



## Norway

### National developments in 2024



The number of applications in the regular procedure decreased in 2024, but a high demand for reception places continued due to a surge in arrivals of displaced Ukrainians in the autumn of 2023. Thus, many developments centred around temporary protection.

To optimise efficiency, the newly-appointed director of the UDI focused on the digitalisation of the entire migration sector.<sup>1</sup> Staff and asylum workflows were structurally reorganised. Instead of teams by specific field or country, teams formed on expertise and experience work together on assignments for about 6 months, following prioritisation through an analysis of pending asylum cases.

A new sector was opened in the Råde arrival centre, where people fleeing the war in Ukraine must now register along with new arrivals.<sup>2</sup> At the same time, emergency reception centres that catered to the increased arrivals in 2022 were closed and replaced by regular reception centres.<sup>3</sup> Ukrainians choosing to live privately are no longer entitled to financial support.<sup>4</sup>

The UDI started to process applications by displaced persons from Ukraine who are not covered by temporary protection in the regular procedure,<sup>5</sup> and updated its guidelines for these applications in May 2024.<sup>6</sup> In September 2024, the policy for temporary protection was changed and people from certain areas of Ukraine are no longer covered – they are channelled through the regular procedure instead.<sup>7</sup> Overall, the authorities witnessed an increase in the number of unaccompanied Ukrainian youth, around 17 years old.

The concept of safe third countries was expanded to more countries, but still does not apply automatically and cases are assessed individually.

The UDI commissioned a report on the assessment of the best interests of the child in asylum cases, which confirmed solid practices around unaccompanied children but also assessed that the best interests of the child were not sufficiently considered in several cases.<sup>8</sup> Following the report, the UNE changed its practices to always hold a hearing for return cases involving children. Tighter family reunification rules were proposed to protect the best interests of the child, in an effort to prevent child abduction and bigamy.

Throughout the year, several courts litigated on exclusion from international protection and the withdrawal of international protection. While the budget for funding legal assistance increased,<sup>9</sup> the budget for resettlement was reduced from 1,000 places to 500 for 2025, as the government assessed that capacity to integrate newcomers in municipalities was close to a breaking point.<sup>10</sup>

Norway will implement the parts of the Pact that are relevant to the Schengen system and the Dublin procedure, including the AMMR, Parts 3, 5 and 7, the Screening Regulation, the recast Eurodac Regulation, Crisis and Force Majeure Regulation, Articles 12 and 13 and, pending a decision on whether Norway will introduce a national asylum border procedure, the Return Border Procedure Regulation.

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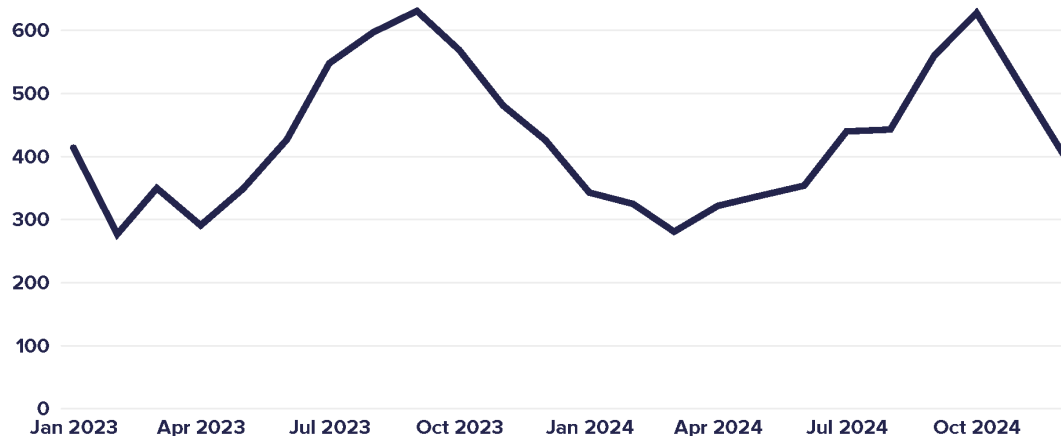
## Key indicators for 2024



Rank by number of asylum applications <b>16</b>	Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants) <b>17</b>	Share of applications in EU+ <b>0.5%</b>	Recognition rate <b>54%</b>
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Indicator	2024	2023	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	4,941	5,348 ↓	-8%	Syria (43%), Ukraine (17%), Eritrea (6%)
Pending cases (Dec '24)	5,282	4,535 ↑	16%	Syria (44%), Ukraine (15%), Türkiye (7%)
First instance decisions	2,622	2,892 ↓	-9%	Syria (37%), Afghanistan (9%), Eritrea (9%)
Refugee status	1,289	1,980 ↓	-35%	Syria (64%), Eritrea (9%), Türkiye (8%)
Subsidiary protection	131	120 ↑	9%	Afghanistan (40%), Yemen (15%), Eritrea (10%)
Negative	1,202	792 ↑	52%	Colombia (11%), Syria (11%), Türkiye (11%)

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> Norwegian Directorate of Immigration | Utlendingsdirektoratet. (2024, March 15). [Snorre Sæther blir ny direktør i UDI, \[Snorre Sæther will be the new director of UDI\]](#).
- <sup>2</sup> Norwegian Directorate of Immigration | Utlendingsdirektoratet. (2024, February 8). [Neste veke opnar UDI eit nytt innkomststelt for flyktningar på Råde \[Next week, the UDI will open a new reception tent for refugees in Råde\]](#).
- <sup>3</sup> Norwegian Directorate of Immigration | Utlendingsdirektoratet. (2024, March 19). [Avvikler 3 000 mottaksplasser \[Discontinuing 3,000 reception places\]](#). Norwegian Directorate of Immigration | Utlendingsdirektoratet. (2024, June 27). [Skal opprette nye mottak \[Will create new reception places\]](#).
- <sup>4</sup> Norwegian Directorate of Immigration | Utlendingsdirektoratet. (2024, January 29). [Kuttar støtte til å bo privat og til kjæledyrhold på mottak \[Cuts support for living privately and for keeping pets in reception\]](#).
- <sup>5</sup> Norwegian Directorate of Immigration | Utlendingsdirektoratet. (2024, May 22). [Individuell behandling av asylsøknader fra Ukraina \[Individual processing of asylum applications from Ukraine\]](#).
- <sup>6</sup> Norwegian Directorate of Immigration | Utlendingsdirektoratet. (2024, May 2). [UDI 2024-004 Asylpraksis for Ukraina \[UDI 2024-004 Asylum practice for Ukraine\]](#).
- <sup>7</sup> Norwegian Directorate of Immigration | Utlendingsdirektoratet. (2025, January 13). [More areas excluded from the right to collective protection.](#)
- <sup>8</sup> Norwegian Directorate of Immigration | Utlendingsdirektoratet. (2024, April 15). [Blir barnets beste tilstrekkelig vurdert i UDI og UNE sine vedtak og beslutninger? \[Are the child's best interests adequately considered in UDI and UNE's decisions and decisions?\]](#). KPMG. (2024). [Summary and recommendations - Immigration authorities' assessments of the best interests of the child in asylum cases.](#)
- <sup>9</sup> Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers | Norsk organisasjon for asylsøkere. (2024, June 18). [NOAS fornøyd med økning til rettshjelp i budsjettforlik \[NOAS satisfied with increase in legal aid in budget settlement\]](#).
- <sup>10</sup> Government | Regjeringen. (2024, October 7). [Regjeringen foreslår å redusere antallet overføringsflyktninger fra 1 000 til 200 \[The government proposes to reduce the number of resettled refugees from 1,000 to 200\]](#).