

*Data extracted on 16 September 2019.
Planned article update: December 2019.*

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 4 % in the second quarter of 2019 compared with the same quarter of 2018 and decreased by 5 % compared with the first quarter of 2019. As such, the number of persons seeking asylum from non-EU countries in the **EU-28** during the second quarter of 2019 amounted to 149 000 (Figure 1, Table 2).

The number of first-time asylum applicants in the EU-28 accounted for 91 % of the total number of asylum applicants (165 000), including repeated applicants, recorded in the second 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.

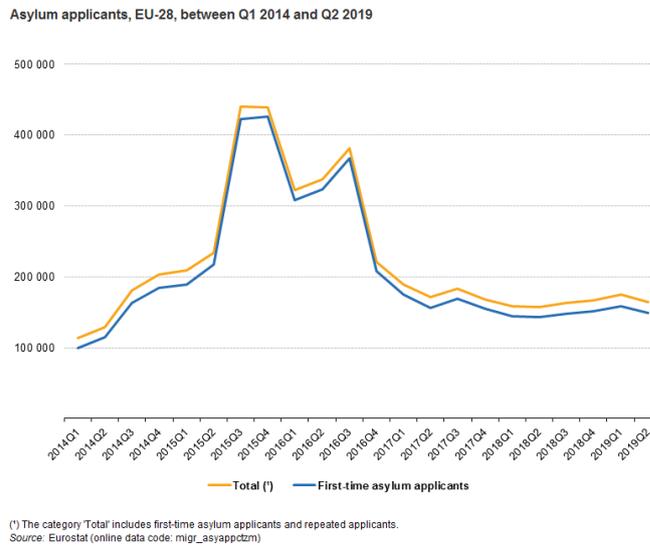


Figure 1: Asylum applicants, EU-28, between Q1 2014 and Q2 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm)

Where do asylum applicants come from?

Citizens of 143 countries, as well as stateless persons, sought asylum for the first time in the EU in the second quarter of 2019. Syrian, Venezuelan and Afghan were the top 3 citizenships of asylum seekers, lodging 16 200, 10 700 and 10 200 applications respectively (Table 1).

First-time asylum applicants in the EU-28, 30 main citizenships, Q2 2018 – Q2 2019

	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Absolute change		Change in %		Last 12 months
						between Q1 2019 and Q2 2019	between Q2 2018 and Q2 2019	between Q1 2019 and Q2 2019	between Q2 2018 and Q2 2019	
Non-EU	142 870	148 095	151 575	157 880	149 230	-8 650	6 360	-5	4	606 775
Syria - (SY)	20 965	21 290	17 415	17 100	16 175	-925	-4 790	-5	-23	71 980
Venezuela - (VE)	7 630	4 500	5 890	10 790	10 690	-105	3 060	-1	40	31 870
Afghanistan - (AF)	9 445	11 225	12 225	10 705	10 190	-510	750	-5	8	44 340
Colombia - (CO)	3 345	2 385	3 015	5 720	7 435	1 715	4 085	30	122	18 555
Iraq - (IQ)	9 080	10 115	9 730	8 425	7 365	-1 060	-1 710	-13	-19	35 635
Pakistan - (PK)	5 645	6 245	7 055	5 840	5 500	-340	-145	-6	-3	24 635
Nigeria - (NG)	6 190	4 870	4 450	6 310	5 475	-830	-715	-13	-12	21 105
Turkey - (TR)	4 570	7 455	6 270	5 320	5 415	95	845	2	19	24 465
Georgia - (GE)	3 765	3 750	5 500	6 090	5 335	-755	1 570	-12	42	20 675
Iran - (IR)	4 490	6 650	7 845	5 645	5 275	-370	785	-7	18	25 415
Albania - (AL)	4 040	4 895	6 190	5 525	5 035	-490	995	-9	25	21 640
Bangladesh - (BD)	3 205	2 725	2 965	2 895	2 810	-85	-395	-3	-12	11 400
Somalia - (SO)	2 855	3 050	2 480	2 500	2 660	160	-195	6	-7	10 695
Guinea - (GN)	2 685	3 190	4 270	3 555	2 655	-900	-25	-25	-1	13 670
El Salvador - (SV)	1 665	1 165	1 350	2 325	2 630	305	965	13	58	7 465
Eritrea - (ER)	4 110	3 635	2 940	2 810	2 610	-200	-1 495	-7	-36	11 995
Russia - (RU)	2 775	3 185	2 835	2 835	2 535	-300	-240	-11	-9	11 390
Ukraine - (UA)	2 270	2 190	2 330	2 435	2 245	-195	-25	-8	-1	9 200
Morocco - (MA)	1 840	1 950	1 825	2 195	2 195	0	355	0	19	8 165
CD - (CD)(*)	1 685	1 675	1 720	1 890	2 165	275	480	15	28	7 445
Algeria - (DZ)	2 100	2 100	2 450	2 185	1 955	-230	-145	-11	-7	8 690
China - (CN)(*)	1 265	1 590	1 775	1 600	1 945	345	680	22	54	6 910
Honduras - (HN)	975	675	775	1 640	1 840	200	865	12	88	4 930
Ivory Coast - (CI)	2 140	1 920	2 135	1 930	1 780	-150	-355	-8	-17	7 765
Nicaragua - (NI)	150	625	1 125	1 795	1 770	-25	1 615	-2	1 064	5 310
Peru - (PE)	375	415	530	1 035	1 685	650	1 310	62	348	3 665
India - (IN)	1 350	1 370	1 485	1 615	1 615	0	265	0	20	6 085
Sudan - (SD)	1 880	2 790	1 835	1 550	1 455	-95	-425	-6	-23	7 630
Palestine - (PS)	1 440	2 195	2 275	2 390	1 415	-975	-30	-41	-2	8 275
Haiti - (HT)	660	615	405	980	1 300	320	640	33	96	3 300
Other (non-EU)	28 275	27 660	28 500	30 240	26 070	-4 175	-2 210	-14	-8	112 470

