



## Data on resettlement activities in 2022

*The information presented in this fact sheet complements the chapter on resettlement and humanitarian admissions in the [Asylum Report 2023](#).*

Based on UNHCR's definition, resettlement involves the selection and transfer of refugees from a country in which they have sought protection to a third country which has agreed to admit them as refugees with permanent residence status.<sup>1</sup> It is an expression of international solidarity by helping to alleviate the pressure on countries which have received a large number of people in need of international protection.<sup>2</sup>

In the EU context, resettlement programmes are voluntary and organised through national or multilateral programmes. An EU-level legal framework does not exist for these activities,<sup>3</sup> and the proposed Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Union Resettlement Framework is still not adopted.<sup>4</sup>





## Key developments in 2022

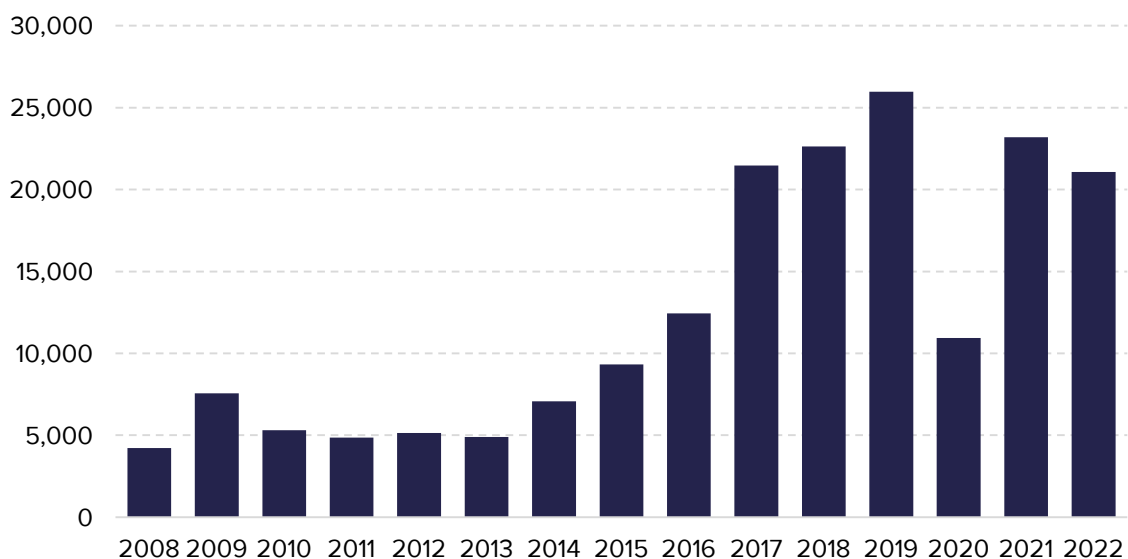
Some 21,000 persons were resettled in the EU+ from third countries in 2022.<sup>1</sup> Since 2014, there has been a steady increase in resettlements year after year, peaking at 26,000 in 2019. Exceptionally, there was a sharp drop in resettlements in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictive measures. When the restrictions were lifted in 2021, the number of resettled persons in EU+ countries more than doubled, reaching the second-most on record.<sup>2</sup>

In 2022, the number of resettled refugees slightly decreased (- 9%) compared to the previous year (see *Figure 1*). This may be partially due to several challenges encountered by national administrations in implementing their resettlement programmes.<sup>5</sup> Some challenges were linked to crises in national reception systems due to the mass arrival of displaced persons from Ukraine and the admission of hundreds of Afghan citizens at risk (following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021).<sup>6</sup> Nonetheless, resettlement to the EU+ remains at high levels compared to previous years.



### Slightly fewer resettled refugees in 2022 compared to the previous year but high levels continued

**Figure 1. Number of resettled refugees in EU+ countries, 2008-2022**



Source: Eurostat [[migr\\_asyresa](#)] as of 5 May 2023.

<sup>1</sup> This document is produced on the basis of validated data submitted to Eurostat (according to Regulation (EU) 2020/851 amending Regulation (EC) No 862/2007) by all 31 EU+ countries. Data from Eurostat on resettled refugees covers “persons who have been granted an authorisation to reside in a Member State within the framework of a national or community resettlement scheme”.

