

Latest Asylum Trends

Mid-Year Review 2025



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Cover photo/illustration: *"Maybe one day I'll be able to fly"*
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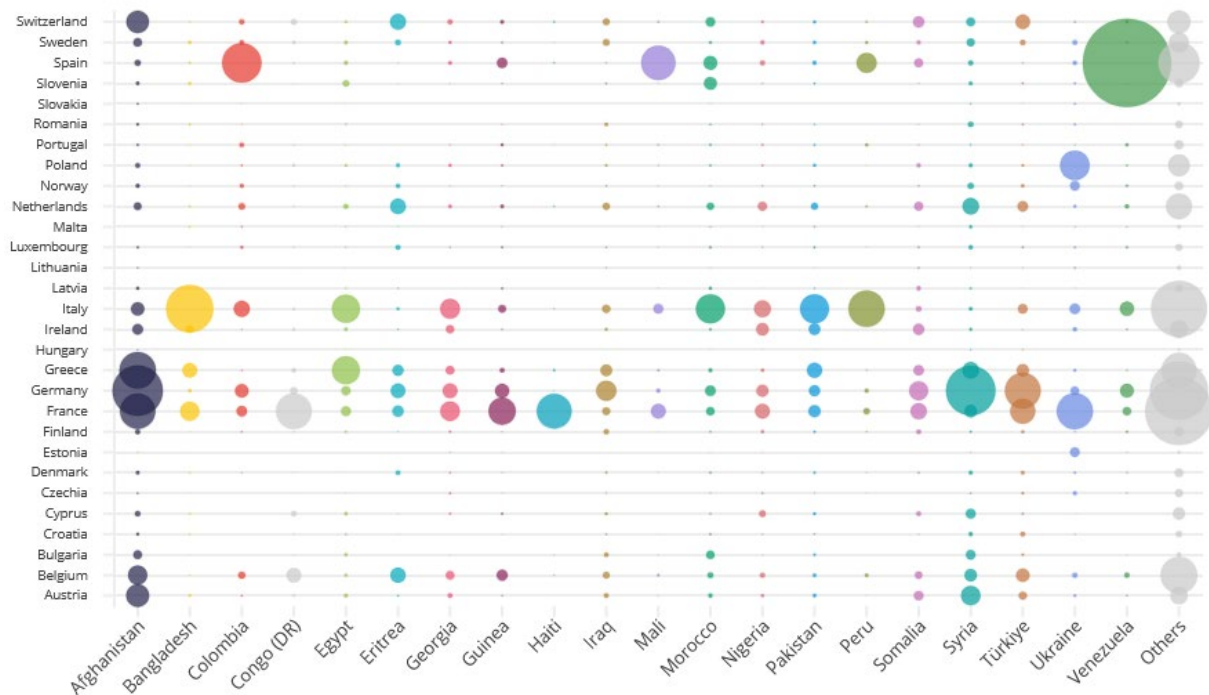
List of abbreviations

Term	Definition
CEAS	Common European Asylum System
EPS	EUAA's Early warning and Preparedness System
EUAA	European Union Agency for Asylum
EU	European Union
EU+ countries	Member States of the European Union plus Norway and Switzerland
Member States	Member States of the European Union
SAM-UKR	Survey of Arriving Migrants for Displaced People from Ukraine



Overview

Figure 1. Asylum applications lodged in the EU (399,000) by main citizenships and receiving countries, Jan-Jun 2025



Source: EUAA Early warning and Preparedness System (EPS) data as of 6 August 2025.

Click here for an [interactive chart](#). Click here for Data Tables: [EU+ Countries](#) and [Citizenships](#).

Key Findings

- In the first half of 2025, the EU+ received 399,000 applications for international protection, which marks a 23% decline from the same period in 2024.
- Following the ousting of the Assad regime in December 2024, far fewer Syrians applied for asylum during the first half of 2025 such that they were no longer the main citizenship; Venezuelans and Afghans both lodged more applications in the first half of 2025.
- With fewer Syrians seeking asylum, Germany was no longer the top EU+ destination; France and Spain both received more applications in the first half of 2025, whereas Greece and Cyprus received the most applications per capita.
- The number of cases awaiting a first instance decision remained at near record levels, with 918,000 pending at the end of June 2025. It is estimated that the total number of cases, including those in appeal or review, awaiting a decision at the end of May 2025 (latest data) was approximately 1.3 million.
- At the end of June 2025, there were about 4.5 million beneficiaries of temporary protection in the EU+ who fled Ukraine following Russia's full-scale invasion. Half were hosted in Germany and Poland, but Czechia hosted the most beneficiaries per capita.

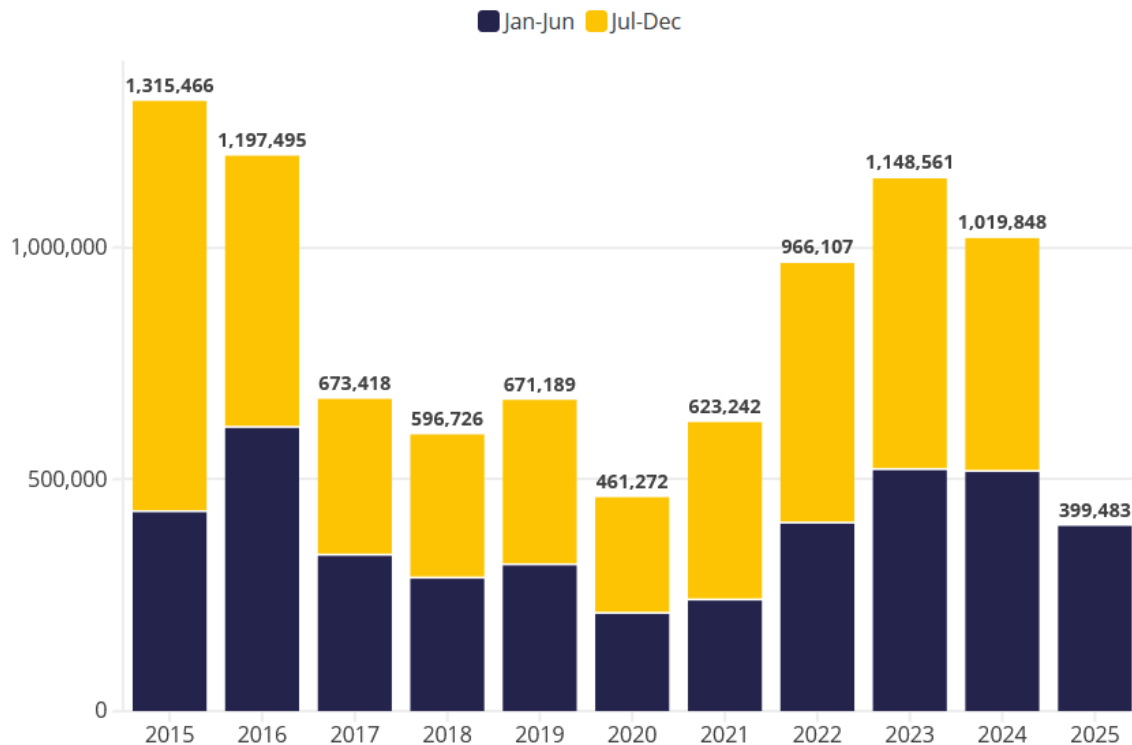
Applications

Main citizenships

In 2015–2016 more than a million migrants and asylum seekers arrived in the EU in what has become known as the refugee crisis, which has since dominated much of the [policy landscape in the EU](#). During this time, applications for international protection skyrocketed in the EU+ (EU Member States plus Norway and Switzerland). Figure 2 illustrates these two years of extreme pressure on EU+ asylum and reception authorities, which were followed by several years of reduced applications, even to below half a million in 2020 when COVID-19 temporarily closed some asylum offices and radically reduced global mobility. During the post-COVID-19 years of 2022–2024, applications for asylum climbed to around a million per year. However, during the first half of 2025, this trend was reversed as applications fell by nearly a quarter compared to the same period in 2024. At the same time, [detections of irregular arrivals at the external border](#) also fell by 20% overall.

For a comprehensive overview of key developments in asylum in 2024 read the [EUAA Asylum Report 2025](#), and for gender and age breakdowns of 2024 asylum applications read the Data Analysis [Factsheet No. 35](#).

Figure 2. Applications for asylum in the EU+, 2015–2025



Source: EUAA Early warning and Preparedness System (EPS) data as of 6 August 2025.

Click here for [interactive chart](#) . Click here for Data Tables: [EU+ Countries](#) and [Citizenships](#).



During the first half of 2025, Europe's asylum landscape underwent significant shifts. For the past decade, Syrians had consistently been the largest nationality seeking asylum in the EU+, and Germany the primary receiving country. By mid-2025, this was no longer the case: Syrian applications fell sharply, dropping them to third place among all nationalities, while Venezuelans became the top applicant group. At the same time, Germany was overtaken by France and Spain as the leading destinations for asylum seekers.

The drop in [Syrian applications](#) was abrupt. In December 2024, [Hayat Tahrir al-Sham \(HTS\) seized Damascus](#), ending Assad's rule; in March 2025, a [transitional government](#) was formed; the United States subsequently lifted most [sanctions](#) and, in July, removed HTS from its [terrorist list](#). At the same time, in the EU+ applications fell from more than 12,000 in November 2024 to just 2,600 in June 2025, with a total of around 25,000 in the first half of 2025 — a 66% reduction compared to the same period in 2024.