Countries selected here are those with the highest number of asylum applicants registered during Q2 2019

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

(*) China including Hong Kong

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctzm)



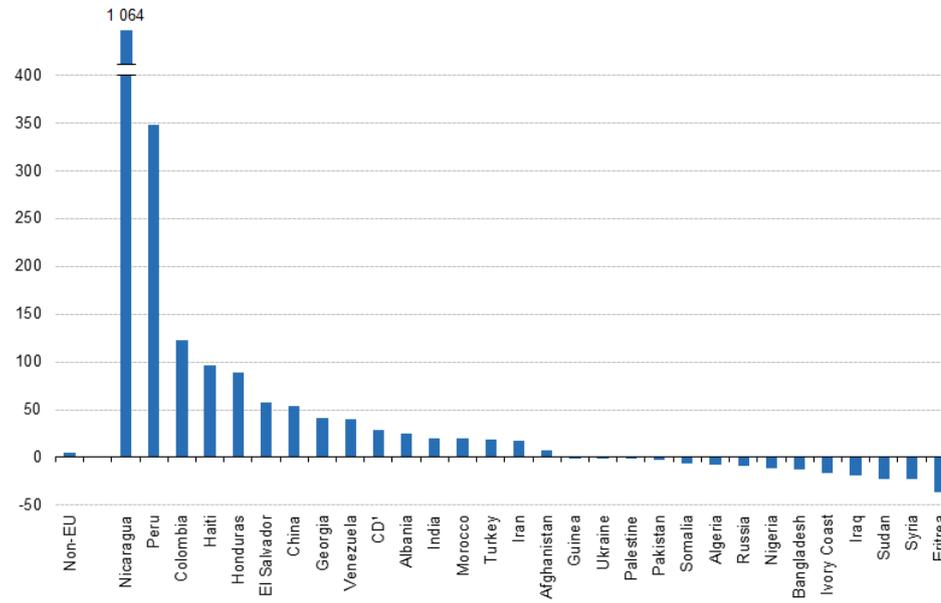
Table 1: First-time asylum applicants in the EU-28, 30 main citizenships, Q2 2018 – Q2 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm)

Colombians (4 100 more applicants compared with the second quarter of 2018) contributed most to the overall increase in first-time asylum applicants in absolute terms, followed by Venezuelans (3 100 more), Nicaraguans, Georgians (both 1 600 more) and Peruvians (1 300 more). By contrast, the number of asylum applicants decreased most in absolute terms for citizens of Syria (4 800 fewer), Iraq (1 700 fewer) and Eritrea (1 500 fewer) (Table 1).

The most substantial relative decrease in the number of asylum applicants in the EU in the second quarter of 2019 compared with the same quarter of 2018 was recorded for Eritreans (36 % fewer), Syrians and Sudanis (both 23 % fewer). By contrast, Nicaragua (1 064 % more) and Peru (348 % more) were the countries of citi-

zenships which increased most in relative terms in the second quarter of 2019 compared with the same quarter of 2018 (Figure 2, Table 1).

First-time asylum applicants by citizenship, EU-28, relative change between Q2 2018 and Q2 2019



(*) CD – Congo, the Democratic Republic of the
China including Hong Kong
Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctzm)



Figure 2: First-time asylum applicants by citizenship, EU-28, relative change between Q2 2018 and Q2 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm), see country codes

Where do asylum applicants go to?

The highest number of first-time asylum applicants in the second quarter of 2019 was registered in Germany (with 33 200 first-time applicants, or 22 % of all first-time applicants in the EU Member States), followed by France (28 600, or 19 %), Spain (28 200, or 19 %), Greece (13 300, or 9 %), the United Kingdom (9 500, or 6 %) and Italy (8 500, or 6 %). These six Member States together account for 81 % of all first-time applicants in the EU-28 (Table 2).

