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Asylum decisions in the EU27

EU Member States granted protection to more than 100 000 asylum seekers in 2012

The **EU27** Member States granted protection to 102 700 asylum seekers in 2012, compared with 84 300 in 2011. In 2012, the highest number of persons granted protection status was registered in **Germany** (22 200), followed by **Sweden** (15 300), the **United Kingdom** (14 600) and **France** (14 300). All together, these four Member States accounted for nearly two thirds of all those granted protection status in the **EU27**. The largest groups of beneficiaries of protection status¹ in the **EU27** were citizens of **Syria** (18 700 persons or 18% of the total number of persons granted protection status), **Afghanistan** (13 500 or 13%) and **Somalia** (8 100 or 8%).

These data² on the results of asylum decisions in the **EU27** are released by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union** on the occasion of the World Refugee Day³ on 20 June 2013.

Around a quarter of EU27 asylum decisions at the first instance resulted in protection status

In 2012, 407 300 decisions on asylum applications⁴ were made in the **EU27**, of which 274 500 were first instance decisions and 132 800 final decisions on appeal. Decisions made at the first instance⁵ resulted in 77 300 persons being granted protection status, while a further 25 400 received protection status on appeal⁶. In total, of the 102 700 persons who were granted protection status in 2012, 51 400 persons were granted refugee status (50% of all positive decisions), 37 100 subsidiary protection (36%) and 14 200 authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons (14%). In addition, the **EU27** Member States received 4 500 resettled refugees⁷.

The rate of recognition of asylum applicants, i.e. the share of positive decisions in the total number of decisions, was 28% for first instance decisions, split between refugee and subsidiary protection status (25%) and humanitarian status (3%). For final decisions on appeal the recognition rate was 19%, again split between refugee and subsidiary protection status (14%) and humanitarian status (5%). It should be noted that, while both refugee and subsidiary protection status are defined by EU law, humanitarian status is granted on the basis of national legislation.

Syrians, Afghans and Somalis largest groups granted protection status in the EU27

Syrians became in 2012 the single largest group of persons granted protection status in the **EU27**. Of the 18 700 **Syrians** granted protection status in the **EU27**, more than 70% were recorded in two Member States: **Germany** (8 400) and **Sweden** (5 000). Of the 13 500 **Afghans** granted protection, 3 200 were registered in **Germany**, 2 800 in **Sweden**, 1 900 in **Austria** and 1 500 in **Belgium**, and of the 8 100 **Somalis**, 2 100 were in **Sweden** and 1 100 each in **Malta** and the **Netherlands**.

Decisions on asylum applications in 2012

	Decisions*			Positive decisions**				Resettled refugees
	Total	First instance	Final decisions on appeal	Total	Of which:			
					Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	
EU27	407 270	274 480	132 790	102 705	51 375	37 105	14 205	4 500
Belgium	37 030	24 525	12 505	5 880	4 285	1 595	-	0
Bulgaria	660	640	25	195	20	175	-	-
Czech Republic	1 160	720	440	200	50	150	5	25
Denmark	6 180	4 680	1 495	2 105	1 265	725	120	470
Germany	88 110	58 645	29 465	22 165	10 875	8 110	3 180	305
Estonia	70	65	5	25	10	5	10	0
Ireland	1 625	935	690	140	115	30	-	50
Greece	12 840	11 195	1 650	625	215	135	275	0
Spain	3 740	2 600	1 145	565	240	285	40	-
France	96 075	59 830	36 250	14 325	11 360	2 965	-	100
Italy	14 970	13 735	1 235	9 270	2 095	4 770	2 405	0
Cyprus	2 880	1 335	1 550	150	85	25	40	-
Latvia	195	145	50	30	10	20	-	-
Lithuania	605	390	215	55	15	45	-	-
Luxembourg	2 560	1 650	910	45	40	5	-	0
Hungary	1 500	1 100	405	460	85	330	45	0
Malta	2 025	1 590	435	1 455	45	1 240	165	0
Netherlands***	14 475	13 410	1 060	5 920	700	3 610	1 605	:
Austria	23 855	15 895	7 955	6 000	3 925	2 075	-	-
Poland	3 400	2 435	970	545	105	165	275	-
Portugal	295	230	65	100	15	85	-	15
Romania	3 845	1 625	2 220	505	305	200	0	0
Slovenia	255	220	35	35	20	15	-	0
Slovakia	510	440	70	200	10	105	80	0
Finland	3 420	3 090	330	1 840	635	920	285	730
Sweden	47 475	31 520	15 955	15 290	4 470	9 045	1 775	1 680
United Kingdom	37 510	21 845	15 660	14 570	10 385	270	3 915	1 040
Iceland	65	50	15	10	5	0	0	:
Norway	18 730	10 610	8 120	6 125	3 960	1 475	690	-
Switzerland	20 505	16 650	3 855	4 580	2 505	535	1 535	0
Liechtenstein	125	55	70	20	20	0	0	0

Data are rounded to the nearest five.

0 means less than 3.

: Not available

- Not applicable

* The total number of decisions refers to the number of administrative decisions rather than the number of individuals.

