



Malta

National developments in 2025



For the sixth consecutive year, the number of applications for international protection decreased. Nevertheless, asylum and migration management continued to be prominent in public discussions and policy.

Throughout 2025, the government met with Mediterranean and European counterparts to strengthen cooperation in addressing irregular migration while ensuring protection for those in need; advocating for a strategic approach for more secure EU borders; improving relations with countries of origin and transit; and enhancing return procedures.¹

Resources were allocated to align with measures in the Pact on Migration and Asylum. The International Protection Agency (IPA) recruited additional staff and created two new units: a Flow Operations Unit to optimise case processing and a Support and Corporate Unit to decentralise finance-related processes. The application form for international protection was revised to align with Pact provisions, while document management software and a case tracker management system were under development. The IPA launched a new [website](#), which includes more information on the agency and the asylum procedure.

Amendments to the Immigration Appeals Board (IAB) Regulations established an additional division with a full-time Chairperson.² New procedural rules, including specific time limits to file submissions and for the board to reach a decision, were also introduced to streamline appeal proceedings.³ A further amendment to legislation defined the categories of people for whom the AWAS must conduct an age assessment as soon as possible.⁴ The Ministry of Home Affairs, Security and Employment issued a call for warranted lawyers to provide legal aid services at the appeals stage before the International Protection Appeals Tribunal and the Immigration Appeals Board.⁵

The Prevention of Disease Ordinance, Article 13 was deleted and replaced by Legal Notice 183 of 2025⁶ which can be used by the public health authorities and the Immigration Police to order the detention of migrants who arrived on the territory in an irregular manner, including asylum seekers, pending medical clearance. Earlier in the year, the Council of Europe's CPT published a report on its sixth periodic visit to Malta, which took place in September-October 2023. The committee reported small improvements with conditions in the immigration detention system, but also described the overall regime as 'deeply punitive' and called for the introduction of a daily programme with more activities and access to outdoor spaces.⁷ The Maltese authorities provided detailed responses to the observation of the committee and expressed their commitment to safeguarding the minimum standards in the humane and safe reception of migrants.⁸ Civil society organisations continued to express concerns about detention and issues related to search and rescue.⁹

Both national authorities and civil society organisations launched campaigns to address exploitation and mistreatment, combat xenophobia and racism, assist applicants and beneficiaries in accessing rights and services, and fight against trafficking in human beings.¹⁰

More input from civil society:

- [European Council on Refugees and Exiles](#)
- [European Network on Statelessness](#)