This remarkable reduction is hardly due to policy changes in the EU+. While it is true that most EU+ countries have (fully or partially) suspended processing Syrian asylum applications until the situation in Syria becomes clearer, they are still accepting new claims. Instead, with the new Syrian authorities advocating for stability and reconstruction, many displaced Syrians have evidently become [more hopeful about returning](#) to rebuild their communities, making some less inclined to seek asylum in the EU+. UNHCR estimates that by July 2025 nearly three quarters of a million [Syrians had returned](#) since the fall of Assad, mostly from surrounding countries. However, some Syrian refugees and asylum seekers in Europe might be less optimistic: UNHCR survey shows that over 80% do not intend to return to Syria in the next year.¹ In Germany, where most Syrians applied for asylum, a relatively [small number](#) have left and returned to Syria. EUAA Surveys with Asylum-related Migrants indicate that both before and after the fall of the Assad regime,² Syrians in the EU+ viewed advances in the security situation and personal freedom as the key areas that would need to improve for them to consider returning home. After 9 December 2024, other areas gained prominence, most notably financial conditions and employment but also access to basic services, education and medical care.

For updated analysis of the situation in Syria following the overthrow of Bashar Al-Assad, read two EUAA Syria Country Focus reports from [July 2025](#), and [March 2025](#), and for an analysis of the main profiles in Syria read EUAA's interim [Syria Country Guidance](#). Also watch the EUAA [Country Talk: Syria](#) for a discussion of Country information and Country Guidance.

In contrast, [Venezuelan](#) applications continued to increase. In the first half of 2025, approximately 49,000 Venezuelans applied for asylum in the EU+, a 31% rise from the same period in 2024, continuing an [upward trend](#) that has placed Venezuelans among the [top global displaced](#) populations. Spain remains the main destination, receiving the majority of Venezuelan claims due to shared language, existing diaspora and a practice of granting [national humanitarian protection](#) to those who do not qualify as refugees.

Multiple factors are likely driving the rise in Venezuelan applications. Venezuela's deep economic and political crisis persists, with millions already displaced across [Latin America](#) —

¹ UNHCR, [Intentions and perspectives of Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers in Europe](#), May 2025.

² The survey sample includes about 670 responses from Syrians: 340 before the fall of the Assad regime (March 2024 – 8 December 2025) and 330 after (9 December 2024 – 26 June 2025).



including 2.8 million in Colombia, 1.7 million in Peru, and hundreds of thousands in Brazil, Chile, and Ecuador. Changes to [US migration policy](#) implemented in early 2025 have significantly impacted [migration dynamics](#) across the region and have created significant obstacles to access to international protection. [Return movements](#) have increased but some countries in the region have reinstated or imposed [visa requirements](#) and so many Venezuelans are [stranded](#) in countries other than their own. Overall, it is unsurprising that Venezuelans are looking at protection options in the EU+, especially given their visa-free status and cultural ties with Spain.

While Venezuelan asylum trends have shifted rapidly in the past few years, [Afghans](#) have long had a significant presence in the EU+ asylum landscape. In the first half of 2025, they lodged 42,000 applications — accounting for just over 10% of all applications — a level broadly consistent with the stable trend observed over the past year. While the number of Afghans applying for asylum was well below levels seen in recent years, they still ranked second among all citizenships seeking asylum. Irregular arrival patterns mirror these figures: Afghans were the [most detected nationality](#) on the Eastern Mediterranean route, while nearly a fifth of their asylum applications were lodged in Greece. Nevertheless, Germany received the largest share at 35%. Read an [EUAA Country Focus](#) report on the general security and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, plus [Country Guidance](#), which focusses on the key elements of qualification for international protection.

For the last three years, significant numbers of [Bangladeshis](#) have been seeking asylum in the EU+, sometimes submitting more than 4,000 applications in a single month. During the first half of 2025, Bangladeshis lodged 17,000 applications — somewhat fewer compared to the same period in 2024 but still placing them fourth among all citizenships. Three quarters of these applications were lodged in Italy, where repeated applications were extremely rare, indicating that the applicants had recently arrived in the EU+. This aligns with [detections at the external border](#), which show that during the same period Bangladeshis were the most frequently detected nationality in illegal border-crossings via the Central Mediterranean Route, pointing to a strong link between asylum applications and arrivals in Italy. Read the [EUAA Country Focus](#) report for an overview of human rights, security and socioeconomic under the interim government in Bangladesh.

In the autumn of 2023, [Turkish](#) nationals suddenly sought international protection in the EU+ in [unprecedented numbers](#), briefly ranking second among all citizenships applying for asylum. This surge, centred on Germany was likely [driven by several factors](#), including flight of political dissidents. While the surge was short-lived — with applications falling to 17,000 in the first half of 2025, down by 41% from the same period in 2024 — Turks still ranked fifth among all citizenships. The recent arrests of [political opponents](#), including the mayor of Istanbul [Ekrem İmamoğlu](#), suggest continued political instability in Türkiye. Application patterns point to a mix of regular and irregular arrivals: in the first half of 2025, Turks were the [most detected nationality](#) on the Western Balkan route, while in 2024, around one million Turkish nationals were issued [Schengen visas](#), mostly by Greece and Germany. Read the [EUAA Roadmap](#) for Cooperation between the EUAA and Türkiye.

Despite being eligible for temporary protection, growing numbers of Ukrainians have also applied for international protection in the EU+ over the past years, although such applications remain far below registrations for temporary protection. In the first half of 2025, [Ukrainians](#)



lodged 16,000 asylum applications — up by 29% compared to the same period in 2024 — making them the sixth most common citizenship seeking asylum in the EU+. This increase was reflected in France, which accounted for nearly half of all applications, and also in Poland with almost one third (see [chart](#)). However, on a month-to-month basis, applications fell between January and June 2025, with volumes by June returning to levels similar to early 2024. See also the section on Migrants from Ukraine.

Thousands of people have been killed in [conflict](#) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, while many more have been forced to flee their homes. In June 2025, there was an US-brokered agreement to end the hostilities, and in July rebel groups signed a [ceasefire](#) deal in Qatar. During the first half 2025, some 9,900 [Congolese \(DR\)](#) applications were lodged in the EU+, which is an increase of 56% compared to the same period in 2024. Recognition rates are low because many applicants are [not from conflict affected areas](#) but travel histories remain unclear: two thirds of all applications were newly lodged in France despite [few detections at the external borders](#).

Typically, about a quarter of asylum applications in the EU+ are lodged by nationals of countries with [visa-free access](#) to the Schengen area, enabling them to travel directly by air from their home countries. Spain usually receives the largest share of these applications, with visa-free nationals accounting for more than three quarters of its total caseload. Historically, [Venezuelans](#) and [Colombians](#) represented the majority of such applicants in the EU+ but more recently [Ukrainian](#) nationals also applied in significant numbers. Another notable nationality in this group were [Peruvians](#), who lodged nearly 11,000 applications in the first half of 2025. However, unlike Venezuelans and Colombians, most Peruvians have been applying in Italy (73%) rather than Spain (22%). This trend is impactful to the extent that, in the first half of 2025 Peruvians were the number two citizenship lodging applications in Italy. [Political agreement](#) was recently reached on a stronger and more flexible [visa suspension mechanism](#), including new grounds to suspend visa-free regimes in case of misuse or increased irregular migration.

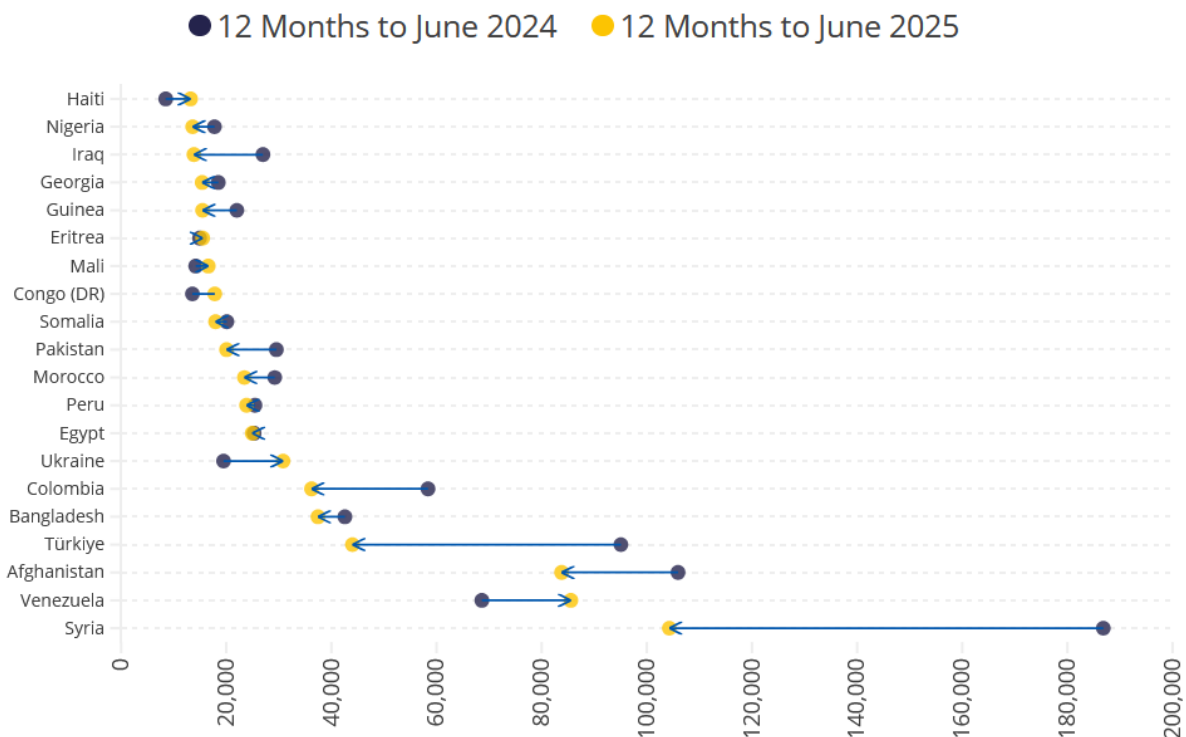
In the first half of 2025, [repeated applications](#) — those submitted in the same receiving country after a final decision on a previous claim — accounted for [12% of all asylum applications](#), a proportion that has remained relatively stable over time. However, rates vary considerably by nationality. Applicants from visa-free Latin American countries — such as Venezuela and Colombia — typically have very low levels of repeated applications (around 1–3%), suggesting that most have recently arrived in the receiving country. These low rates are further influenced by the fact that these applicants are often granted a national form of protection in Spain, reducing the likelihood of reapplying. By contrast, some other nationalities lodge much higher rates of repeated applications, indicating a longer stay in the host country before submitting a new claim. Among the 20 main nationalities in the first half of 2025, Haitians had the highest share of repeated applications (45%), followed by Nigerians (33%), Afghans (21%), and Iraqis (21%).