<sup>2</sup> Since the start of Eurostat harmonised data exchange in 2008.

As in previous years, Sweden (5,000), Germany (4,800), France (3,200) and Norway (3,100) implemented the most transfers, accounting for over three-quarters of all resettled refugees in EU+ countries (see *Figure 2*). With the exception of France, each of these countries resettled fewer persons compared to 2021.

In Sweden, the number of resettled refugees decreased by 21% from 2021 but was still the second-highest number on record.<sup>3</sup> There were notably fewer transfers of nationals from Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Syria, but more transfers of Eritreans. Germany recorded a 29% decrease due to fewer transfers of nationals from Afghanistan, Syria, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

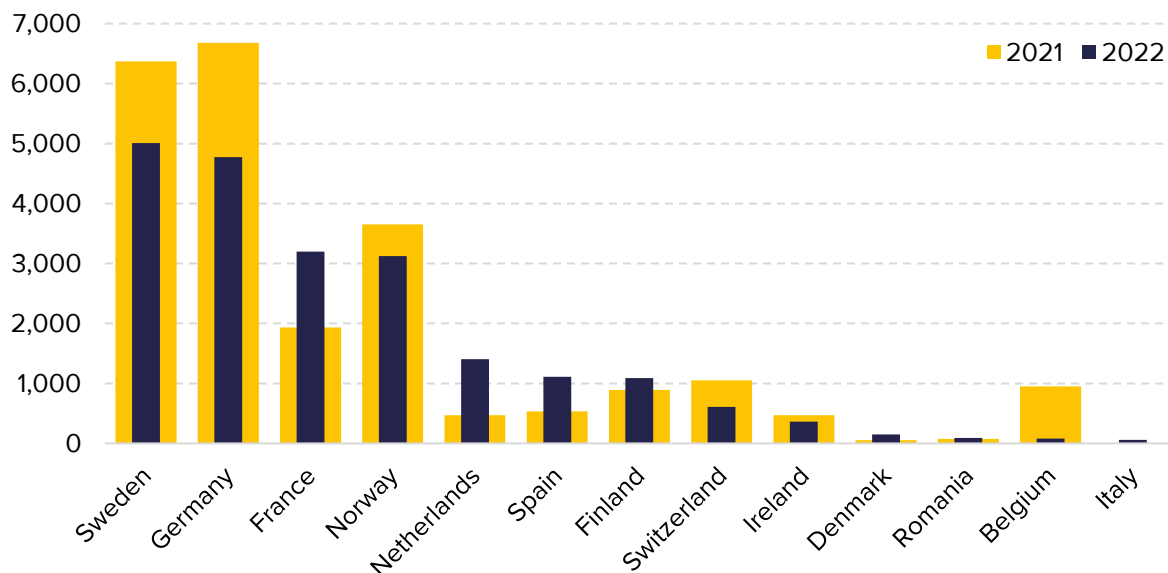
Resettlement figures in Norway (3,100, - 14%), Switzerland (610, - 42%) and Ireland (365, - 22%) also dropped as notably fewer Afghans were transferred to these countries, in addition to Sudanese in Switzerland. On a smaller scale, Belgium registered the largest drop in resettlements in relative terms (80, - 92%), with notably fewer Syrians being resettled (55 in 2022 compared to 905 in 2021).

In contrast, the number of resettled persons increased in France (3,200, + 65%), mainly due to more nationals from Syria (1,900) and the Central African Republic (430, the most on record).<sup>4</sup>



### Sweden, Germany, France and Norway received the majority of resettled refugees in EU+ countries

**Figure 2. Number of resettled refugees by EU+ country, 2022 compared to 2021**



Source: Eurostat [[migr\\_asyresa](#)] as of 5 May 2023.

**Note:** Only countries that undertook resettlement activities in 2022 are included in the figure.

<sup>3</sup> Since the start of Eurostat harmonised data exchange in 2008.

<sup>4</sup> Since the start of Eurostat harmonised data exchange in 2008.