** First instance and final decisions on appeal.

*** Data for the Netherlands are provisional and do not include resettled refugees from 2012.

Recognition rates, 2012

	First instance positive decisions				Final positive decisions on appeal			
	Number	Rate of recognition (%)*			Number	Rate of recognition (%)*		
	Total	Total	Refugee and subsidiary protection status	Humanitarian status	Total	Total	Refugee and subsidiary protection status	Humanitarian status
EU27	77 295	28.2	25.3	2.9	25 410	19.1	14.4	4.7
BE	5 555	22.6	22.6	-	325	2.6	2.6	-
BG	170	26.6	26.6	-	25	95.8	95.8	-
CZ	175	24.6	24.2	0.4	25	5.5	5.5	0.0
DK	1 695	36.2	33.7	2.5	410	27.5	27.4	0.1
DE	17 140	29.2	26.8	2.4	5 025	17.1	11.0	6.0
EE	20	32.8	17.9	14.9	0	25.0	25.0	0.0
IE	95	10.2	10.2	-	45	6.8	6.8	-
EL	95	0.9	0.7	0.2	530	32.2	16.8	15.4
ES	525	20.2	19.8	0.5	40	3.6	1.0	:
FR	8 645	14.4	14.4	-	5 680	15.7	15.7	-
IT	8 480	61.7	47.6	14.1	790	64.0	25.8	38.2
CY	105	7.9	6.7	1.1	45	3.0	1.4	1.7
LV	25	17.8	17.8	-	5	12.5	12.5	-
LT	55	13.9	13.9	-	0	0.9	0.9	-
LU	40	2.5	2.5	-	5	0.6	0.6	-
HU	350	31.8	28.0	3.8	110	27.8	26.6	1.2
MT	1 435	90.1	79.9	10.2	20	5.0	4.1	0.9
NL**	5 505	41.1	29.5	11.6	415	39.0	33.9	5.1
AT	4 455	28.0	28.0	-	1 540	19.4	19.4	-
PL	475	19.5	9.3	10.2	70	7.2	4.4	2.8
PT	100	43.9	43.9	-	0	0.0	0.0	-
RO	230	14.3	14.3	0.0	275	12.4	12.4	0.0
SI	35	15.6	15.6	-	0	0.0	0.0	-
SK	190	43.4	24.8	18.6	10	12.5	12.5	0.0
FI	1 555	50.4	42.7	7.7	280	84.6	70.8	13.9
SE	12 400	39.3	36.0	3.4	2 890	18.1	13.6	4.5
UK	7 735	35.4	30.5	4.9	6 835	43.7	25.5	18.2
IS	10	18.0	16.0	2.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
NO	5 180	48.8	45.8	3.0	945	11.6	7.1	4.5
CH	4 280	25.7	17.8	7.9	300	7.8	2.1	5.7
LI	5	5.6	5.6	0.0	20	26.1	26.1	0.0

Data are rounded to the nearest five.

0 means less than 3.

: Not available

- Not applicable

* Rate of recognition is the share of positive decisions (first instance or final on appeal) in the total number of decisions at the given stage. In this calculation, the exact number of decisions has been used instead of the rounded numbers presented in this table.

** Data for the Netherlands are provisional and do not include resettled refugees from 2012.

Largest groups granted protection status, 2012

	Largest group			Second largest group			Third largest group		
	Citizens of	#	%*	Citizens of	#	%*	Citizens of	#	%*
EU27	Syria	18 725	18.2	Afghanistan	13 485	13.1	Somalia	8 105	7.9
BE	Afghanistan	1 495	25.4	Guinea	685	11.6	Syria	595	10.1
BG	Iraq	70	35.2	Syria	60	32.1	Stateless****	25	13.5
CZ	Belarus	35	17.4	Syria	20	10.9	Uzbekistan	20	10.4
DK	Syria	770	36.6	Iran	390	18.5	Afghanistan	295	14.0
DE	Syria	8 400	37.9	Afghanistan	3 245	14.6	Iraq	3 210	14.5
EE	Armenia	5	26.1	Belarus	5	17.4	Somalia	5	13.0
IE	Syria	15	10.6	Somalia	15	9.9	Pakistan	15	9.2
EL	Iraq	210	33.3	Iran	90	14.7	Afghanistan	85	13.6
ES	Occ. Palestinian Territory	85	14.8	Côte d'Ivoire	80	13.9	Somalia	50	8.5
FR	Russia	1 610	11.2	Sri Lanka	1 460	10.2	Dem. Rep. of Congo	1 185	8.3
IT	Mali	1 985	21.4	Somalia	875	9.4	Afghanistan	865	9.3
CY	Yemen	45	28.3	Iraq	25	17.8	Occ. Palestinian Territory	25	15.8
LV	Syria	15	40.6	Iran	10	37.5	:	:	:
LT	Afghanistan	25	44.6	Belarus	10	19.6	Eritrea	5	10.7
LU	Iraq	20	43.5	Iran	10	21.7	Kosovo***	5	8.7
HU	Afghanistan	245	52.8	Somalia	60	12.6	Syria	55	12.3
MT	Somalia	1 090	75.1	Eritrea	165	11.2	Syria	115	7.8
NL**	Iraq	1 260	21.3	Somalia	1 060	17.9	Afghanistan	705	11.9
AT	Afghanistan	1 860	31.0	Russia	1 105	18.4	Syria	870	14.5
PL	Russia	405	74.1	Belarus	30	5.9	Georgia	25	4.2
PT	Guinea	25	25.7	Côte d'Ivoire	10	10.9	Iran	10	7.9
RO	Syria	255	50.1	Afghanistan	55	11.2	Iraq	45	8.7
SI	Afghanistan	10	29.4	Somalia	10	23.5	Iran	5	14.7
SK	Somalia	115	57.5	Afghanistan	45	21.5	Ethiopia	10	5.5
FI	Iraq	420	22.7	Afghanistan	320	17.4	Somalia	275	14.9
SE	Syria	5 030	32.9	Afghanistan	2 790	18.3	Somalia	2 145	14.0
UK	Iran	2 100	14.4	Pakistan	1 425	9.8	Sri Lanka	1 220	8.4
IS	Iraq	5	55.6	:	:	:	:	:	:
NO	Somalia	2 005	32.8	Eritrea	1 355	22.1	Afghanistan	630	10.3
CH	Eritrea	1 550	33.9	Syria	420	9.2	Iraq	305	6.6
LI	Somalia	10	52.4	Eritrea	5	23.8	Iraq	5	14.3

