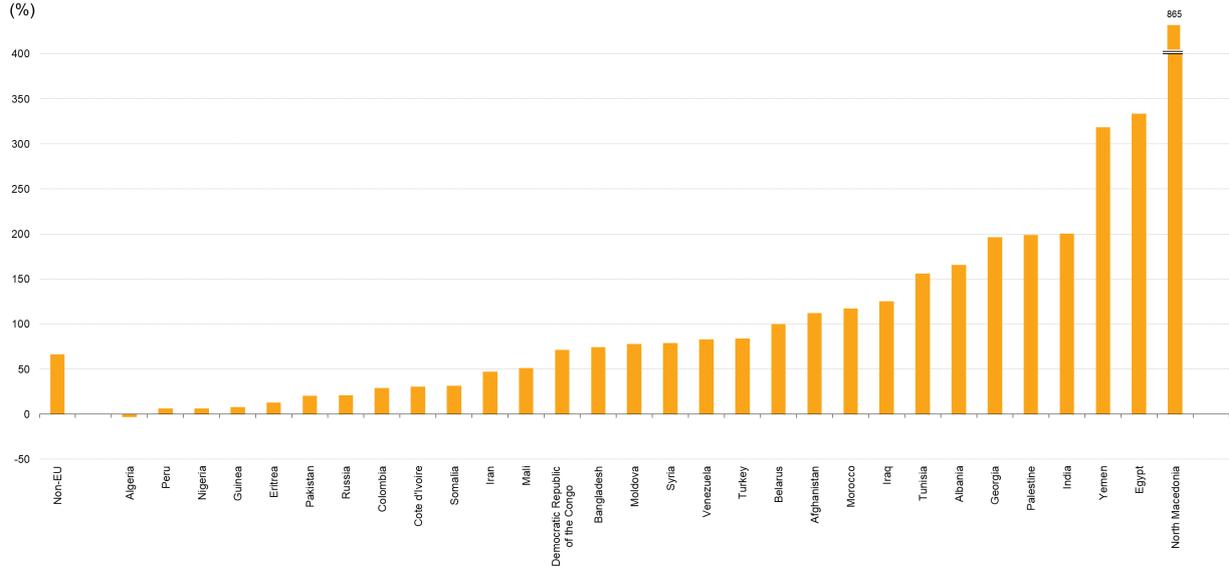
First-time asylum applicants (non-EU citizens) in the EU by citizenship, October-December 2020 to October-December 2021

	October to December 2020		January to March 2021		April to June 2021		July to September 2021		October to December 2021		Share of first-time applicants in total applicants (%)		Absolute change		Change in %		Last 12 months
	October 2020	December 2020	January 2021	March 2021	April 2021	June 2021	July 2021	September 2021	October 2021	December 2021	Oct/Dec 2021	Oct/Dec 2021	between Jul/Sep 2021 and Oct/Dec 2021		between Jul/Sep 2021 and Oct/Dec 2021		
													2020	2021	2020	2021	
Non-EU	105 775	177 715	95 105	105 255	156 970	177 715	89	20 745	70 940	13	66	535 045					
Syria	17 590	31 505	19 125	21 265	26 425	31 505	98	5 080	13 915	19	79	98 320					
Afghanistan	14 025	29 745	10 745	14 025	29 005	29 745	84	735	15 720	3	112	83 520					
Iraq	4 460	8 055	3 795	4 060	8 055	10 060	90	2 005	5 600	25	125	25 965					
Venezuela	4 610	8 445	3 075	1 895	3 955	8 445	98	4 485	3 830	113	83	17 375					
Turkey	3 595	6 620	2 925	3 465	7 300	6 620	93	-680	3 025	-9	84	20 310					
Pakistan	5 285	6 380	3 825	4 440	6 370	6 380	88	10	1 095	0	21	21 015					
Colombia	4 860	6 290	2 960	1 660	2 230	6 290	97	4 060	1 430	182	29	13 135					
Bangladesh	3 560	6 215	2 430	3 525	6 650	6 215	95	-435	2 650	-7	74	18 820					
Georgia	1 600	4 735	1 490	2 240	3 970	4 735	90	765	3 135	19	196	12 435					
Somalia	3 140	4 125	2 905	3 475	4 505	4 125	91	-380	990	-8	31	15 015					
Morocco	1 685	3 665	2 190	3 305	4 530	3 665	96	-865	1 880	-19	117	13 690					
Albania	1 120	2 960	955	1 085	3 825	2 960	81	-845	1 860	-22	166	8 845					
Tunisia	1 105	2 530	935	1 295	3 855	2 530	97	-1 020	1 725	-26	156	8 915					
Nigeria	2 565	2 725	2 535	2 655	2 485	2 725	65	240	160	10	6	10 395					
Egypt	590	2 565	665	1 095	1 655	2 565	95	915	1 975	55	334	5 990					
Eritrea	2 110	2 380	1 980	2 485	2 595	2 380	95	-220	270	-8	13	9 435					
Guinea	1 875	2 020	2 030	2 085	2 025	2 020	90	175	615	9	31	8 340					
Cote d'Ivoire	1 165	2 000	2 105	1 925	2 065	2 000	84	-45	145	-2	8	8 115					
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2 010	1 950	1 725	1 345	1 725	1 950	89	475	835	31	72	5 735					
Algeria	1 310	1 930	1 110	1 155	1 780	1 930	81	150	620	13	-3	6 740					
Iran	1 035	1 845	695	770	1 745	1 845	70	95	810	9	47	5 975					
Moldova	1 780	1 785	1 915	2 500	1 670	1 785	89	115	605	5	78	5 055					
Mali	160	1 565	150	1 300	1 175	1 565	57	385	1 400	33	865	3 020					
North Macedonia	355	1 475	305	350	745	1 475	99	735	1 125	99	318	2 875					
Yemen	465	1 385	380	575	780	1 385	92	610	930	78	199	3 130					
Palestine	460	1 385	500	645	1 055	1 385	92	335	925	32	201	3 685					
India	1 130	1 370	795	935	1 275	1 370	72	95	240	7	21	4 370					
Russia	1 175	1 245	695	605	515	1 245	97	735	75	143	6	3 055					
Peru	605	1 205	505	675	1 050	1 205	92	160	605	15	100	3 435					
Belarus	20 265	23 080	18 675	18 360	20 430	23 080	83	3 545	3 495	13	14	80 975					
Other (non-EU)																	

