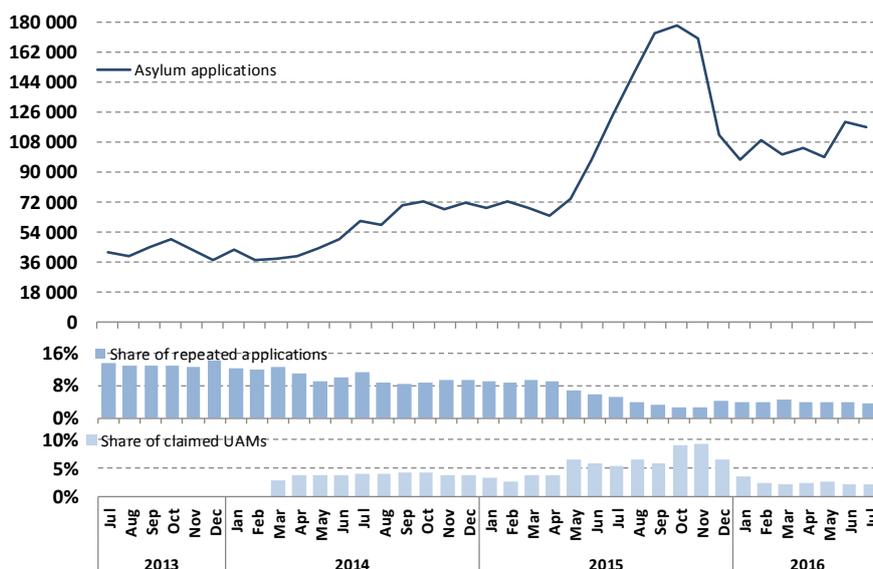


## Latest asylum trends – July 2016

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

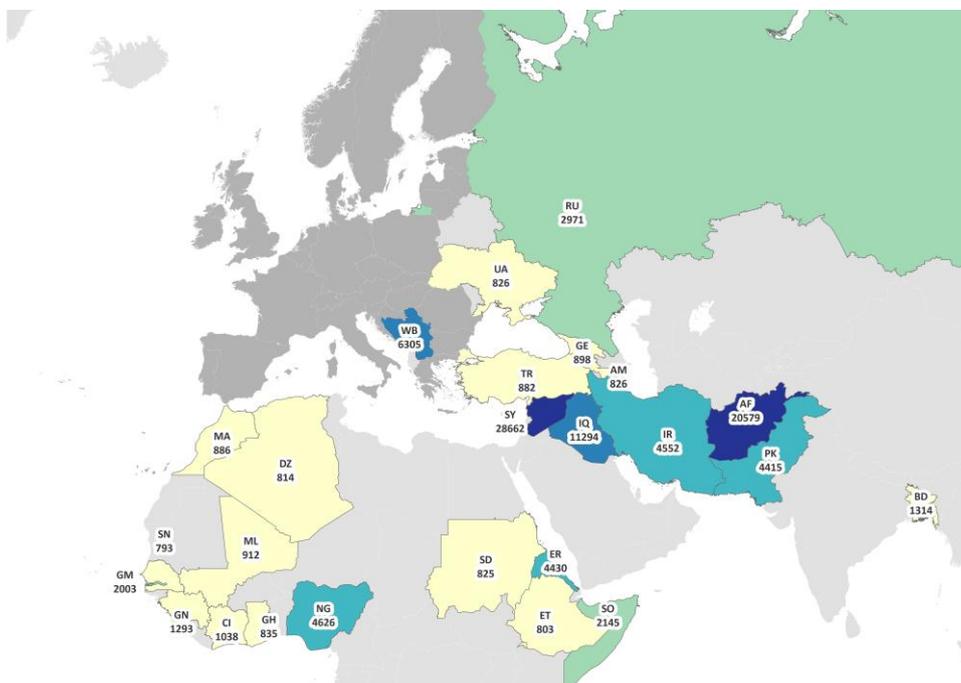
In July 2016, EU+ countries recorded 117 459 applications for international protection.<sup>2</sup> Compared to June 2016, when the highest monthly total since November was recorded, there was a 2 % decrease. The number of applications was 6 %



lower than in July 2015, when 124 406 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)** when lodging an application. 31 % of all UAM applicants were Afghan citizens, followed by Eritrean (13 %), Syrian (6 %), Gambian, Pakistani and Somalian nationals (each 5 %).

### Main countries of origin of applicants



Syria has been the main citizenship of applicants since April 2015. In July 2016, EU+ countries recorded 28 662 Syrian applications. Afghanistan and Iraq were still the second and third most represented citizenships, with 20 579 and 11 294 applications, respectively. These top-three citizenships together accounted for 52 % of all EU+ applications. As citizenships of origin, Nigeria, Iran, Eritrea and Pakistan had significantly less applications with approximately 4 500 each. The top 10 of citizenships was completed by Russia (2 971 applications), Albania (2 790) and Somalia (2 145). Compared to June 2016,

fewer applications were lodged by Russian, Pakistani, Syrian, Iraqi and Afghan applicants, while there were increases for Iranian, Nigerian, Eritrean and Albanian nationals. The number of Somali applicants remained unchanged.

