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4.2.4. Decisions on outgoing Dublin requests

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icon for outgoing dublin requests

Decisions on outgoing Dublin requests include decisions in response to take back requests (under Articles 18(1b-d) and 20(5) of the Dublin III Regulation) and take charge requests (under Articles 8-16 and 17(2)), while they exclude decisions taken under the sovereignty clause (Article 17(1)). Thus, the data on outgoing Dublin requests cover all persons included in a decision received by the reporting country in response to a request to have a partner country take responsibility for the asylum application. This does not mean that the transfer was necessarily carried out, but it does mean that the partner Member State replied to the request, whether it was accepted or rejected, within the time limit or there was an implicit acceptance due to the expiration of the time limit.

In 2021,114,300 decisions were issued in response to outgoing Dublin requests,[xiii] according to provisional data which are regularly exchanged between the EUAA and 29 EU+ countries.[xiv] This represented an increase by one-fifth compared to 2020, yet the annual total remained below pre-pandemic levels. However, the upward trend in the number of decisions issued started in August 2021, and by the last quarter of 2021, decisions on Dublin requests returned to pre-COVID levels. The increase in decisions was in accordance with more asylum applications being lodged in EU+ countries around the same period.

Overall, the annual ratio of decisions received on Dublin requests to asylum applications lodged was 18%, on par with 2020. Although some decisions on Dublin requests concerned family reunion cases, the stable ratio of decisions to applications suggests that in 2021 a number of asylum seekers moved from the first country of arrival to another to lodge a new application (referred to as secondary movements), impacting asylum caseloads overall.

At the country level, Germany and France continued to receive the most decisions in response to their requests *(see the left side of Figure 4.10)*, jointly accounting for over three-fifths of the EU+ total. Germany received almost one-third more responses than in 2020, whereas responses received by France increased by about one-sixth. Most countries received more responses in 2021, with the most notable relative increases in Romania, Slovakia, Croatia, Poland, Austria, Czechia, Belgium and Portugal (in descending order).[xv] In contrast, some countries received fewer responses, namely Greece, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands, Malta and Norway (in

descending order).

Germany and France received the most decisions on Dublin requests, while Italy responded to the most requests.

Figure 4.10. Decisions on Dublin requests by selected countries receiving a decision (left) and responding to a request (right), 2021

Figure 4.10. Decisions on Dublin requests by selected countries receiving a decision (left) and resp

Note: The selection of countries includes the Top 10 countries receiving requests and the Top 10 countries responding to requests.
Source: EUAA EPS data.

As in previous years, Italy issued the most decisions overall on Dublin requests, followed by Germany and Greece *(see the right side of Figure 4.10).* While Italy issued more decisions than in 2020, the number was stable in Germany and rose by one-half in Greece, to the most decisions the country has issued in several years. Romania emerged as the fourth country, with over three times as many decisions as in 2020, followed by France. Austria issued nearly twice as many decisions on Dublin requests than in the previous year and Bulgaria, nearly four times as many. In contrast, fewer decisions were issued by Portugal, Sweden, Spain and Hungary (in descending order).

icon for citizenship of applicants

4.2.4.1. Citizenship of applicants in the Dublin procedure

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icon for acceptance rates on dublin requests

4.2.4.2. Acceptance rate for Dublin requests

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icon for decisions take back take charge requests

4.2.4.3. Decisions on take back and take charge requests

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Footnotes

[xiii] This includes both decisions on requests and on re-examination requests.

[xiv] EPS data are not available for Iceland and Liechtenstein. France generally provides data with a one-month delay so the data for 2021 cover the period December 2020 to November 2021.

[xv] Only countries with at least 200 decisions received in 2021 were considered.

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