Note: Countries selected here are those with the highest number of asylum applicants registered during October-December 2021. The absolute numbers presented in the table are rounded to the nearest 5. All the calculations are based on exact figures (not rounded).

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctzm)

First-time asylum applicants (non-EU citizens) by citizenship, EU, relative change between October-December 2020 and October-December 2021 (%)



Note: Countries selected here are those with the highest number of asylum applicants registered during October-December 2021.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctzm)

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Figure 2: First-time asylum applicants (non-EU citizens) by citizenship, EU, relative change between October-December 2020 and October-December 2021 (%) Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm)

Where do asylum applicants go to?

The highest number of first-time asylum applicants in October to December 2021 was registered in Germany (with 46 700 first-time applicants, or 26 % of all first-time applicants in the EU Member States), followed by France (30 500, or 17 %), Spain (22 300, or 13 %), Italy (15 300, or 9 %) and Austria (15 000, or 8 %). These five Member States together account for nearly three quarters of all first-time applicants in the EU in the fourth quarter of 2021 (see Table 2).

First-time asylum applicants (non-EU citizens) to the EU Member States and EFTA countries, October-December 2020 to October-December 2021

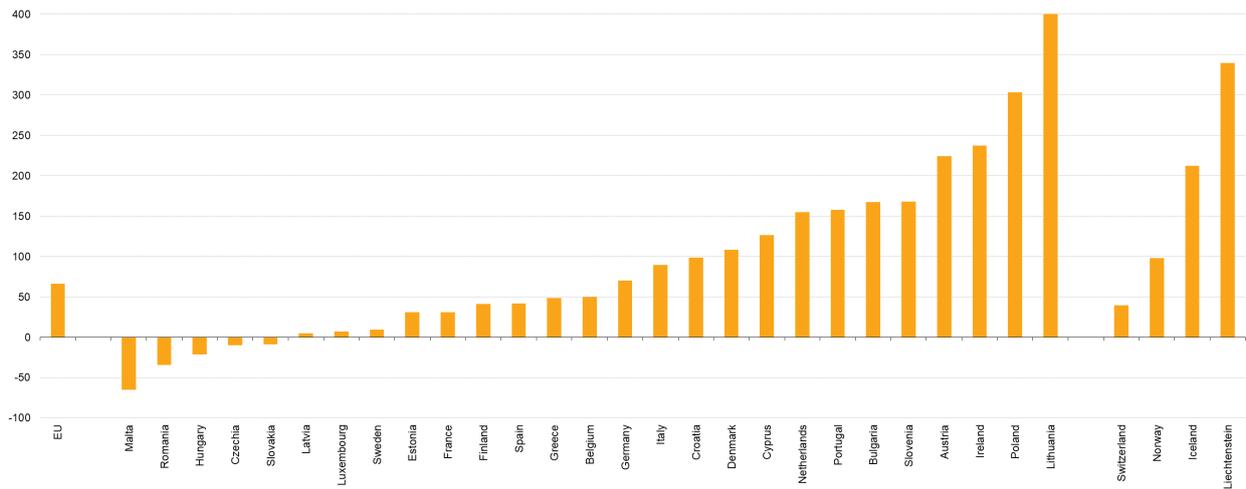
	October-December 2020				2021				Share of first-time applicants in total applicants (%)	Absolute change		Change in %		Per million population (*)	Last 12 months
	October to December	January to March	April to June	July to September	October to December	between Jul/Sep 2021 and Oct/Dec 2021		between Jul/Sep 2021 and Oct/Dec 2021		between Jul/Sep 2021 and Oct/Dec 2021	between Jul/Sep 2021 and Oct/Dec 2021				
						2020	2021	2020				2021			
EU	106 775	95 105	105 255	156 970	177 715	20 745	70 940	13	66	398	535 045				
Belgium	4 305	3 045	3 715	6 340	6 450	115	2 145	2	50	558	19 545				
Bulgaria	1 865	835	1 415	3 650	4 985	1 335	3 125	37	168	721	10 890				
Czechia	260	165	230	430	230	-200	-25	-46	-10	22	1 055				
Denmark	380	385	325	500	790	290	410	57	108	135	1 995				
Germany	27 445	29 170	30 765	41 555	46 665	5 130	19 235	12	70	561	148 175				
Estonia	15	10	20	30	15	-15	5	-45	31	13	75				
Ireland	345	355	340	750	1 165	100	420	56	237	233	2 615				
