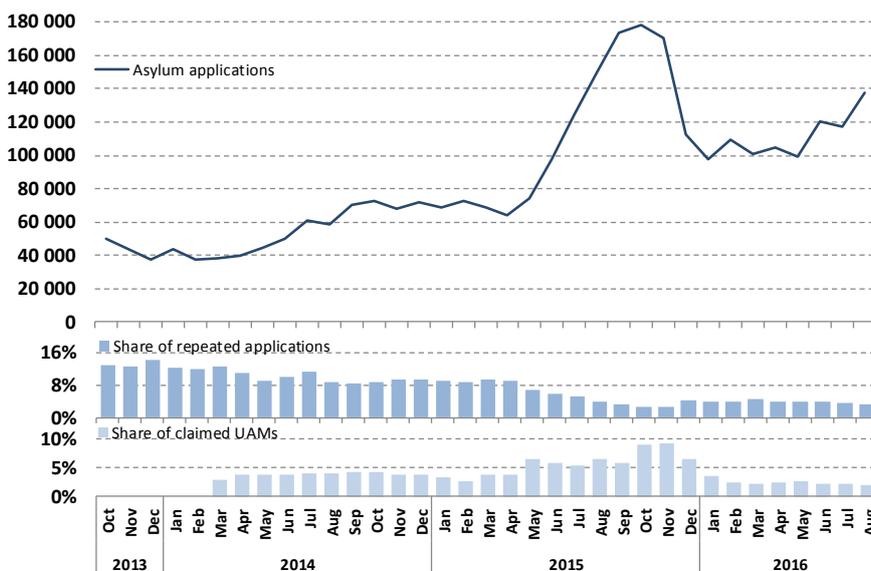


Latest asylum trends – August 2016

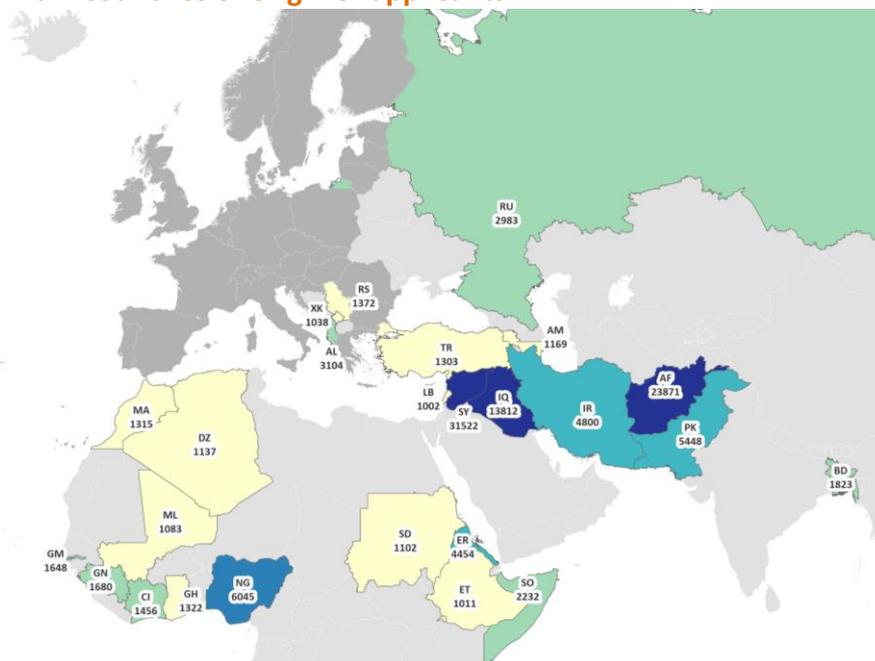
Number of applications for international protection in the EU+¹

In August 2016, EU+ countries recorded 137 688 applications for international protection.² This represents the highest number of asylum applications lodged in a single month across EU+ countries in 2016 and a 17 % increase from July. This figure was however 8 % lower than in August 2015, when 149 006 persons applied for international protection in the EU+.



In line with the previous months, **96 % of all applicants were first-time applicants**, *i.e.* they had not previously lodged an application for international protection in the same EU+ country. **2 % of all applicants claimed to be unaccompanied minors (UAMs)**³ when lodging an application. 32 % of all UAM applicants were Afghan citizens, followed by Eritrean (13 %), Syrian, Somalian, Pakistani nationals (each 6 %) and Iraqi and Gambian nationals (each 4 %).

Main countries of origin of applicants



Syria has been the main citizenship of applicants since April 2015. In August 2016, EU+ countries recorded 31 522 Syrian applications. **Afghanistan and Iraq were still the second and third most represented citizenships** with 23 871 and 13 812 applications, respectively. These top-three citizenships together accounted for half of all applications lodged in the EU+. Nigerian (6 405) and Pakistani (5 448) nationals ranked in fourth and fifth position while the top 10 of citizenships was completed by Iran (4 800), Eritrea (4 454), Albania (3 104), Russia (2 983) and Somalia (2 232). Compared

to July 2016, more applications were lodged for most of the aforementioned countries with Nigeria (31 %), Pakistan (23 %) and Iraq (22 %) recording the sharpest increases. In contrast, for Eritrean and Russian nationals, applications remained on a par with the level of July.

