



Germany

National developments in 2024



The German political debate on asylum and migration was largely impacted by a series of terrorist attacks in the country in 2024. A 'security package' was adopted with two laws, including one to improve domestic security and the asylum system. Some of the measures include: BAMF may now use biometric data to identify applicants; applicants in the Dublin procedure no longer receive social benefits when the other country has accepted responsibility and the transfer is possible; and recognised beneficiaries of international protection lose their status when they travel to the country of origin, unless the travel is considered to be 'morally essential' by the authorities.¹ An "Influx Limitation Act" was presented by the opposition in January 2025, which was rejected by a narrow majority. The law would have ended family reunification for people with subsidiary protection.²

Early in 2024, new laws were adopted on citizenship and returns. Special integration efforts are now rewarded with earlier qualification for naturalisation and allowing to retain the original citizenship upon naturalisation, while search and custody options were extended to identify the country of origin of a person who will be returned or locate people who are obliged to return.³ The minister pledged for a rapid implementation of the new CEAS legislation and the federal government approved two draft laws with this objective already in November 2024.⁴ Due to the premature end of the legislative period, it was not possible to conclude the parliamentary procedure.

The Federal Ministry of the Interior published a summary of expert statements and original statements on different models to implement asylum procedures in third countries. In its summary, the ministry noted that while in principle these models are legally possible depending on how they are designed, their implementation is expected to be costly, involves legal and practical hurdles, and not all models may deter arrivals.⁵ The Federal Minister of the Interior noted that the assessment of this option continues, also in the framework of the safe third country concept provided for in the APR.⁶ UNHCR underlined in its expert statement the impact that a German approach which is open to the externalisation of asylum procedures may have on policies related to externalisation in other EU countries and highlighted some risks.⁷

Secondary movements from other EU+ countries significantly added to the workload of national authorities, especially within the Dublin unit. The EUAA provided operational support with the aim of increasing national capacity to process Dublin cases.⁸ Given the large number of appeals, German courts were often faced with situations which they had not interpreted before, and thus they referred several questions to the CJEU for a preliminary ruling.⁹ In addition, to ease the burden on the appeal instance, a legislative proposal aimed to expand the use of single judges to the regular asylum procedure (it is currently the case for the accelerated procedure). Cases would only be adjudicated in a chamber when they involve particularly difficult legal or factual elements or when the legal matter is of fundamental significance.¹⁰

The situation in reception was still impacted at the beginning of 2024 by the high number of arrivals in previous years, in particular by unaccompanied minors in Berlin. AMIF funding was used to create around 20,000 reception places in 2023, which eased the pressure on facilities in several federal states.¹¹

Germany continued with the implementation of its resettlement pledges, but due to the security situation in Lebanon and challenges with resettlements from Pakistan, the pledges could not be implemented and were counterbalanced with additional missions in Kenya, Egypt and Jordan.

To continue facilitating the entry of people fleeing Ukraine, the possibility to enter Germany without a residence title was extended for the fifth time, but now only covering the scope of people that fall under the Council Implementing Decision.¹²

More input from civil society:

- [European Council on Refugees and Exiles](#)
- [European Network on Statelessness](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Jesuit Refugee Service Europe](#)
- [Refugee Council of Lower Saxony | Flüchtlingsrat Niedersachsen e.V.](#)

Germany

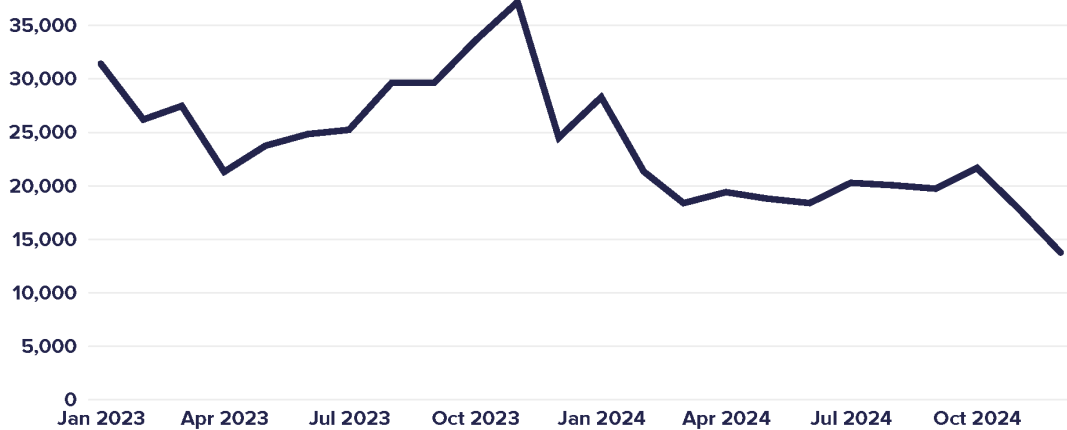
Key indicators for 2024



Rank by number of asylum applications 1	Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants) 8	Share of applications in EU+ 23.4%	Recognition rate 45%
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Indicator	2024	2023	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	237,314	334,109 ↓	-29%	Syria (31%), Afghanistan (14%), Türkiye (13%)
Pending cases (Dec '24)	212,656	239,614 ↓	-11%	Syria (23%), Türkiye (21%), Afghanistan (18%)
First instance decisions	251,043	218,547 ↑	15%	Syria (33%), Afghanistan (15%), Türkiye (14%)
Refugee status	37,730	42,462 ↓	-11%	Afghanistan (38%), Syria (19%), Türkiye (10%)
Subsidiary protection	75,026	71,213 →	5%	Syria (94%), Afghanistan (1%), Sudan (0.8%)
Negative	138,287	104,872 ↑	32%	Türkiye (22%), Afghanistan (16%), Iraq (6%)

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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- ⁶ Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community | Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat. (2024, June 21). [Umfassende Prüfung zu Asylverfahren in Drittstaaten wird fortgesetzt: Bundesinnenministerium veröffentlicht Bericht und Stellungnahmen von Experten](#) [Comprehensive review of asylum procedures in third countries continues: Federal Ministry of the Interior publishes report and statements by experts].
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