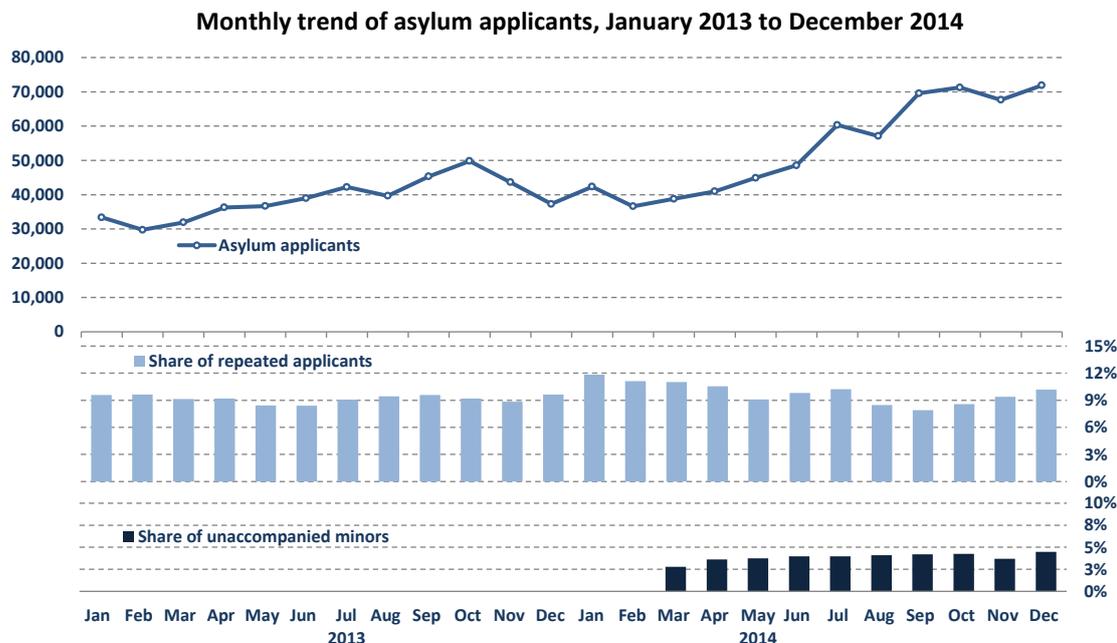


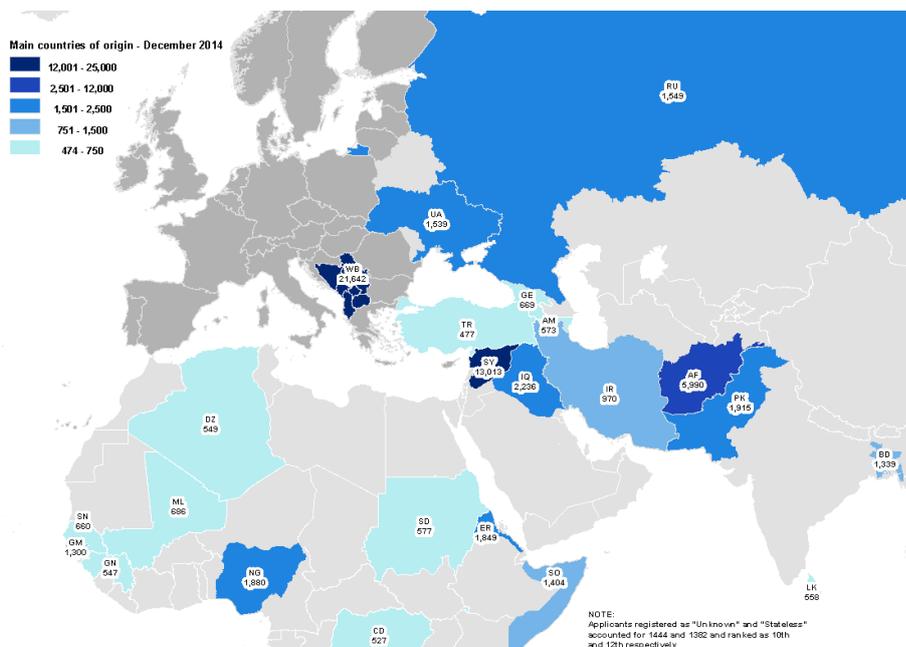
## Latest asylum trends and main countries of origin

### 1. Number of applicants for international protection in EU+<sup>1</sup>



In December 2014, the total number of asylum applicants in the EU+ again reached a new monthly high of around 70 000 per month. Until December, the trend in 2014 had followed the same pattern as in 2013 but at a much higher level. In previous years, levels have been lower in December due to seasonal factors, but this year **December is the fourth consecutive month that EU+ totals have reached around 70 000 applicants**. The second half of 2014 was characterised by monthly totals consistently higher than the peak registered in 2013. During the whole of 2014, **EU+ countries recorded 650 000 applications for international protection**, 40 % higher than in 2013 and the highest ever level since the beginning of EU-regulated data collection in 2008. In December 2014, the share of **repeated applicants** increased to 10 % of all applicants in the month, as a result of increased repeated applicants from the Western Balkan countries. Throughout 2014, the share of **Claimed UAM applicants** represented roughly 4 % of all applicants, with the main nationalities of claimed UAM being Afghans, Syrians and Eritreans, applying mainly in Sweden and Germany.

### 2. Top 25 countries of origin in EU+ in December 2014



In December 2014, the number of Kosovar applicants in the EU+ exceeded the number of Syrian applicants. Since September the number of Syrian applicants has decreased and December is the first month of 2014 that they were not the top single citizenship of applicants in the EU+. The number of applicants from Afghanistan increased by 31%, while the number of Eritrean applicants fell once again. After 8 months in the top 5, Eritreans dropped to eighth place in the ranking of top citizenships.

<sup>1</sup> The EU+ is composed of EU-28 plus Norway and Switzerland.

### 3. Latest country of origin trends

**Syria** - The 5 % decrease in the number of Syrian applicants compared to November constitutes the third consecutive monthly decline after the peak in September. For the whole of 2014, the number of Syrians applying for international protection in the EU+ totalled over 125 000, a 139 % increase compared to 2013.

**Western Balkan nationals (WB)** – Compared to November, the number of applicants from the Western Balkan countries grew by 35 % in December and for the third consecutive month set a new all-time high, with over 21 000 applicants. The surge was almost entirely due to the high number of Kosovars (13 000, many of whom applied in Hungary) and Serbs reported by EU+ countries.

**Afghanistan** – December 2014 was also a record month for the number of Afghan applicants in the EU+ countries, who totalled almost 6 000. The main receiving countries are concentrated in Central/South-Eastern Europe.

**Ukraine** - After the decline in November, the number of Ukrainian applicants fell again by 16 % in December to levels comparable to the beginning of the summer.