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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,<sup>1</sup>** 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 protection<sup>2</sup> 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<sup>3</sup> 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](mailto:press@euaa.europa.eu)
- Andrew McKinlay, Press Officer: [andrew.mckinlay@euaa.europa.eu](mailto:andrew.mckinlay@euaa.europa.eu)
- Anis Cassar, Spokesperson: [anis.cassar@euaa.europa.eu](mailto: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.

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