In the Netherlands, the number of transfers nearly tripled (1,400) and in Spain more than doubled (1,100), mainly because many more Syrians were resettled in both countries. Albeit at lower levels, the number of resettlements nearly tripled in Denmark as well (150), where more than 9 in every 10 persons resettled originated from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In Finland, the overall figure rose by around one-fifth (1,100) to one of the highest levels on record.<sup>5</sup> While the number of Syrians decreased (510, - 145 from 2021), an unprecedented number of nationals of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (315) and Eritrea (105) were resettled. On a much smaller scale, the number of resettled refugees in Romania also increased by one-fifth to the most on record (90), all of whom were Syrians.

In 2022, 18 out of 31 EU+ countries did not report carrying out resettlement activities. This means that the least countries (13 in total) undertook resettlement activities since 2013. The countries which did not report resettlement activities in 2022 but have carried out such activities in the past included Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal and Slovenia.

A few countries – for example Cyprus, Greece, Poland and Slovakia – did not have resettlement programmes in place in 2022 and have not carried out any activities in this field from 2008 to 2022.<sup>7</sup>

### **Citizenship of resettled refugees**

Syrians continued to be the most resettled citizenship with around 13,000 resettled persons, representing 61% of all resettlements in the EU+. This was a 9% increase from 2021 and the highest level since 2019. In fact, Syrians were the most resettled nationality in almost every EU+ country (see *Figure 3*).

Nationals of the Democratic Republic of the Congo were the second-most resettled group, accounting for 2,600 resettlements which is the most on record.<sup>6</sup> Sweden and Norway continued to receive the most of this citizenship. Following at some distance, Eritreans (1,300) were also more frequently resettled in 2022, mainly in Sweden.

Nationals of Afghanistan (1,000, - 72%), Sudan (965, - 40%) and South Sudan (470, - 46%) were less frequently resettled than in 2021.

Considerably fewer Afghans were resettled in 2022 as 2021 was a record year (with 3,700 resettlements) linked to the use of resettlement schemes in some countries for evacuated Afghans following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021. Despite the significant drop, the number of resettled Afghans in 2022 remained the second-highest in over a decade, with approximately 300 resettlements per year in the five years prior to the Taliban takeover.

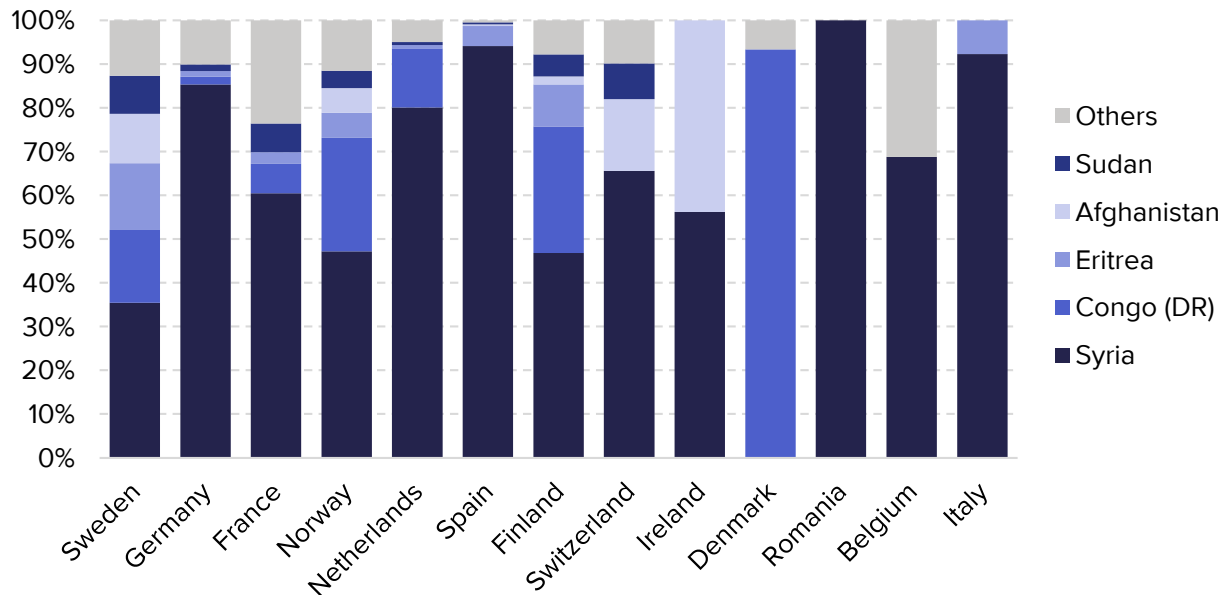
<sup>5</sup> In 2014, 2017 and 2022, Finland reported 1,090 persons, which is the highest number on record (since the start of Eurostat harmonised data exchange in 2008).

