

EUROPEAN ASYLUM SUPPORT OFFICE



KEY FINDINGS

Annual Report on the Situation of the Asylum in the EU+ in 2018



APPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION IN THE EU+

Applications for international protection in the EU+ decreased for the third consecutive year, this time by 10% - to 664,480. The number of applications lodged in EU+ was similar to 2014, when 662,165 applications were lodged.

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OF ASYLUM APPLICANTS

Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq were the top three countries of origin of asylum applicants. Together they made up more than a quarter of all citizenships of applicants (27%).



At the same time, EASO continued delivering on its mandate by facilitating practical cooperation among EU+ countries and providing support to countries, whose asylum and reception systems were under pressure; that is, Bulgaria, where the Special Support Plan was completed, Cyprus, Italy and Greece.

VARIATION BETWEEN MEMBER STATES

While the number of applications remained remarkably stable throughout 2018, the relative stability at EU+ level conceals stark variations between Member States and between individual citizenships.

REPEAT ASYLUM APPLICATIONS

Around 9% of all asylum applications in the EU+ came from repeated applicants in 2018.

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Applications from unaccompanied minors decreased sharply in 2018 (by 37% compared to 2017).

MAIN DESTINATION COUNTRIES

The main influxes of asylum seekers were directed to Germany, France, Greece, Italy and Spain. Germany received the most applications (184,180) for the seventh consecutive year, despite a 17% decrease compared to 2017. Cyprus (+69%) and Spain (+48%) recorded notable increases, while Italy (-53%), Romania, Estonia and Latvia (all approx. -50%) recorded notable decreases.

SPAIN HAD THE LARGEST ABSOLUTE INCREASE IN PENDING CASES

Spain had the largest absolute increase in pending cases, doubling to almost 79,000 at the end of 2018. At the same time, in approximately half of the EU+ countries, the stock of pending cases decreased.

THE TOTAL EU+ RECOGNITION RATE IN FIRST INSTANCE WAS 39%

The total EU+ recognition rate in first instance was 39 %, decreasing by 7% from the previous year. Although fewer positive decisions were issued overall, a higher proportion of positive decisions granted refugee status. According to data exchanged in the framework of EASO's Early Warning and Preparedness System, the recognition rate for first-instance decisions issued using accelerated procedures was 11%, while for those using the border procedure, it was 12%.

MIXED TRENDS

The majority of the most common citizenships of asylum applicants (15 out of 20) recorded less applications. Notably, Nigerians registered a 37% decrease, while Eritreans registered a 36% decrease. Colombians (+122%), Georgians (+67%), Venezuelans (+55%), Turkish (+49%), and Iranians (+36%) registered significant increases.

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