Trends

Figure 3 provides a comprehensive overview the 20 nationalities lodging the most asylum applications in the 12 months leading up to June 2025 (yellow), smoothing out month-to-month fluctuations by comparing with the preceding 12-month period (blue). [Syrians](#), [Venezuelans](#), [Afghans](#) and [Turks](#) lodged the most applications for asylum in the 12 months leading up to June 2025 but with vastly different trends: far fewer Syrians (-44%), Afghans (-21%) and Turks (-54%) applied for asylum, compared to more Venezuelans (+25%).

Figure 3. Asylum applications for main citizenships, 12 months to June 2024 (blue) versus 12 months to June 2025 (yellow)



Source: EUAA Early warning and Preparedness System (EPS) data as of 6 August 2025.

Click for an [interactive chart](#). Click here for Data Tables: [EU+ Countries](#) and [Citizenships](#).

As well as Venezuelans, [Ukrainians](#) (+58%), Congolese (DR) (+31%), and Haitians (+56%) also lodged significantly more applications in the 12 months leading up to June 2025. However, figures at the EU+ level can conceal important changes taking place within individual EU+ countries: click here for an [interactive chart](#).

For example:

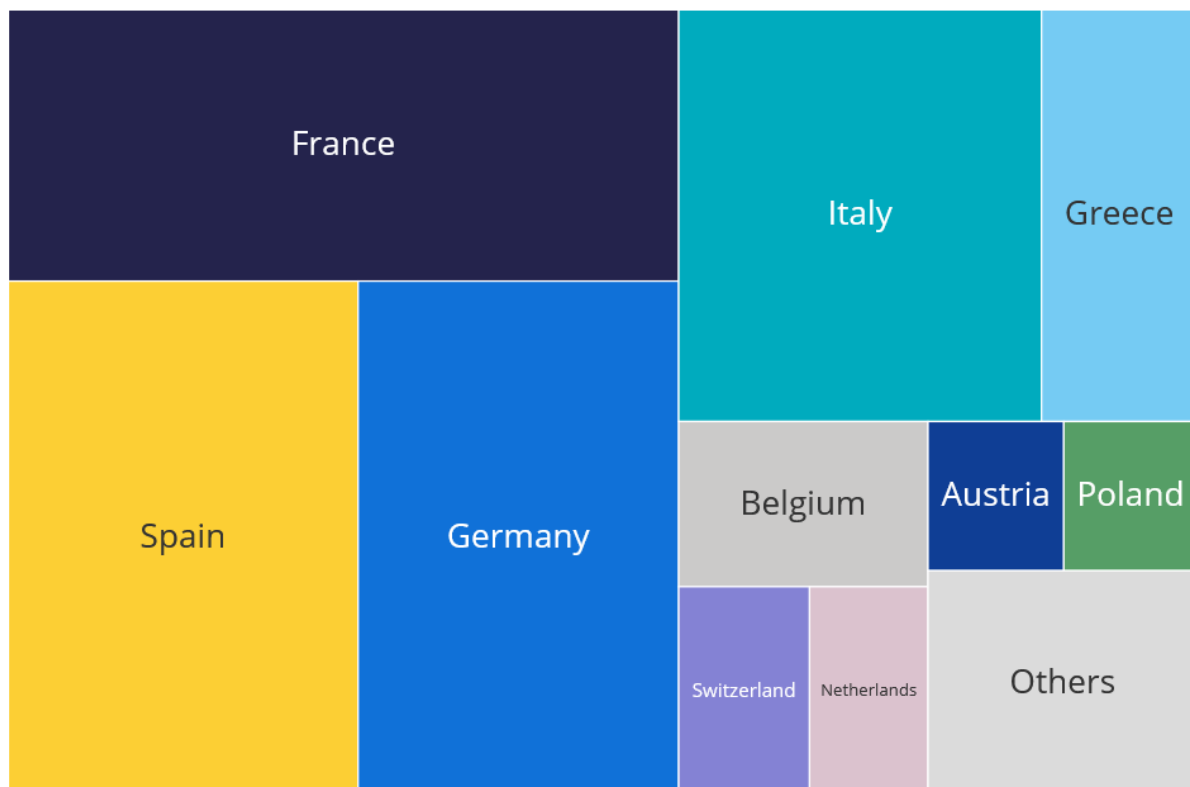
- In **France** the number of Ukrainian (+77%) applications increased dramatically between the reporting periods, as did the number of Congolese (DR) (+44%) and Haitians (+57%) seeking protection, which contrasts with declining numbers of Afghans (-11%).
- In **Spain**, applications were dominated by many more Venezuelans (+29%) compared with fewer Colombians (-45%).

- In **Italy**, fewer Bangladeshis (-8%), Pakistanis (-29%) and Egyptians (-40%) contrasted with more Peruvians (+38%) and Moroccans (+32%).

Destinations

In the first half of 2025, **Germany** was no longer the foremost destination for asylum seekers in the EU+, receiving 70,000 applications or 18% of all applications lodged in the EU+. Instead, in an unusual turn around, both France (78,000) and Spain (77,000) received more applications than Germany, followed by Italy (64,000). In France, the number of applications was stable compared with the same period in 2024, whereas Spain (-13%), Germany (-43%) and Italy (-25%) all received fewer applications. Together these four destination countries accounted for nearly three quarters of all applications lodged in the EU+.

Figure 4. Applications for asylum in the EU+, by destination country, Jan–Jun 2025



Source: EUAA Early warning and Preparedness System (EPS) data as of 6 August 2025.

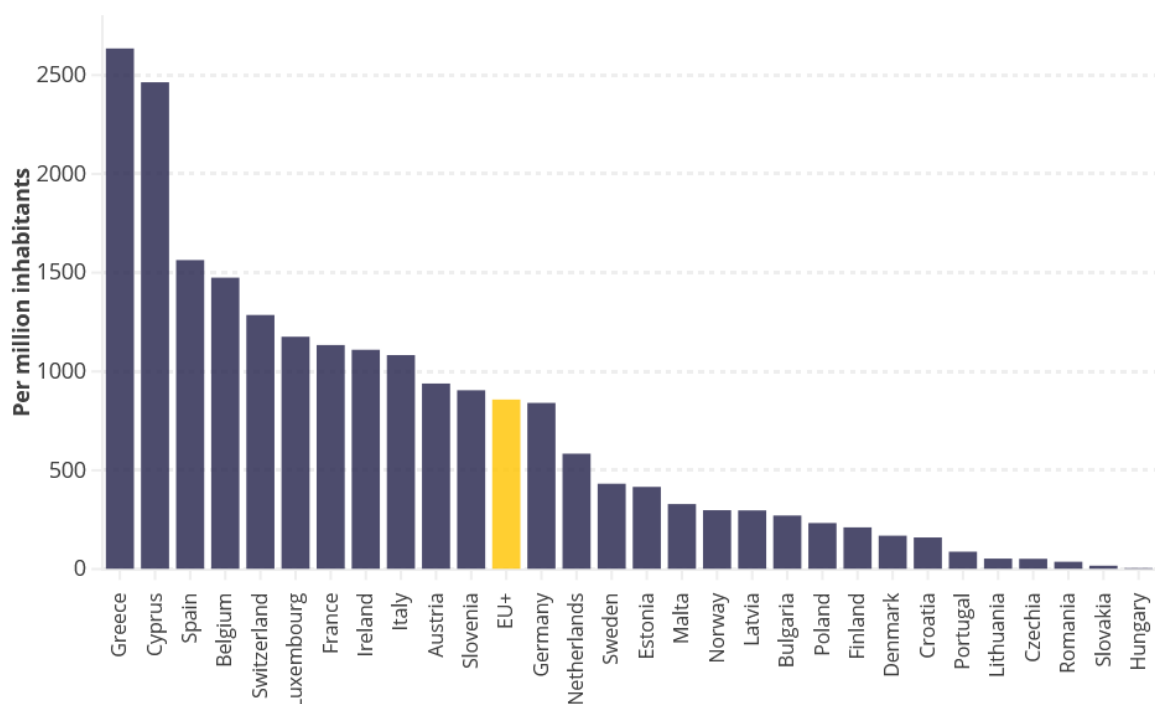
Click here for an [interactive chart](#). Click here for Data Tables: [EU+ Countries](#) and [Citizenships](#).