¹The EU+ is composed of EU-28 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

²Data were available for 28 EU+ countries. Weekly estimates were used for two countries.

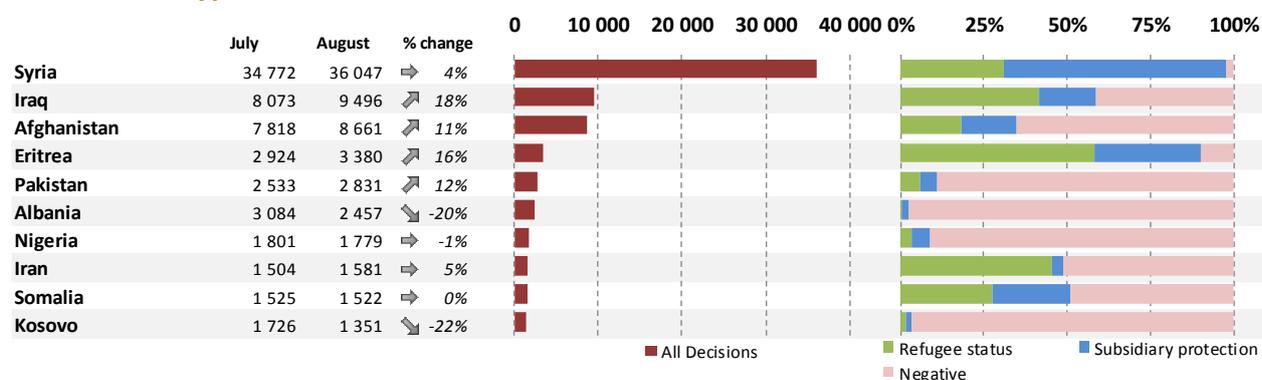
³Several EU+ countries have difficulties reporting on claimed UAMs in the framework of the EPS, these figures should therefore be considered as underestimations of the actual proportion of claimed UAMs.

Syria – In August 2016, Syria remained the main citizenship of origin of applicants for international protection in the EU+. With 31 522 applications, close to one in four applications recorded throughout the EU+ during this month were lodged by Syrian nationals. There were 10 % more Syrian applications than in July 2016 when 28 686 applications were lodged. Compared to the same month last year, there were however 36 % fewer applications. 19 EU+ countries counted Syrian nationals among their top three citizenships of applicants.

Afghanistan – Afghanistan was in second place of the citizenships with most applications for the fifth consecutive month. After a slight decrease in July, the number of Afghan applications rose by 16 % in August with 23 871 applications, or the highest monthly total in 2016. Afghanistan remained the main citizenship of claimed UAMs (32 %). 13 EU+ countries reported Afghan applicants in their national top-three citizenships.

Iraq – In August 2016, 13 812 Iraqi applications were recorded in EU+ countries, 22 % more than in July 2016 and 16 % more than in August 2015. Although being the third main country of origin at EU+ level, only 5 EU+ countries reported Iraqi applicants in their top-three citizenships in August.

Number and type of decisions issued in first instance in EU+ countries



In August 2016, EU+ countries issued 90 111 first-instance decisions, the second highest level since the start of EPS monthly data collection in 2014. This was a 2 % increase compared to July 2016. **Compared to August 2015, the number of first instance decisions issued more than doubled** with a 119 % increase. Although the **share of positive decisions was 60 % of all first-instance decisions issued in the EU+**, for the first time since the beginning of the EPS collection, the number of **first instance decisions granting subsidiary protection status exceeded that of decisions granting refugee status**. **Syrian** applicants received most decisions (36 047, 4 % more than the previous month). Their recognition rate was 98 %, one percentage point more than in July. In August, the share of Syrian applicants granted subsidiary protection rather than refugee status continued increasing (67 % and 31 %, respectively). The number of decisions on **Iraqi** applications increased to 9 496 and remained above the number of decisions issued on applications by Afghan nationals. 59 % of all Iraqi applications received a positive decision, mostly refugee status (42 % of all decisions). The recognition rate for Iraqi applicants therefore stayed well below the threshold for relocation eligibility, as confirmed by Eurostat statistics for Q2 2016.⁴ The number of decisions issued to **Afghan** applicants increased to a total of 8 661, again the highest level since the start of monthly data collection. 35 % of decisions issued on Afghan applications resulted in a positive decision, with 18 % granting refugee status and 17 % subsidiary protection status. Out of the remaining 10 citizenships with the most first instance decisions issued, Eritrea showed the highest recognition rate (90 %) while Iran and Somalia had recognition rates of around 50 %. For applicants from Pakistan, Nigeria, Kosovo and Albania, mostly negative decisions were issued (recognition rates ranging between 11% and 2%).

Cases awaiting a first-instance decision

At the end of August 2016, the number of cases awaiting a first-instance decision exceeded the one-million threshold (1 036 762 cases) for the second month in a row. This was a 2.9 % rise compared to July 2016, and represented the highest stock recorded in EPS data. More than half of these cases (53 %) have been pending for longer than six months.

⁴ Eurostat. [Asylum and Managed Migration publications](#), [International protection recognition rates during Q2 2016 in the EU](#), accessed on 22 September 2016.