Asylum applicants, Q2 2018 – Q2 2019

	Q2 2018		Q3 2018		Q4 2018		Q1 2019		Q2 2019		First-time asylum applicants			last 12 months		
	First-time asylum applicants	Total asylum applicants	absolute change		change in %		per million population (*) Q2 2019									
											between Q1 2019 and Q2 2019	between Q2 2018 and Q2 2019	between Q1 2019 and Q2 2019			between Q2 2018 and Q2 2019
EU-28	142 870	157 800	148 095	163 300	151 575	166 275	157 880	174 585	149 230	164 640	-8 650	6 360	-5	4	291	606 775
Belgium	3 610	4 855	5 565	6 635	4 950	5 780	5 690	6 945	4 910	5 675	-780	1 295	-14	36	428	21 115
Bulgaria	260	280	800	820	1 105	1 125	285	310	565	575	280	300	98	115	81	2 755
Czechia	295	385	360	430	400	490	530	620	360	445	-175	65	-33	23	34	1 650
Denmark	765	785	1 085	1 105	815	845	575	590	490	500	-80	-275	-14	-36	85	2 985
Germany	38 680	43 855	42 005	47 820	36 290	41 795	40 810	47 255	33 230	38 350	-7 580	-5 450	-19	-14	400	152 335
Estonia	15	15	50	50	20	20	15	15	35	35	15	20	94	136	25	115
Ireland	670	675	990	995	1 025	1 030	1 100	1 125	1 105	1 110	5	435	0	65	226	4 225
Greece	16 330	16 835	16 670	17 200	19 030	19 580	15 940	16 480	13 340	13 960	-2 600	-2 995	-16	-18	1 244	64 975
Spain	16 175	16 565	12 670	12 970	15 125	15 550	25 760	26 495	28 160	28 790	2 395	11 980	9	74	600	81 715
France	26 290	28 950	27 300	29 325	31 970	33 985	28 065	30 055	28 575	31 140	515	2 285	2	9	426	115 910
Croatia	140	165	185	215	135	170	75	110	160	200	85	20	108	13	39	560
Italy	14 810	16 650	10 065	11 590	9 560	11 235	8 390	10 570	8 470	10 425	85	-6 335	1	-43	140	36 485
Cyprus	1 430	1 455	2 145	2 175	2 705	2 745	2 960	3 015	3 575	3 910	615	2 145	21	150	4 082	11 390
Latvia	30	30	55	55	40	45	25	25	40	45	20	10	78	37	21	160
Lithuania	90	95	140	145	115	120	115	115	120	125	5	30	3	30	43	490
Luxembourg	425	455	660	690	700	730	660	685	455	480	-205	35	-31	8	744	2 475
Hungary	145	160	105	105	100	110	125	145	115	120	-10	-35	-7	-22	12	440
Malta	425	475	545	560	670	685	585	610	740	750	155	320	26	75	1 503	2 545
Netherlands	4 310	4 980	6 185	7 415	5 825	6 800	5 390	6 290	5 190	5 960	-200	880	-4	20	300	22 595
Austria	2 690	3 180	2 835	3 420	2 610	3 075	2 445	2 875	2 490	2 910	45	-200	2	-7	281	10 380
Poland	625	1 065	585	970	615	1 030	685	960	595	875	-90	-25	-13	-4	16	2 480
Portugal	215	220	375	395	405	405	360	365	375	390	15	160	4	76	36	1 515
Romania	450	480	570	635	575	605	305	350	410	445	105	-40	35	-9	21	1 855
Slovenia	895	905	905	925	490	520	725	775	970	1 025	245	70	34	8	465	3 090
Slovakia	45	55	30	30	35	40	60	65	40	45	-20	-5	-33	-9	7	165
Finland	710	900	770	1 235	700	1 370	560	1 115	560	1 135	0	-150	0	-21	101	2 595
Sweden	3 995	4 890	4 860	5 685	4 775	5 480	4 510	5 325	4 690	5 415	180	695	4	17	458	18 840
United Kingdom	8 345	8 435	9 585	9 710	10 785	10 910	11 125	11 305	9 465	9 595	-1 660	1 120	-15	13	142	40 960
Iceland	160	180	190	200	245	260	200	220	130	140	-70	-30	-35	-20	364	765
Liechtenstein	45	55	35	35	15	15	10	15	10	10	0	-40	-11	-83	208	65
Norway	625	675	920	950	550	585	475	500	455	475	-20	-175	-4	-28	86	2 400
Switzerland	3 310	3 740	3 230	3 650	3 310	3 745	3 235	3 665	2 950	3 335	-285	-360	-9	-11	346	12 725

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

(*) Relative to population as of 1st of January 2019, except for Norway relative to population as of 1st January 2018

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctzm)

Table 2: Asylum applicants, Q2 2018 – Q2 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm)

Trends in the number of asylum applicants varied from country to country in the second quarter of 2019 compared with the same quarter of 2018 (Table 2). Italy (with 6 300 fewer applicants) was the country with the largest absolute decrease in the number of first-time applicants, followed by Germany (5 500 fewer applicants) and Greece (3 000 fewer applicants). By contrast, in Spain the number of asylum seekers increased by 12 000, in France by 2 300 and in Cyprus by 2 100 in the second quarter of 2019 compared with the same quarter of 2018.

In relative terms, Italy (43 % fewer), Denmark (36 % fewer), Hungary and Finland (22 % and 21 % fewer respectively) 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, along with Italy, also Greece and Germany recorded relative decreases (18 % and 14 % fewer respectively) in the second quarter of 2019 compared with the same quarter of 2018. By contrast, Cyprus (150 % more), Estonia (136 % more) and Bulgaria (115 % more) recorded the largest relative increases of first-time asylum seekers in the second quarter of 2019 compared with the same quarter of 2018 (Figure 3).