Greece	4 485	4 645	5 830	5 525	6 660	1 135	2 175	21	48	623	22 660				
Spain	15 730	12 555	12 430	14 770	22 290	7 520	6 560	51	42	470	62 050				
France	23 265	20 235	22 015	31 005	30 535	-470	7 270	-2	31	453	103 790				
Croatia	510	450	640	620	1 015	395	505	63	99	252	2 725				
Italy	8 055	7 325	8 010	13 310	15 255	1 945	7 200	15	89	257	43 900				
Cyprus	2 030	1 630	3 935	3 100	4 590	1 490	2 565	48	126	5 125	13 260				
Latvia	60	20	30	465	60	-405	5	-87	5	33	580				
Lithuania	110	100	510	2 745	550	-2 195	440	-80	401	197	3 905				
Luxembourg	405	245	305	375	435	60	30	16	7	682	1 355				
Hungary	15	10	10	10	10	5	-5	38	-21	1	40				
Malta	810	445	245	225	285	60	-525	26	-65	552	1 200				
Netherlands	3 875	2 730	3 345	8 835	9 890	1 055	6 010	12	155	566	24 795				
Austria	4 620	4 625	5 150	11 965	14 985	3 020	10 965	25	224	1 678	36 725				
Poland	540	455	700	2 900	2 180	-720	1 640	-25	303	58	6 240				
Portugal	260	155	175	355	665	310	405	88	158	65	1 350				
Romania	3 265	2 655	2 160	2 105	2 140	35	-1 125	2	-34	112	9 065				
Slovenia	765	480	780	1 905	2 050	140	1 285	7	168	972	5 220				
Slovakia	80	65	80	110	70	-40	-5	-36	-9	13	330				
Finland	360	155	195	500	510	10	150	2	41	92	1 355				
Sweden	2 930	2 155	1 900	2 895	3 205	74	320	11	9	309	10 145				
Iceland	135	90	140	210	425	100	215	100	213	1 152	865				
Liechtenstein	5	10	25	25	20	0	15	-4	340	563	80				
Norway	265	175	250	645	525	-120	260	-18	98	98	1 595				
Switzerland	2 990	2 240	2 820	4 030	4 150	120	1 170	3	39	479	13 240				

The absolute numbers presented in the table are rounded to the nearest 5. All the calculations are based on exact figures (not rounded).

(*) Relative to population as of 1st of January 2021.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asypptctzm)

First-time asylum applicants (non-EU citizens), relative change between October-December 2020 and October-December 2021 (%)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctzm)

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Figure 3: First-time asylum applicants (non-EU citizens), relative change between October-December 2020 and October-December 2021 (%) Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm)

In October to December 2021, Afghan was the main citizenship of asylum seekers in eight EU Member States, Syrian in six and Iraqi in two (see Table 3). Of the Afghans who applied for first time for asylum in the EU in the third quarter of 2021, 27 % were registered in Germany. Germany was also the main receiving country for Syrian (44% of all Syrians) and Iraqi asylum applicants (69 % of all Iraqis) (see Table 4).

