



## Portugal

### National developments in 2024



In 2024, the Portuguese Council of Ministers approved an action plan on migration that largely impacted the responsibilities and organisation of the new AIMA,<sup>1</sup> which became operational at the end of 2023.<sup>2</sup> One of the objectives of the plan is to ensure sufficient human and technical resources for the agency, allowing for the establishment of efficient procedures. To this end, AIMA plans to maximise its staff attendance in the accredited training offered by the EUAA. In order to speed up the processing of current cases, the organisation signed an agreement with the Portuguese Bar Association and the Order of Solicitors and Enforcement Agents to provide legal support in case processing and promote an exchange of knowledge and practices.<sup>3</sup>

Several legislative pieces were issued throughout the year to clarify the roles and specific tasks of various organisations, adopt their structures and appoint management; however, the asylum procedure itself was not amended and the same rules continued to apply.

With an increase in the number of applicants in recent years, issues with reception capacity emerged. A civil society organisation, Santa Casa Misericórdia de Lisboa, noted the need for structural solutions,<sup>4</sup> and national authorities identified this as a focus area in the National Implementation Plan for the Pact on Migration and Asylum.

Despite the challenges in reception, resettlement activities restarted, and AIMA signed a new agreement with the IOM for a project until 2026. The agency reconfirmed its commitment to resettle 600 refugees currently residing in Türkiye and Egypt.<sup>5</sup>

A particular challenge emerged related to the validity of residence permit documents for foreigners, including for applicants and beneficiaries of international protection. According to a law adopted at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, residence permits that expired after 22 February 2020 must be accepted until 30 June 2025, and even after this date, if there is proof of an appointment for a renewal.<sup>6</sup> However, the Ombudsperson's Office received several complaints that public service employees were not aware of this law and residence permits were not accepted, which led to a sudden increase in AIMA's workload. The Ombudsperson reiterated the need for better dissemination of information on this rule in the public service.<sup>7</sup>

#### More input from civil society:

- [European Council on Refugees and Exiles](#)
- [Jesuit Refugee Service Europe](#)
- [Portuguese Refugee Council | Conselho Portugues para os Refugiados](#)
- [Santa Casa Misericórdia de Lisboa](#)

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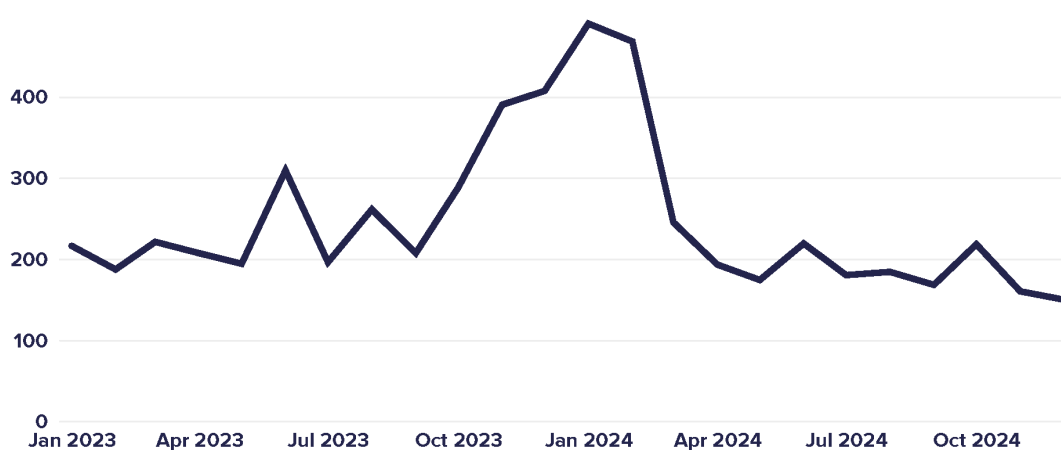
## Key indicators for 2024



Rank by number of asylum applications <b>18</b>	Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants) <b>24</b>	Share of applications in EU+ <b>0.3%</b>	Recognition rate <b>n.a.</b>
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Indicator	2024	2023	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	2,849	3,083 ↓	-8%	Senegal (15%), The Gambia (14%), Colombia (9%)
Pending cases (Dec '24)	129	363 ↓	-64%	Venezuela (18%), China (17%), Angola (12%)
First instance decisions	785	408 ↑	92%	Senegal (29%), The Gambia (13%), Angola (9%)
Refugee status		277	n.a.	
Negative	785	131 ↑	499%	Senegal (29%), The Gambia (13%), Angola (9%)

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> Government of Portugal | Governo de Portugal. (2024, June 3). [Plano de Ação para as Migrações: conheça as principais medidas](#) [Action plan on migration and its main measures approved].

<sup>2</sup> European Union Agency for Asylum. (June 2024). [Asylum Report 2024](#).

<sup>3</sup> Agency for Integration, Migration, and Asylum | Agência para a Integração Migrações e Asilo. (2024, March 14). [AIMA assina protocolos de cooperação com OA e OSAE](#) [AIMA signs cooperation agreements with OA and OSAE].

<sup>4</sup> Santa Casa Misericórdia de Lisboa. (2024). [Input to the Asylum Report 2025](#).

<sup>5</sup> Agency for Integration, Migration, and Asylum | Agência para a Integração Migrações e Asilo. (2024, October 29). [AIMA e OIM assinam um novo projeto de reinstalação de pessoas refugiadas para Portugal](#) [AIMA and IOM sign a new project for the resettlement of refugees to Portugal]. [Resolução do Conselho de Ministros n.º 91/2024](#) [Council of Ministers Resolution No 91/2024], 24 July 2024.

<sup>6</sup> Agency for Integration, Migration, and Asylum | Agência para a Integração Migrações e Asilo. (2024, June 28). [Publicado diploma que prorroga o prazo relativo à validade dos documentos e vistos](#) [Decree extending the period of validity of documents and visas published].

<sup>7</sup> Ombudsperson | Provedor de Justiça. (2024, October 24). [Provedoria de Justiça recomenda adequada divulgação da informação sobre a prorrogação da validade de documentos de cidadãos estrangeiros](#) [Ombudsperson recommends adequate dissemination of information on the extension of the validity of documents of foreign citizens].