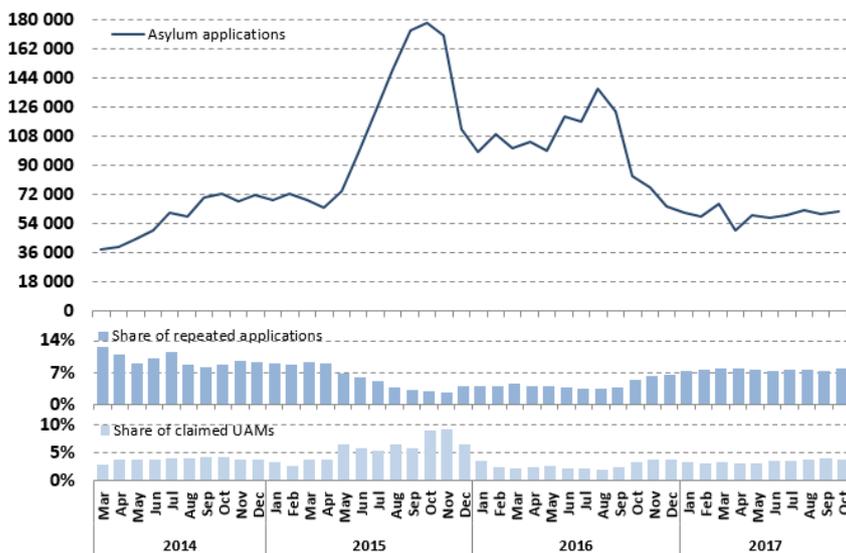


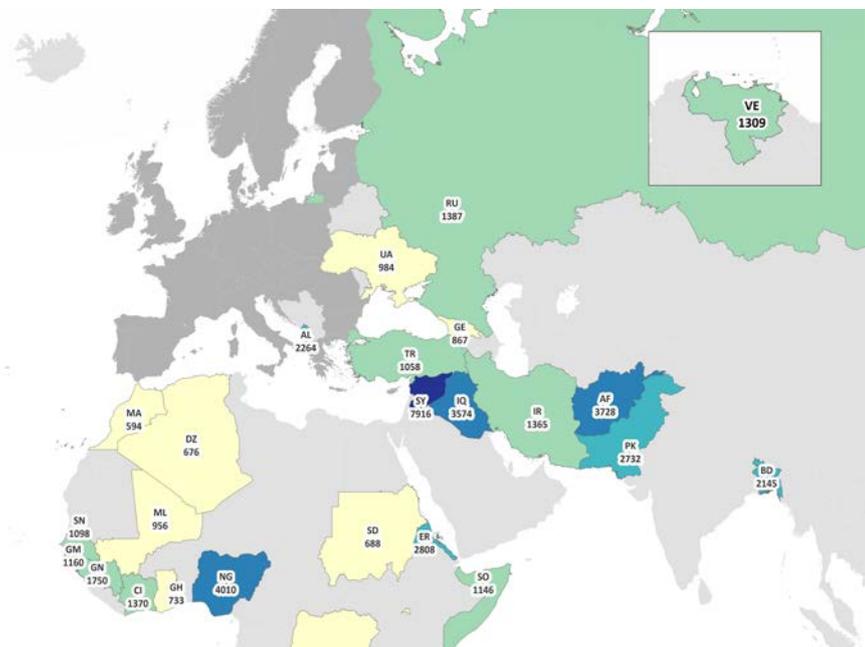
### Latest asylum trends – October 2017

#### Number of applications for international protection in the EU+<sup>1</sup>



In October, there were 61 634 applications for international protection in the EU+ countries.<sup>2</sup> This figure is comparable to that of September when there were only some 1 500 more applicants. It is however significantly lower than a year ago in October 2016, when there were approximately 22 000 more applicants across the EU+. Some 8 % of all applicants were repeated applicants: they had already lodged a claim in the same EU+ country previously. **The proportion of applicants claiming to be unaccompanied minors (UAMs) was 4%, similar to the previous two months.**<sup>3</sup> The largest share of claimed UAM applicants were Afghan nationals (14 % of all UAM applicants), followed by Gambians and Pakistanis (8 % each).

#### Main countries of origin of applicants



In October, the three most common countries of origin of applicants remained the same as in the last two months. **Syrians were the largest group, followed by Iraqi and Afghan nationals. Nigerian and Pakistani applicants completed the top five.** These citizenship groups together accounted for 38 % of all applications lodged in the EU+.

The remainder of the 10 most common countries of origin all lodged a similar number of applications: Eritrea, Turkey, Albania, Bangladesh and Iran (3 % each). For most of the top-10 citizenship groups, the number of applicants remained stable compared to September. However, numbers of Eritrean applicants decreased considerably (- 36 %) compared to September, while those of Turkish, Pakistani and Bangladeshi applicants increased by around 10 % each.

