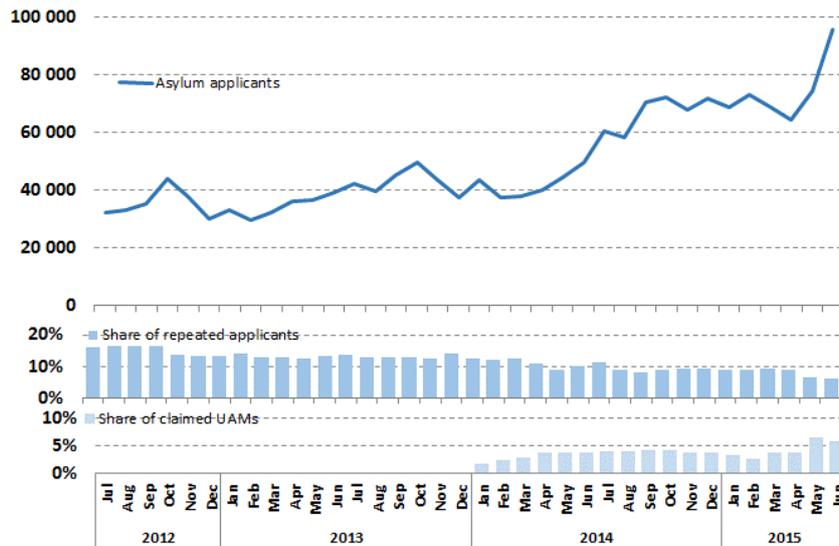


Latest asylum trends and main countries of origin (June 2015)

1. Number of applicants for international protection in the EU+¹

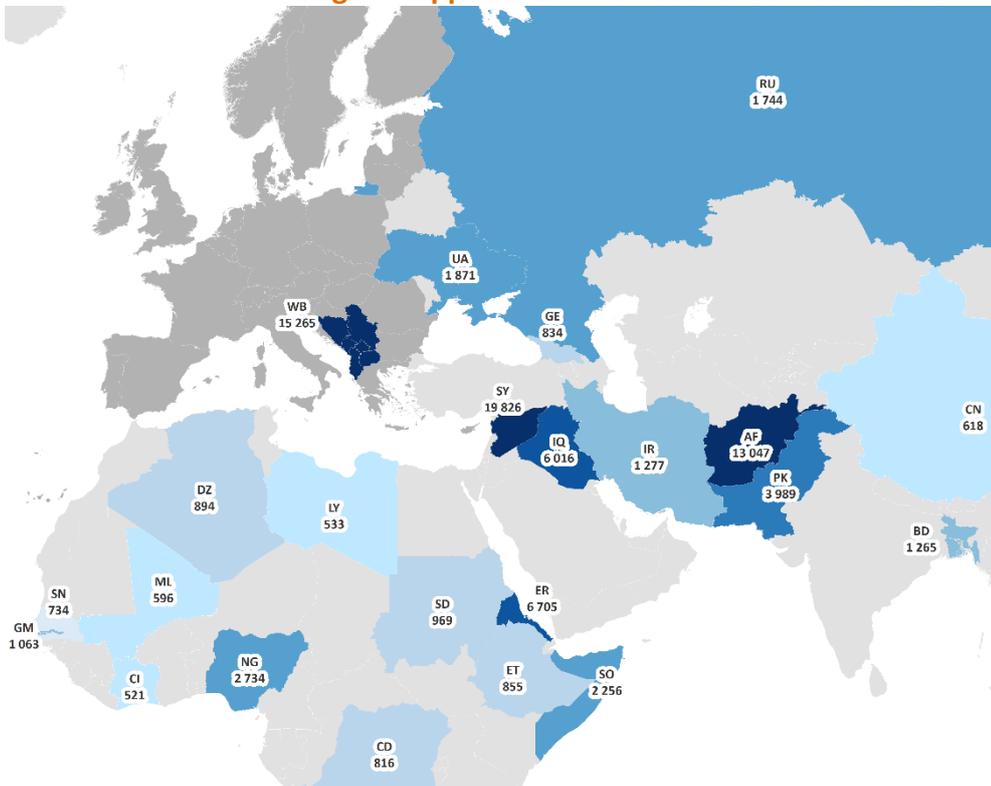
In June 2015, EU+ countries² registered 95 755 asylum applicants, a rise of 29 % compared to the previous month and 92 % above the level registered in June 2014. **For the second consecutive month, the total number of applicants in EU+ countries reached a new high** since Eurostat began its data collection in 2008. **During the first six months of 2015, the number of applicants represented 67 % of the annual EU+ total for 2014 and nearly matched the total for all of 2013.**



In June, 5 745 repeated applicants were reported, 16 % more than in the previous month. The share of repeated applicants dropped considerably to 6 % of total applicants in the EU+.

The number of claimed unaccompanied minors (UAMs) rose by 18 % from 4 838 in May to 5 700 in June, while the share of UAMs remained roughly the same, at 6 % of all applicants. EASO's provisional data shows that in June almost one in two claimed UAMs was an Afghan citizen. Eritrea and Syria ranked second and third with 17 % and 9 % of all UAM applicants, respectively.

2. Main countries of origin of applicants in EU+ countries in June 2015



The map displays the main country of origin groups for asylum applicants registered in June 2015. **Syria was the most common country of origin of applicants in the EU+.** Following four months of decrease, in June, the number of applicants from the Western Balkan countries (WB) rose and WB ranked second in the top citizenship groups.

