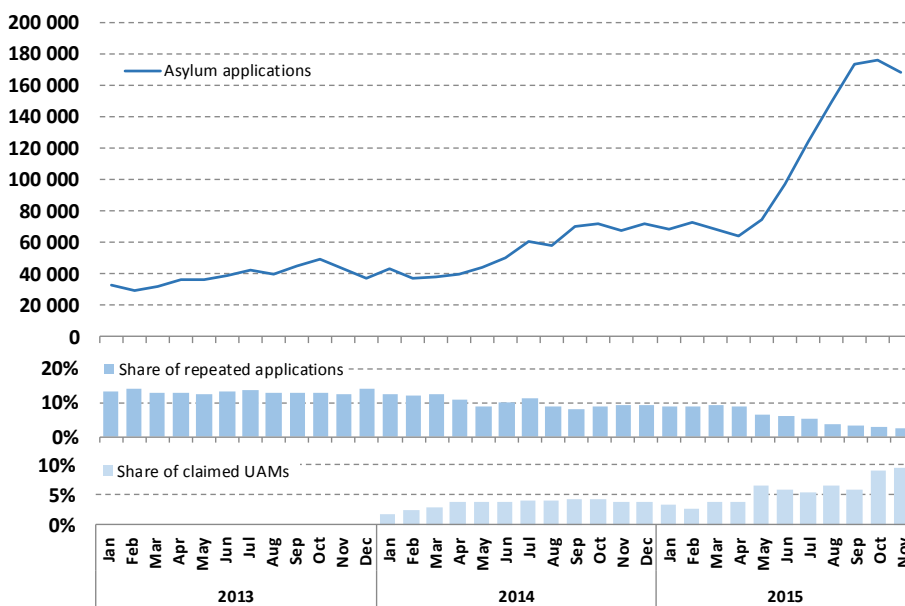


Latest asylum trends

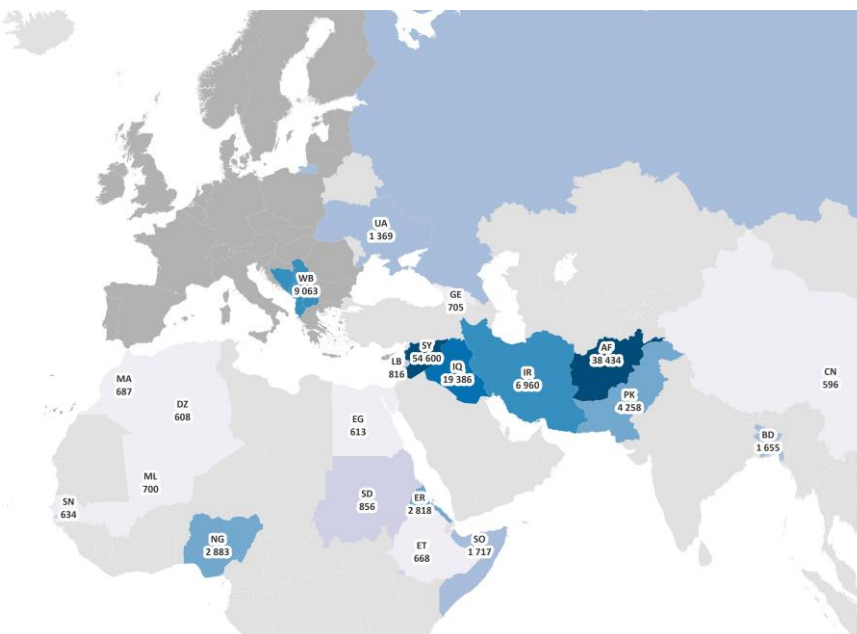
1. Number of applications for international protection in the EU+¹

In November 2015, EU+ countries recorded 168 802 asylum applications². This is a 4 % decrease compared to October, which was the month with the highest number of asylum applications in the EU+ since EU-wide data collection started in 2008. Following six months of uninterrupted growth, November registered the first decrease in the monthly total of asylum applications. **Despite the decrease, the number of applications remained high:** there were still two and a half times more asylum applications than in November 2014. But as in previous years, fewer applicants in November may also be due to a deterioration in weather conditions. So far in 2015, almost 1 240 000 asylum applications were registered in EU+ countries. The share of **repeated applicants has been steadily decreasing** since March, falling to 2.5 % of the total, the lowest share recorded in the last three years.



While the number of applicants who claimed to be **unaccompanied minors (UAMs) at the moment of lodging an application** remained stable at around 16 000 applicants (-1 % compared to October) this still represents a six-fold increase compared to May and **9 % of the total number of applicants in the EU+**. Within the group of UAMs, the share of citizens from Afghanistan rose further to a total of 11 656, representing 74 % of all claimed UAMs, followed by Syrians (10 %) and Iraqi (4 %). Eritreans decreased to only 1 % of all UAMs in November (from 5 %).

