



Cyprus

National developments in 2025



In 2025, there was a significant decrease in the number of applications for international protection in Cyprus, largely due to the regime change in neighbouring Syria. Nonetheless, the country remained among the top EU Member States for applications per capita and the European Commission determined it to be under migratory pressure. Throughout the year, authorities focused on putting in place the necessary legislative, administrative and practical arrangements for the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum.

To align national legislation with the legal instruments of the Pact, a new Refugee Law was put forth for consultation,¹ and the bill amending the Cyprus Refugee Law was adopted on 23 April 2026.² To address situations when beneficiaries of subsidiary protection are involved in serious crimes or pose a threat to public order and security, targeted amendments to the Refugee Law were already adopted in December 2025. For such cases, the Council of Ministers, the Deputy Ministry or the Head of the Asylum Service may now revoke international protection after a 10-day objection deadline.³ Representatives from UNHCR, KISA and Cyprus Refugee Council noted that this time limit risked being too short to allow applicants to prepare the objection and suggested to extend the deadline to 30 days.⁴

The Pournara First Reception Centre was upgraded to serve as a screening centre for the processes foreseen in the Screening Regulation. Authorities also proceeded with the construction of a new reception facility and predeparture centre at Limnes.⁵ The competences for the reception of unaccompanied children were transferred from the Deputy Ministry for Social Welfare to the Deputy Ministry for Migration and International Protection and the Cypriot Asylum Service was designated to manage the reception facilities for the unaccompanied minors. Responsibilities for registration were divided between the Aliens and Immigration Units (AIU) of the police for asylum applications and CAS for temporary protection.⁶

Reforms were also undertaken at the level of judicial institutions. Through an amendment to the Law on the Establishment and Operation of the International Protection Administrative Court (IPAC), IPAC was transferred under the administrative auspices of the Supreme Constitutional Court. Issues related to the appointment of IPAC judges now fall under the remit of the Supreme Constitutional Judicial Council. Appeals to decisions issued by IPAC are to be examined by the Administrative Court of Appeal.⁷

A much-discussed issue of past years concerned interceptions at sea and lack of access to territory. Following the ECtHR judgment in *M.A. and Z.R.* in October 2024, the government submitted an action report detailing measures to prevent pushbacks at sea and ensure access to international protection.⁸ Still, UNHCR⁹ and civil society organisations continued to raise concerns throughout 2025.¹⁰

After a year-long suspension, the examination of cases by Syrian applicants partially resumed in April 2025, with no cases awarding subsidiary protection status, and full resumption in February 2026. In parallel, from June to August 2025, the government launched a voluntary return programme for Syrian families who arrived before December 2024.¹¹ The programme offered the father of the family unit the possibility of remaining in Cyprus with a special work permit for up to 3 years, while providing financial support to the wife and children to aid their return to and settlement in Syria. UNHCR conducted research on the intention of Syrian applicants and found that almost one-half would be interested in go-and-see visits to their home country but feared losing their status in Cyprus.¹² Only 2% planned to permanently return to Syria in the next 12 months.¹³

A [National Strategy](#) and an [Action Plan](#) for the integration of migrants was developed for 2026-2029.¹⁴ The strategy comprises four strategic goals: socio-economic integration, awareness-raising for local and migrant populations, equitable access to healthcare services, and the revision of relevant legal and policy frameworks.¹⁵ Reflecting the Pact's emphasis on effective integration policies, the initiative replaces fragmented measures with a single, structured system to achieve social cohesion, economic development and national security.

More input from civil society:

- [European Network on Statelessness](#)

Cyprus

Key indicators for 2025



Rank by number of asylum applications 13	Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants) 1	Share of applications in EU+ 0.5%	Recognition rate 8%
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Indicator	2025	2024	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	4,357	9,201 ↓	-53%	Syria (25%), Nigeria (9%), Congo (DR) (8%)
Pending cases (Dec '25)	15,921	20,652 ↓	-23%	Syria (72%), Afghanistan (6%), Congo (DR) (4%)
First instance decisions	8,591	13,242 ↓	-35%	Syria (38%), Congo (DR) (17%), Nigeria (7%)
Refugee status	470	1,317 ↓	-64%	Palestine (23%), Iraq (16%), Afghanistan (12%)
Subsidiary protection	207	2,467 ↓	-92%	Somalia (29%), Ukraine (24%), Syria (19%)
Negative	7,914	9,458 ↓	-16%	Syria (40%), Congo (DR) (18%), Nigeria (7%)

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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- ⁷ NomoPlatform. (10 July 2025). [Ο περί της Εικοστής Πρώτης Τροποποίησης του Συντάγματος Νόμος \(Αρ. 2\) του 2025](#) [The Twenty-First Amendment to the Constitution Law (No 2) of 2025]; Υπουργείο Δικαιοσύνης και Δημοσίας Τάξεως | Ministry of Justice and Public Order. [Μεταρρύθμιση Δικαστηρίων/ Ενίσχυση του Συστήματος Απονομής της Δικαιοσύνης](#) [Μεταρρύθμιση Δικαστηρίων/ Ενίσχυση του Συστήματος Απονομής της Δικαιοσύνης].
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