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Temporary protection has averted extreme pressure on EU asylum system



Analysis released by the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) shows that **about 70 200 asylum applications were lodged in the EU+ in May 2022**,1 significantly more than in April (60,200), and the second-highest monthly level since 2016.

Significantly more asylum applications were received from a broader range of countries of origin. This included almost all the main citizenships of applicants in recent months, notably Afghans, Syrians, Venezuelans, Colombians and Pakistanis. **Turkish** nationals (**3,300**) and **Georgians** (**2,500**) **lodged the most applications on record**, *i.e.* since at least 2014. Some 2,900 applicants were self-claimed unaccompanied minors, accounting for 4% of all applicants.

Ukrainians apply almost exclusively for temporary protection

Fewer Ukrainians have been applying for asylum, down from the peak of 14,000 in March to 1,900 in April and 1,600 in May, as the vast majority are eligible for temporary protection2 without having to undergo an asylum procedure. **In May, EU+ countries registered 530,000 persons for temporary protection (mainly Ukrainians)**, more than 300 times as many as the number of Ukrainian asylum applicants. By 24 July, almost 3.9 million persons had registered for temporary protection since the beginning of the Russian

invasion on 24 February. **Temporary protection has therefore averted extreme pressure on asylum case processing**.

TPD Ukraine
For more information, please visit the Ukraine Crisis: Data and Analysis page.

Top recognition rates for Ukrainians and Syrians

After the EU+ recognition rate[3] had been around 40 % for half a year, it jumped to 45% in May. Total positive decisions were evenly split between refugee status and subsidiary protection. From already high values in April, **recognition rates for Syrians and Ukrainians climbed further to 96% and 97%, respectively**, the highest recognition rates of any citizenship receiving at least 200 decisions in May.

In addition, the **increase in the overall EU+ recognition rate reflected that Syrians and Ukrainians received far more decisions** than before (see below), while other citizenships with low recognition rates received substantially fewer decisions. Recognition rates were also especially high for Belarusians (87%), Eritreans (82%) and Yemenis (80%) but fell sharply for Afghans (53%, down from 73% in April).

The most first instance decisions in almost two years

Asylum authorities in EU+ countries issued **about 54,100 first instance decisions in May 2022**, the most since July 2020. The increase mainly reflected decisions on Syrian applications (12,300), which rose by 62% in May. At a lower level, **decisions issued to Ukrainians more than tripled** (to 1,300). Despite the rise in decisions, **applications continued to outnumber decisions in May**. At the end of the month, just over half a million cases were pending at first instance, with about half waiting for a decision for less than six months.

LAT May 2022
For more information and interactive data visualisations, please visit the Latest Asylum Trends page.

Any further information may be obtained from the European Union Agency for Asylum's Press Office at the following email addresses:

- Press Office: press@euaa.europa.eu
- Andrew McKinlay, Press Officer: andrew.mckinlay@euaa.europa.eu
- Anis Cassar, Spokesperson: anis.cassar@euaa.europa.eu

[1]

EUAA EPS data are preliminary and might differ from validated official statistics submitted to Eurostat at a later stage. Eurostat data are used in the annual EUAA Asylum Report. The total EPS numbers include an approximation for one EU+ country and may change after data updates.

[2]

European Commission, Migration and Home Affairs, Temporary protection, 21 April 2022.

3

This refers to the recognition rate for EU-regulated forms of protection (refugee status and subsidiary protection) at first instance.

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