



Poland

National developments in 2025



In 2025, Poland submitted its contingency plan to the EUAA as well as its national migration strategy to the European Commission. The government was in discussions with the European Commission on the allocation of additional funding through AMIF and the Integrated Border Management Fund to strengthen the asylum and migration system and better manage temporary protection, with approximately 1.5 million Ukrainian nationals currently living in the country.¹

Asylum requests lodged in Poland decreased compared to 2024,² while remaining higher than in 2023,³ with applications mainly submitted by Ukrainian, Belarusian and Russian nationals. The country also continued to host a high number of people with temporary protection.⁴ Against this backdrop, the European Commission found that Poland was facing a significant migratory situation in 2025 and was at risk of migratory pressure, including through the weaponisation of migration,⁵ leading to its exemption from the Solidarity Mechanism envisaged under the Pact for 2026.

Adding to the buffer zone established on the Polish-Belarusian border since mid-2024,⁶ Poland enacted a provision in early 2025 allowing to temporarily suspend access to the asylum procedure at the border in cases of instrumentalisation of third-country nationals, with exceptions for vulnerable applicants such as unaccompanied minors, pregnant women and those with medical needs.⁷ This restriction, which raised concerns during the legislative process for several national bodies, civil society organisations and UNHCR,⁸ has been applied at the Polish-Belarusian border since March 2025.

Deadlines for processing various residence permits and international protection procedures were suspended until March 2026 due to the migratory situation, precluding the possibility of lodging complaints for undue delays, an issue that had previously been subject to litigation.⁹ Poland also transposed Article 14(4) of the recast QD, incorporating the possibility to revoke refugee status for individuals deemed a threat to national security or convicted of a serious crime, and repealed a provision allowing for the full withdrawal of reception conditions for serious breaches of house rules.¹⁰

Further amendments were introduced throughout the year to legislation. For example, detention capacity was expanded and measures were adopted to streamline return procedures, including allowing digital notifications and the automatic recognition of return decisions issued by other EU countries.¹¹

Temporary protection certificates were extended until 2027, while the lawful stay of Ukrainian citizens was prolonged until March 2027, alongside the introduction of a more stable residence status for individuals previously under temporary protection.¹² At the same time, certain healthcare services¹³ and social benefits¹⁴ were restricted or subject to additional requirements for beneficiaries of temporary protection, while their right to collective accommodation was limited to only vulnerable applicants.¹⁵ Support under the Act on Assistance to Ukrainian Citizens is being phased out throughout 2026.¹⁶ The “Together for Independence” project, which provides financial assistance to access the private housing market, was extended until June 2026.¹⁷ Poland noted that the phasing out of general assistance is part of a deliberate activation strategy aimed at transitioning beneficiaries from collective support to self-sufficiency. The introduction of a stable residence status is supported by a new, streamlined digital application process designed to prevent administrative backlogs. In addition, authorities aim to balance the restriction of collective accommodation to vulnerable groups by extending targeted housing integration projects, with the aim that EU resources are used to support long-term inclusion within the private market.

More input from civil society:

- [University of Warsaw, Centre of Migration Research](#)
- [European Council on Refugees and Exiles](#)
- [European Network on Statelessness](#)
- [Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights | Helsińska Fundacja Praw Człowieka](#)
- [Save the Children](#)

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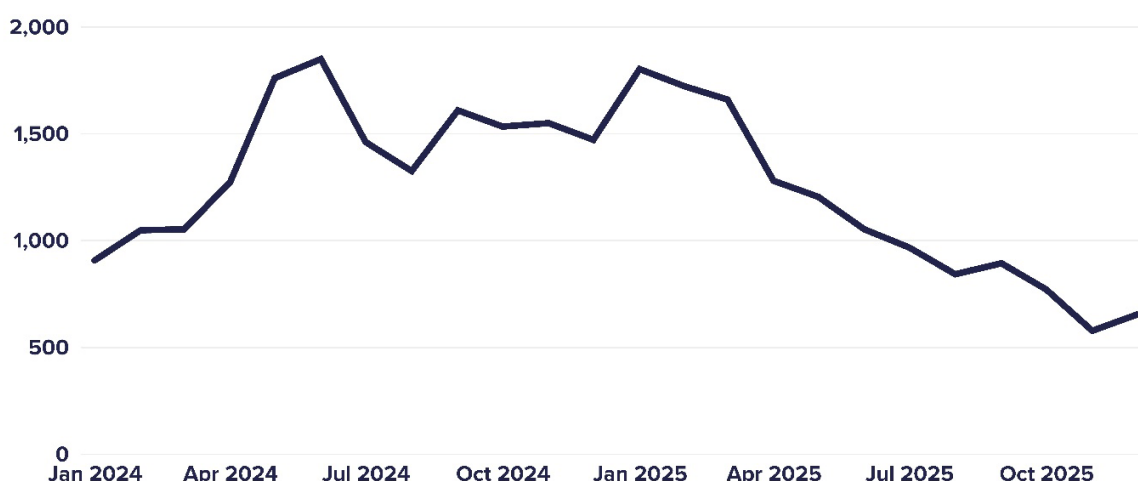
Key indicators for 2025