<sup>1</sup> The EU+ is composed of EU28 plus Norway and Switzerland. The share of repeated applicants is the proportion of repeated applicants in the total number of applicants for international protection. The share of claimed UAMs represents the proportion of asylum applicants claiming to be below the age of 18 years in the total number of applicants rather than those assessed to be such after an age assessment has been carried out.  
<sup>2</sup> Information on asylum applications was available for 30 EU+ countries.  
<sup>3</sup> Several EU+ countries have difficulties reporting on claimed UAMs in the framework of the EPS, these figures should therefore be considered as underestimations of the actual proportion of claimed UAMs.

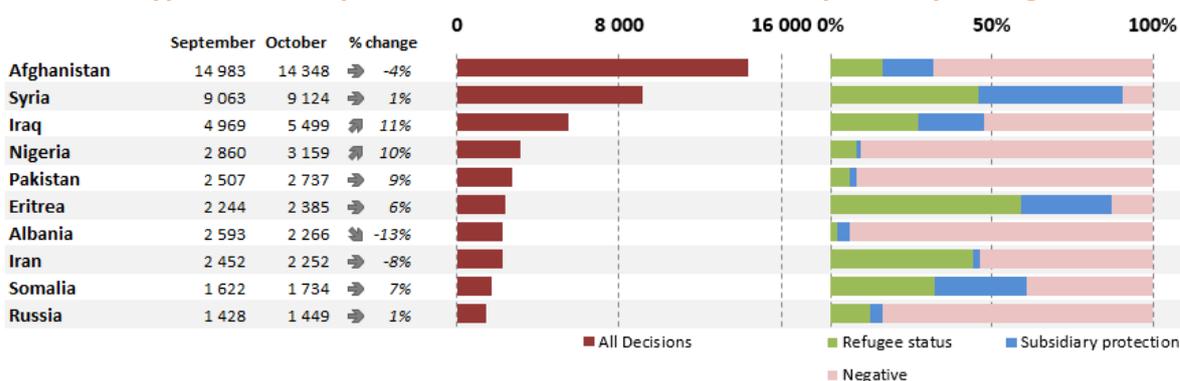
**Syria** – Syria has been the main citizenship of origin of applicants in the EU+ since April 2015. As was the case in the previous month, in October 2017 Syrians lodged 8 540 applications, accounting for 14 % of all applications lodged in the EU+. Overall, 17 out of 30 reporting countries counted Syrian nationals among their top-three citizenships of applicants.

**Iraq** – In October, Iraq was the second main country of origin. Iraqi applicants increased for the third consecutive month, lodging a total of 5 337 applications (+ 150 applicants compared to September). In October, almost all Iraqi nationals applied in just 11 EU+ countries, where they were also featuring in the top three countries of origin.

**Afghanistan** – In October, Afghan citizens lodged 3 727 applications in EU+ countries, almost exactly the number recorded in September. Afghan nationals applied in large numbers in several EU+ countries, being among the top-three citizenships in 12 EU+ reporting countries. They had the largest share of unaccompanied minors (UAMs), accounting for 14 % of all UAM applications in October.

**Nigeria** – Applicants from Nigeria lodged 3 151 asylum claims across the EU+ in October. This represented the second lowest monthly level so far in 2017. Asylum-related migration from Nigeria was unevenly distributed among EU+ countries, as nearly all applications were lodged in just five countries.

### Number and type of monthly decisions issued in first instance, by country of origin<sup>4</sup>



In October 2017, EU+ countries issued 70 183 first-instance decisions, some 1 000 more than in September. Half of all decisions were issued to applicants from the five main countries of origin: Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Nigeria and Pakistan. For the second consecutive month, more decisions were issued to Afghan nationals than to Syrians. Also for Albanian and Iranian nationals, EU+ countries issued fewer decisions than in September. Conversely, slightly more decisions were issued to applicants from Iraq (5 499 or + 530) and Nigeria (3 159, + 299).

The overall EU+ recognition rate decreased for the third consecutive month, to 35 % in October.<sup>5</sup> The citizenships with the highest recognition rates within the top ten countries with most decisions issued were Syrians (90 %) and Eritreans (87 %). The recognition rate dropped for both groups, respectively, by 1 and 2 percentage points. On the other hand, the lowest recognition rates were recorded for Bangladeshi (3 %, 2 percentage points lower than in the previous month) and Albanian applicants (6 %, increasing by 2 percentage points compared to September). As in the previous two months, the share of positive decisions granting refugee status (60 %) was higher than those granting subsidiary protection (40 %).

### Cases awaiting a first-instance decision

At the end of October 2017, there were 507 670 cases awaiting a decision in first instance, some 5 000 fewer than in September. Compared to the past months in 2017, the decrease in the stock between September and October was less obvious. Afghans remained the group with most pending cases, despite being subject to the largest decrease in the stock (- 14 %) compared to September among all citizenship groups.

<sup>4</sup> Data on first-instance decisions and cases awaiting a first-instance decision were available for 29 countries.

<sup>5</sup> The EU+ recognition rate includes EU-regulated forms of protection; it excludes national protection forms (humanitarian reasons).