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In January, EU+ received 94 000 asylum applications including increased numbers of Senegalese



The European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) has released analysis indicating that EU+ countries continue to receive high levels of asylum applications. In January 2024, some 94 000 applications were lodged in the EU+, down from recent peaks but in line with expectations for the winter period.

In January 2024, asylum applications by **Syrians (14 000)** were down by a significant margin compared to the seven-year peak of October 2023, but still represented 15 % of all applications lodged. **Afghans (8 600)** remained the second largest group, despite lodging 29 % fewer applications in January 2024 compared to the year before. In a trend that began in October 2023, **Senegalese (1 300)** applicants have now become a main nationality applying for international protection in the EU+, due to many more applications being lodged, mostly in **Spain**.

Key EU+ countries continue to receive most applications

In January 2024, **Germany (28 000)** remained the foremost destination of asylum seekers in the EU+, receiving 30 % of all applications lodged. In fact, Germany received more applications than **France (14 000)** and **Spain (14 000)**, combined. **Italy (13 000)** also continued to feature prominently in the asylum landscape.

These four countries, collectively, received very nearly three-quarters of all applications lodged in the EU+.

The number of applications is not always the most representative measure of pressure on Member States, as they have different sized asylum and reception administrations. In January 2024, **Cyprus (1 000)**, with its small population size of around 921 000, received 1 application for every 943 inhabitants. In contrast Germany, given its larger population of 84 million, received around 1 application for every 3 000 inhabitants. While receiving very different numbers per se, **Belgium (3 100)** and **Luxembourg (173)** actually received similar numbers of applications per capita.

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