The increase in WB applications was almost entirely due to a large number of Albanian applicants who lodged asylum claims mostly in Germany. The number of Albanian applicants

registered already in the first half of 2015 amounted to 60 % of the total registered in the seven years between 2008 and

¹ 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. It is important to emphasise that this term 'unaccompanied minor' here refers to applicants claiming to be minors and for whom an age assessment has not necessarily been carried out before provision of the data.

² Data for June are available for 28 States resulting in a percentage increase that is slightly underestimated.

2014. The number of applicants from **Afghanistan, the second ranked single citizenship, rose by 41 % in June** compared to May and surpassed **13 000 applicants**.

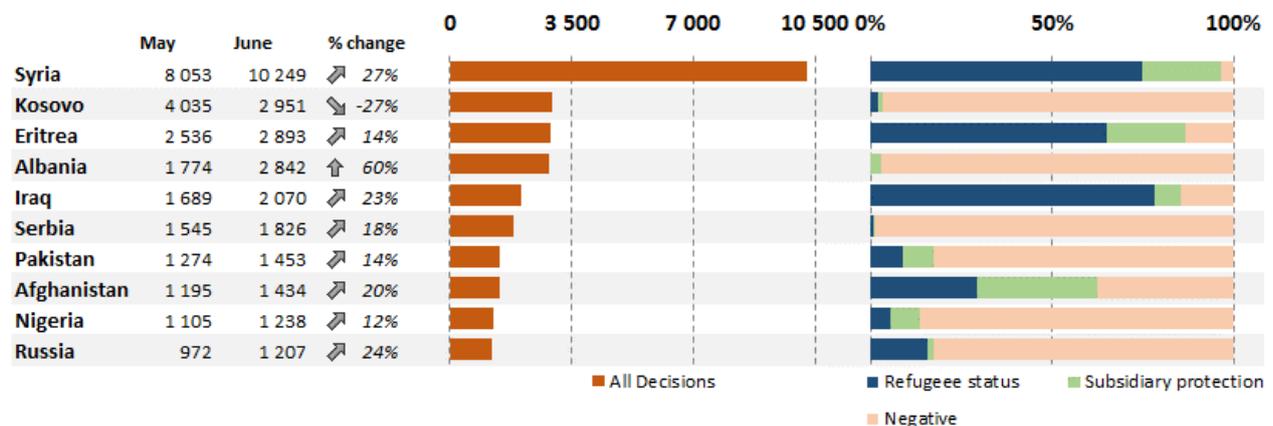
Syria – In June 2015, EU+ countries received **19 826 Syrian applicants, 50 % higher than in May and a new high since the start of the crisis in Syria**. It was the fourth consecutive month of increase, with large numbers reported by mostly by Germany, but also by Hungary and Austria. With regard to the distribution of applicants, in June a total of 16 EU+ countries reported Syria in their national top three main countries of origin, the same number as in May.

Western Balkan nationals (WB) – following four months of decline, in June 2015 the number of applicants from the six WB countries considered together totalled 15 265, an increase of 15 % compared to May. June was the tenth consecutive month of increase in Albanian applicants, rising 17 % from May to reach 6 809 applicants. The overwhelming majority of Albanian applicants lodged their application in Germany, followed by France and Sweden. These three EU+ countries comprised of 93 % of the total number of Albanians registered in June 2015.

Afghanistan – The number of Afghan applicants rose by 41 % from 9 252 in May to 13 047 in June. Hungary continued as the main destination country for Afghans, followed by Germany and Austria. Over the past four months there has been a strong rise in the number of Afghan applicants claiming to be UAMs. In June, this group totalled 2 607, a three-fold increase compared to the level recorded in March.

Eritrea – In June, Eritreans ranked fourth in the top countries of origin of asylum applicants with 6 705 applications lodged, rising 33 % compared to the previous month. This marked the second highest level after July 2014 when more than 8 000 Eritrean asylum applicants were recorded. The increase follows shortly after large numbers of Eritrean irregular migrants arrived in Italy via the Central Mediterranean maritime route. In the EU+, the main countries of destination were **Switzerland, the Netherlands, Germany and Sweden**. Together, these four countries comprised 83 % of the total number of Eritrean applicants recorded in the EU+ in June 2015.

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



In June 2015, EU+ countries issued **44 894 first instance decisions**, an increase of 19 % compared to May. At EU+ level, the proportion of positive decisions was 46 % of all decisions, two percentage points higher than in the previous month. In June, more than three-quarters of positive decisions led to refugee status (the remainder led to subsidiary protection).

As the chart above shows, **Syrian applicants continued to receive the highest number of decisions** in first instance. In June 2015, EU+ countries issued 10 249 decisions on Syrian applications, 27 % more than in May. In terms of number of decisions issued, Syrians continued to be, by far, the largest group of applicants, followed by Kosovars, Eritreans and Albanians. **The Syrian recognition rate, at 97 %, was the highest in the EU+ for any single country of origin; 75 % of all decisions issued in June on Syrian cases granted refugee status and 22 % granted subsidiary protection.**

Despite the large 41 % increase in the number of applicants from Afghanistan from May to June, the number of first instance decisions issued to this group increased by only 20 % (+239 decisions) in June.

As a consequence of the recent high influx of Albanian applicants, **some EU+ countries decided to prioritise decision-making on their Albanian caseload**. As a result, the number of decisions issued rose by 60 % compared to May, with 97 % of the decisions issued resulting in a negative outcome.