



## Portugal

### National developments in 2025



In 2025, the inflow of asylum applications continued to be low in Portugal.<sup>1</sup> Throughout the year, the authorities focused on preparations for the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum. A working group was established to this end, and specialised subgroups addressed key areas of reform. The subgroups prepared proposals for amendments to the Asylum Law and the Immigration Law to align with the new EU legal framework and operational requirements.<sup>2</sup>

Marking the growing importance of migration management, the position of a Secretary of State for the Presidency and Immigration was established, placing migration affairs under a role explicitly dedicated to this area.<sup>3</sup> To optimise the management of immigration matters and border control, the National Unit for Foreigners and Borders was created within the Public Security Police, with consolidated responsibilities for immigration control, border management, and enforcement of removal and expulsion orders.<sup>4</sup> The unit increased security checks and strengthened interoperability between national and European systems to improve the detection of threats at external borders. A Dublin unit was also created within AIMA to specifically handle Dublin cases and the transition to the AMMR system.<sup>5</sup>

A decision was taken to establish a courtroom at the Lisbon Airport (Humberto Delgado) to ensure compliance with constitutional obligations and streamline judicial procedures for foreign nationals detained at the border. This facility will operate as an extension of the Criminal Court, enabling hearings without requiring a transfer outside of the international zone. The initiative aims to guarantee fundamental rights, reduce logistical and legal constraints associated with moving detainees, and strengthen coordination between judicial authorities and border control.<sup>6</sup>

Throughout 2025, AIMA hired additional staff and introduced workflow improvements, new templates and digital tools, which all assisted in reducing decision-making times and ensuring compliance with legal deadlines in different procedures. In February 2025, the procedure to submit subsequent applications for international protection was amended, introducing clearer rules to ensure greater efficiency. AIMA reported that challenges remain with the availability of interpreters in certain languages (e.g. less common African or Asian languages) and the quality of interpretation, especially in videoconference interviews or in the context of the border procedure. AIMA is expanding its pool of interpreters to ensure effective communication throughout the asylum process, while it has proceeded to develop a translation software in collaboration with a private entity. To improve transparency and the accessibility of information, AIMA published on its website a comprehensive set of Frequently Asked Questions on the international protection procedure in Portuguese, English, Ukrainian, Arabic, Mandarin and Hindi. It also increased capacity for COI by hiring additional staff and specialised training on COI.

A Common Reception System was developed as an integrated case management mechanism to ensure greater efficiency, predictability and control by authorities over the actual number of available reception places. Targeted legislative proposals incorporated key provisions of the revised Reception Conditions Directive 2024, including enhanced safeguards for unaccompanied minors, clarification of rules to reduce or withdraw material reception conditions and ensuring procedural guarantees. Authorities increased the capacity of reception centres, including specialised residential units for unaccompanied minors. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms were put in place to assess compliance with reception standards and quality indicators. In February 2025, the Council of Ministers authorised the construction of two new temporary accommodation centres for third country nationals in the context of screening, the asylum border procedure and the return border procedure.<sup>7</sup>

At the end of 2025, the government launched public consultations on a legislative reform to restructure detention and alternatives to detention for returns, and to centralise responsibilities for returns under the Unit for Foreigners and Borders of the Public Security Police.<sup>8</sup>

#### More input from civil society:

- [European Council on Refugees and Exiles](#)
- [European Network on Statelessness](#)
- [Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa](#)

