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## Shift in EU+ asylum landscape continued in March 2025



**The EUAA has published updated figures on asylum applications lodged in the EU+. In March, the 29 EU+ countries received around 67 000 asylum applications. These latest data suggest an ongoing shift to a new asylum landscape in the EU+, one in which Syrians are no longer the top nationality seeking international protection, and Germany is no longer the main destination of asylum seekers.**

The fall of the regime of Bashar al-Assad in Syria on 8 December 2024 may be the beginning of a sea change in the asylum landscape of the EU+, according to [newly released analysis](#) from the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA). In March 2025, the EU+ **received around 67 000 asylum applications**, which is part of an ongoing decreasing trend that began in October 2024<sup>[1](#)</sup>.

### Shifting to a new asylum landscape in the EU+

After a decade during which they were almost always the top citizenship seeking protection in the EU+; in March, **Syrians (3 300)** lodged the fewest monthly applications on record outside of the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, decreasing by almost 80 % compared to October 2024. **Venezuelans (8 900)**, however, continued to lodge increasing numbers of asylum applications in the EU+; this is likely owed both

to economic and political instability in Venezuela, as well as restrictive asylum policies in the United States of America.

Applications from **Afghans (7 400)** remained stable, though the figure was much decreased from a previous peak [in October 2023](#). Though eligible for temporary protection in the EU, **Ukrainians (3 400)** continued to lodge increasing numbers of asylum applications, up by 77 % compared to March 2024. Another notable shift saw **Bangladeshis (3 300)** lodging slightly more applications than Syrians in March 2025.

The above trends directly impacted which EU+ countries received the most asylum applications. In March, **Spain (14 000)** received the most applications in the EU+, with three fifths of applications there being [lodged by Venezuelans](#). **Italy (13 000)** received the second most applications, though these are still down by 16 %, year-over-year. In fact, Bangladeshis lodged around 85% of their applications in Italy. **France (13 000)** received about three quarters of applications lodged by **Congolese** nationals and nearly all applications from **Haitian** nationals. A significant share of Ukrainians also applied there. **Greece (4 600)** continued to receive increasing asylum applications from Afghan nationals.

### Applications lodged in March 2025



Source: EUAA Early Warning and Preparedness System (EPS) data as of 5 May 2025. [Click here for Data Tables \(EU+ Countries\)](#), [Click here for Data Tables \(Citizenships\)](#)

### Pending cases and recognition rates



The changing asylum landscape is increasingly reflected in the number of applications that are pending a decision at first instance in the EU+. As of the end of March 2025, the number of such cases stood at a stable, but high, level of 955 000. **Syrians (113 000)**, **Venezuelans (105 000)** and **Colombians (88 000)** were awaiting the most first instance decisions. Among the citizenships with the most cases awaiting decisions, the biggest year-on-year increases occurred for **Ukrainians (+ 66 %)**, **Venezuelans (+ 58 %)**, **Peruvians (+ 33 %)** as well as **Bangladeshis (+ 25 %)**. When accounting for asylum applications that are pending at higher administrative or judicial instances, based on data provided by Eurostat, the EUAA estimates that there **were approximately 1.3 million asylum cases pending** across the EU+ at the end of February 2025.

In the first quarter of 2025, the EU+ recognition rate – which is the proportion of decisions granting refugee status or subsidiary protection – stood at 25 %, down by about 15 percentage points from previous monthly levels in 2024. This decline was mainly driven by a sharp drop in decisions issued to Syrian applicants, as most EU+ countries have paused processing their applications until the situation in Syria is clearer.

Under the Pact on Migration and Asylum, which was agreed [one year ago](#), EU countries may subject certain categories of applicants to a border procedure, and must accelerate the examination of their applications (with initial decisions to be taken within 12 weeks). One indicator is if the applicant comes from a country of origin with a low recognition rate (? 20 %) in the previous year<sup>2</sup>. In March 2025, some 53 % of applications were lodged by such citizenships<sup>3</sup>, consistent with previous months, suggesting that **a large share of asylum applications** lodged in the EU+ may be unfounded or inadmissible.

For more information and a series of data visualisations, 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:**

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[1](#)

The EUAA’s EPS data are preliminary and might differ from validated official statistics submitted to Eurostat at a later stage.

[2](#)

[Regulation \(EU\) 2024/1348](#), which becomes applicable on 12 June 2026, requires Member States to accelerate the examination of some cases including inter alia those from low recognition rate countries.

[3](#)

This estimation is calculated using EUAA data. To ensure statistical reliability, it excludes citizenships that received fewer than 1 000 decisions in 2024.