

## 3.13.1 Granting international protection: Recognition rates at first instance

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The recognition rate refers to the number of positive outcomes as a percentage of the total number of decisions on applications for international protection. For reporting in the Asylum Report, positive decisions calculated in the recognition rate include EU-harmonised statuses only (i.e. refugee and subsidiary protection). At times, the recognition rate which includes national forms of protection may be presented for countries where there is a considerable difference with the recognition rate of EU-harmonised statuses.[xxxiv](#)

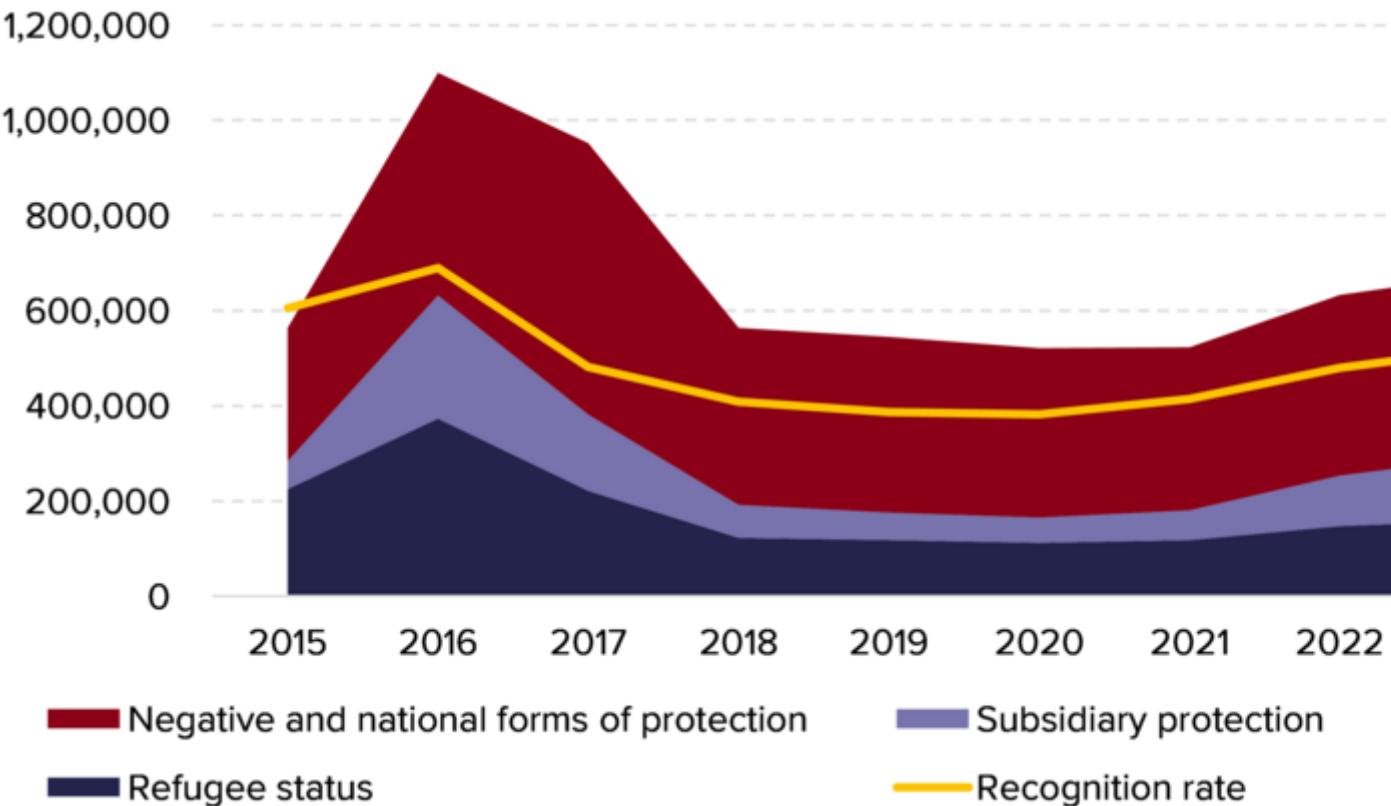
The recognition rate for specific nationalities of applicants can indicate which citizenships are granted protection more or less frequently.

In 2023, the recognition rate at first instance for EU-regulated forms of protection climbed to 43%, increasing for the third year in a row (see *Figure 17*). This was the highest rate since 2016 (when 57% of decisions granted refugee status or subsidiary protection). The rise was mostly driven by increased recognition rates for Afghans, Iraqis, Palestinians and Ukrainians and by more decisions issued to Syrians.



#### Recognition rate climbs to highest in 7 years

**Figure 17. First instance decisions by type of outcome (left axis) and overall recognition rate (right axis) in EU+ countries, 2015–2023**



**Note:** Data were not available for Portugal for October-December 2023.

**Source:** EUAA EPS data as of 1 February 2024.

Of the 294,000 positive decisions issued in 2023, 134,000 granted subsidiary protection, representing 46% of total positive decisions. This was an increase by 4 percentage points compared to 2022 and by 14 points compared to 2020. It was also the most ever in relative terms since at least 2014. Over one-quarter of negative decisions for EU-regulated types of protection granted some form of national protection instead. Almost all of these decisions were issued in Spain and Germany.



#### 3.13.1.1. Breakdown by citizenship

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### 3.13.1.2. Breakdown by country

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### 3.13.1.3. Divergence in recognition rates

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xxxiv Persons granted an authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons are defined by Eurostat: