



## Estonia

### National developments in 2024



A key priority remained the provision of temporary protection, with Estonia registering approximately 6,000 Ukrainian nationals in 2024.<sup>1</sup> Efforts placed on their inclusion in previous years came to fruition in 2024, with more students transitioning from Ukrainian-taught classes to Estonian. And thus, the number of Ukrainian-language classes in schools were reduced for the 2024-2025 academic year.<sup>2</sup> The IOM, UNHCR and other organisations continued to provide support to Ukrainian nationals through language training, employment assistance and mental health support.<sup>3</sup> During his visit to Estonia, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi acknowledged the efforts of organisations working with refugees – such as the Estonian Refugee Council, Mondo and the Estonian Human Rights Centre – in addressing language barriers, providing counselling and community-based protection to better support the inclusion of refugees in Estonian society.<sup>4</sup>

Programmes facilitating access to the labour market were also provided by civil society organisations. For instance, the Estonian Refugee Council, in partnership with the Labour Inspectorate, launched a programme to assist job-seeking refugees by providing training in job search strategies and fostering access to the labour market.<sup>5</sup>

No legislative changes related to asylum and reception were undertaken during the year. However, national courts addressed the grounds for detention in asylum and return procedures, particularly with regard to the risk of absconding<sup>6</sup> and detention based on a threat to national security. Additionally, the Supreme Court clarified the state legal fees which are provided to lawyers representing detained applicants in appeal procedures.

In preparation for the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, Estonia is working on its National Implementation Plan. A key focus of the plan is capacity-building for border procedures, which is a new concept to be implemented in Estonia, as well as enhancing the reception system and exploring alternatives to detention.

**More input from civil society:**

- [European Network on Statelessness](#)

# Estonia

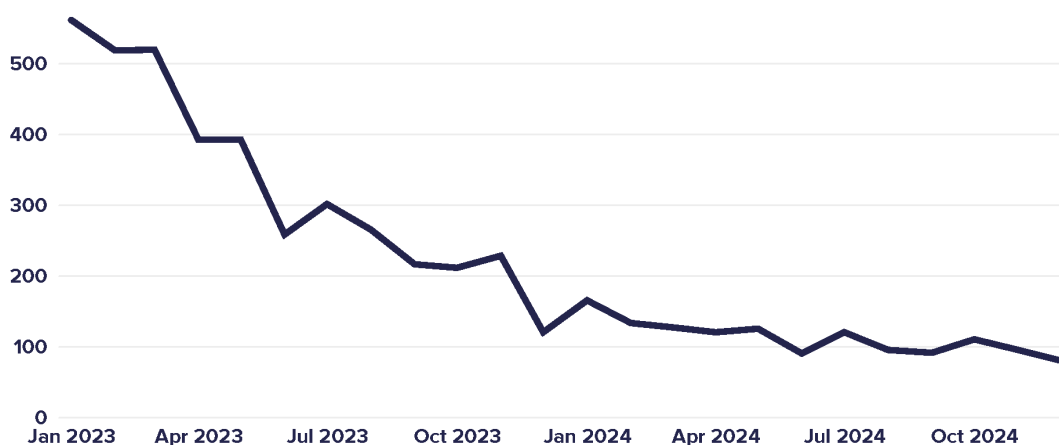
## Key indicators for 2024



Rank by number of asylum applications <b>22</b>	Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants) <b>16</b>	Share of applications in EU+ <b>0.1%</b>	Recognition rate <b>96%</b>
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Indicator	2024	2023	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	1,351	3,981 ↓	-66%	Ukraine (91%), Russia (3%), Belarus (1%)
Pending cases (Dec '24)	148	354 ↓	-58%	Ukraine (67%), Russia (16%), Belarus (5%)
First instance decisions	1,381	3,987 ↓	-65%	Ukraine (94%), Russia (3%), Belarus (0.7%)
Refugee status	34	59 ↓	-42%	Russia (41%), Belarus (21%), Türkiye (15%)
Subsidiary protection	1,294	3,805 ↓	-66%	Ukraine (100%), Syria (0.2%)
Negative	53	123 ↓	-57%	Russia (42%), India (13%), Ukraine (8%)

Evolution of asylum applications, 2023-2024



For more developments, please consult the [Asylum Report 2025](#) and the [National Asylum Developments Database](#).





## Sources

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<sup>1</sup> Ministry of the Interior | Siseministerium. (2025, February 11). [Statistika Ukraina sõjapõgenike kohta \[Statistics on Ukrainian war refugees\]](#). Police and Border Guard Board | Politsei- ja Piirivalveamet. (2024). [Information on the war in Ukraine](#).

<sup>2</sup> European Website on Integration. (2024, August 26). [Estonia: Education in Ukrainian to be reduced](#).

<sup>3</sup> International Organisation for Migration, & International Organization for Migration. (2024, April 11). [Estonia - Surveys with Refugees from Ukraine: Needs, Intentions, and Integration Challenges - Annual Report \(2023\)](#). United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). (2024, August 23). [Estonia 2024 Inter-Agency Mid-Year Report](#).

<sup>4</sup> Estonian Refugee Council | Eesti Pagulasabi. (19 September 2024). [The UN High Commissioner for Refugees visited the Estonian Refugee Council and met with people of refugee background in Tallinn](#).

<sup>5</sup> Estonian Refugee Council | Eesti Pagulasabi. (2024, September 19). [The UN High Commissioner for Refugees visited the Estonian Refugee Council and met with people of refugee background in Tallinn](#).

<sup>6</sup> Estonia, Supreme Court [Riigikohtusse Poordujale], [Applicant v Police and Border Guard Board \(Politsei- ja Piirivalveamet, PBGB\)](#), 3-23-2232, 12 April 2024. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database. Estonia, Supreme Court [Riigikohtusse Poordujale], [Applicant v Police and Border Guard Board \(Politsei- ja Piirivalveamet, PBGB\)](#), 3-23-2204, 12 April 2024. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database.