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EUAA presents Latest Asylum Trends for the first half of 2024



By the end of June, EU+ countries received 513 000 applications for international protection. While the figure was stable compared to the first six months of 2023, it masks some important changes at the national level. Germany received one fifth fewer applications while Italy received an increase by over a third. In Spain, overall applications have been stable but at a high level.

Analysis released by the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) reveals that between January and June 2024, some **513 000 asylum applications were received in the EU+**.1 With more applications typically expected in the latter six months, the Agency estimates that EU+ countries could receive around a million applications by the end of the year.

In the first half of 2024, applications from **Syrians (71 000)** increased by 7 % compared to the same period in 2023. **Afghans (45 000)**, while remaining the second largest nationality group, lodged a fifth fewer applications (- 18 %). After a surge of boat arrivals in the Canary Islands in recent months, by the end of June, **Malians (9 600)** and **Senegalese (7 500)** both lodged three times as many applications compared to the same period in 2023.

chart visualization

Changing trends in key receiving EU+ countries

While **Germany (124 000)** received almost a quarter of all applications in the EU+ in the first half of the year, this **represents a one fifth decrease** compared to the same period in 2023. Though **Spain (88 000)**

received the 2nd highest number of applications, this was stable year-over-year. On the other hand, applications in **Italy (85 000**) increased by over a third. **Cyprus (4 900)** continued to receive the most applications per capita.

Latin American nationalities, many of which benefit from visa-free access to the EU+, continue to feature heavily in the asylum landscape. **Venezuelans (37 000)** and **Colombians (29 000)**, and to a lesser extent, **Peruvians (14 000)** continue to lodge significant numbers of applications in the EU+. In the first half of 2024, the vast majority of Venezuelans (90 %) and Colombians (80 %) applied **in Spain**. However most Peruvians (53 %) applied **in Italy**, which was a notable shift from 2023 when Spain was the main destination for Peruvian asylum seekers.

Asylum applications do not paint a full picture of protection needs in the EU+. At the end of June 2024, there were **4.5 million persons displaced by the Russian invasion of Ukraine** benefitting from temporary protection. In parallel, there has been a small increase in asylum applications by **Ukrainians (12 000)**, over half of which were **lodged in France** and a fifth in **Poland**. Taken together, these trends pose significant challenges to EU+ asylum and reception authorities. With the number of cases awaiting decisions at first instance continuing to be stable (925 000), the EUAA was offering operational assistance to 11 Member States.

hierarchy visualization

Decisions on international protection

In the first half of 2024, the recognition rate at first instance stood at around **46 %** in the EU+. The recognition rate, which is the proportion of decisions **granting** either **refugee status** or **subsidiary protection** is one indicator, among several, of how EU+ authorities evaluate the protection needs of different citizenships, and the level of convergence in decision making at the European level.

In the case of **Syrians**, the recognition rate has remained high at 92 % at the EU+ level, and national rates are broadly consistent across EU+ countries. However, some important differences in protection decisions persist, with fewer than 1 in 3 positive decisions (29 %) granting refugee status to Syrian nationals. **Germany** has taken the majority of decisions relating to Syrian applicants, and the country granted refugee status in 1 out of 9 cases. For **Afghans**, the recognition rate stood at around 65 % at EU+ level, and national rates displayed much more variation among EU+ countries. Recognition rates for other key nationalities applying for international protection in the EU+ have undergone changes. These include those for **Turkish** applicants who, for four years, have steadily been granted protection less often, down to 18 % from 54 % in 2019.

For more information and an interactive data visualisation, please visit the Latest Asylum Trends page.

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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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