# Portugal

## Key indicators for 2025



Rank by number of asylum applications  
**19**

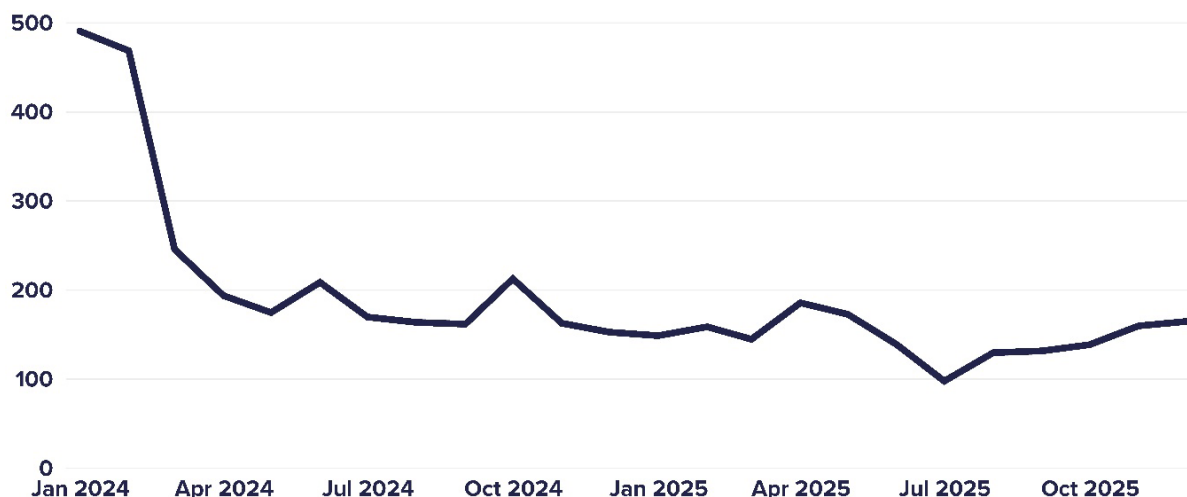
Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants)  
**22**

Share of applications in EU+  
**0.2%**

Recognition rate  
**59%**

Indicator	2025	2024	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	1,763	2,797 ↓	-37%	Colombia (14%), China (10%), Angola (9%)
Pending cases (Dec '25)	8,730	4,510 ↑	94%	The Gambia (10%), Angola (8%), Colombia (7%)
First instance decisions	488	641 ↓	-24%	Afghanistan (42%), Syria (8%), China (7%)
Refugee status	288	7 ↑	4014%	Afghanistan (71%), Syria (13%), Eritrea (5%)
Subsidiary protection	0	0 →	0%	Eritrea (100%)
Negative	199	633 ↓	-69%	China (18%), Guinea (11%), The Gambia (11%)

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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<sup>1</sup> European Commission. (11 November 2025). [Commission launches first Annual Migration Management Cycle under the Pact on Migration and Asylum](#).

<sup>2</sup> Despacho n.º 11856-A/2024 - DR n.º 194/2024, Supl, Série II de 07.10.2024, Grupo de trabalho: Plano Nacional de Implementação do Pacto de Migração e Asilo [Order No 11856-A/2024 - Official Gazette No 194/2024, Supplement, Series II of 07.10.2024, Working group: National Implementation Plan of the Pact on Migration and Asylum], 8 October 2024.

<sup>3</sup> Decreto-Lei n.º 87-A/2025, de 25 de julho [Decree-Law No 87-A/2025, of July 25], 25 July 2025.

<sup>4</sup> Lei n.º 55-C/2025, de 22 de julho [Law No 55-C/2025, of July 22], 22 July 2025.

<sup>5</sup> Deliberação n.º 891/2025, de 15 de julho [Resolution No 891/2025, of July 15], 15 July 2025.

<sup>6</sup> High Council for the Judiciary | Conselho Superior da Magistratura. (14 March 2025). [CSM visita espaço no Aeroporto de Lisboa para garantir audições de cidadãos estrangeiros detidos na fronteira](#) [CSM visits space at Lisbon Airport to ensure hearings for foreign citizens detained at the border].

<sup>7</sup> Resolução do Conselho de Ministros n.º 28/2025, de 17 de fevereiro [Resolution of the Council of Ministers No 28/2025, of February 17]. 17 February 2025.

<sup>8</sup> Proposta de Lei que altera as Leis n.º 34/94, 14SET, n.º 23/2007, 4JUL, e n.º 27/2008, 30JUN [Draft Law amending Laws No 34/94, 14SEP, No 23/2007, 4JUL, and No 27/2008, 30JUN], 5 December 2025.