Please cite as: EUAA, '3.4. Data on applications for international protection' in *Asylum Report 2025*, June 2025.

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Information and analysis of asylum developments

In 2024, applications for international protection declined by 11% compared to 2023, with just over 1 million applications received by EU+ countries for the second consecutive year (*see Figure 2*). The only time the figure has been over this threshold for two years in a row was in 2015 and 2016, during the peak of the refugee crisis.

Almost four-fifths of all applications in EU+ countries were received by just five countries: Germany (237,000 applications), Spain (166,000), Italy (159,000), France (159,000) and Greece (74,000). This was a slightly higher share than in 2023. However, this does not reflect the number of temporary protection decisions issued by EU+ countries in 2024 (*see Box 6*).

Figure 2. Number of applications for international protection in EU+ countries, 2015-2024

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Source: EUAA EPS data as of 3 February 2025.

The inflow decreased or remained stable in all but five EU+ countries. For example, Poland experienced the highest *relative* year-on-year increase, with 17,000 applications representing an increase by four-fifths compared to 2023. This was driven mainly by an unprecedented number of applications by Ukrainians. Italy experienced the largest *absolute* increase, receiving approximately 30,000 more applications than in 2023.

In contrast, Romania with 2,400 applications experienced the largest relative decrease among EU+ countries, down by almost three-quarters compared to 2023. The largest *absolute* decrease was experienced by Germany which received approximately 97,000 fewer applications than in 2023.

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