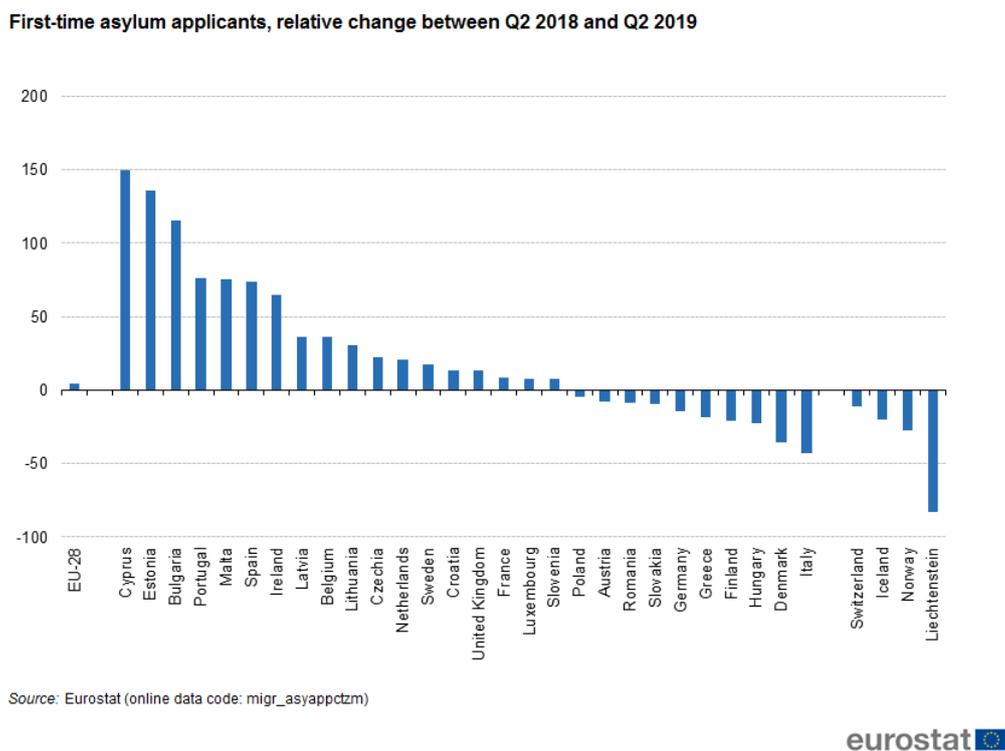


Figure 3: First-time asylum applicants, relative change between Q2 2018 and Q2 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm), see country codes

Syrian, Venezuelan and Afghan were the top 3 citizenships of asylum seekers. Syrian was the main citizenship of asylum seekers in six EU Member States, Afghan in five EU Member States, while Venezuelan, although among the top 3, was the main citizenship in only one EU Member State, namely Spain (Table 3). Of the 16 200 Syrians who applied for the first time for asylum in the EU in the second quarter of 2019, 57 % were registered in Germany (9 200) while 90 % of Venezuelans (9 700) applied for asylum in Spain. Of the 10 200 Afghans, 27 % (2 700) applied for the first time for asylum in Greece, 25 % (2 600) in France and 22 % (2 200) in Germany (Table 4).

Thirty main citizenships of first-time asylum applicants by destination country in the EU 28, 2nd quarter 2019