Certain nationalities predominantly lodge their asylum applications in a single EU+ country, reflecting localised patterns. During the first half of 2025 very nearly all applicants from Haiti (99%) lodged their applications in France, and the vast majority of Venezuelans (93%) lodged applications in Spain. Around three quarters of: Malian applications were lodged in Spain, Bangladeshi and Peruvian applications in Italy, and Congolese (DR) applications in France. These concentrations can be seen in the [Overview](#) section.


Applications per capita

Evaluating which EU+ countries tend to receive the most applications for asylum is important but to some extent a simple like-for-like comparison is not appropriate because the EU+ countries vary wildly in terms of the size and capacity of their asylum and reception systems. As a rough measure of their overall capacity and a more nuanced estimation of the pressure exerted on national authorities, this analysis takes into account the number of asylum applications lodged per million inhabitants ([Eurostat population data](#)).

Figure 5. Applications for asylum per million inhabitants by receiving country, Jan–Jun 2025



Source: EUAA Early warning and Preparedness System (EPS) data as of 6 August 2025. Population sizes: Eurostat ([DEMO_GIND](#)) extracted on 6 August 2025.

Click here for an [interactive chart](#) . Click here for Data Tables: [EU+ Countries](#) and [Citizenships](#).

During the first half of 2025, Greece received the most applications per capita: 27,000 actual applications for asylum which equates to 2,635 applications per million inhabitants, or one application per 380 persons. Cyprus received far fewer actual applications (2,400) but a similar number per capita: 2,464 per million inhabitants or one application for every 406 persons. While France received many more actual applications (78,000), its large population of 69 million resulted in a lower per capita rate of over 1,134 applications per million inhabitants, or one application per 882 residents.

France and Ireland, despite receiving vastly different numbers of applications in total (78,000 and 6,000, respectively), experienced similar per capita pressure, with each country receiving just over 1,100 applications per million inhabitants.



At the EU+ level, the total population of 465 million and 399,000 asylum applications during the first half of 2025 translate to nearly 859 applications per million inhabitants, or one application per 1,164 residents.

Hungary stands out among EU+ countries for allowing an exceptionally low number of asylum seekers to lodge applications, just 47 during the first half of 2025 despite a population exceeding 9.5 million — 10 times that of Cyprus. This is likely due to Hungary's special rules which limit access to the asylum procedure by requiring applicants to submit a letter of intent at a Hungarian diplomatic mission in a non-EU country prior to their entry to Hungary (No 233/2020 (V.26)). That said, Hungary still [granted asylum](#) to a former Polish deputy justice minister who is under investigation in Poland over accusations of misuse of public funds. In June 2024, [the European Court of Justice](#) fined Hungary for breaching EU asylum rules. For more information consult the EUAA [factsheet](#), and [National Asylum Developments Database](#).



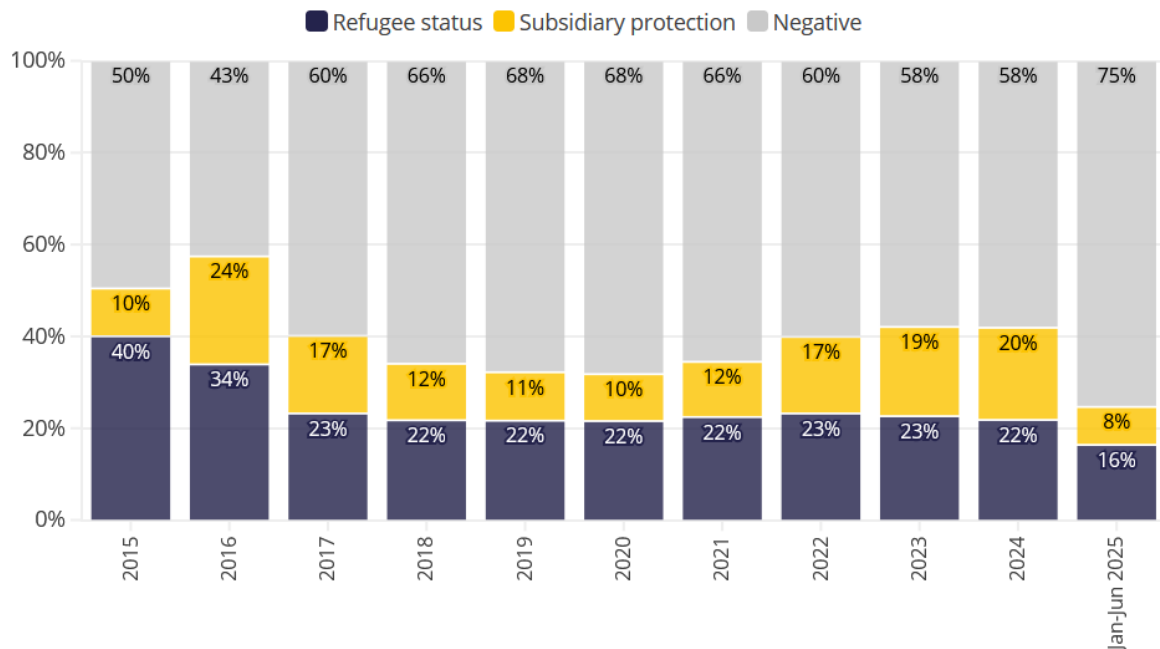
Recognition rates

Main citizenships

Over the past three years, the recognition rate—which reflects the percentage of asylum applicants granted refugee status or subsidiary protection—has fluctuated around 40% at first instance, with refugee status usually being granted more frequently than subsidiary protection.

During the first half of 2025, the EU+ recognition rate fell to 25%, the lowest annual or semi-annual level on record. This decline was driven by a sharp drop in decisions issued to Syrian applicants, who in the past typically received a high number of positive outcomes. During the first half of 2025, most EU+ countries temporarily paused the processing of Syrian asylum claims, pending greater clarity on the security and political situation in Syria. As a result, the number of decisions issued to Syrians fell significantly—from nearly 85,000 in the first half of 2024, to just 13,000 in the first half of 2025. Of the decisions issued to Syrians between January and June 2025, only 17% were positive, in stark contrast to the usual recognition rate of 90% or higher for Syrian nationals.

Figure 6. Annual recognition rates at first instance by decision outcome, 2015–2025



Source: EUAA Early warning and Preparedness System (EPS) data as of 6 August 2025.

Click here for an [interactive chart](#). Click here for Data Tables: [EU+ Countries](#) and [Citizenships](#).

Importantly, this shift does not reflect stricter qualification for granting international protection to Syrians. Instead, the lower recognition rate appears to be largely driven by procedural factors. For example, countries that partially suspended the processing of Syrian cases take decisions



in specific circumstances, such as when an assessment of the situation in Syria is not needed, e.g. for Syrian applicants who have already been granted protection status by another EU Member State (e.g., [Belgium](#), [Germany](#)). Furthermore, some Syrians have withdrawn their asylum applications, which is, in some EU+ countries, recorded statistically as a negative decision. This may reflect evolving intentions among Syrian applicants, with some possibly planning to return home given the recent political developments in Syria. Read the EUAA [Syria Interim Country Guidance](#), which provides an analysis of the main risk profiles in Syria after the fall of Assad's regime and the EUAA [Syria Country Focus](#) report, which provides an updated analysis of the situation in Syria following the ousting of Bashar Al-Assad.

As the Syrian example illustrates, the EU+ recognition rate is a composite indicator shaped by diverse trends, including differences between citizenships and various other characteristics. Recognition rates for different nationalities can vary significantly. For example, Bangladeshi applicants have a recognition rate of around 4%, while nationals from Pakistan have rates around 10%. While many recognition rates remain fairly stable over time—such as those for Nigerians, who maintain a recognition rate of just over 10%—there are notable exceptions to this general pattern:

- **Turks:** The recognition rate has been in steady decline from 54% in 2019, to just 12% during the first half of 2025.
- **Haiti:** Over the last five years the recognition rate has steadily increased from 10% in 2020 to 86% during the first half of 2025.
- **Mali:** The RR changed significantly since 2021 and after some fluctuations stood at 79% during the first half of 2025.
- **Ukraine:** the RR spiked following the Russian invasion but decreased slightly in the last 18 months, to 73% during the first half of 2025.

Context: It should be noted that some applicants, especially those from [Venezuela](#) and to a lesser extent from Somalia, Afghanistan and Pakistan are often granted national (rather than international) [forms of protection](#) which are unregulated at the EU level and are therefore considered as negative asylum decisions in these statistics. Also, the recognition rates presented here are based on first instance decisions issued by asylum authorities and thus do not account for cases decided by the judiciary and other authorities at [second or higher instance](#); i.e., in appeal and review.