Malta

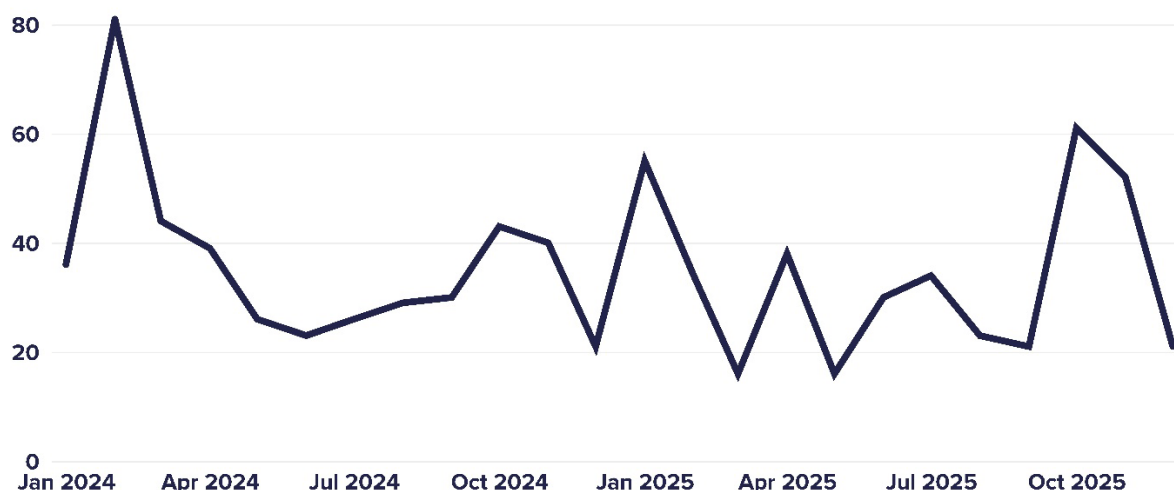
Key indicators for 2025



Rank by number of asylum applications 26	Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants) 15	Share of applications in EU+ 0.05%	Recognition rate 34%
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Indicator	2025	2024	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	401	438 ↓	-8%	Syria (26%), Colombia (9%), Bangladesh (9%)
First instance decisions	394	471 ↓	-16%	Syria (17%), Ukraine (16%), Colombia (7%)
Pending cases (Dec '25)	411	507 ↓	-19%	Syria (34%), Sudan (11%), Colombia (9%)
Refugee status	73	50 ↑	46%	Syria (26%), Palestine (15%), Nigeria (15%)
Subsidiary protection	61	140 ↓	-56%	Syria (52%), Ukraine (13%), Palestine (11%)
Negative	260	281 ↓	-7%	Ukraine (22%), Colombia (10%), Bangladesh (9%)

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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- ² [L.N. 169 of 2025 - Immigration Appeals Board \(Division\) \(Amendment\) Regulations, 2025 Government Gazette of Malta No 21,481, 5 August 2025.](#)
- ³ [L.N. 168 of 2025 IMMIGRATION ACT \(CAP. 217\) Immigration Appeals Board \(Procedure\) Regulations, 2025, 5 August 2025.](#)
- ⁴ [L.N. 170 of 2025 IMMIGRATION ACT \(CAP. 217\) Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers \(Amendment\) Regulations, 2025, 5 August 2025.](#)
- ⁵ The Ministry for Home Affairs, Security and Employment (Malta) | Ministeru għall-Intern, is-Sigurtà u x-Xogħol (1 January 2025). [Expression of interest - provision of legal aid services.](#)
- ⁶ [A.L. 183 tal-2025 ATT DWAR IS-SAĦĦA PUBBLIKA \(KAP. 465\) Regolamenti tal-2025 dwar Ordni fir-rigward ta’ Restrizzjoni ta’ Moviment \(Saħħa Pubblika\) \[L.N. 183 of 2025 PUBLIC HEALTH ACT \(CAP. 465\) Order for Restriction of Movement \(Public Health\) Regulations, 2025\], 29 August 2025.](#)
- ⁷ European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT). (10 July 2025). [Report to the Maltese Government on the visit to Malta carried out by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment \(CPT\) from 26 September to 5 October 2023.](#)
- ⁸ European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT). (10 July 2025). [Response of the Maltese Government to the report of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment \(CPT\) on its visit to Malta from 26 September to 5 October 2023.](#)
- ⁹ Malta Refugee Council. (5 June 2025). [Press Statement: “Refugees deserve protection, not prosecution!”](#); Aditus Foundation. (28 February 2025). [How to combat child detention?](#)
- ¹⁰ Parliamentary Secretary for Equality and Reforms (Malta) | Segretarjat Parlamentari għall-Ugwaljanza u r-Riformi. (25 June 2025). [Il-Gvern b’impenn sħiħ kontra r-rażziżmu – Aktar minn 700 uffiċjal imħarreġ, PR251141](#) [Government fully committed against racism – More than 700 officers trained]; Aditus Foundation. (14 July 2025). [A win! Our asylum-seeking client may now apply for a driver’s licence](#); Jesuit Refugee Service. (3 September 2025). [JRS Malta report sheds light on The Human Cost of Legal Precarity and Labour Exploitation in Malta](#); Aditus Foundation. (18 June 2025). [Guidance Note: How to apply for Travel Documents for Persons with International Protection](#); Parliamentary Secretary for Equality and Reforms (Malta) | Segretarjat Parlamentari għall-Ugwaljanza u r-Riformi. (15 January 2025). [Appoġġ internazzjonali għat-twetiq tal-istrateġija kontra t-traffikar tal-bnedmin](#) [International support for the implementation of the strategy against trafficking in human beings]; Ministry for Social Policy and Children’s Rights (Malta) | Ministeru għall-Politika Soċjali u D-Drittijiet tat-Tfal. (23 April 2025). [‘New Beginnings’ – proġett ġdid li jgħin lill-vittmi tat-traffikar illegali tal-persuni PR250667](#) [‘New Beginnings’ – a new project to help victims of illegal trafficking in human beings]; Parliamentary Secretary for Equality and Reforms (Malta) | Segretarjat Parlamentari għall-Ugwaljanza u r-Riformi. (11 June 2025). [Malta tappoġġja l-użu etiku tal-Intelliġenza Artifiċjali fil-ġlieda kontra t-traffikar tal-bnedmin, PR251013](#) [Malta supports the ethical use of Artificial Intelligence in the fight against trafficking in human beings].