Rank by number of asylum applications	Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants)	Share of applications in EU+	Recognition rate
10	24	1.6%	48%

Indicator	2025	2024	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	13,396	16,811 ↓	-20%	Ukraine (53%), Belarus (22%), Russia (5%)
Pending cases (Dec '25)	12,734	10,325 ↑	23%	Ukraine (35%), Russia (22%), Belarus (22%)
First instance decisions	7,591	8,580 ↓	-12%	Ukraine (58%), Belarus (24%), Russia (6%)
Refugee status	311	592 ↓	-47%	Belarus (47%), Russia (18%), Afghanistan (7%)
Subsidiary protection	3,364	6,425 ↓	-48%	Belarus (47%), Ukraine (45%), Ethiopia (2%)
Negative	3,916	1,563 ↑	151%	Ukraine (73%), Russia (9%), Belarus (3%)

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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- ⁴ European Commission. (11 November 2025). [Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council, The European Annual Asylum and Migration Report \(2025\)](#). COM (2025) 795 final.
- ⁵ European Commission. (11 November 2025). [First Annual Migration Management Cycle](#); European Commission. (11 November 2025). [Commission Implementing Decision pursuant to Article 11 of Regulation \(EU\) 2024/1351-annexes](#).
- ⁶ Ministry of the Interior and Administration (Poland) | Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji. (4 December 2025). [Obowiązywanie strefy buforowej na granicy polsko-białoruskiej przedłużone o kolejne trzy miesiące](#) [The validity of the buffer zone on the Polish-Belarusian border has been extended for another three months].
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- ⁸ [Rządowy projekt ustawy o zmianie ustawy o udzielaniu cudzoziemcom ochrony na terytorium Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej](#) [Government bill amending the Act on granting protection to foreigners within the territory of the Republic of Poland], 19 December 2024.
- ⁹ Poland, Supreme Administrative Court [Naczelny Sąd Administracyjny], *V.H. v Head of the Office for Foreigners (Szef Urzędu do Spraw Cudzoziemców)*, II OSK 2355/24, 21 March 2025. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database; Poland, Supreme Administrative Court [Naczelny Sąd Administracyjny], *Head of the Office for Foreigners (Szef Urzędu do Spraw Cudzoziemców) v Y.S.*, II OSK 2139/24, 27 March 2025. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database.
- ¹⁰ [Ustawa z dnia 24 kwietnia 2025 r. o zmianie ustawy o cudzoziemcach oraz niektórych innych ustaw](#) [Act of 24 April 2025 amending the Act on Foreigners and Certain Other Acts], 12 May 2025.
- ¹¹ Chancellery of the Prime Minister | Kancelaria Prezesa Rady Ministrów. (5 August 2025). [Projekt ustawy o zmianie ustawy o cudzoziemcach oraz niektórych innych ustaw](#) [Draft act amending the act on foreigners and certain other acts].
- ¹² [Ustawa z dnia 12 września 2025 r. o zmianie niektórych ustaw w celu weryfikacji prawa do świadczeń na rzecz rodziny dla cudzoziemców oraz o warunkach pomocy obywatelom Ukrainy w związku z konfliktem zbrojnym na terytorium tego państwa](#) [Act of 12 September 2025, on amending certain acts in order to verify the right to family benefits for foreigners and on the conditions of assistance to citizens of Ukraine in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of that country], 12 September 2025; Office for Foreigners | Urząd do Spraw Cudzoziemców. (30 September 2025). [Przedłużenie legalnego pobytu obywateli Ukrainy w związku z konfliktem zbrojnym na terytorium tego państwa](#) [Extension of the legal stay of Ukrainian citizens in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of that country]; Office for Foreigners | Urząd do Spraw Cudzoziemców. (12 December 2025). [Nowelizacja ustawy o cudzoziemcach z podpisem Prezydenta](#) [Amendment to the Act on Foreigners signed by the President].
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¹⁷ Ministry of the Interior and Administration (Poland) | Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji. (n.d.).
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