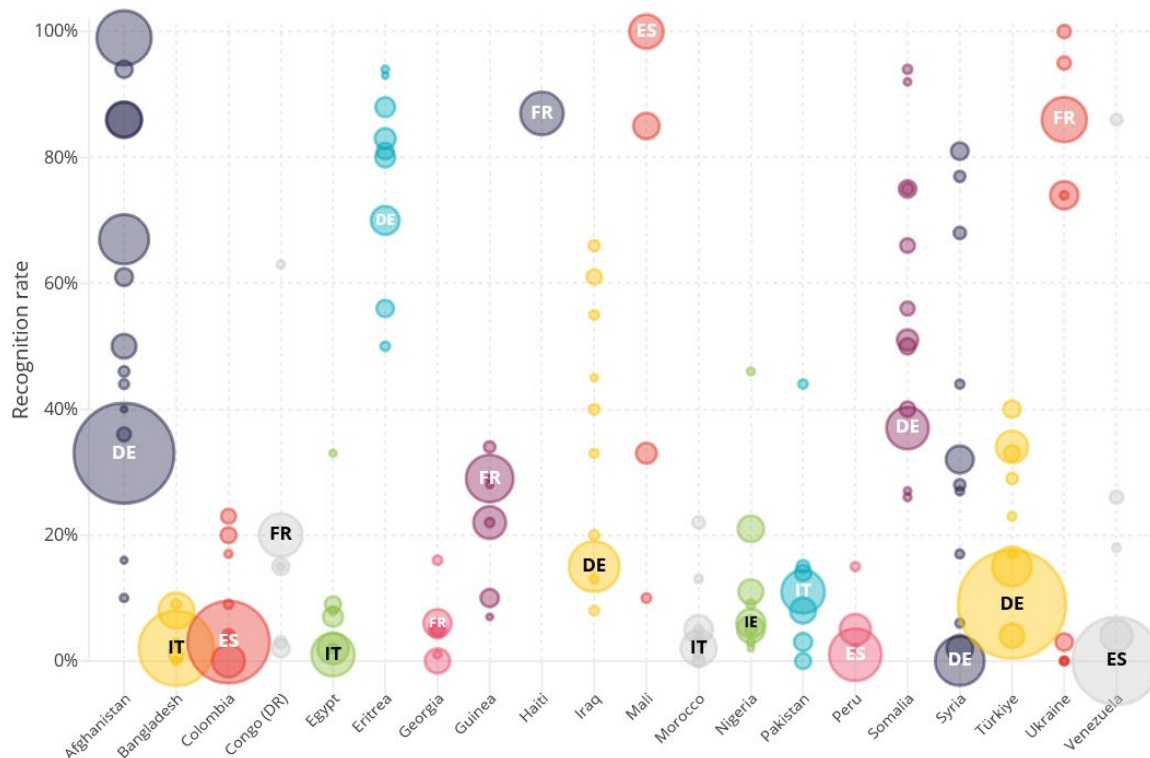
Across the EU+

The aim of EUAA's work is to foster a harmonised implementation of the Common European Asylum System across the EU so as to reach a situation where an application for international protection would receive the same decision, no matter where it was lodged. Recognition rates, the percentage of asylum applications that receive decisions granting refugee status or subsidiary protection, are sometimes cited as an indicator of the level of such harmonisation between EU+ countries. For more information, read the [EUAA Pilot Convergence Analysis](#) which focuses on the main factors leading to variations in recognition rates as well as on measures to achieve greater convergence.



Irrespective of underlying causes, Figure 7 illustrates recognition rates across the EU+ for various citizenships. In each column, individual circles of the same colour represent different issuing countries, with the size of each circle reflecting the number of decisions issued, and their placement on the vertical axis indicating the corresponding recognition rate—namely, the percentage of decisions that granted refugee status or subsidiary protection.

Figure 7. First instance recognition rates for the main citizenships across EU+ countries, Jan–Jun 2025



Source: EUAA Early warning and Preparedness System (EPS) data as of 6 August 2025.

Click here for an [interactive chart](#). Click here for Data Tables: [EU+ Countries](#) and [Citizenships](#).

Notes: In each column, bubbles represent different EU+ countries. The sizes depict the number of decisions issued, while the placement on the vertical (y) axis illustrates the recognition rate. The EU+ country issuing the most decisions is labelled for each citizenship. Bubbles containing fewer than 100 decisions are not shown.

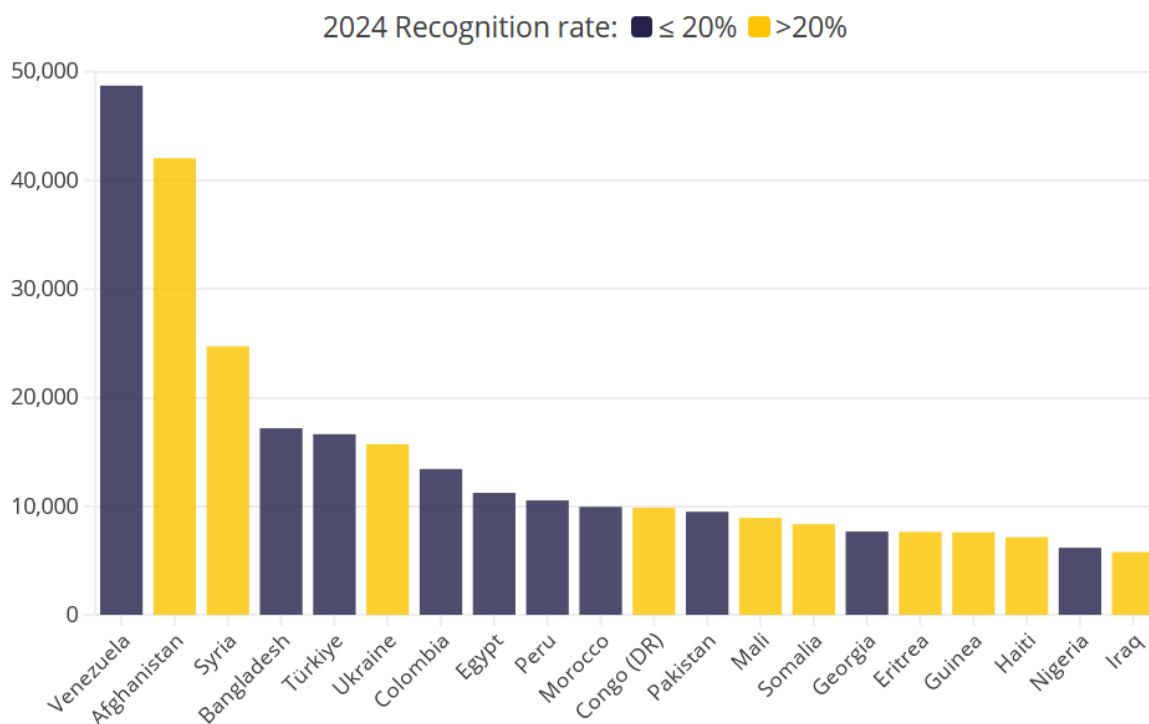
During the first half of 2025, the EU+ recognition rate for [Afghans](#) stood at 56%, although as illustrated in Figure 7, recognition rates varied significantly across receiving countries (leftmost column of black circles). Germany, which processed the largest number of Afghan asylum applications (represented by the largest circle, labelled in Figure 7), had a recognition rate of 33%. However, it is important to note that Germany also granted a *national* form of protection to 19% of Afghans who were issued decisions, which is classified here as a negative decision for *international* protection. When including these national protection grants, the adjusted ('inclusive') recognition rate for Afghans in Germany rises to 52%, and the inclusive EU+ recognition rate reaches 66%. Recognition rates also varied significantly across other key receiving countries. During the first half of 2025, France granted protection to 67% of Afghan cases, compared to 99% in Greece. To visualise some of the discussed decision-making

practices, click here for an [interactive chart](#), and to learn more read [EUAA Country Guidance on Afghanistan](#) and [EUAA Country Focus on Afghanistan](#).

≤20% Recognition rates

A new feature of the EU Asylum and Migration Pact is the mandatory border procedure, which as of June 2026 will apply to certain categories of asylum seekers including those coming from countries with low recognition rates for international protection. The aim of the border procedure is to make a quick assessment at the EU's external borders of whether applications are unfounded or inadmissible. People in the asylum border procedure would not be authorised to enter the territory of the EU. For more details read the Asylum Procedure Regulation Art 42(j) [2024/1348](#).

Figure 8. Applications for the main citizenships by 2024 recognition rate, Jan–Jun 2025



Source: EUAA Early warning and Preparedness System (EPS) data as of 6 August 2025.

Click here for an [interactive chart](#). Click here for Data Tables: [EU+ Countries](#) and [Citizenships](#).

During the first half of 2025, some 51% of applications were lodged by citizenships who had recognition rates of 20% or less in 2024. This estimation was calculated using EUAA data, plus to ensure statistical reliability, our calculations excluded citizenships that received fewer than 1,000 decisions in 2024. This exclusion is necessary because, when the sample size is small, a few additional positive or negative decisions can dramatically alter the calculated recognition rate, potentially leading to unstable or misleading estimates.



