



Poland

National developments in 2024



Poland experienced a sharp increase in the number of asylum applications. During the year, a new migration strategy for 2025-2030¹ was adopted and legislation was drafted in response to threats of instrumentalisation of migration by introducing the possibility of a temporary and territorial suspension of the right to apply for asylum. A package of four draft laws was adopted by the Council of Ministers in December 2024, which includes amendments to the Act on Granting Protection to Foreigners. The draft laws introduce the possibility of temporarily limiting the right to lodge an asylum application except for vulnerable applicants (i.e. pregnant women, unaccompanied minors and people who require special treatment) and included additional grounds to withdraw refugee status.² The legislation was adopted in February 2025 and entered into force in March 2025.³

The situation at the border with Belarus remained a priority in 2024. While focusing on the continued recruitment for the Border Guard, Poland also introduced a buffer zone to prevent illegal entries, with a temporary ban on staying in a specific area adjacent to the border with Belarus.⁴ Civil society organisations reacted negatively to the regulation,⁵ while the Polish Commissioner for Human Rights highlighted aspects on which improvements were necessary.⁶ The Ministry of the Interior replied with the list of safeguards it implemented to ensure respect for human rights.⁷ As civil society organisations petitioned the Prime Minister, the topic of collective expulsions to Belarus became a prominent one.⁸

In addition, in *Sherov and Others v Poland*, the ECtHR held that Poland carried out collective expulsions to Ukraine, failed to initiate a procedure at the border crossing to examine the applications for international protection of four Tajik nationals, did not examine whether Ukraine was safe for them, if they would have access to an effective asylum procedure or would be exposed to a risk of chain *refoulement*. The court noted that the expulsions were part of a wider policy of not receiving applications for asylum at the Polish-Ukrainian border and of returning those persons to Ukraine, in violation of domestic and international laws. Lastly, it held that Poland did not provide an effective remedy, as an appeal against a refusal of entry and a further appeal to the domestic administrative courts lacked an automatic suspensive effect.⁹ On the same topic, the Grand Chamber will decide in 2025 the case of *R.A. and Others v Poland* concerning collective expulsions of Afghan nationals to Belarus.¹⁰

The Office for Foreigners made information on the international protection procedure more readily available by opening a new hotline,¹¹ launching a new mobile application in five languages¹² and publishing an information brochure in seven languages. It also published a reminder on the website about downloading material to learn Polish.¹³ The organisation updated its policy on the protection of children against abuse in centres for foreigners run by the Office for Foreigners, following amendments to the Act on Counteracting Threats of Sexual Crime and Protection of Minors and the Family and Guardianship Code.¹⁴

Poland continued to host a large group of beneficiaries of temporary protection from Ukraine. In July 2024, changes related to their assistance made the payment of benefits contingent on compulsory schooling of children and ended benefits for costs borne by private homeowners hosting beneficiaries of temporary protection. In addition, the Ministry of the Interior and Administration launched the project “Together to Independence” which offers financial support and activities for integration, including career counselling, assistance in finding a job and Polish language courses.¹⁵ Lastly, Polish courts clarified the rights of beneficiaries of temporary protection who have a disability.¹⁶

More input from civil society:

- [European Council on Refugees and Exiles](#)
- [European Network on Statelessness](#)
- [Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights | Helsińska Fundacja Praw Człowieka](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Jesuit Refugee Service Europe](#)
- [Kids in Need of Defence](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [University of Warsaw, Centre of Migration Research](#)

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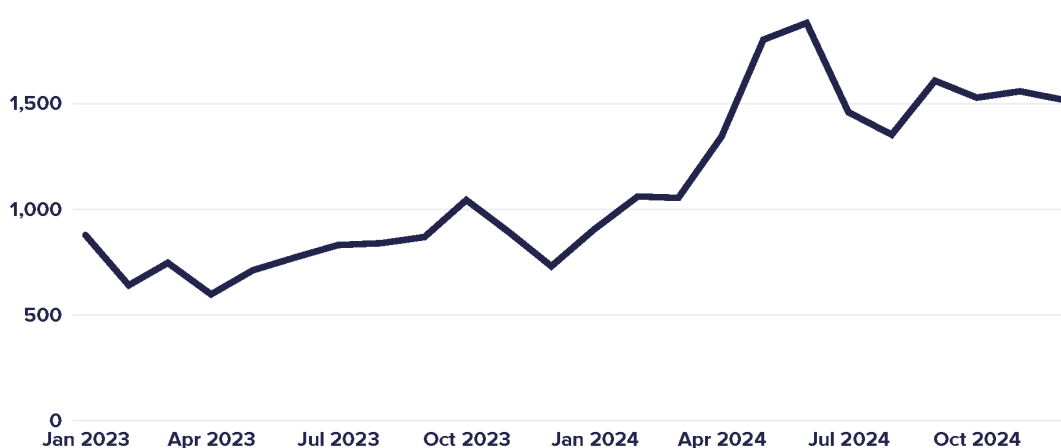
Key indicators for 2024



