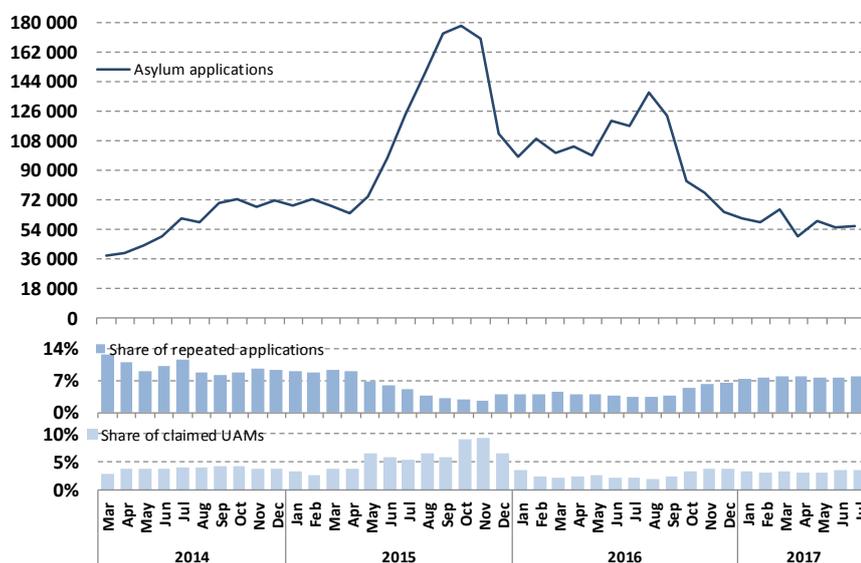


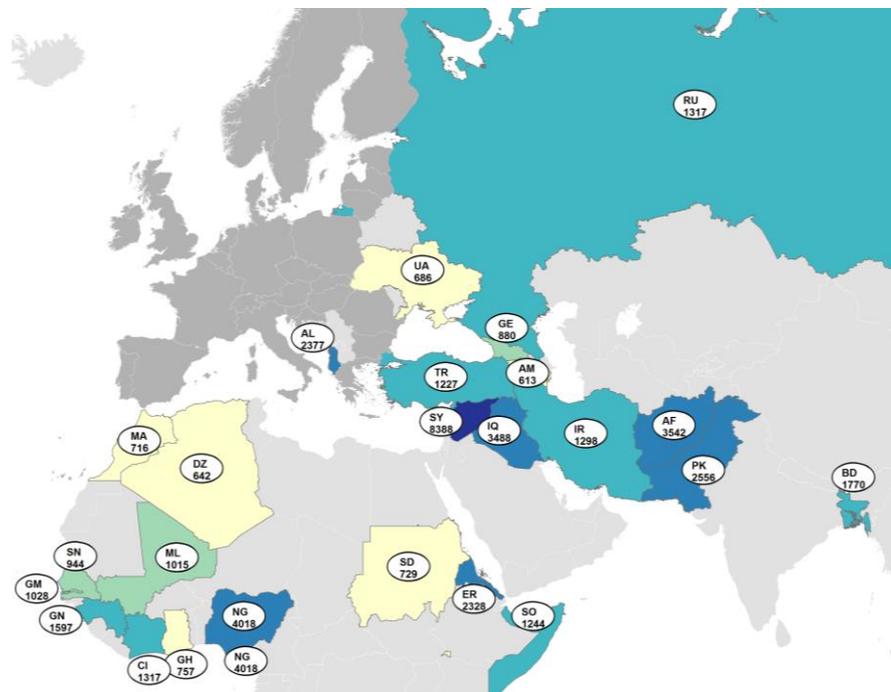
## Latest asylum trends – July 2017

### Number of applications for international protection in the EU+<sup>1</sup>



In July, there were 58 779 applications for international protection in the EU+ countries.<sup>2</sup> This figure is a stable trend compared to the previous month but it is half the number of applications that were lodged a year ago in July 2016. Similar to the previous months, 8 % of these applicants had already lodged a claim in the same EU+ country (repeated applicants). Almost 4 % of all applicants claimed to be unaccompanied minors (UAMs)<sup>3</sup> when lodging an application. The largest share of claimed UAM applicants were among Afghan applicants (15 %). Other large groups of UAMs were Pakistani and Gambian nationals (9 % each).

### Main countries of origin of applicants



In July, as was the case in previous months, **Syria was the main country of origin for asylum applications in the EU+**. Nigeria was the second country of origin, with a number of applicants exceeding both **Afghan and Iraqi** applicants. These latter citizenships followed closely as the third and fourth main citizenships of origin. In July, these four citizenships together represented about one third of all applications lodged in the EU+.

Other countries of origin completing the top 10 in July were Pakistan (5 %), Albania, Eritrea (4 % each), Bangladesh, Guinea (3 % each) and Côte d'Ivoire (2 %). Most citizenships from the top 10 decreased compared to the previous month, with the exception of Syrian (+ 7 %), Nigerian (+ 1 %) and Albanian (+ 5 %) applicants. The sharpest decrease was for Bangladeshi and Eritrean applicants (- 17 % each).

<sup>1</sup> The EU+ is composed of EU28 plus Norway and Switzerland. The share of repeated applicants is the proportion of repeated applicants in the total number of applicants for international protection. The share of claimed UAMs represents the proportion of asylum applicants claiming to be below the age of 18 years in the total number of applicants rather than those assessed to be such after an age assessment has been carried out.