The chart above shows the main citizenships that applied for asylum during the first half of 2025, separated into whether or not they fall into the category of having a recognition rate of 20% or less in 2024. Applications visualised in the chart capture three quarters (72%) of all applications lodged during the first half of 2025.

In the context of asylum, the term 'safe country' refers to countries which generally do not generate protection needs for their people. In April 2025, the European Commission [published a proposal of seven countries of origin considered safe](#) at the Union level, which will apply to all EU Member States if approved by the European Parliament and the Council. In practice, the application of this list means Member States will use an accelerated procedure to individually assess asylum applications from nationals of these countries. The proposed list of safe countries of origin includes Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, India, Kosovo, Morocco and Tunisia which together accounted for 16% of all applications lodged during the first half of 2025. Read the EUAA Situational Update No 22, Overview of the Implementation of [Safe Country Concepts](#) for the state of play of EU+ countries implementing safe country concepts in the processing of asylum applications.

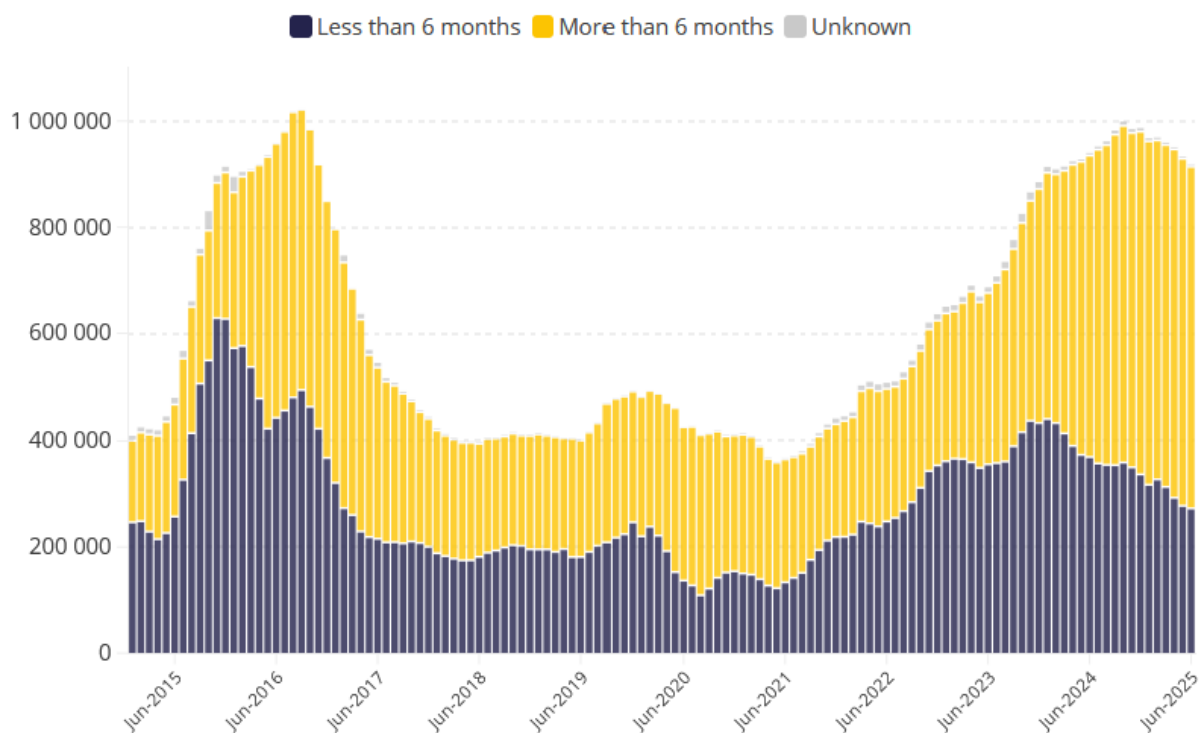


Pending cases

First instance

While an asylum application is awaiting a *first instance* decision, it remains part of the caseload of applications under examination by the asylum authorities. The number of pending cases serves as a key indicator that reflects the workload faced by national authorities and the strain on national asylum systems, including reception systems. At the end of June 2025, the number of first instance pending cases stood at 918,000 – more than double the number between 2017 and 2021 and among the highest on record. At this time of year, the number of first instance pending cases has only been surpassed once in 2024 and once during the peak of the refugee crisis in 2016.

Figure 9. Pending cases at first instance at the end of each month since 2015



Source: EUAA Early warning and Preparedness System (EPS) data as of 6 August 2025. Old data included for Italy.

Click here for an [interactive chart](#). Click here for Data Tables: [EU+ Countries](#) and [Citizenships](#).

In general, citizenships lodging the most applications tend to have the most cases awaiting decisions. For example, at the end of June 2025, [Syrians](#) (111,000), Venezuelans (110,000) and Colombians (83,000) had the largest volumes of first instance pending cases together representing a third of the total. Several citizenships had many more cases pending than a year ago. These included Venezuelans (+44%), and Ukrainians (+53%), while others had many of their cases decided upon such as Turks (-51%) and Iraqis (-23%).

In the aftermath of the fall of President Assad's regime in December 2024, several EU+ countries temporarily suspended (fully or partially) the processing of asylum applications from Syrian nationals citing the need to reassess the situation on the ground before making informed decisions. Hence the Syrian caseload (111,000) is anticipated to grow, as applications continue to be accepted but are not processed or concluded. [UNHCR](#) urges nation states to refrain from forcibly returning Syrian nationals until a comprehensive assessment of the situation confirms that it is safe to do so.

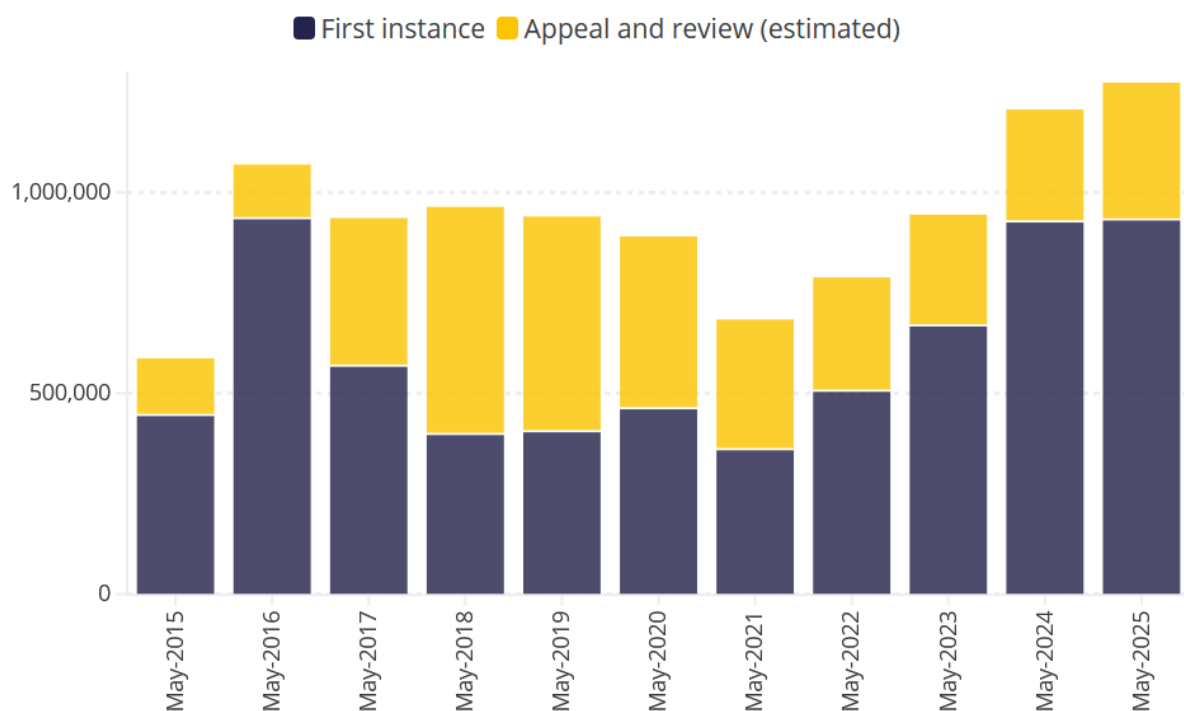
Among the main receiving countries, the largest absolute increase in pending cases over the past year occurred in Italy³ (+19%) where the Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Peruvian and Egyptian caseloads dominate, in Spain (+6%) where Venezuelans, Colombians and Peruvians prevailed in the pending cases, and in France (+14%) where most pending cases belonged to Ukrainians, Congolese (DR) and Guineans. In contrast, Germany's pending caseload declined by a non-trivial -37% between June 2024 and June 2025.

³ May data used for Italy.

All instances

Under the Early warning and Preparedness System ([EPS](#)), EU+ asylum authorities regularly report to the EUAA the number of cases that they have pending at first instance—that is, newly lodged applications still awaiting an initial decision. However, this indicator does not reflect the full scope of the caseload being processed across the EU+ because there are also many cases pending in appeal and in review: cases pending in appeal refer to those that have been challenged before the judiciary, where applicants contest the first instance decision on points of fact and/or law. At the same time, other cases are pending in review, meaning the asylum authority has been requested to re-examine its original decision—often due to procedural concerns or new information.

