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Overall asylum caseload stable, despite important increases in some nationalities



In February, Venezuelan and Colombian nationals lodged twice as many applications, year-on-year; a level which has only been exceeded once since 2014. Russians and Iranians also applied in significant numbers. At the end of the month, there were 650 000 applications pending a decision at first instance, which is broadly consistent with January. Syrians and Afghans represented the largest caseload.

According to [analysis](#) just published by the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), EU+ countries recorded **around 81 000 asylum applications** in February 2023. This represents a one third increase in applications compared to the same period last year, but is a decrease over the previous month (92 000). More citizenships are increasingly seeking protection in Europe, including more Turks, Colombians, Venezuelans, and Russians. In addition, **over 4 million Ukrainians** currently benefit from temporary protection in the EU.

Small monthly decreases, despite underlying trends

At the end of February, **Syrians** (9 500) and **Afghans** (9 300) continued to lodge the most applications for asylum. **Turks** (5 200) lodged twice as many applications as in February 2022. Meanwhile, **Venezuelans** (5 200) and **Colombians** (5 200) also lodged twice as many applications each. Both nationalities benefit from visa liberalisation in Europe.

EU+ countries also continued to receive many applications from **Russians** (2 100) which have tripled as compared to last year, as well as **Iranians** (1 600) which have doubled.

High caseloads for some nationalities

At the end of February, there were **650 000 applications pending** a decision at first instance, a 43 % increase since last year, although stable month-on-month (644 000 in January). Syrians and Afghans had the most pending cases by far with 90 000 and 72 000, respectively, representing **one quarter of all decisions pending** at first instance. During the same month, pending cases for Turks (42 000) and Russians (17 000) **had doubled** compared to last year, whereas **Colombian cases had tripled** (42 000).

In February 2023, the **EU+ recognition rate was 41%**, consistent with recent months and during the same period in 2022. During the month, EU+ countries **granted refugee status most often to Afghans and granted subsidiary protection most often to Syrians**. Recognition rates for other nationalities mostly remained consistent, including for Syrians (95%), Iranians (45%), Pakistanis (8%) and Bangladeshis (4%). However, the recognition rate for **Turks has declined steadily**, from just over 50% at the end of 2021 to 29% in February 2023.

➤ Latest Asylum Trends



FEBRUARY 2023

81 000



Asylum Applications

EPS data are preliminary and might differ from the validated official statistics submitted to Eurostat at a later date.

Find more information and an interactive data visualisation on euaa.europa.eu/lats



Any further information may be obtained from the European Union Agency for Asylum's Press Office at the following email addresses:

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