Rank by number of asylum applications 11	Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants) 21	Share of applications in EU+ 1.7%	Recognition rate 82%
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Indicator	2024	2023	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	17,038	9,519	↑ 79%	Ukraine (41%), Belarus (23%), Russia (6%)
Pending cases (Dec '24)	10,325	6,930	↑ 49%	Ukraine (33%), Russia (27%), Belarus (19%)
First instance decisions	8,580	6,525	↑ 31%	Ukraine (47%), Belarus (32%), Russia (10%)
Refugee status	592	603	→ -2%	Belarus (50%), Russia (21%), Afghanistan (7%)
Subsidiary protection	6,425	4,032	↑ 59%	Ukraine (61%), Belarus (36%), Russia (1%)
Negative	1,563	1,890	↓ -17%	Russia (42%), Belarus (10%), India (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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- ³ Office for Foreigners | Urząd do Spraw Cudzoziemców. (2025, March 27). [Zmiany w prawie azylowym](#) [Changes to asylum law]. Office for Foreigners | Urząd do Spraw Cudzoziemców. (2025, March 27). [Ograniczenie prawa do złożenia wniosku o ochronę międzynarodową](#) [Restriction on the right to submit an application for international protection]. Office for Foreigners | Urząd do Spraw Cudzoziemców. (2025, March 27). [Szef MSWiA o czasowym ograniczeniu „prawa do azylu”: To kluczowe narzędzie do walki z nielegalną migracją](#) [Minister of Interior and Administration on temporary restriction of the "right to asylum": This is a key tool in the fight against illegal migration].
- ⁴ Ministry of the Interior and Administration | Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji. (2024, June 12). [Minister Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji podpisał rozporządzenie w sprawie utworzenia tzw. strefy buforowej](#) [The Minister of the Interior and Administration signed a regulation on the creation of the so-called buffer zone].
- ⁵ Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights | Helsińska Fundacja Praw Człowieka. (2024, June 11). [Pismo organizacji społecznych ws. wprowadzenia tymczasowego zakazu wstępu na obszar przygraniczny](#) [Letter from social organizations on the introduction of a temporary ban on entry to the border area].
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- ⁷ Ombudsman | Rzecznik Praw Obywatelskich. (2024, August 6). [RPO prosi MSWiA o ustosunkowanie się do swego stanowiska ws. wprowadzenia strefy buforowej przy granicy z Białorusią. Odpowiedź resortu](#) [The Ombudsman asks the Ministry of Interior and Administration to comment on its position on the introduction of a buffer zone at the border with Belarus. The Ministry's response]. Ministry of Interior and Administration | Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji. (August 2028). [Pismo do Pan Marcina Wiąckiego, Rzecznika Praw Obywatelskich](#) [Letter to Mr Marcin Wiącek, Ombudsman].
- ⁸ Association for Legal Intervention | Stowarzyszenia Interwencji Prawnej. (2024, January 9). [Stop wywózkom! Podpisujemy apel do Donalda Tuska](#) [Stop deportations! We sign the appeal to Donald Tusk].
- ⁹ Council of Europe, European Court of Human Rights [ECtHR], [Sherov and Others v Poland](#), No 54029/17, 54117/17, 54128/17 and others, ECLI:CE:ECHR:2024:0404JUD005402917, 04 April 2024. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database.
- ¹⁰ European Court of Human Rights. (2024, June 26). [Grand Chamber to examine case concerning situation of Afghan nationals stranded at Belarusian-Polish border.](#)
- ¹¹ Office for Foreigners | Urząd do Spraw Cudzoziemców. (2024, February 21). [Dedykowana infolinia dotycząca ochrony międzynarodowej](#) [Dedicated helpline for international protection].
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- ¹³ Office for Foreigners | Urząd do Spraw Cudzoziemców. (2024, January 11). [Materiały dydaktyczne do nauki języka polskiego](#) [Teaching materials for learning Polish].
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- ¹⁶ EUAA Case Law Database. [Poland - Temporary Protection – 2024.](#)