



Croatia

National developments in 2025



In late 2025, the government drafted proposals to amend both the Law on Foreigners and the International and Temporary Protection Act in order to harmonise national legislation with the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.¹

The Migration and Asylum Management Plan to 2030 was approved in late 2025,² which addresses staffing shortages in the Ministry's Sector for International Protection and necessary upgrades to facilities at the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina intended for screening checks and border asylum procedures under the EU Pact. In the same vein, the ministry restructured its Sector for International Protection into three services,³ by elevating its former Dublin Procedure Department into a separate service and creating the Department for Information and Documentation and the Department of Border Procedure. The Reception Service plans to significantly increase its workforce and create a new organisational unit for the reception of applicants subject to the border procedure.

Due to the cumulative effect of the past 5-year trend, the EU Commission declared that Croatia faced a significant migratory situation and was at risk of migratory pressure.⁴

Throughout 2025, Croatia remained a transit country for international protection applicants, as most of those expressing an intention to apply for asylum moved onward to other EU+ countries without formally lodging an application. Consequently, authorities continued to issue many decisions on take back requests for Dublin transfers, although at a much-reduced level compared to 2024. This was because there was a sharp drop in arrivals through the Western Balkan route in 2024 and 2025,⁵ plausibly due to an increased focus on border management along this route.⁶ While Croatian authorities underlined zero tolerance toward illegal action by police officers,⁷ Save the Children's child protection outreach activities collected testimonies of intimidation and returns along the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina.⁸ In a case concerning practices in 2021, the ECtHR found Croatia violated the ECHR, Articles 3 and 13, as a detained foreigner could not make an application for international protection, the authorities prevented his lawyer to contact him due to public health grounds, and the remedy available against the return decision did not have an automatic suspensive effect.⁹

The Ministry of the Interior allocated AMIF and its own resources to improve detention conditions at the Tovarnik Transit Reception Centre¹⁰ and Ježevo Reception Centre,¹¹ to train Border Police Officers,¹² and to support translation services and free legal aid in returns¹³ and asylum procedures.¹⁴ Additional capacity-building activities for judges,¹⁵ police officers and the staff of the Zagreb Welcome Centre¹⁶ were funded by UNHCR or delivered by the Judicial and the Police Academies.¹⁷ These improvements and training were prompted by the need to execute ECtHR judgments¹⁸ and to prepare for the entry into application of the Pact.

More input from civil society:

- [Civil Rights Project Sisak | Projekt Građanskih Prava Sisak](#)
- [Croatian Red Cross | Hrvatski Crveni križ](#)

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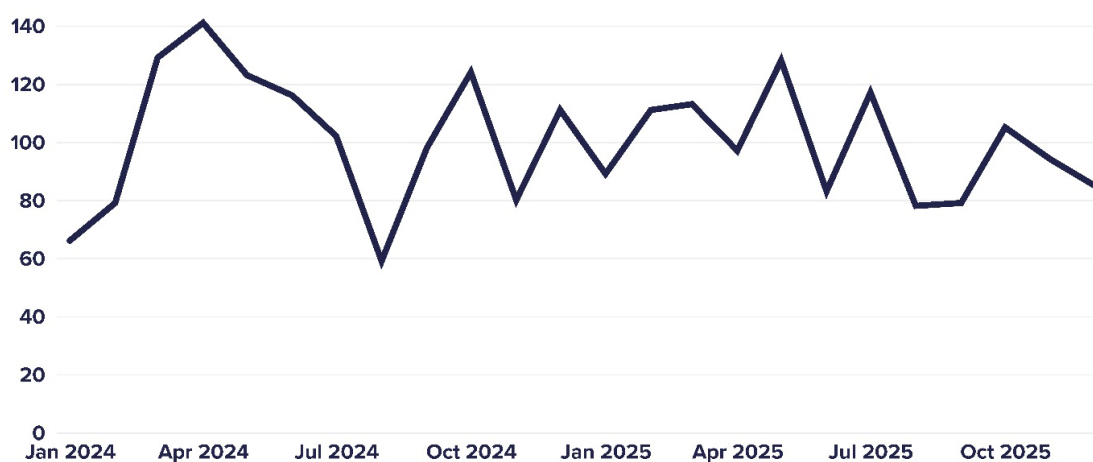
Key indicators for 2025



Rank by number of asylum applications 24	Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants) 14	Share of applications in EU+ 0.1%	Recognition rate 5%
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Indicator	2025	2024	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	1,179	1,228 →	-4%	Türkiye (21%), Russia (17%), Syria (14%)
Pending cases (Dec '25)	506	1,120 ↓	-55%	Russia (22%), Syria (16%), Türkiye (9%)
First instance decisions	295	312 →	-5%	Russia (18%), Türkiye (12%), Egypt (9%)
Refugee status	13	61 ↓	-79%	Nigeria (23%), Syria (15%), Cameroon (8%)
Subsidiary protection	0	5 ↓	-75%	Syria (100%)
Negative	281	247 ↑	14%	Russia (19%), Türkiye (12%), Egypt (10%)

Evolution of asylum applications, 2024-2025



For more developments, please consult the [Asylum Report 2026](#) and the [National Asylum Developments Database](#).





Sources

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- ⁵ European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex). (12 November 2025). [EU external borders: Irregular crossings fall 22% in the first 10 months of 2025](#).
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- ¹⁰ Ministry of the Interior (Croatia) | Ministarstvo unutarnjih poslova. (3 June 2025). [AMIF projekt: Poboljšanje uvjeta smještaja i rada u Tranzitnom prihvatnom centru za strance Tovarnik](#) [AMIF project: Improving accommodation and working conditions at the Transit Center for Foreigners Tovarnik].
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- ¹⁸ Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers. (15 April 2025). [1531st meeting \(June 2025\) \(DH\) – Rules 9.2 and 9.6 – Communication from an NGO \(Centre for Peace Studies\) \(01/04/2025\) concerning the case of Daraibou v Croatia \(Application No 84523/17\) and reply from the authorities \(14/04/2025\)](#); European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), *M.H. and Others v Croatia* (Case 15670/18), 4 April 2022.