**Five main citizenships of first-time asylum applicants (non-EU citizens),
October to December 2021**

	#	(%)		#	(%)		#	(%)
BELGIUM			EU			CZECHIA		
Afghanistan	1 700	26	Syria	31 505	18	Georgia	50	21
Syria	690	11	Afghanistan	29 745	17	Ukraine	50	21
Palestine	580	9	Iraq	10 060	6	Vietnam	20	9
Eritrea	380	6	Venezuela	8 445	5	Turkey	15	6
Somalia	220	3	Turkey	6 620	4	Afghanistan	15	6
Other	2 885	45	Other	91 345	50	Other	85	37
DENMARK			BULGARIA			ESTONIA		
Afghanistan	380	48	Afghanistan	3 015	61	Turkey	5	25
Syria	95	12	Syria	1 615	32	Belarus	0	0
Eritrea	70	9	Morocco	90	2	Russia	0	0
Georgia	30	4	Iraq	90	2	Cuba	0	0
Morocco	20	3	Pakistan	65	1	Afghanistan	0	0
Other	195	24	Other	105	2	Other	15	75
IRELAND			GERMANY			SPAIN		
Somalia	200	17	Syria	13 805	30	Venezuela	7 655	34
Georgia	165	14	Afghanistan	8 095	17	Colombia	5 115	23
Nigeria	130	11	Iraq	6 950	15	Morocco	1 530	7
Zimbabwe	90	8	Turkey	2 325	5	Mali	945	4
Algeria	80	7	Georgia	1 320	3	Peru	945	4
Other	500	43	Other	14 190	30	Other	6 095	28
FRANCE			GREECE			ITALY		
Afghanistan	4 400	14	Pakistan	1 175	18	Pakistan	2 430	16
Turkey	2 265	7	Bangladesh	875	13	Bangladesh	2 355	15
Bangladesh	2 230	7	Afghanistan	765	11	Afghanistan	2 175	14
Georgia	1 855	6	Syria	760	11	Tunisia	1 935	13
Albania	1 645	5	Somalia	530	8	Egypt	1 230	8
Other	18 135	61	Other	2 555	39	Other	5 130	34
CYPRUS			CROATIA			LITHUANIA		
Syria	1 085	24	Afghanistan	700	69	Iraq	270	49
Democratic Republic of the Congo	835	18	Turkey	110	11	Belarus	80	15
Nigeria	665	14	Cuba	45	4	Syria	25	5
Somalia	295	6	Iraq	40	4	Afghanistan	25	5
Cameroon	275	6	Iran	30	3	Cameroon	20	4
Other	1 440	32	Other	90	9	Other	130	22
LUXEMBOURG			LATVIA			MALTA		
Syria	150	34	Belarus	25	45	Eritrea	75	26
Eritrea	100	23	Afghanistan	20	36	Syria	55	19
Afghanistan	50	11	Russia	5	9	Libya	25	9
Venezuela	25	6	Egypt	0	0	Cote d'Ivoire	15	5
Iraq	20	5	Azerbaijan	0	0	Sudan	10	4
Other	90	21	Other	5	10	Other	105	37
NETHERLANDS			HUNGARY			POLAND		
Syria	3 930	40	Iran	5	50	Belarus	825	38
Afghanistan	1 100	11	Afghanistan	0	0	Iraq	825	38
Yemen	690	7	Syria	0	0	Russia	100	5
Iraq	485	5	Iceland	0	0	Afghanistan	80	4
Turkey	455	5	Liechtenstein	0	0	Syria	60	3
Other	3 225	32	Other	5	50	Other	290	12
PORTUGAL			AUSTRIA			SLOVENIA		
Afghanistan	445	67	Syria	6 590	44	Afghanistan	1 170	57
Morocco	60	9	Afghanistan	3 875	26	Pakistan	150	7
Gambia	15	2	Morocco	610	4	Turkey	145	7
India	15	2	Somalia	515	3	Iran	110	5
Senegal	10	2	India	440	3	Iraq	75	4
Other	115	18	Other	2 960	20	Other	400	20
SLOVAKIA			ROMANIA			SWEDEN		
Morocco	30	43	Afghanistan	740	35	Syria	930	29
Afghanistan	10	14	India	355	17	Afghanistan	245	8
Nepal	5	7	Syria	295	14	Iraq	160	5
Pakistan	5	7	Bangladesh	255	12	Eritrea	160	5
Tunisia	5	7	Pakistan	105	5	Ukraine	130	4
Other	15	22	Other	390	17	Other	1 580	49
ICELAND			FINLAND			NORWAY		
Venezuela	250	60	Iraq	70	14	Syria	215	41
Afghanistan	60	14	Somalia	60	12	Afghanistan	70	13
Syria	20	5	Afghanistan	45	9	Eritrea	65	13
Iraq	20	5	Georgia	40	8	Colombia	25	5
Palestine	15	4	Syria	35	7	Turkey	15	3
Other	55	12	Other	265	50	Other	130	25
			LIECHTENSTEIN					
			Sudan			5		
			Belarus			0		
			Turkey			0		
			Palestine			0		
			Kosovo			0		
			Other			5		
			SWITZERLAND					
			Afghanistan			1 040		
			Turkey			725		
			Eritrea			435		
			Algeria			350		
			Syria			255		
			Other			1 345		

Citizenships selected here are those with the highest number of asylum applicants registered in the EU during October-December 2021.

Absolute number of asylum applications rounded to the nearest 5.