		NON-EU		# (%)	
		Germany	33 230	22	
		France	28 575	19	
		Spain	28 160	19	
		Greece	13 340	9	
		United Kingdom	9 465	6	
		Other	36 460	24	
		SYRIA - (SY)		# (%)	
		Germany	9 210	57	
		Greece	1 285	8	
		Cyprus	1 190	7	
		Sweden	735	5	
		Netherlands	730	5	
		Other	3 020	19	
		COLOMBIA - (CO)		# (%)	
		Spain	6 810	92	
		Italy	225	3	
		France	105	1	
		Sweden	90	1	
		Germany	85	1	
		Other	120	2	
		NIGERIA - (NG)		# (%)	
		Germany	2 675	49	
		France	1 005	18	
		Netherlands	675	12	
		Italy	285	5	
		United Kingdom	285	5	
		Other	550	10	
		IRAN - (IR)		# (%)	
		Germany	2 210	42	
		United Kingdom	970	18	
		Greece	555	11	
		Netherlands	465	9	
		Sweden	240	5	
		Other	835	16	
		SOMALIA - (SO)		# (%)	
		Germany	855	32	
		France	630	24	
		Greece	285	11	
		Sweden	180	7	
		Belgium	145	5	
		Other	570	21	
		ERITREA - (ER)		# (%)	
		Germany	855	33	
		France	405	16	
		United Kingdom	400	15	
		Belgium	270	10	
		Sweden	210	8	
		Other	470	18	
		MOROCCO - (MA)		# (%)	
		Spain	695	32	
		Italy	400	18	
		Netherlands	245	11	
		Germany	210	10	
		France	185	8	
		Other	455	21	
		CHINA - (CN) (*)		# (%)	
		France	875	45	
		United Kingdom	345	18	
		Germany	285	15	
		Italy	105	5	
		Greece	100	5	
		Other	235	12	
		NICARAGUA - (NI)		# (%)	
		Spain	1 585	90	
		Sweden	90	5	
		United Kingdom	20	1	
		France	15	1	
		Germany	15	1	
		Other	40	2	
		SUDAN - (SD)		# (%)	
		France	730	44	
		United Kingdom	380	23	
		Germany	110	7	
		Malta	45	3	
		Netherlands	40	2	
		Other	350	21	
		VENEZUELA - (VE)		# (%)	
		Spain	9 650	90	
		Italy	395	4	
		France	220	2	
		Germany	160	1	
		Belgium	95	1	
		Other	170	2	
		IRAQ - (IQ)		# (%)	
		Germany	3 185	43	
		Greece	1 450	20	
		United Kingdom	900	12	
		France	390	5	
		Italy	250	3	
		Other	1 195	16	
		TURKEY - (TR)		# (%)	
		Germany	2 415	45	
		Greece	895	17	
		France	705	13	
		United Kingdom	305	6	
		Netherlands	300	6	
		Other	800	15	
		ALBANIA - (AL)		# (%)	
		France	1 985	39	
		United Kingdom	855	17	
		Greece	820	16	
		Italy	460	9	
		Germany	350	7	
		Other	560	11	
		GUINEA - (GN)		# (%)	
		France	1 480	56	
		Germany	585	22	
		Spain	230	9	
		Belgium	165	6	
		Netherlands	40	2	
		Other	160	6	
		RUSSIA - (RU)		# (%)	
		Germany	715	28	
		France	590	23	
		Poland	400	16	
		Spain	185	7	
		Austria	130	5	
		Other	515	20	
		CD - (CD) (*)		# (%)	
		France	940	43	
		Greece	925	43	
		Belgium	95	4	
		Cyprus	50	2	
		Germany	45	2	
		Other	110	5	
		HONDURAS - (HN)		# (%)	
		Spain	1 680	92	
		Italy	95	5	
		Germany	25	1	
		United Kingdom	20	1	
		France	5	0	
		Other	10	1	
		PERU - (PE)		# (%)	
		Spain	920	55	
		Italy	690	41	
		Sweden	45	3	
		France	20	1	
		Belgium	5	0	
		Other	5	0	
		PALESTINE - (PS)		# (%)	
		Belgium	510	36	
		Greece	395	28	
		Sweden	135	10	
		Spain	120	9	
		France	80	6	
		Other	170	12	
		AFGHANISTAN - (AF)		# (%)	
		Greece	2 740	27	
		France	2 555	25	
		Germany	2 240	22	
		Austria	610	6	
		Belgium	465	5	
		Other	1 580	16	
		PAKISTAN - (PK)		# (%)	
		Greece	1 465	27	
		Italy	1 335	24	
		France	645	12	
		United Kingdom	600	11	
		Germany	465	8	
		Other	985	18	
		GEORGIA - (GE)		# (%)	
		France	2 560	48	
		Germany	675	13	
		Cyprus	460	9	
		Spain	410	8	
		Greece	330	6	
		Other	905	17	
		BANGLADESH - (BD)		# (%)	
		France	1 050	37	
		Greece	470	17	
		United Kingdom	345	12	
		Italy	280	10	
		Cyprus	230	8	
		Other	440	16	
		EL SALVADOR - (SV)		# (%)	
		Spain	1 275	49	
		Italy	775	30	
		Belgium	285	11	
		United Kingdom	220	8	
		Sweden	35	1	
		Other	35	1	
		UKRAINE - (UA)		# (%)	
		Spain	605	27	
		Italy	580	26	
		France	280	12	
		Germany	255	11	
		Sweden	190	8	
		Other	335	15	
		ALGERIA - (DZ)		# (%)	
		France	640	33	
		Slovenia	275	14	
		Netherlands	245	13	
		Spain	235	12	
		Germany	230	12	
		Other	335	17	
		IVORY COAST - (CI)		# (%)	
		France	1 330	75	
		Spain	170	10	
		Germany	110	6	
		Italy	55	3	
		Malta	45	3	
		Other	70	4	
		INDIA - (IN)		# (%)	
		United Kingdom	435	27	
		Cyprus	320	20	
		Italy	270	17	
		Germany	155	10	
		France	140	9	
		Other	295	18	
		HAITI - (HT)		# (%)	
		France	1 275	98	
		Spain	15	1	
		Greece	5	0	
		Netherlands	5	0	
		Other	5	0	

Citizenships selected here are those with the highest number of asylum applicants registered during Q2 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

(†) China including Hong Kong

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctzm)

Table 4: Thirty main citizenships of first-time asylum applicants by destination country in the EU 28, 2nd quarter 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm)

Compared with the population of each Member State, the highest rate of registered first-time applicants during the second quarter of 2019 was recorded in Cyprus (4 082 first-time applicants per million population), Malta (1 503) and Greece (1 244). By contrast, the lowest rates were observed in Slovakia (7 applicants per million population), Hungary (12 applicants per million population) and Poland (16 applicants per million population). In the second quarter of 2019, there were in total 291 first-time asylum applicants per million population in the EU as a whole (Table 2).

Decisions on asylum applications

During the second quarter of 2019, 132 000 first instance decisions² were made by the national authorities of [EU Member States](#) . Among them, 35 % were positive (i.e. granting a type of protection status) (Table 5).

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.

First instance decisions by outcome and recognition rates, 2nd 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	131 680	45 530	29 175	11 425	4 930	86 150	35	31
Belgium	3 845	1 600	1 365	235	-	2 245	42	42
Bulgaria	420	75	45	30	-	345	18	18
Czechia	355	40	20	20	0	315	12	11
Denmark	775	365	155	140	75	410	47	38
Germany	34 725	14 790	10 455	2 875	1 460	19 935	43	38
Estonia	20	10	10	0	0	10	55	55
Ireland	420	255	110	25	120	32	61	33
Greece	7 315	3 775	3 110	665	0	3 540	52	52
Spain	6 375	2 720	335	225	2 160	3 660	43	9
France	28 510	7 275	4 175	3 100	-	21 235	26	26
Croatia	55	5	5	0	0	50	11	11
Italy	26 395	4 990	2 795	1 830	365	21 405	19	18
Cyprus	640	255	25	230	0	390	39	39
Latvia	40	15	10	5	-	25	39	39
Lithuania	65	25	25	0	0	45	34	34
Luxembourg	240	125	120	5	-	115	52	52
Hungary	200	15	5	10	0	185	7	6
Malta	200	90	10	80	0	115	44	44
Netherlands	3 460	1 485	765	610	110	1 975	43	40
Austria	3 335	1 820	1 410	240	170	1 515	55	49
Poland	470	45	20	25	0	425	10	10
Portugal	190	50	20	25	-	140	26	26
Romania	295	135	65	70	0	160	45	45
Slovenia	50	15	15	0	-	35	31	31
Slovakia	20	5	0	5	0	15	29	24
Finland	1 325	445	340	45	55	885	33	29
Sweden	5 080	1 515	730	655	135	3 565	30	27
United Kingdom	6 845	3 590	3 040	270	280	3 255	52	48
Iceland	140	55	20	30	0	85	38	37
Liechtenstein	10	5	0	5	0	5	63	63
Norway	610	430	400	10	20	180	70	67
Switzerland	3 020	2 590	1 370	225	995	430	86	53

