

**News Published: 3 August 2018**

## **Number of asylum applications lodged in EU in early summer remains stable**

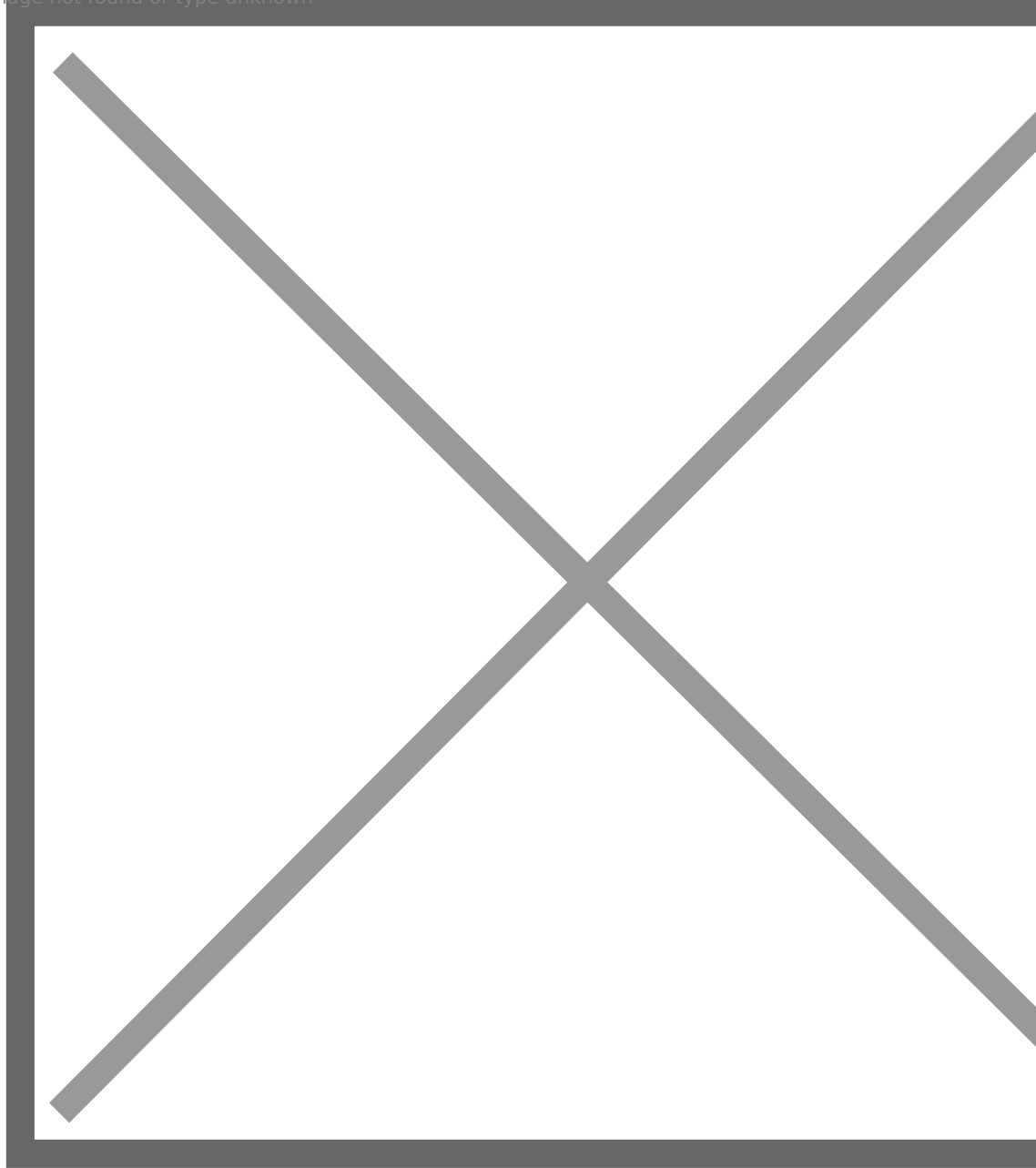
*Recent analyses [released](#) by the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) reveal that the number of applications for international protection lodged in the EU+ in June 2018 registered a slight decrease compared to the previous month <sup>i</sup>. Approximately 51 300 applications were lodged in June; about 1 600 fewer than in May, while in the first half of 2018, some 301 390 applications were lodged in the EU+, a 15% decrease compared to the first half of 2017 <sup>ii</sup>.*

The main countries of origin of applicants in June were Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan and Nigeria. Of these, Syrians and Afghans lodged slightly fewer applications, whereas nationals of Iraq (+182, +6%) and Pakistan (+303, +14%) lodged more applications than in May. During the reporting period, Venezuelan applicants, which have steadily increased over the first five months of 2018, lodged fewer applications than in May (-921, -30%), although monthly applications remained at a much higher level (+67%) than at the beginning of the year.

Other countries with fewer applicants were Bangladesh (-283, -20%), Colombia (-269, -19%) and Somalia (-243, -21%). Of note was a rise in applications by Turkish nationals in June, with 2,157 applications lodged (+32% compared to May), the highest level since the EPS data exchange was established, and rising for the third successive month. Sudanese applicants also lodged more applications (+216, + 36%).

The overall **EU+ recognition rate** for decisions issued in the January-June period was 32%, down from 42% during the same period of 2017. Positive decisions more often granted refugee status (63%) than subsidiary protection (37%). Among citizenships with the most decisions issued <sup>iii</sup>, the highest recognition rates were for nationals of Syria (86%), Eritrea (83%) and Stateless applicants (60%).

Image not found or type unknown



*Click on the photo to*

*open [data visualisation](#)*

Approximately 2.5 % of all applicants in June were **self-claimed unaccompanied minors (UAMs)** <sup>iv</sup>. As has been a regular trend, most UAM applicants were from Afghanistan, Eritrea and Pakistan, while the highest concentration was among applicants from Vietnam (15% of all Vietnamese applicants claimed to be UAMs), Gambia and Eritrea (11% each).

At the end of June, there were 420 238 applications awaiting a decision in first instance, around 3 000 fewer than at the end of May<sup>v</sup>. **Pending cases** are an important measure of the workload that national asylum authorities face, as well as of the pressure on the national reception systems.

**Any further information may be obtained from the European Asylum Support Office on the following email address: [press@easo.europa.eu](mailto:press@easo.europa.eu).**

---

[i] The EU+ is composed of 28 EU Member States plus Norway and Switzerland. Data on applications for international protection were available for 27 EU+ countries. Monthly data from two EU+ countries were missing in both May and June.

[ii] The discrepancy is likely to be narrower, due to differences in data missing for the two reference periods.

[iii] To avoid sensitivity to low numbers.

[iv] Not all EU+ countries report on the number of UAMs, thus the total number is likely higher.

[v] Data on pending cases were available for 25 EU+ countries.