



Austria

National developments in 2024



Following a sharp decrease in the number of applications, the implementation period for the EUAA's operational support was reduced and the operational plan was successfully concluded in June 2024.¹ The plan combined frontline support in reception, with a particular focus on supporting vulnerable applicants, as well as structural support for the enhanced management of the reception system.²

The law establishing the Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services (BBU GmbH) was amended to comply with the Constitutional Court's 2023 ruling on legal advice.³ The independence of the organisation was enshrined in federal law, and the legal advisors' protection against dismissal and termination were strengthened. In addition, the agency has a Quality Advisory Board that provides advice and makes recommendations to BBU's management and the ministries responsible for the agency, when they identify potential for improvement.⁴ This board was created with eight experts from the legal field, including representatives from the Federal Ministry of the Interior, the Federal Ministry of Justice, the Association of Austrian Judges and UNHCR.⁵

Among its recommendations to the new Austrian federal government, UNHCR advocated to improve the distribution mechanism for applicants, for example, through the specialisation of federal states in certain reception needs.⁶

Implementing the government's stance that asylum applicants must give back to the Austrian society, remunerated community service was intensified for applicants in June 2024.⁷ Those who do not participate in remunerated community service receive reduced pocket money. The obligation covers 10 hours per month, with applicants with certain disabilities or illnesses being exempt.⁸

The number of family reunification cases drastically decreased following changes in the procedure in May 2024, which involves re-verifying files, more systematic use of DNA tests and additional document checks.⁹ UNHCR, civil society organisations and the Austrian Bar argued that the increased checks would lengthen the time families are separated and potentially delay the integration of beneficiaries.¹⁰ Family reunification was halted for Syrian nationals in December 2024 in cases when the international protection of the relevant family member resulted from a fear of persecution by the Assad regime (especially related to the refusal of military service). The fall of the Assad regime resulted in a need to reexamine the reasons for continued international protection status and to temporarily suspend family reunification proceedings for those cases. In the meantime, applications for family reunification can still be lodged. Due to high migratory pressure on the educational sector, as well as health and social services, new legal provisions are currently in the process of being adopted by Parliament.

The digitalisation of the asylum procedure continued in 2024, making a shift to completely electronic files.

People with temporary protection were granted the right to transfer to a long-term, more favourable residence permit, the Red-White-Red Card Plus, if they fulfil certain conditions. Those qualifying also retain their temporary protection in parallel. After welcoming the extension of temporary protection¹¹ and advocating for more long-term perspectives for people fleeing Ukraine,¹² UNHCR applauded this initiative and argued for creating other opportunities for groups of people who do not qualify for this residence permit, such as the elderly, people with special needs or people currently in low-wage jobs.¹³

In the framework of the UN “[Orange the World](#)” campaign, the Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF), the Federal Administrative Court (BVwG) and the BFA launched a new initiative to combat violence against female applicants, beneficiaries of international protection and displaced women from Ukraine.¹⁴

More input from civil society:

- [Austrian Bar Association | Österreichischer Rechtsanwaltskammertag](#)
- [Austrian Red Cross - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research Documentation](#)
- [European Council on Refugees and Exiles](#)

Austria

Key indicators for 2024



Rank by number of
asylum applications

9

Rank per capita (applications
per 1M inhabitants)