<sup>6</sup> Since the start of Eurostat harmonised data exchange in 2008.



## More than 6 in every 10 resettled refugees were from Syria

Figure 3. Resettlements by EU+ country and main citizenship of resettled persons, 2022



Source: Eurostat [[migr\\_asyresa](#)] as of 5 May 2023.

At lower levels, numbers were the highest on record for nationals of the Central African Republic (450, +125% from 2021), Yemen (160, +60%), Burundi (145, +32%) and Türkiye (95, +46%).<sup>7</sup>

There was a surge in resettling stateless persons, reaching the highest level since 2016. In total, 175 stateless people were resettled in 2022, compared to just 5 in 2021. Norway received the majority of this profile.

### Age of resettled persons

Similar to previous years, one-half of all resettled refugees were minors, accounting for almost 11,000 (see Figure 4). Children primarily came from Syria (6,200), followed at some distance by nationals of Afghanistan (1,800) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (1,400), Sudan (790) and South Sudan (530).

The majority of the children were under 14 years old (9,500). Approximately 5,600 resettled refugees were aged 18-34 years, and 4,600 were aged 35-64 years. Just 210 resettled people were older than 65 years.

<sup>7</sup> Since the start of Eurostat harmonised data exchange in 2008.

**Gender dimension**

During 2017–2022, there has been a steady trend of slightly more males being resettled in EU+ countries. In 2022, there was gender balance, with nearly 11,000 males resettled compared to over 10,000 women. Prior to this period, from 2008-2016, females slightly outnumbered men in being resettled in EU+ countries.