Figure 10. Pending cases at all instances



Source: EUAA Early warning and Preparedness System (EPS) data as of 6 August 2025. Eurostat data on Persons subject of asylum applications pending at the end of the month ([migr_asypenctzm](#)).

Click here for an [interactive chart](#). Click here for Data Tables: [EU+ Countries](#) and [Citizenships](#).

To get a more comprehensive picture of the total number of all pending cases, Eurostat maintains an [indicator](#), which tracks the number of asylum cases pending at all procedural instances. According to this indicator, at the end of May 2025 (latest available data), there were approximately 1.3 million asylum cases pending across the EU+. As shown in the chart, this number has been increasing at a rapid rate since 2021 and is now at a record level, even exceeding the refugee crisis of 2015-2016.

Migrants from Ukraine

SAM-Ukraine

The [Survey of Asylum-related Migrants](#) (SAM) is a multi-country tool designed to collect testimonies directly from people seeking international protection across the EU+. Based on the premise that digital literacy is increasingly prevalent, the project uses online, self-administered surveys that can be completed on smartphones and offers the possibility to survey large numbers of migrants at the same time. The primary objective of SAM is to establish a permanent system of collecting standardised, reliable and comparable data on relevant topics, such as push and pull factors, travel histories and migrants' future aspirations. Understanding these topics both facilitates general preparedness to deal with a high number of arrivals but also helps to better inform policymakers.

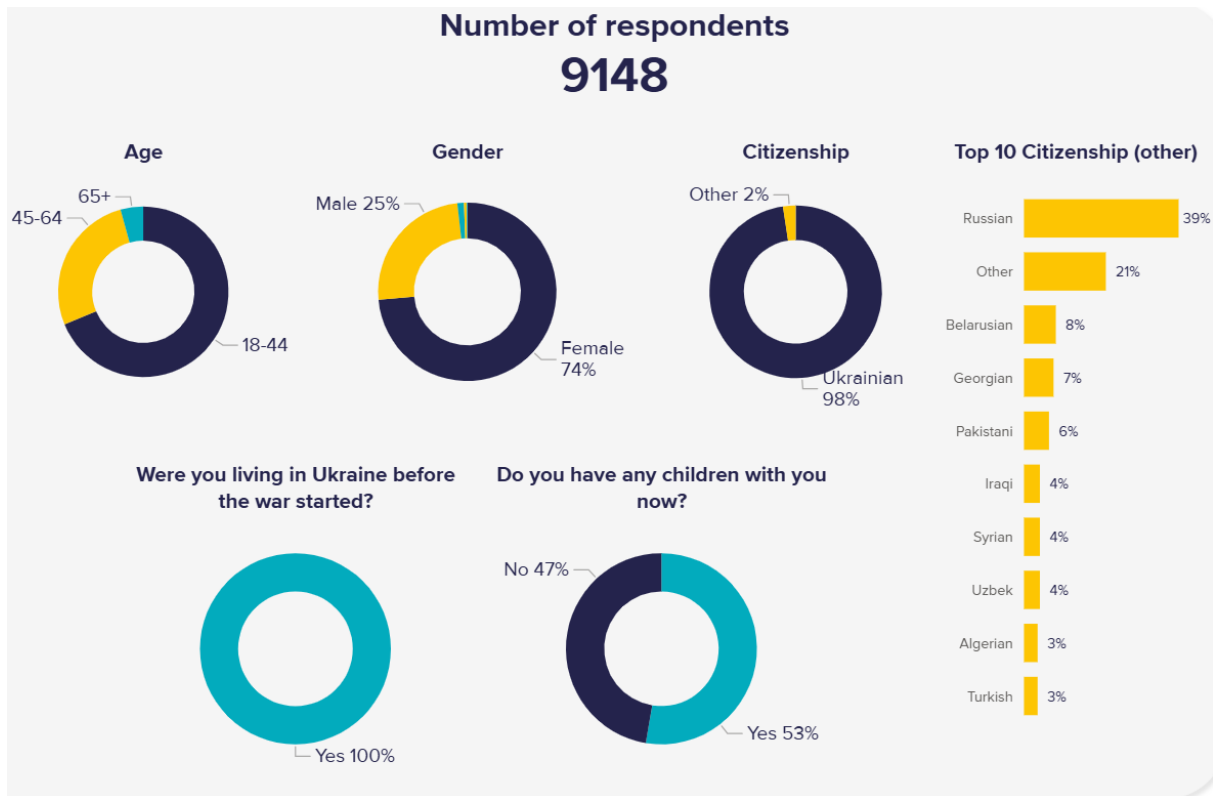
On 11 April 2022, the EUAA launched the [Survey of Arriving Migrants for Displaced People from Ukraine](#), with the support of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The questionnaire was updated in February 2023 to include additional topics. Demographics of the responses since February 2023, as of 30 June 2025, are shown in Figure 11 but for more detailed information read the latest EUAA [Movements and Returns report](#) and the [Voices report](#), drafted in collaboration with OECD and Gradus Research based in Ukraine.

The survey is ongoing and accessible in Ukrainian, Russian and English at:

<https://tellusyourstorysurvey.eu/>.

A new EUAA Report analyses the situation in Ukraine, displacement to the EU+ as well as drivers of migration and an outlook for the coming months. The multi-source report draws on EUAA data on the asylum situation, Eurostat data on temporary protection, EUAA surveys of persons displaced from Ukraine, a Gradus Research Company survey with Ukrainians in Ukraine, interview with an expert, and open-source information. Read the full report here: [Situation in Ukraine and Displacement to the EU+: Trends, Drivers and Future Prospects](#)

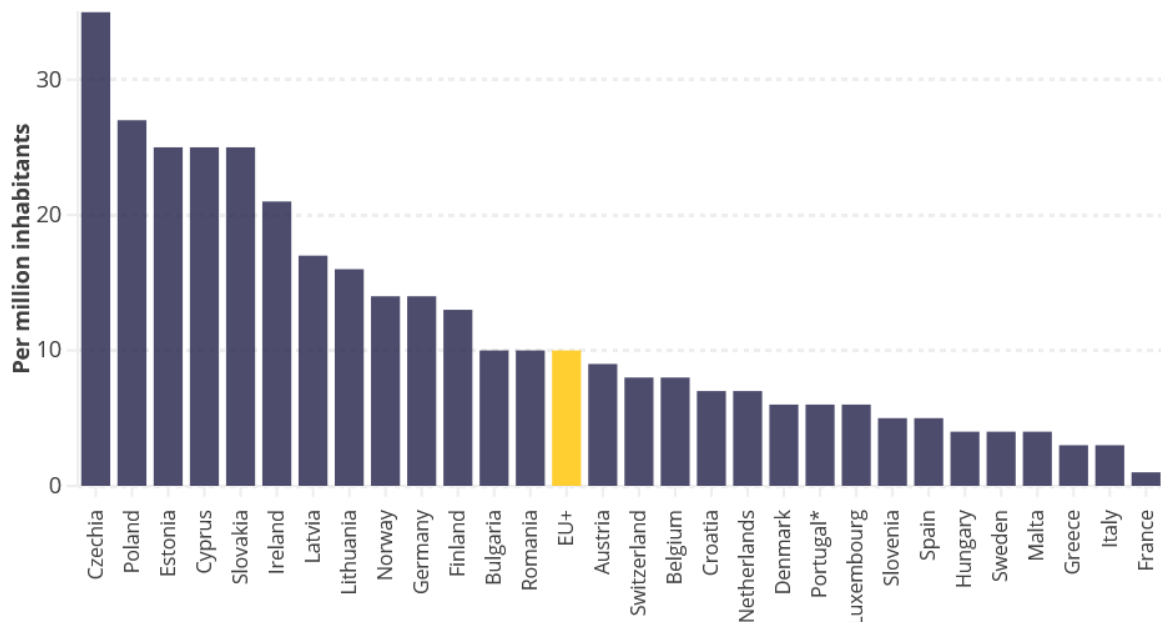
Figure 11. Demographic breakdown of survey respondents as of end of June 2025




Last update: 30 June 2025

Temporary Protection

Figure 12. Number of persons benefitting from temporary protection per million inhabitants by receiving country, June 2025



Source: Population sizes: Eurostat (DEMO_GIND) extracted on 6 August 2025. Beneficiaries of temporary protection: Eurostat (MIGR_ASYTPSM) extracted on 8 August 2025.

Click here for an [interactive chart](#) . Click here for Data Tables: [EU+ Countries](#) and [Citizenships](#).

In addition to asylum applications, at the end of June 2025, approximately 4.5 million individuals were benefitting from temporary protection in the EU+. This figure has remained relatively stable since early 2023 but continues to significantly contribute to the overall number of people in the EU+ with protection needs.

Temporary protection is granted under the 2001 [Temporary Protection Directive](#), which was activated for the first time in 2022 in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, enabling the rapid and effective provision of assistance to those displaced to the EU+. For further details, refer to the EUAA report on the [Application of the Temporary Protection Directive](#).

At the end of June 2025, nearly half of all beneficiaries of temporary protection were in Germany (1.2 million) and Poland (just under 1 million, based on [Eurostat data](#)). To provide comparative context alongside asylum application inflows, Figure 12 illustrates the number of beneficiaries of temporary protection per capita across EU+ countries.