- 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)

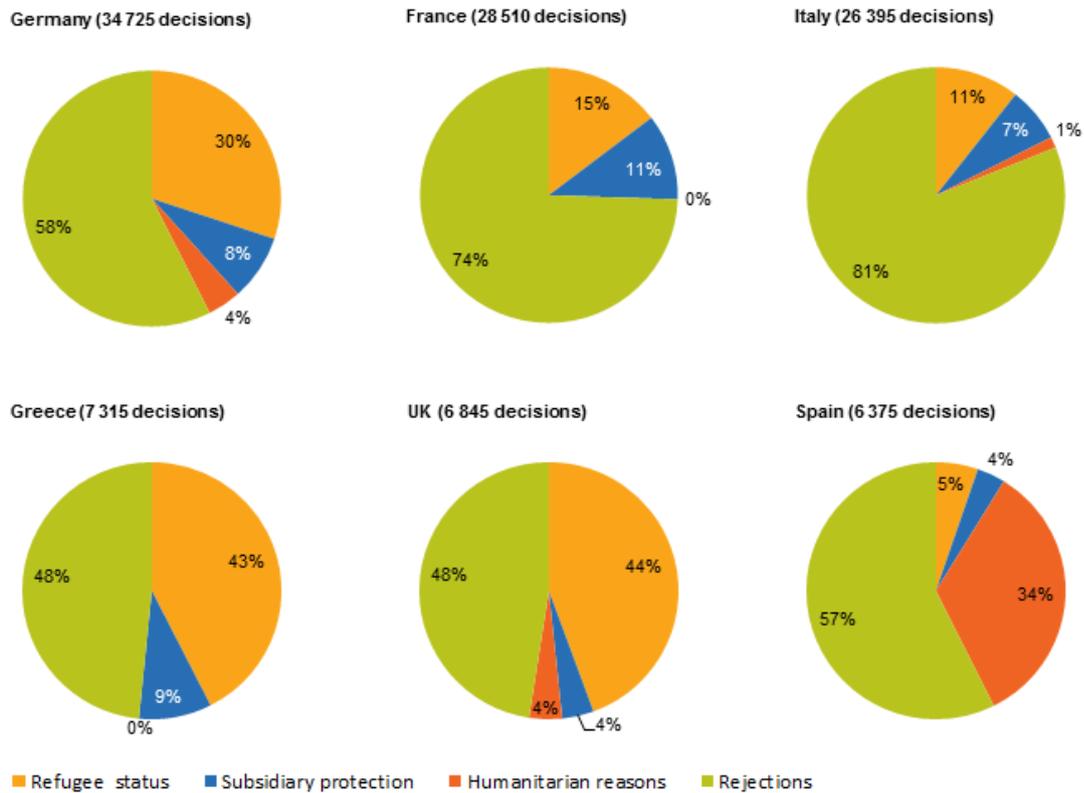
eurostat 

Table 5: First instance decisions by outcome and recognition rates, 2nd quarter 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfstq)

Germany issued by far the most total first instance decisions³ during the second quarter of 2019 (34 700 decisions), followed by France (28 500), Italy (26 400), Greece (7 300), the United Kingdom (6 900) and Spain (6 400) (Figure 4). These six Member States issued together 84 % of all first instance decisions granted in the EU-28. For more detailed information about the distribution of decision outcomes please refer to Table 6.

³Total decisions equal to positive decisions plus negative decisions.

First instance decisions by outcome, selected Member States, 2nd quarter 2019



Member States selected here are those reporting the highest number of first instance decisions issued during Q2 2019
 Humanitarian reasons not applicable for France
 Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asydcfstq)

eurostat 

Figure 4: First instance decisions by outcome, selected Member States, 2nd quarter 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfstq)

First instance decisions by citizenship and outcome, selected Member States, 2nd quarter 2019