## Annex 1: Resettled persons in EU+ countries by reporting country and main citizenship, 2018-2022

						2022		Highest share	Sparkline
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	% chg. on last year	Share in EU+		
<b>Reporting country</b>								<b>Citizenship</b>	
Sweden	4 950	5 005	3 590	6 370	<b>5 010</b>	📉 -21	24%	Syria (35%)	
Germany	3 200	4 890	1 395	6 680	<b>4 775</b>	📉 -29	23%	Syria (85%)	
France	5 565	5 600	1 340	1 935	<b>3 200</b>	📈 +65	15%	Syria (60%)	
Norway	2 480	2 795	1 525	3 650	<b>3 125</b>	📉 -14	15%	Syria (47%)	
Netherlands	1 225	1 875	425	470	<b>1 405</b>	📈 +199	7%	Syria (80%)	
Spain	830	810	365	535	<b>1 110</b>	📈 +107	5%	Syria (94%)	
Finland	605	890	660	890	<b>1 090</b>	📈 +22	5%	Syria (47%)	
Switzerland	1 080	1 000	615	1 050	<b>610</b>	📉 -42	3%	Syria (66%)	
Ireland	340	785	195	470	<b>365</b>	📉 -22	2%	Syria (56%)	
Denmark	0	0	30	55	<b>150</b>	📈 +173	1%	Congo (DR) (93%)	
Romania	0	75	35	75	<b>90</b>	📈 +20	0%	Syria (100%)	
Belgium	880	240	175	950	<b>80</b>	📉 -92	0%	Syria (69%)	
Italy	1 180	1 355	350	0	<b>60</b>	n.a.	0%	Syria (100%)	
Bulgaria	20	65	0	0	<b>0</b>	n.a.	0%	n.a.	
Slovenia	35	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	n.a.	0%	n.a.	
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	n.a.	0%	n.a.	
Czechia	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	n.a.	0%	n.a.	
Greece	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	n.a.	0%	n.a.	
Poland	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	n.a.	0%	n.a.	
Austria	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	n.a.	0%	n.a.	
Portugal	35	375	220	15	<b>0</b>	📉 -100	0%	n.a.	
Hungary	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	n.a.	0%	n.a.	
Cyprus	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	n.a.	0%	n.a.	
Malta	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	n.a.	0%	n.a.	
Luxembourg	0	35	15	0	<b>0</b>	n.a.	0%	n.a.	
Lithuania	20	0	0	15	<b>0</b>	📉 -100	0%	n.a.	
Liechtenstein	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	n.a.	0%	n.a.	
Croatia	110	100	0	0	<b>0</b>	n.a.	0%	n.a.	
Estonia	30	5	0	0	<b>0</b>	n.a.	0%	n.a.	
Latvia	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	n.a.	0%	n.a.	
Iceland	50	75	0	35	<b>:</b>	n.a.	:	n.a.	
<b>Citizenship</b>								<b>Reporting country</b>	
Syria	16 970	15 420	6 505	11 670	<b>12 750</b>	📈 +9	61%	Germany (32%)	
Congo (DR)	1 530	1 970	1 255	2 585	<b>2 590</b>	📈 +0	12%	Sweden (32%)	
Eritrea	1 325	1 580	965	1 075	<b>1 260</b>	📈 +17	6%	Sweden (61%)	
Afghanistan	305	395	105	3 695	<b>1 025</b>	📉 -72	5%	Sweden (55%)	
Sudan	685	2 085	705	1 620	<b>965</b>	📉 -40	5%	Sweden (45%)	
South Sudan	145	750	295	875	<b>470</b>	📉 -46	2%	Sweden (34%)	
Central African Republic	195	405	105	200	<b>450</b>	📈 +125	2%	France (96%)	
Ethiopia	245	415	205	285	<b>285</b>	📈 +0	1%	Sweden (61%)	
Stateless	50	60	10	5	<b>175</b>	📈 +3 400	1%	Norway (77%)	
Iraq	200	600	15	150	<b>160</b>	📈 +7	1%	Germany (78%)	
Yemen	20	60	10	100	<b>160</b>	📈 +60	1%	Germany (75%)	
Somalia	230	1 155	255	330	<b>150</b>	📉 -55	1%	Sweden (37%)	
Burundi	50	90	90	110	<b>145</b>	📈 +32	1%	Sweden (45%)	
Nigeria	70	185	0	15	<b>130</b>	📈 +767	1%	France (96%)	
Türkiye	35	20	75	65	<b>95</b>	📈 +46	0%	Norway (47%)	
Other	580	785	340	415	<b>260</b>	📉 -37	1%	Sweden (31%)	
<b>EU+</b>	<b>22 635</b>	<b>25 975</b>	<b>10 935</b>	<b>23 195</b>	<b>21 070</b>	📉 -9		<b>Sweden (24%)</b>	

': Data not available

Source: Eurostat [migr\_asyresa] as of 5 May 2023,

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/migr\\_asyresa/default/table?lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/migr_asyresa/default/table?lang=en)

## Sources

Please see [Sources on Asylum 2023](#) for the full list of over 1,200 references which were consulted for the Asylum Report 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (April 2018). *UNHCR Resettlement Handbook and Country Chapters*. <https://www.unhcr.org/protection/resettlement/4a2ccf4c6/unhcr-resettlement-handbook-country-chapters.html>

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR, *UNHCR Resettlement Handbook*, July 2011, accessed on 19 October 2022.

<sup>3</sup> Prantl Janine, *Shaping the Future Towards a Solidary Refugee Resettlement in the European Union*, 2021, accessed on 19 October 2022.

<sup>4</sup> European Parliament, *Legislative Train Schedule*, 20 September 2022, accessed on 19 October 2022.

<sup>5</sup> European Union Agency for Asylum, *Asylum Report 2023*, July 2023.

<sup>6</sup> European Union Agency for Asylum. (2022, June 28). *Asylum Report 2022*. 4.16.2. Reception for resettled refugees. <https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2022/4162-reception-resettled-refugees>

<sup>7</sup> EUAA, *Resettlement and humanitarian admissions, Cyprus, Greece, Poland, Slovakia*, accessed 6 June 2023.