For instance, Czechia hosted approximately 378,000 [beneficiaries](#), equating to 35,000 per million inhabitants, or 1 beneficiary for every 29 residents. Meanwhile, Slovakia and Cyprus were hosting very different numbers of beneficiaries (133,000 and 24,000, respectively) yet exhibited the same per capita distributions, with each hosting 1 beneficiary for every 41 residents.



The Council of the EU has extended temporary protection for people fleeing Russia's aggression against Ukraine until 4 March 2027. Read more [here](#).



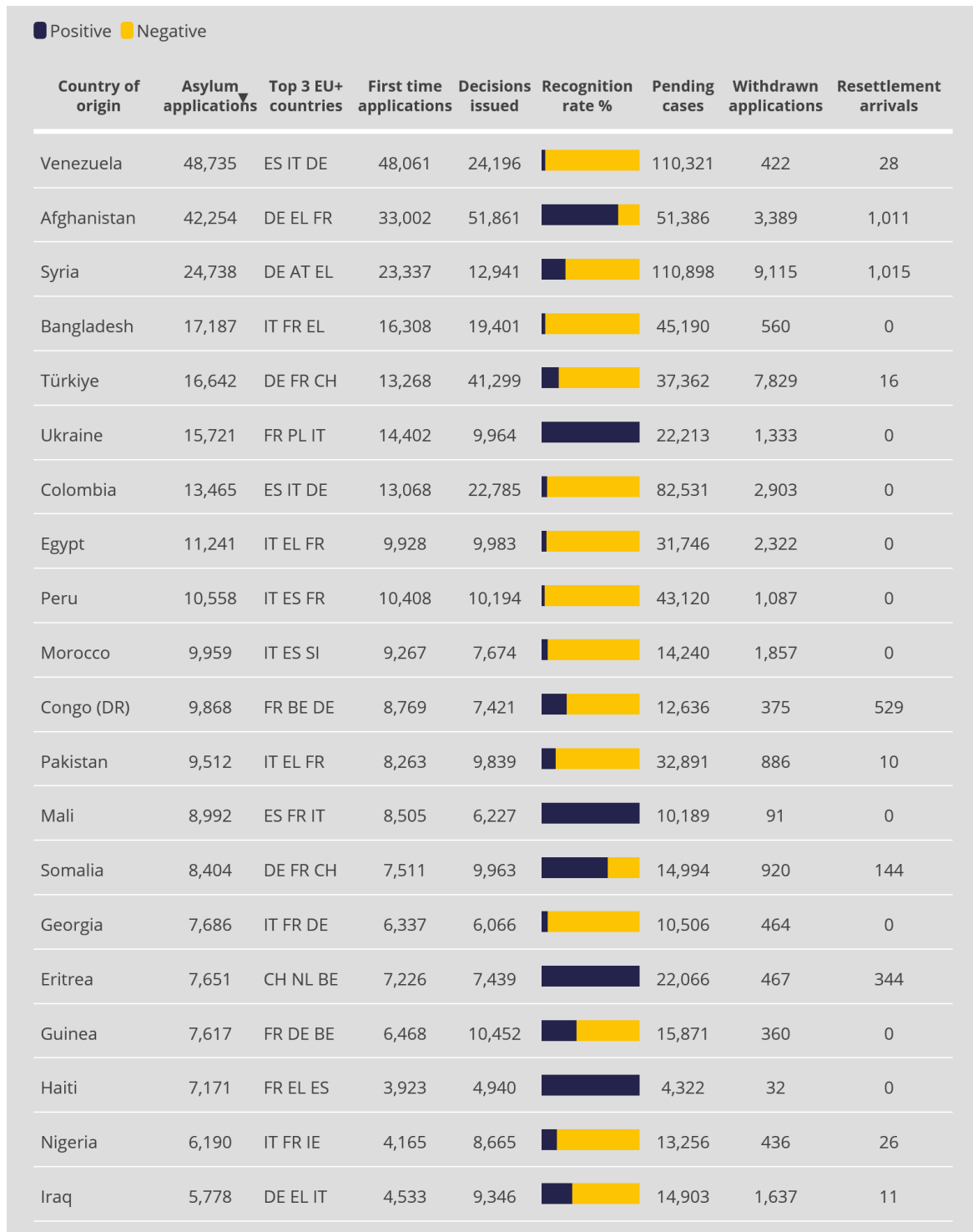
Annexes

Data Tables

Figure 13. Key first instance indicators by receiving EU+ country, Jan–Jun 2025

EU+ country	Asylum applications	Top 3 countries	Type of application	Decisions issued	Positive	Pending cases	Withdrawn applications	Resettlement arrivals
France	77,842	UA CD AF	<div><div></div></div>	72,649	26,772	68,868	645	1,039
Spain	77,448	VE CO ML	<div><div></div></div>	67,307	7,083	242,332	5,979	238
Germany	70,272	AF SY TR	<div><div></div></div>	132,095	20,962	146,688	11,281	1,356
Italy	63,825	BD PE MA	<div><div></div></div>	51,680	8,869	238,890	300	335
Greece	27,425	AF EG SD	<div><div></div></div>	18,931	11,881	27,496	7,550	0
Belgium	17,553	AF PS ER	<div><div></div></div>	13,214	4,668	44,506	2,840	0
Switzerland	11,641	AF ER TR	<div><div></div></div>	11,135	6,176	10,169	1,766	0
Netherlands	10,535	SY ER TR	<div><div></div></div>	7,890	2,728	46,928	2,266	356
Austria	8,637	AF SY SO	<div><div></div></div>	8,823	4,462	12,174	1,070	0
Poland	8,499	UA BY RU	<div><div></div></div>	3,794	2,756	13,179	1,522	0
Ireland	6,039	NG PK SO	<div><div></div></div>	9,096	1,598	18,922	284	143
Sweden	4,579	IR AF SY	<div><div></div></div>	4,258	762	3,666	412	49
Cyprus	2,414	SY NG CD	<div><div></div></div>	4,718	336	17,714	2,272	0
Slovenia	1,928	MA EG DZ	<div><div></div></div>	122	38	703	1,176	0
Bulgaria	1,742	SY AF MA	<div><div></div></div>	2,839	690	2,843	1,851	0
Norway	1,665	UA SY ER	<div><div></div></div>	924	270	5,277	429	230
Finland	1,189	IQ AF SO	<div><div></div></div>	481	211	3,253	145	341
Denmark	1,013	ER SY TR	<div><div></div></div>	409	140	2,234	286	355
Portugal	945	CO AO CN	<div><div></div></div>	191	90	5,421	456	20
Luxembourg	802	ER SY DZ	<div><div></div></div>	454	234	3,254	46	0
Romania	703	SY PS IQ	<div><div></div></div>	486	278	259	374	0
Croatia	621	TR SY RU	<div><div></div></div>	155	6	864	8,308	0
Estonia	570	UA RU IN	<div><div></div></div>	487	457	203	25	0
Czechia	565	VN UA UZ	<div><div></div></div>	477	91	599	129	0
Latvia	551	SO TJ AF	<div><div></div></div>	200	68	462	115	0
Malta	189	SY BD SD	<div><div></div></div>	209	48	422	97	0
Lithuania	152	BY RU SO	<div><div></div></div>	170	89	153	31	0
Slovakia	92	AF UA BY	<div><div></div></div>	69	30	44	25	0
Hungary	47	UNK SY AF	<div><div></div></div>	20	10	38	5	0

Source: EUAA Early warning and Preparedness System (EPS) data as of 6 August 2025. Click here for an [interactive chart](#).

Figure 14. Key first instance indicators by top 20 countries of origin, Jan–Jun 2025

Source: EUAA Early warning and Preparedness System (EPS) data as of 6 August 2025. Click here for an [interactive chart](#).

Definitions

Asylum applications include all persons who have lodged or have been included in an application for international protection as a family member in the reporting country during the reporting period.

EU+ refers to the 27 European Union Member States, plus Norway and Switzerland.

First instance decisions include all persons covered by decisions issued on granting EU-regulated international protection status (refugee or subsidiary protection) following a first time or repeated application for international protection in the first instance determination process.

Pending cases include all cases for which an asylum application has been lodged and are under consideration by the national authority responsible for the first instance determination of the application for international protection (until the first instance decision has been issued) at the end of the reference period (i.e. last day of the reference month). It refers to the “stock” of applications for which decisions at first instance are still pending.

The **EU+ recognition rate** includes EU-regulated forms of protection (refugee status and subsidiary protection) and excludes national protection forms (humanitarian reasons). It is calculated by dividing the number of positive first instance decisions (granting refugee status or subsidiary protection) by the total number of decisions issued.

Low-recognition-rate citizenships refers to citizenships that were issued decisions that granted either refugee status or subsidiary protection in $\leq 20\%$ of cases. To ensure statistical reliability, we excluded citizenships that received fewer than 1,000 decisions annually. This exclusion is necessary because, when the sample size is very small, even one or two additional positive or negative decisions can dramatically alter the calculated recognition rate, potentially leading to unstable or misleading estimates.

This analysis was performed by the EUAA’s Situational Awareness Unit (SAU) based on monthly data exchanged under the [Early warning and Preparedness System](#) (EPS) as of 6 August 2025. Some data were incomplete at the time of going to press. The data shared with the EUAA by EU+ countries are provisional and unvalidated and, therefore, may differ from validated data submitted to Eurostat at a later stage under [Regulation \(EU\) 2020/851](#).

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