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

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctzm)

Thirty main citizenships of first-time asylum applicants (non-EU citizens) by destination country in the EU, October to December 2021

			NON-EU		#	(%)
			Germany	46 685	26	
			France	30 535	17	
			Spain	22 290	13	
			Italy	15 255	9	
			Austria	14 985	8	
			Other	47 965	27	
			AFGHANISTAN		#	(%)
			Germany	8 095	27	
			France	4 400	15	
			Austria	3 875	13	
			Bulgaria	3 015	10	
			Italy	2 175	7	
			Other	8 175	28	
			TURKEY		#	(%)
			Germany	2 325	35	
			France	2 265	34	
			Netherlands	455	7	
			Austria	320	5	
			Greece	265	4	
			Other	990	15	
			BANGLADESH		#	(%)
			Italy	2 355	38	
			France	2 230	36	
			Greece	875	14	
			Romania	255	4	
			Austria	165	3	
			Other	335	5	
			MOROCCO		#	(%)
			Spain	1 530	42	
			Austria	610	17	
			Italy	435	12	
			Germany	270	7	
			Netherlands	260	7	
			Other	565	15	
			NIGERIA		#	(%)
			France	690	25	
			Cyprus	665	24	
			Germany	485	18	
			Italy	375	14	
			Ireland	130	5	
			Other	380	14	
			COTE D'IVOIRE		#	(%)
			France	1 620	74	
			Italy	270	12	
			Spain	125	6	
			Germany	95	4	
			Belgium	20	1	
			Other	60	3	
			ALGERIA		#	(%)
			France	510	26	
			Germany	450	23	
			Netherlands	375	19	
			Spain	235	12	
			Austria	105	5	
			Other	275	15	
			MALI		#	(%)
			Spain	945	53	
			France	550	31	
			Italy	210	12	
			Germany	30	2	
			Greece	15	1	
			Other	35	1	
			PALESTINE		#	(%)
			Belgium	580	42	
			Greece	465	33	
			Germany	130	9	
			Spain	60	4	
			Sweden	45	3	
			Other	115	9	
			PERU		#	(%)
			Spain	945	76	
			Italy	185	15	
			France	70	6	
			Sweden	25	1	
			Belgium	20	1	
			Other	5	1	
SYRIA			#	(%)		
			Germany	13 805	44	
			Austria	6 590	21	
			Netherlands	3 930	12	
			Bulgaria	1 615	5	
			Cyprus	1 085	3	
			Other	4 480	15	
VENEZUELA			#	(%)		
			Spain	7 655	91	
			France	260	3	
			Germany	190	2	
			Italy	155	2	
			Belgium	55	1	
			Other	130	1	
COLOMBIA			#	(%)		
			Spain	5 115	81	
			France	445	7	
			Germany	220	4	
			Italy	165	3	
			Netherlands	130	2	
			Other	210	3	
SOMALIA			#	(%)		
			Germany	855	21	
			France	605	15	
			Greece	530	13	
			Austria	515	12	
			Netherlands	365	9	
			Other	1 255	30	
TUNISIA			#	(%)		
			Italy	1 935	68	
			Austria	250	9	
			Germany	235	8	
			France	185	7	
			Netherlands	95	3	
			Other	140	5	
ERITREA			#	(%)		
			Germany	820	34	
			Belgium	380	16	
			France	355	15	
			Netherlands	275	12	
			Sweden	160	7	
			Other	395	16	
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO			#	(%)		
			France	890	45	
			Cyprus	835	42	
			Belgium	80	4	
			Greece	60	3	
			Germany	40	2	
			Other	95	4	
MOLDOVA			#	(%)		
			Germany	835	45	
			France	575	31	
			Austria	170	9	
			Belgium	150	8	
			Italy	50	3	
			Other	65	4	
YEMEN			#	(%)		
			Netherlands	690	47	
			Germany	475	32	
			Belgium	80	5	
			Austria	50	3	
			France	45	3	
			Other	135	10	
RUSSIA			#	(%)		
			Germany	425	31	
			France	325	24	
			Austria	120	9	
			Spain	110	8	
			Poland	100	7	
			Other	290	21	
			IRAQ		#	(%)
			Germany	6 950	69	
			Poland	825	8	
			Netherlands	485	5	
			Lithuania	270	3	
			Greece	270	3	
			Other	1 260	12	
			PAKISTAN		#	(%)
			Italy	2 430	38	
			Greece	1 175	18	
			France	845	13	
			Germany	455	7	
			Austria	350	5	
			Other	1 130	19	
			GEORGIA		#	(%)
			France	1 855	39	
			Germany	1 320	28	
			Italy	600	13	
			Belgium	180	4	
			Ireland	165	3	
			Other	610	13	
			ALBANIA		#	(%)
			France	1 645	55	
			Germany	485	16	
			Greece	315	11	
			Italy	295	10	
			Belgium	125	4	
			Other	115	4	
			EGYPT		#	(%)
			Italy	1 230	42	
			Austria	435	15	
			Greece	280	9	
			France	235	8	
			Germany	155	5	
			Other	615	21	
			GUINEA		#	(%)
			France	1 325	66	
			Germany	230	11	
			Belgium	125	6	
			Spain	95	5	
			Italy	90	4	
			Other	150	8	
			IRAN		#	(%)
			Germany	940	49	
			Greece	155	8	
			France	110	6	
			Slovenia	110	6	
			Sweden	110	6	
			Other	500	25	
			NORTH MACEDONIA		#	(%)
			Germany	1 320	84	
			France	140	9	
			Belgium	45	3	
			Italy	35	2	
			Austria	15	1	
			Other	25	1	
			INDIA		#	(%)
			Austria	440	32	
			Romania	355	26	
			Cyprus	200	14	
			France	90	6	
			Greece	75	5	
			Other	225	17	
			BELARUS		#	(%)
			Poland	825	68	
			Lithuania	80	7	
			Germany	60	5	
			France	50	4	
			Spain	40	3	
			Other	150	13	