First instance decisions							
Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	Rejections				
GERMANY (34 725 decisions)							
Syria	5 345	Syria	1 895	Afghanistan	590	Nigeria	2 150
Iraq	1 145	Eritrea	200	Iraq	160	Iraq	1 995
Turkey	785	Yemen	185	Syria	155	Iran	1 435
Other	3 185	Other	595	Other	550	Other	14 355
ITALY (26 395 decisions)							
Nigeria	675	Venezuela	240	Nigeria	70	Nigeria	4 335
Pakistan	190	Pakistan	235	Pakistan	55	Pakistan	2 620
El Salvador	125	El Salvador	215	Senegal	20	Bangladesh	2 285
Other	1 805	Other	1 140	Other	215	Other	12 165
UNITED KINGDOM (6 845 decisions)							
Iran	575	Libya	115	Nigeria	70	Iraq	580
Eritrea	450	Iraq	55	Albania	35	Albania	350
Sudan	385	Yemen	30	India	25	Iran	295
Other	1 635	Other	70	Other	155	Other	2 035
OTHER (21 510 decisions)							
Syria	1 425	Syria	1 335	Syria	75	Iraq	1 405
Afghanistan	510	Afghanistan	225	Afghanistan	70	Afghanistan	1 290
Iran	500	Eritrea	220	Russia	55	Russia	785
Other	2 830	Other	680	Other	470	Other	9 635
FRANCE (28 510 decisions)							
Sudan	475	Afghanistan	1 190	-	-	Albania	3 055
Syria	335	Syria	350	-	-	Georgia	2 725
CD	300	Albania	170	-	-	Guinea	1 310
Other	3 070	Other	1 390	-	-	Other	14 140
GREECE (7 315 decisions)							
Syria	1 565	Afghanistan	320	-	-	Pakistan	1 185
Iraq	450	Iraq	230	-	-	Albania	495
Afghanistan	365	Somalia	60	-	-	Afghanistan	300
Other	730	Other	55	-	-	Other	1 565
SPAIN (6 375 decisions)							
Morocco	70	Syria	105	Venezuela	2100	Morocco	515
Honduras	70	Palestine	15	Ukraine	10	Colombia	515
El Salvador	40	Ukraine	5	El Salvador	10	El Salvador	380
Other	150	Other	100	Other	40	Other	2 250
EU-28 (131 680 decisions)							
Syria	8 840	Syria	3 690	Venezuela	2 120	Nigeria	7 695
Iraq	2 340	Afghanistan	1 990	Afghanistan	670	Pakistan	5 410
Afghanistan	1 850	Iraq	700	Nigeria	260	Albania	5 060
Other	16 140	Other	5 045	Other	1 885	Other	67 985

Member States selected here are those reporting the highest number of first instance decisions issued during Q2 2019
 - Humanitarian reasons are not applicable for France, while for Greece no decisions on humanitarian protection were issued in Q2 2019
 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, 2nd quarter 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfstq)

Most first instance decisions in the EU-28 were issued to Syrians (15 000), followed by Nigerians (9 000) and Afghans (8 300) (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 (12 800 positive first instance decisions, or 85 % rate of recognition⁴), followed by Afghans (4 500, or 54 %). Among the 30 main citizenships of asylum applicants for which the highest number of decisions were issued in the EU-28, the highest recognition rate of 90 % was observed for Venezuelans (of 2 900 first instance decisions, 2 600 were positive) (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, 2nd 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	131 680	45 530	29 175	11 425	4 930	86 150	35	31
Syria - (SY)	15 035	12 765	8 840	3 690	230	2 270	85	83
Nigeria - (NG)	8 990	1 295	920	115	260	7 695	14	12
Afghanistan - (AF)	8 335	4 505	1 850	1 990	670	3 825	54	46
Iraq - (IQ)	7 655	3 280	2 340	700	240	4 375	43	40
Pakistan - (PK)	6 160	755	395	260	95	5 410	12	11
Albania - (AL)	5 440	380	145	175	60	5 060	7	6
Georgia - (GE)	4 715	215	115	75	25	4 500	5	4
Iran - (IR)	4 370	1 805	1 675	65	65	2 570	41	40
Bangladesh - (BD)	4 210	340	200	110	30	3 870	8	7
Turkey - (TR)	3 690	1 795	1 680	45	65	1 895	49	47
Guinea - (GN)	3 540	650	490	110	50	2 885	18	17
Venezuela - (VE)	2 875	2 595	205	270	2 120	280	90	17
Russia - (RU)	2 860	690	525	100	65	2 170	24	22
Eritrea - (ER)	2 690	2 235	1 670	425	140	455	83	78
Somalia - (SO)	2 640	1 285	810	405	75	1 350	49	46
Mali - (ML)	2 555	400	140	235	25	2 155	16	15
Ivory Coast - (CI)	2 475	445	315	95	30	2 030	18	17
Senegal - (SN)	2 450	175	110	45	20	2 275	7	6
Ukraine - (UA)	2 340	285	80	165	45	2 055	12	10
Morocco - (MA)	1 945	195	165	20	10	1 750	10	10
Gambia - (GM)	1 915	180	135	25	20	1 735	9	8
Sudan - (SD)	1 755	1 160	955	190	15	600	66	65
CD - (CD)(*)	1 425	530	410	95	25	895	37	35
Algeria - (DZ)	1 380	100	55	35	5	1 280	7	7
Ghana - (GH)	1 295	90	50	15	25	1 205	7	5
El Salvador - (SV)	1 245	445	195	230	15	800	36	34
China - (CN)(*)	1 225	440	430	0	10	785	36	35
Serbia - (RS)	1 165	55	25	25	5	1 110	5	4
Haiti - (HT)	1 145	70	40	30	0	1 075	6	6
Palestine - (PS)	1 100	510	425	30	55	585	47	42
Other non-EU	23 055	5 860	3 780	1 645	440	17 195	25	24

Citizenships selected here are those for which the highest number of first instance decisions was issued during Q2 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.