Data are rounded to the nearest five.

: No data presented for those countries of citizenship where the number of positive decisions was 2 or less during the reference period.

* Persons with this citizenship granted protection status as a percentage of the total number of persons granted protection in this country.

** Data for the Netherlands are provisional and do not include resettled refugees from 2012.

*** Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244.

**** A stateless person is someone who is not recognized as a citizen of any state.

1. **Protection status** includes three different categories of protection:
Person granted refugee status means a person covered by a decision granting refugee status, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during the reference period. Refugee status means status as defined in Art.2(d) of Directive 2004/83/EC within the meaning of Art.1 of the Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951, as amended by the New York Protocol of 31 January 1967. According to the Art.2(c) of that Directive refugee means a third country national who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group, is outside the country of nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country, or a stateless person, who, being outside of the country of former habitual residence for the same reasons as mentioned above, is unable or, owing to such fear, unwilling to return to it.
Person granted subsidiary protection status means a person covered by a decision granting subsidiary protection status, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during the reference period. Subsidiary protection status means status as defined in Art.2(f) of Directive 2004/83/EC. According to the Art.2(e) of that Directive person eligible for subsidiary protection means a third country national or a stateless person who does not qualify as a refugee but in respect of whom substantial grounds have been shown for believing that the person concerned, if returned to his or her country of citizenship, or in the case of a stateless person, to his or her country of former habitual residence, would face a real risk of suffering serious harm and is unable, or, owing to such risk, unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country.
Person granted authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons means a person covered by a decision granting authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons under national law concerning international protection, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during the reference period. It includes persons who are not eligible for international protection as currently defined in the first stage legal instruments, but are nonetheless protected against removal under the obligations that are imposed on all Member States by international refugee or human rights instruments or on the basis of principles flowing from such instruments. Examples of such categories include persons who are not removable on ill health grounds and unaccompanied minors.
2. The data in this release are provided to Eurostat by Ministries of the Interior or Justice, or immigration agencies, of the Member States. These data are supplied by Member States according to the provisions of Article 4 of the Regulation (EC) 862/2007 of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection.
3. For more information see:
http://www.worldrefugeeday.us/site/c.arKK11MLlji0E/b.8092105/k.B369/World_Refugee_Day.htm
4. **A decision on an asylum application** means a decision on an application for international protection as defined in Art.2(g) of Council Directive 2004/83/EC, i.e. including requests for refugee status or for subsidiary protection status, irrespective of whether the application was lodged on arrival at border, or from inside the country, and irrespective of whether the person entered the territory legally (e.g. as a tourist) or illegally.
5. **First instance decision** means a decision made in response to an asylum application at the first instance level of the asylum procedure.
6. **Final decision on appeal** means a decision granted at the final instance of administrative/judicial asylum procedure and which results from the appeal lodged by the asylum seeker rejected in the preceding stage of the procedure. As the asylum procedures and the numbers/levels of decision making bodies differ between Member States, the true final instance may be, according to the national legislation and administrative procedures, a decision of the highest national court. However, the applied methodology defines that 'final decisions' should refer to what is effectively a 'final decision' in the vast majority of all cases: i.e. that all normal routes of appeal have been exhausted.
7. **Resettled refugees** means persons who have been granted an authorisation to reside in a Member State within the framework of a national or Community resettlement scheme. Resettlement means the transfer of third-country nationals or stateless persons, on the basis of their need for international protection and a durable solution, to a Member State where they are permitted to reside with a secure legal status. Data relate to resettled persons who have actually arrived into the territory of the Member State.

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