Note: Citizenships selected here are those with the highest number of asylum applicants registered in the EU during October-December 2021.

Absolute number of first-time asylum applications rounded to the nearest 5.

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

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctzm)

eurostat 

Compared with the population of each Member State (on 1st January 2021), the highest rate of registered first-time applicants during the fourth quarter of 2021 was recorded in Cyprus (5 125 first-time applicants per million population), followed by Austria (1 678), Slovenia (972), Bulgaria (721) and Luxembourg (682). By contrast, the lowest rates were observed in Hungary (1 applicant per million population), Estonia (13), Slovakia (13), Czechia (22) and Latvia (33). In total in the EU as a whole, there were 398 first-time asylum applicants per million population in October to December 2021 (see Table 2).

In 2021, Eurostat started to collect new data on asylum applications under an accelerated procedure⁴. According to available data, the highest number of such applications in October to December 2021 was registered in France (10 880), followed by Austria (5 795) and Italy (3 055). More than 100 asylum applications were also processed under an accelerated procedure in the Netherlands and Czechia (see Figure 4).

Asylum applicants (non-EU citizens) with applications processed under the accelerated procedure, October to December 2021 (number)

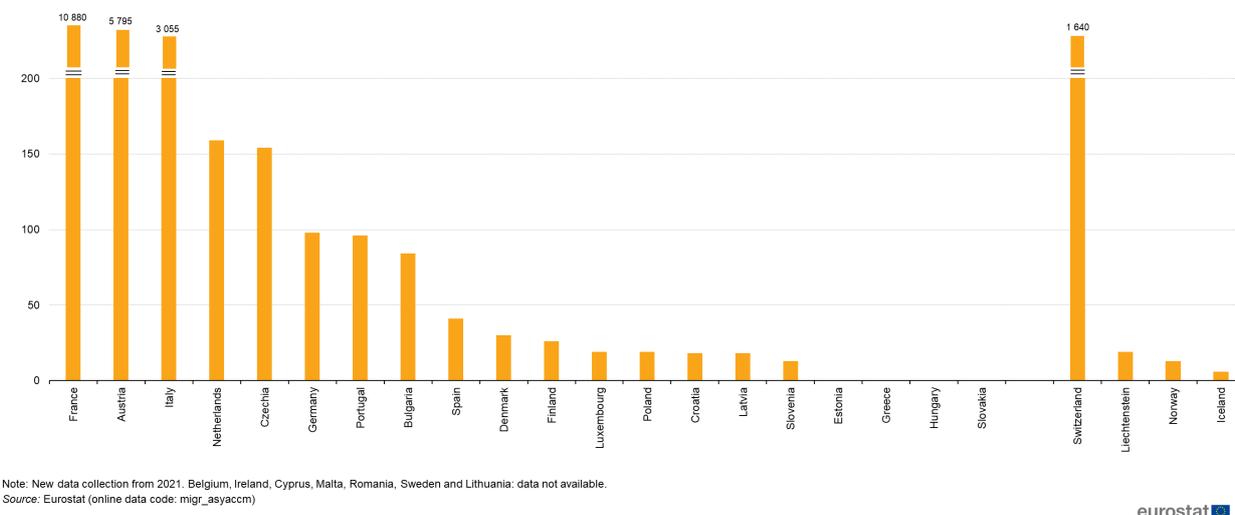


Figure 4: Asylum applications (non-EU citizens) processed under accelerated procedure, October to December 2021 (number) Source: Eurostat (migr_asyaccm)

