Main brand colours

The Blue and Yellow colour components represent the colours of the European Union.

The Blue shape, representing Europe and its values, arches over the Yellow square, representing beneficiaries of international protection, thus symbolising the protection and refuge which the EU provides to those in need.

The Blue shape doubles as representing the provision of shelter and high-quality reception conditions required for asylum applicants in line with EU law and values.

Both individual shapes together form a whole square, signifying that beneficiaries of international protection are an essential part of European society, and that the EU considers them to be an inalienable part of the Union.

The Yellow square also exemplifies any one of the legislative instruments forming the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). Without any one of these, the CEAS is not complete and cannot function properly.
At the same time, the rounded corners and edges (save for the lower-right corner of the Yellow square) symbolise that each applicant is different and that the CEAS protects different and varying vulnerabilities or profiles of applicants.

Finally, the sharp (right-angle) lower-right corner of the Yellow square stands in contrast to the other rounded edges in order to symbolise that all applicants have a different individual and unique reason for fleeing their country of origin, that each individual applications for international protection must therefore be reviewed on its own individual merits, and that each decision must be tailored to that specific applicant’s situation.

The Yellow square also symbolises the EUAA acting to support Member States (Blue shape) in order to ensure the harmonised proper implementation of the CEAS.

The overall complete square also signifies that all applications for international protection should be treated equally based on harmonised standards and practices, and in line with the CEAS legal obligations.

Modern asylum practices more necessary than ever

Applications for asylum in EU+ countries rose by 11% in 2019, followed by a 16% increase recorded in the first two months of 2020. While the COVID-19 emergency has led to a recent 87% drop in applications, EASO expects the overall increasing trend to resume.


The Report finds that 2019 was the first time since 2015 that applications increased on an annual basis, in part due to a sharp rise in applicants from Venezuela (+103% over 2018), Colombia (+214% over 2018). Some EU+ countries – such as Cyprus, France, Greece, Malta and Spain – received more asylum applications in 2019 than during the so-called migration crisis in 2015 and 2016.

In response, EU+ countries receiving high shares of asylum applicants ramped up efforts to address the influx of migrants, disembarkations and rising backlogs of pending cases. In particular, policies and practices targeted protecting unaccompanied minors, accelerating registrations, fast-tracking the return of rejected applicants and expanding accommodation places. Nonetheless, first instance procedures were lengthy in most countries, frequently extending past legal time limits.

In 2019, the majority of asylum applications were lodged in Germany (165,615; 22%), France (128,940; 17%) and Spain (117,795; 16%), while the fewest were lodged in Liechtenstein (50), Estonia (105) and Latvia (195). Most asylum applicants were Syrians (80,205; 11%), Afghans (60,700; 8.2%) and Venezuelans (45,645; 6.2%).

EU+ countries made progress toward reaching the goal of resettling 50,000 migrants from non-EU countries under the second EU Resettlement Scheme. In 2019, approximately 30,700 persons arrived in Europe through resettlement, 8% more than in 2018. Syrians accounted for nearly two-thirds of all resettled persons for the third year in a row.

Asylum applications plummet in 2020, but expected to begin increasing again

Improvements made to national asylum systems, and deficiencies which persisted, were amplified during the COVID-19 pandemic. Countries which had invested in modernising and automating asylum procedures in 2019 were able to restart operations quickly by processing applications online and conducting interviews through videoconferencing.

Nonetheless, as reported by EASO in recent months, national emergency measures due to COVID-19 led to a dramatic 87% reduction in asylum applications. Only about 8,700 applications for international protection were registered in EU+ countries in April, the lowest since at least 2008.

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