<sup>1</sup> The 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 UAM (unaccompanied minors) 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.

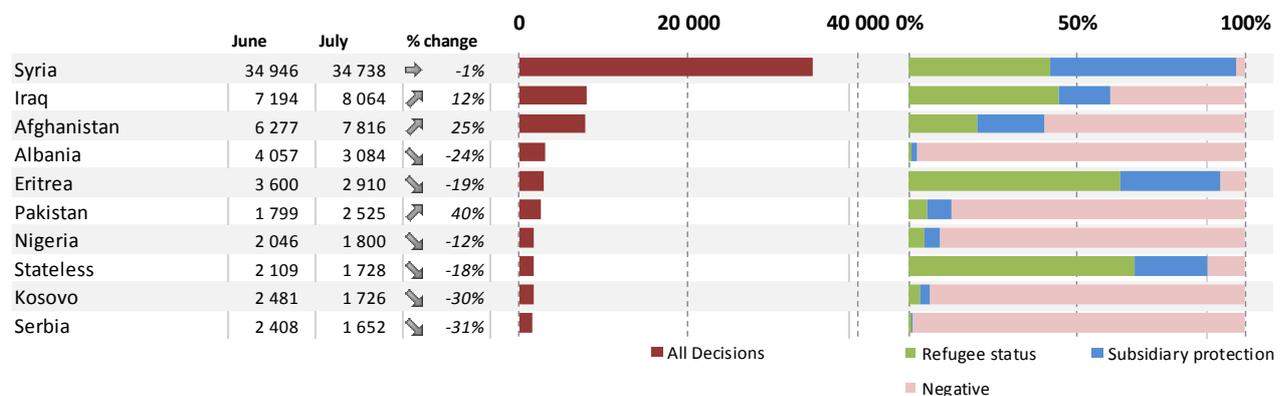
<sup>2</sup> Data were available for 28 EU+ countries. Weekly estimates were used for two countries.

**Syria** – In July 2016, Syria was the main citizenship of origin of applicants for international protection in the EU+. With 28 662 applications, one out of four of all applications throughout the EU+ during this month was lodged by a Syrian national. Nevertheless, there were 9 % fewer Syrian applications than in June 2016 when 31 348 applications were lodged. In July 2016 there were also 9 % fewer applications than in July 2016. 25 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 fourth consecutive month. After three months of increases, in July the number of Afghan applications decreased by 2 %. With 20 579 Afghan applications, this was still the second highest monthly total in 2016. Afghanistan remained the main citizenship of claimed UAMs (31 %). 15 EU+ countries reported Afghan applicants in their national top-three citizenships.

**Iraq** – In July 2016, 11 294 Iraqi applications were recorded in EU+ countries, 10 % fewer than in June 2016 but still 39 % more than in July 2015. 15 EU+ countries reported Iraqi applicants in their top-three citizenships in June.

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



**In July 2016, EU+ countries issued 88 815 first-instance decisions.** This was a 4 % decrease compared to June 2016 but still the second highest level since the start of EPS monthly data collection in 2014. Compared to July 2015 it represented a 72 % increase. The **share of positive decisions was 60 % of all first-instance decisions issued in the EU+**, one percentage point higher than in the previous month. **Syrian** applicants received most decisions (34 738, which was slightly fewer than the previous month). Their recognition rate was 97 %, one percentage point lower than in June. As in previous months, the share of positive decisions granting subsidiary protection further increased so that more Syrian applicants were granted subsidiary protection than refugee status (57 % and 43 %, respectively). The number of decisions on **Iraqi** applications reached 8 064 and exceeded the number of decisions issued on applications by Afghan nationals. Decisions on Iraqi cases increased by 12 %. 60 % of all Iraqi applications received a positive decision, mostly refugee status (75 % of all positive decisions). Despite a rise of three percentage points compared to June, the recognition rate for Iraqi applicants stayed well below the threshold for relocation eligibility, as confirmed by Eurostat statistics for Q2 2016. Those already identified as persons in possible need of international protection are still included in the relocation scheme.<sup>3</sup> The number of decisions issued to **Afghan** applicants increased by a significant 25 % compared to June 2016 to a total of 7 816 decisions, again the highest level since the start of monthly data collection. 40 % of decisions issued on Afghan applications resulted in the granting of international protection, with an equal division between refugee status and subsidiary protection. Decisions issued to Pakistani applicants increased by 40 % compared to June 2016, while seven out of 10 citizenships with most decisions issued saw the number of decisions decrease.

### Cases awaiting a first-instance decision

**At the end of July 2016, the number of cases awaiting a first-instance decision exceeded the one-million threshold (1 007 084).** This is a 2.3 % rise compared to June 2016, and represents the highest stock recorded in EPS data. More than half of these cases (53 %) have been pending for longer than six months.

<sup>3</sup> European Commission, [Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council: Fifth report on relocation and resettlement](#), 13 July 2016, accessed 29 August 2016.