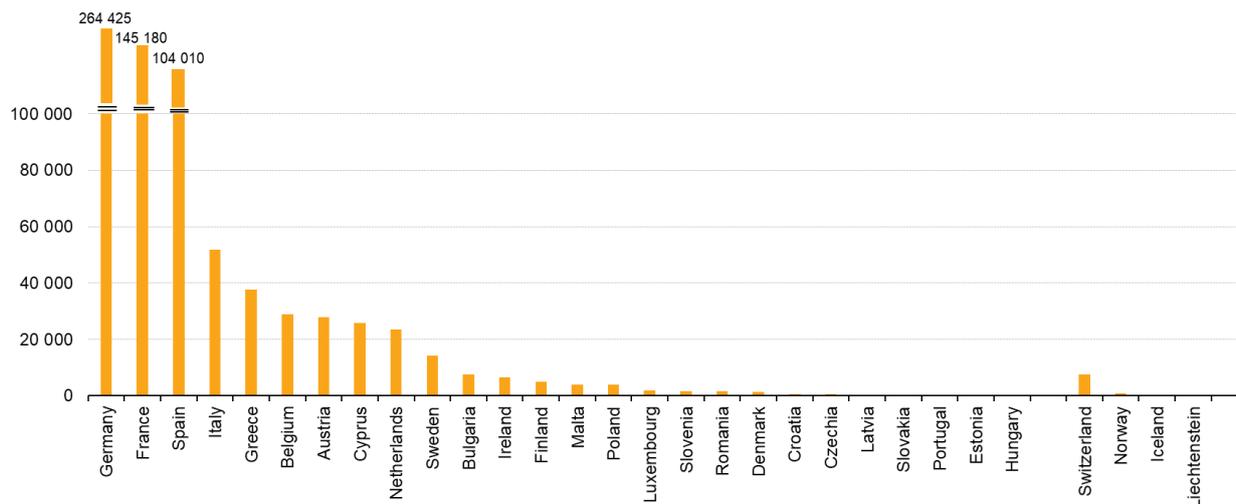
Pending applications

Pending applications for international protection are those that have been made at any time and are still under consideration by the relevant national authorities at the end of the reference period. In other words, they refer to the “stock” of applications for which decisions are still pending.

At the end of December 2021, 758 700 applications for asylum protection in the EU Member States (missing data for Lithuania) were under consideration by the national authorities. With 264 400 pending applications at the end of December 2021, Germany had the largest share in the EU (35 % of the EU total), ahead of France (145 200, or 19 %) and Spain (104 000, or 14 %)(see Figure 5).

⁴An asylum applicant having had their application processed under the accelerated procedure’ means a person having submitted an application for international protection or having been included in such an application as a family member during the reference period and having had their applications processed under the accelerated procedure provided for in Article 31(8) of Directive 2013/32/EU (see Art.4.1(e) of the Regulation), if such a procedure is foreseen in the national legislation of the reporting country. It refers to the number of applicants the country has processed - at first instance - under an accelerated procedure during the reference month, regardless of the date of application and of the outcome of the procedure (rejection of the application or grant of a protection status).

Asylum applications (from non-EU citizens) pending at the end of December 2021 (number)



Note: Lithuania - data not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asypenczm)

eurostat

Figure 5: Asylum applications (from non-EU citizens) pending at the end of December 2021 (number) Source: Eurostat (migr_asypenczm)

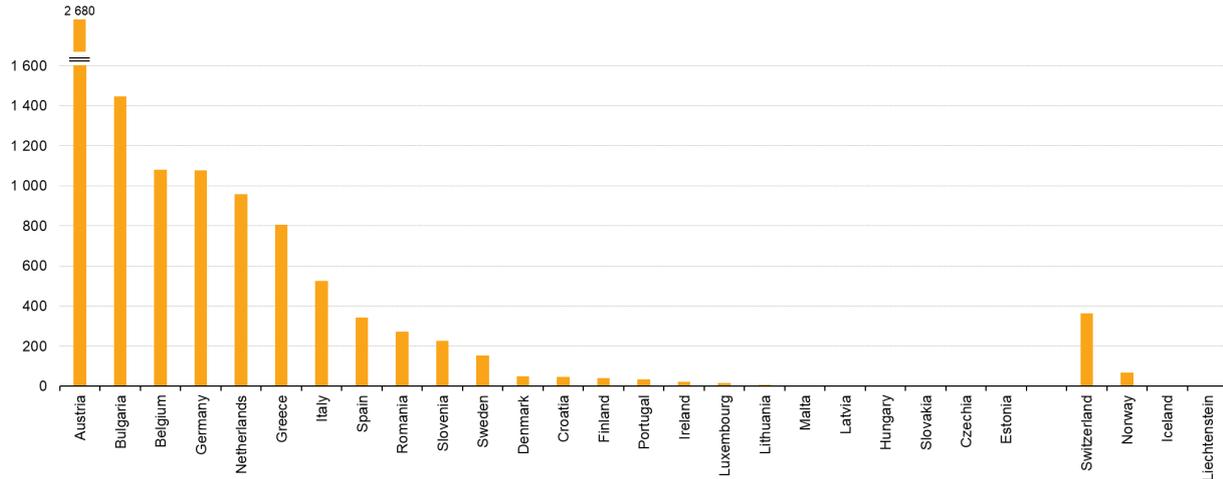
Applications by unaccompanied minors

An unaccompanied minor is a person less than 18 years old who arrives on the territory of an EU Member State not accompanied by an adult responsible for the minor or a minor who is left unaccompanied after having entered the territory of a Member State. Since 2021, Eurostat collects more information on unaccompanied minors on a monthly (from January 2021), quarterly (from Q1 2021) and annual (from 2021 reference year) basis. Data for previous periods were collected on a voluntary basis and therefore some information on unaccompanied minors may be also available in the Eurostat database.