<sup>2</sup> Information on asylum applications was available for 27 EU+ countries. Weekly estimates were used for Finland, Malta and Spain.

<sup>3</sup> Several EU+ countries have difficulties reporting on claimed UAMs in the framework of the EPS, these figures should therefore be considered as underestimations of the actual proportion of claimed UAMs.

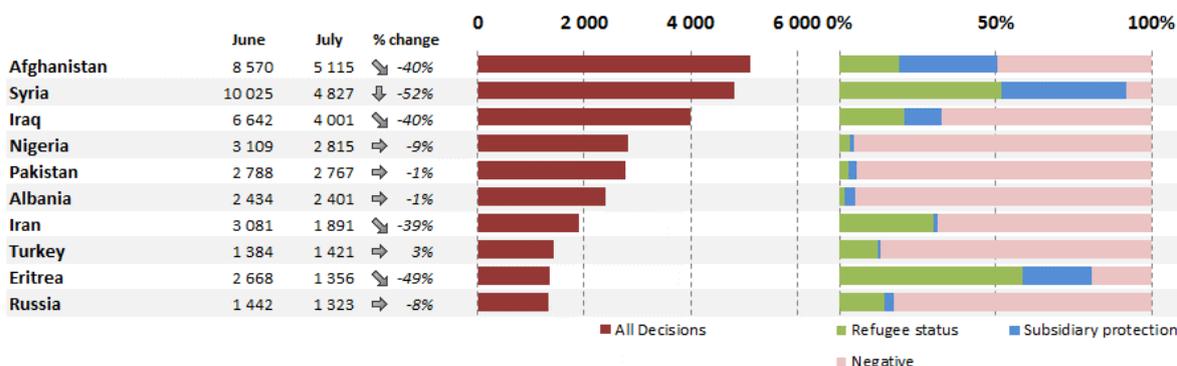
**Syria** – Syria has been the main citizenship of origin of applicants in the EU+ since April 2015. In July 2017, 8 388 Syrian applications were recorded, 9 % more than in June. Syrian nationals represented 15 % of all applicants in the EU+ in July 2017. They remained widespread throughout the EU+ with 21 out of 27 reporting countries counting Syrian nationals among their top-three citizenships of applicants.

**Nigeria** – In July 2017, Nigeria was the second main citizenship of origin, with 4 018 applications lodged, a stable trend compared to the previous month. Remarkably, Nigerian applicants only appeared in the top-three citizenships of applicants in one EU+ country.

**Afghanistan** – In July 2017, Afghan citizens lodged 3 542 applications in EU+ countries, a 4 % drop compared to June. Afghanistan remained the main country for claimed UAMs (19 % of all UAM applications). Twelve out of 27 EU+ reporting countries had Afghan applicants in their national top-three citizenships.

**Iraq** - The number of Iraqi applications lodged in the EU+ in June 2017 amounted to 3 488, relatively stable compared to the previous month. Iraqi nationals were in the top three citizenships of origin in 12 out of 27 EU+ countries.

### Number and type of monthly decisions issued in first instance, by country of origin<sup>4</sup>



**In June 2017, EU+ countries issued 50 601 first-instance decisions, a significant 26 % decrease compared to June 2017** and the second consecutive month with a large decrease. Some 33 % of all decisions were issued to applicants from the four main countries of origin: Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq and Nigeria. **Afghan applicants became the citizenship which received the most first-instance decisions in July: 5 115**, despite a 40 % decrease compared to last month. **Syrian applicants dropped to second place, with 4 827 decisions issued**, less than half as many compared to June 2017. **Iraqi applicants were issued 4 001 decisions, and Nigerians 2 815**. Among the 10 countries for which most decisions were issued in July, all citizenships, except Turkey, were issued remarkably fewer decisions than in June, with the largest decrease for the three main citizenships (Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq) as well as for Iranians (- 39 %) and Eritreans (- 49 %).

**The overall EU+ recognition rate in July 2017 was at 29 %, a significant 11 percentage points lower than in June and the lowest in 2017.**<sup>5</sup> This reduced recognition rate followed the decreasing number of first-instance decisions issued, especially for the citizenships with the highest recognition rates such as Syrians, for whom decisions decreased by 52 %, and for Eritreans, for whom decisions decreased by 49 %. As in June 2017, **more positive decisions led to refugee status (61 %) than to subsidiary protection (39 %)**. Among the 10 countries of origin to which most decisions were issued in July, the highest recognition rates related to applicants from Syria (92 %) and Eritrea (81 %), both with a decreasing trend. The recognition rate for Afghan nationals rose from 41 % in June to 51 % in July.

### Cases awaiting a first-instance decision<sup>6</sup>

At the end of June, 515 835 cases were awaiting a decision in first instance. Despite the drop in number of first-instance decisions issued, the pending cases still decreased by 6 % compared to June, and for the tenth consecutive month. Most cases were pending for Afghan applicants (18 %), followed by Nigerian, Syrian (each 8 %) and Iraqi applicants (7 %). Pending cases involving Iraqi applicants decreased to the largest extent (- 15 %). Some 58 % of all cases pending at the end of July 2017 had been pending for more than six months, a similar situation as at the end of June 2017.

<sup>4</sup> Data on these indicators were available for 27 countries.

<sup>5</sup> The EU+ recognition rate includes EU-regulated forms of protection; it excludes national protection forms (humanitarian reasons).

<sup>6</sup> Data on these indicators were available for 25 countries.