2. Main countries of origin of applicants in the EU+ in November 2015



The map displays the main countries of origin of asylum applicants in EU+ countries in November, with **Syria being, for the seventh consecutive month, the number one citizenship** recorded with 54 600 applications. **Afghanistan remained the second ranked country** of applicants (38 434). The number of **applicants from Iraq decreased** compared to October to just below 20 000 applicants in November. The number of **applications from WB nationals decreased further** but – as a group – WB remained in fourth position.

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 rather than those assessed to be such after an age assessment has been carried out.
² At the time of writing this note, data were available for 28 of the 30 EU+ countries.

Among the top ten citizenships of applicants in November, applications from Iranian citizens increased (+41 %) strongly, as did applications from Pakistani citizens. The number of applications from Eritreans decreased significantly (-49 %) but Eritrea remained among the top ten nationalities.

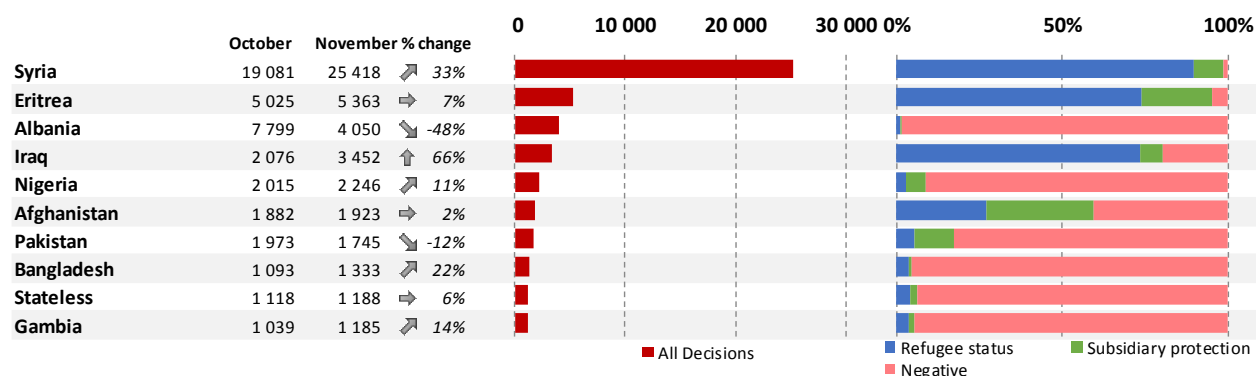
Syria – in November 2015, EU+ countries registered 54 600 applications lodged by Syrian citizens, a decrease of 9 % compared to October 2015, but still close to five times the level recorded in November 2014. The number of Syrian applicants decreased for the second month in a row following seven consecutive months of increase from February to September 2015. After Germany and Sweden, Austria became the third top destination country. Still, the Syrian influx was spread throughout Europe with 18 EU+ countries reporting Syria in their national top three countries of origin.

Afghanistan – After rising by a third from September to October, the number of asylum applications by Afghan citizens rose again by about a third in November, leading to a new monthly high of 38 434 applications. Since March 2015, the number of Afghan applicants rose in each month and applications in November were about eight times the level recorded in November of last year.

Iraq – the number of Iraqi applicants (19 386) decreased by 26% in November. It was the first time since the beginning of 2015 that the number of Iraqi citizens lodging an application for international protection in the EU+ decreased. However, this number was still much higher than the 2 318 applications by Iraqi citizens registered in November 2014.

Western Balkan nationals (WB) – The number of applications from WB nationals dropped again with 23 %, a decrease similar to October. The 9 063 applications of nationals of WB countries reported in November represents the lowest number since August 2014. As in October, the decrease followed measures implemented by destination countries (mainly Germany) to add WB countries to their national list of safe countries of origin, to prioritise decision-making on WB cases and to speed up returns. Still, most applications by WB nationals were lodged in Germany (72 %).

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



In November 2015, EU+ countries issued 67 104 decisions at first instance, a slight increase of 2 % compared to October and 70 % higher than the level recorded in November 2014. Once again, it was the highest monthly number of first instance decisions reported since the EPS monthly data collection started in March 2014. In the EU+ as a whole, the share of positive decisions was 60 % of total decisions in first instance, nine percentage points higher than in October, reflecting a higher number of decisions issued on cases with high recognition rates, primarily those of Syrians.

Syrians continued as the citizenship receiving the most decisions at first instance. In November, EU+ countries issued 25 418 decisions on Syrian applications, one third more than in October. Of those decisions, 99 % resulted in a positive outcome; 90 % granted refugee status and 9 % granted subsidiary protection. The number of decisions on Eritrean cases stayed relatively stable (+7 %) with an EU+ recognition rate of 95 % and a higher share of refugee protection compared to October. The number of decisions issued in the EU+ on Albanian cases decreased by 48 % in November, falling to just over 4 000. About 99 % of all first instance decisions issued to Albanians were negative.

For the other nationalities belonging to the top 10, the number of decisions increased most for Iraqi applicants, rising 66 %. The number of decisions rose also for applicants from Nigeria, Bangladesh and the Gambia.