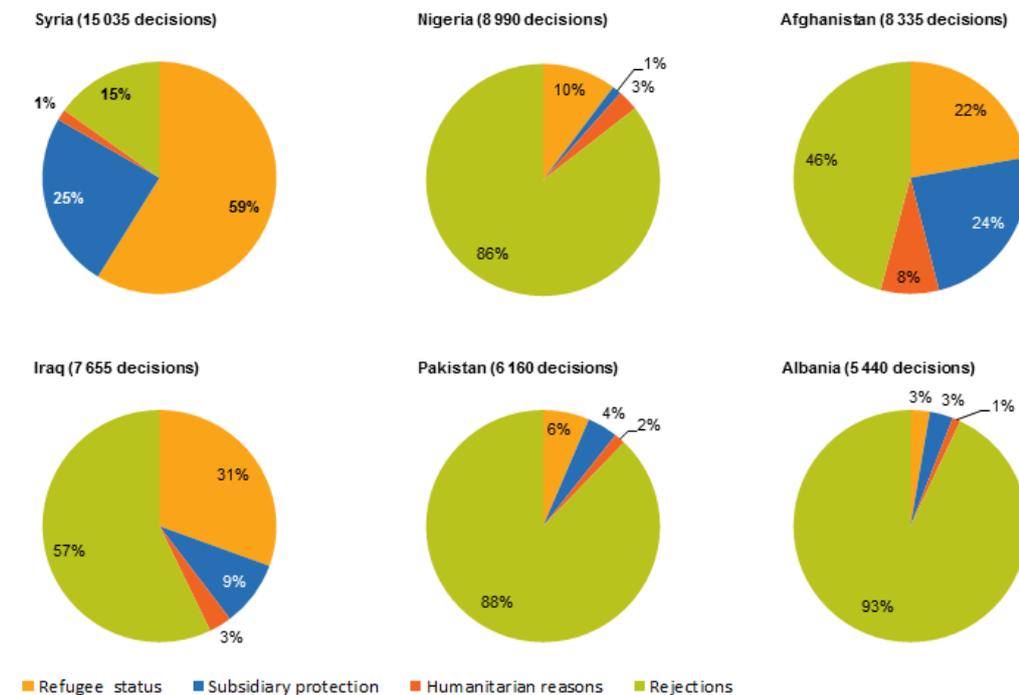
(*) CD – Congo, the Democratic Republic of the

(*) China including Hong Kong

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asydcfstq)

Table 7: First instance decisions by outcome and recognition rates, 30 main citizenships of asylum applicants granted decisions in the EU-28, 2nd quarter 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfstq)

First instance decisions in the EU-28 by outcome, selected citizenships, 2nd quarter 2019



Citizenships selected here are those for which the highest number of first instance decisions was issued during Q2 2019
 Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asydcfstq)



Figure 5: First instance decisions in the EU-28 by outcome, selected citizenships, 2nd quarter 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfstq)

First instance decisions by destination country and outcome in the EU-28, selected citizenships of asylum applicants, 2nd quarter 2019

First instance decisions							
Refugee status		Subsidiary protection		Humanitarian reasons		Rejections	
SYRIA - SY (15 035 decisions)							
Germany	5 345	Germany	1 895	Germany	155	Germany	1 420
Greece	1 565	Sweden	495	Denmark	65	France	195
Austria	485	France	350	Austria	5	Spain	170
Other	1 450	Other	955	Other	5	Other	480
AFGHANISTAN - AF (8 335 decisions)							
Germany	460	France	1 190	Germany	590	Germany	1 405
Greece	365	Greece	320	Austria	35	France	690
Austria	280	Germany	125	Sweden	20	Belgium	325
Other	745	Other	355	Other	25	Other	1 410
PAKISTAN - PK (6 160 decisions)							
Italy	190	Italy	235	Italy	55	Italy	2 620
UK	80	France	20	UK	15	Greece	1 185
Germany	30	Greece	5	Ireland	10	Germany	650
Other	95	Other	25	Other	15	Other	955
OTHER (80 065 decisions)							
France	3 380	France	1 325	Spain	2 160	France	16 120
Germany	3 355	Italy	1 300	Germany	445	Italy	14 090
UK	2 275	Germany	675	Italy	225	Germany	11 810
Other	5 665	Other	1 195	Other	555	Other	15 495
First instance decisions							
Refugee status		Subsidiary protection		Humanitarian reasons		Rejections	
NIGERIA - NG (8 990 decisions)							
Italy	675	Italy	60	Germany	100	Italy	4 335
Germany	120	France	25	Italy	70	Germany	2 150
France	40	Germany	25	UK	70	France	705
Other	85	Other	5	Other	20	Other	505
IRAQ - IQ (7 655 decisions)							
Germany	1 145	Greece	230	Germany	160	Germany	1 995
Greece	450	Germany	150	Finland	25	UK	580
France	195	Italy	115	UK	20	Finland	335
Other	550	Other	205	Other	35	Other	1 465
ALBANIA - AL (5 440 decisions)							
UK	60	France	170	UK	35	France	3 055
France	55	Italy	5	Ireland	15	Germany	500
Italy	25			Austria	5	Greece	495
Other	5	Other	0	Other	5	Other	1 010
NON-EU (131 680 decisions)							
Germany	10 455	France	3 100	Spain	2 160	Italy	21 405
France	4 175	Germany	2 875	Germany	1 460	France	21 235
Greece	3 110	Italy	1 830	Italy	365	Germany	19 935
Other	11 430	Other	3 620	Other	950	Other	23 575

Citizenships selected here are those for which the highest number of first instance decisions was issued during Q2 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, 2nd 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_asytctzm)
- 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_asywitfsta)
 - Decisions withdrawing status granted at first instance decision by type of status withdrawn and by citizenship Quarterly data (rounded) (migr_asywitfstq)
 - 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) (asywitfina)
 - 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](#)