In October to December 2021, according to the available monthly data, the highest number of unaccompanied minors was registered in Austria (2 700), followed by Bulgaria (1 400) and Belgium and Germany (1 100 each) (see Figure 6).

Unaccompanied minor asylum applicants (non-EU citizens), October to December 2021

(number)



Note: New data collection from 2021. France, Cyprus and Poland: data not available.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyumactm)

eurostat

Figure 6: Unaccompanied minor asylum applicants (non-EU citizens), October to December 2021 (number)
Source: Eurostat (migr_asyumactm)

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. They are based entirely on relevant administrative sources and 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 where 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), 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 been working 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 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.

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.

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.

In September 2020, the European Commission presented the [New Pact on Migration and Asylum](#) . This pact provides a comprehensive approach, bringing together policy in the areas of migration, asylum, integration and border management, recognising that the overall effectiveness depends on progress on all fronts. It creates faster, seamless migration processes and stronger governance of migration and borders policies, supported by modern IT systems and more effective agencies. It aims to reduce unsafe and irregular routes and promote sustainable and safe legal pathways for those in need of protection. It reflects the reality that most migrants come to the EU through legal channels, which should be better matched to EU labour market needs.

On 4 March 2022, the Council unanimously adopted the implementing decision introducing temporary protection due to the mass influx of persons fleeing Ukraine as a consequence of the war. The activated [Temporary Protection Directive](#) provides special procedures to deal with mass influxes of displaced persons for the first time. Temporary protection is an exceptional measure to provide immediate and temporary protection to displaced persons from non-EU countries and those unable to return to their country of origin. It applies when there is a risk that the standard asylum system is struggling to cope with demand stemming from a mass influx risking a negative impact on the processing of claims. Requirements for reporting such statistics already exist in Article 4(1)(c) and 4(3)(e) of [Regulation \(EC\) No 862/2007](#) . Practically, they shall be implemented for the first time with the transmission of data on international protection as follows: quarterly data for the first quarter of 2022 are due by 31 May 2022 and annual data for the year 2022 - by 31 March 2023. The data on temporary protection for the first quarter of 2022 will be released by Eurostat in June 2022.

Other articles

- [Annual asylum statistics](#)
- [Statistics on countries responsible for asylum applications \(Dublin Regulation\)](#)
- [Enforcement of immigration legislation statistics](#)
- [Residence permits - statistics on first permits issued during the year](#)

Publications

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

Main tables

- [Asylum \(t_migr_asy\)](#) , 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 \(migr_asy\)](#) , see:

Applications (migr_asyapp)

[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 \(rounded\) \(migr_asyapenctzm\)](#)

[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 having had their applications processed under the accelerated procedure, by age, sex and citizenship - monthly data \(rounded\) \(migr_asyaccm\)](#)

[Unaccompanied minor asylum applicants by type of applicant, citizenship, age and sex - monthly data \(rounded\) \(migr_asyumactm\)](#)

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

[Unaccompanied minors subject of asylum applications pending at the end of the month by citizenship, age and sex - monthly data \(rounded\) \(migr_asyumpctm\)](#)

Unaccompanied minors subject of asylum applications pending at the end of the month by citizenship, age and sex - monthly data (rounded) (migr_asyumpctm)
Unaccompanied minor asylum applicants having had their applications processed under the accelerated procedure, by age, sex and citizenship - monthly data (rounded) (migr_asyumaccm)

Decisions on applications and resettlement (migr_asydec)

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)

First instance decisions on applications of unaccompanied minors by citizenship, age and sex - quarterly data (rounded) (migr_asyumdcfq)

Decisions withdrawing status granted at first instance decision to an unaccompanied minor by type of status withdrawn, citizenship and reason - quarterly data (rounded) (migr_asyumwifq)

Dedicated section

- [Asylum statistics](#)

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)

Legislation

- 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 ([Summary](#))
- the [Asylum Procedures Directive 2013/32/EU](#) on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection ([Summary](#))
- the [Reception Conditions Directive 2013/33/EU](#) laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection ([Summary](#))
- 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

External links

- [European Commission - DG Migration and Home Affairs - Asylum](#)
- [European Union Agency for Asylum - EUAA](#)
- [European Migration Network - EMN](#)
- [UNHCR - Statistics](#)