9

Share of applications
in EU+

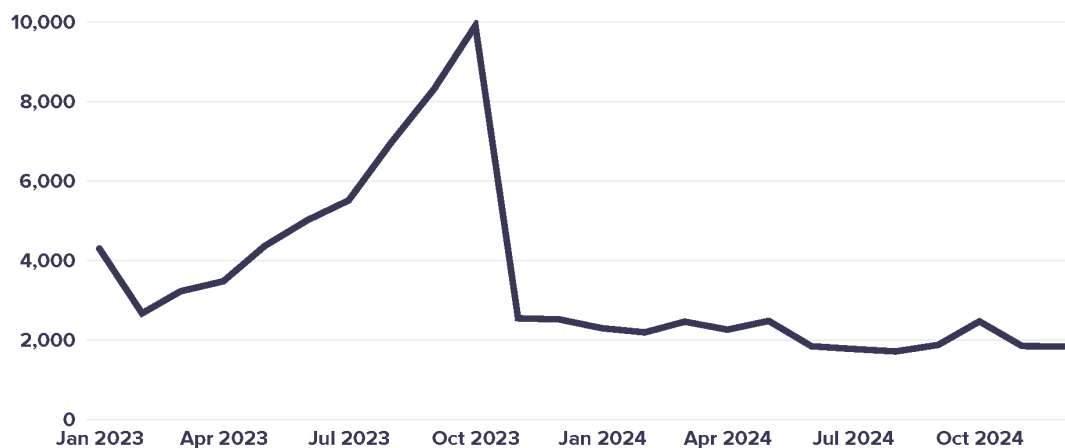
2.5%

Recognition
rate

70%

Indicator	2024	2023	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	24,941	58,686 ↓	-58%	Syria (55%), Afghanistan (13%), Türkiye (4%)
Pending cases (Dec '24)	13,093	23,188 ↓	-44%	Syria (46%), Afghanistan (15%), Türkiye (10%)
First instance decisions	31,692	37,161 ↓	-15%	Syria (54%), Afghanistan (11%), Türkiye (8%)
Refugee status	14,640	14,639 →	0%	Syria (75%), Afghanistan (11%), Somalia (3%)
Subsidiary protection	7,438	8,213 ↓	-9%	Syria (71%), Afghanistan (14%), Somalia (8%)
Negative	9,614	14,309 ↓	-33%	Türkiye (26%), Morocco (11%), Syria (9%)

Evolution of asylum applications, 2023-2024



For more developments, please consult the [Asylum Report 2025](#) and the [National Asylum Developments Database](#).





Sources

¹ European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA). (2024). [Country Operations: Austria](#).

² European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA). (2025, January 17). [Ex post evaluation report of the Austria operational plan 2022-2024](#).

³ Austria, Constitutional Court [Verfassungsgerichtshof Österreich], [Applicants v Federal agency for care and support services \(Bundesagentur für Betreuungs- und Unterstützungsleistungen, BBU GmbH\)](#), No G 328/2022, 14 December 2023. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database.

⁴ [Bundesgesetz, mit dem das BBU-Errichtungsgesetz und das BFA-Verfahrensgesetz geändert werden, BGBl. I Nr. 134/2024](#) [Federal law amending the BBU Establishment Act and the BFA Procedure Act, BGBl. I No 134/2024], 22 July 2024.

⁵ Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services | Bundesagentur für Betreuungs- und Unterstützungsleistungen. (2025, May 14). [Der Qualitätsbeirat der BBU](#) [The BBU Quality Advisory Board]. Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services | Bundesagentur für Betreuungs- und Unterstützungsleistungen. (2024, October 2). [Aufgaben unseres Qualitätsbeirats](#) [Tasks of our Quality Advisory Board].

⁶ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). (2024, August 8). [UNHCR Empfehlungen an die nächste österreichische Bundesregierung](#) [UNHCR recommendations for the next Austrian federal government].

⁷ Federal Ministry of the Interior | Bundesministerium für Inneres. (2024, July 15). [Verordnung zur gemeinnützigen Arbeit für Asylwerber ab 16. Juli 2024 in Kraft](#) [Ordinance on community services for asylum applicants entering into force from 16 July 2024].

⁸ Federal Ministry of the Interior | Bundesministerium für Inneres. (2024, October 20). [Verpflichtung zur gemeinnützigen Arbeit für Asylwerber seit drei Monaten in Kraft](#) [Obligation to do community service for asylum seekers has been in force for three months].

⁹ Federal Ministry for Immigration and Asylum | Bundesamt für Fremdenwesen und Asyl. (2024, September 4). [Kampf gegen Asylmissbrauch zeigt Wirkung](#) [Fight against asylum abuse is having an effect].

¹⁰ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). (2024, June 13). [UNHCR appelliert, Familienzusammenführungen von Flüchtlingen nicht weiter zu erschweren](#) [UNHCR calls for no further impediment to family reunification of refugees]. Austrian Bar Association | Österreichischer Rechtsanwaltskammertag. (2024). [Input to the Asylum Report 2025](#).

¹¹ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). (2024, June 27). [UNHCR begrüßt die Verlängerung des vorübergehenden Schutzes für Flüchtlinge aus der Ukraine](#) [UNHCR welcomes the extension of temporary protection for refugees from Ukraine].

¹² United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). (22 February 2024). [Appell von IOM, UNHCR und UNICEF: Inklusionschancen für Flüchtlinge aus der Ukraine in Österreich weiter verbessern](#) [Appeal from IOM, UNHCR and UNICEF: Further improve inclusion opportunities for refugees from Ukraine in Austria].

¹³ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). (2024, April 10). [UNHCR begrüßt Ankündigung zu ersten Bleibeperspektiven für Flüchtlinge aus der Ukraine](#) [UNHCR welcomes announcement of first prospects for refugees from Ukraine to stay].

¹⁴ Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum | Bundesamt für Fremdenwesen und Asyl. (2023, December 4). [Gegen Gewalt an Frauen: ÖIF, BVwG und BFA informieren Zuwanderinnen über Unterstützungsangebote](#) [Against violence against women: ÖIF, BVwG and BFA inform immigrants about support services].