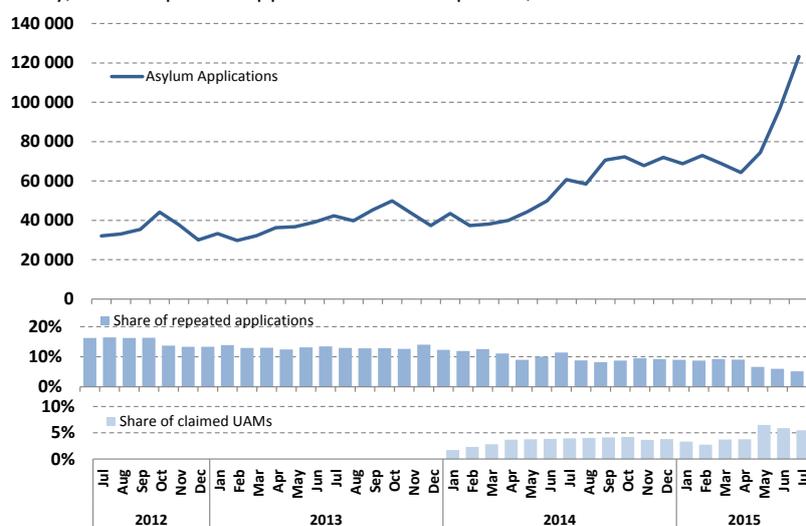


## Latest asylum trends

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

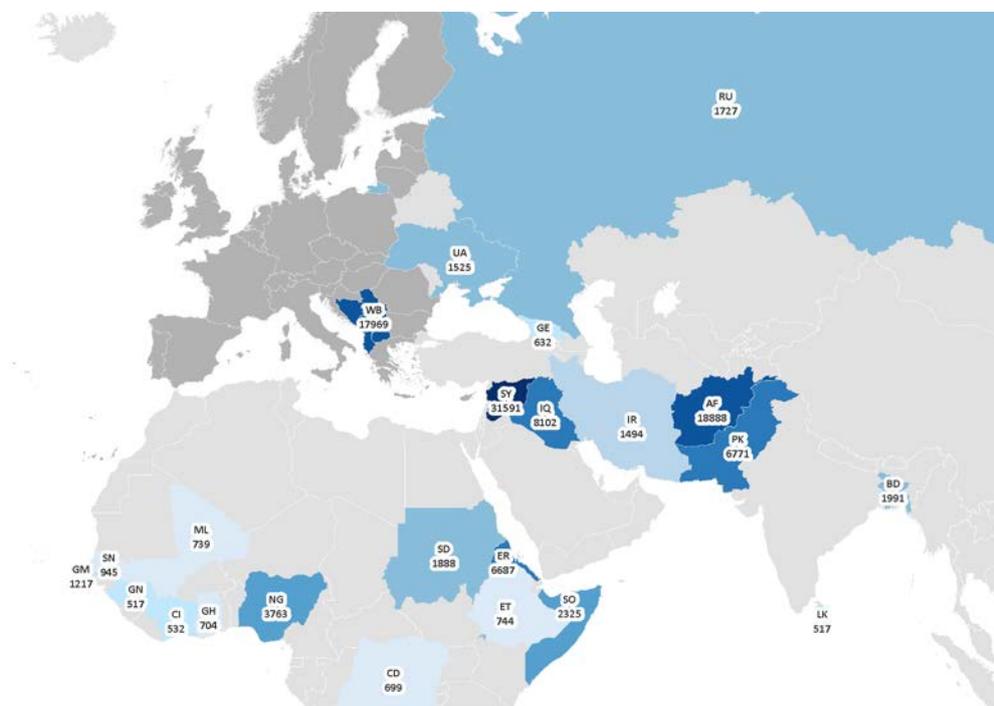
In July 2015, the number of applications for international protection in EU+ countries<sup>2</sup> exceeded for the first time 100 000, reaching a **total of 123 294, 28 % higher than in June**. During the last 3 months, the number of applications has risen strongly, almost doubling from the level recorded in April and for the third consecutive month, **setting a new high since Eurostat data collection began in 2008**. So far in 2015, the number of applications registered **amounts to 85 % of the total number registered throughout the whole of 2014**, and a 78 % increase compared to the same January to July period of 2014.

In July, 6 331 repeated applications were reported; 10 % more than in June. Still, the share of repeated applicants in the EU+ total continued to decrease.



The number of claimed unaccompanied minors (UAMs) reached 6 770, rising by 19 % compared to June, while the share of UAMs in the total fell by 1 percentage point, to 5 % of the total. EASO's provisional data shows that in July, as in June, almost one in every two claimed UAMs was an Afghan citizen. Eritrea and Syria ranked second and third with 15 % and 11 % of all UAM applicants, respectively.

### 2. Main countries of origin of applicants in EU+ countries in July 2015



The map displays the main country of origin groups for applicants registered in July 2015. **Syria was the biggest source of applicants in the EU+.** Applicants from Afghanistan ranked second, surpassing for the first time citizens from the Western Balkan countries considered together, which as a group,

ranked third.

<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> For June and July data are available for 29 countries.

The rise in applications was widespread, with 20 out of the top 25 citizenships groups recording an increase compared to June. Increases ranged from 1 % for Guinean to 59 % for Syrian applicants. Only applicants from Eritrea, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Ethiopia and Georgia decreased over the same period. For 7 out of the top 10 citizenship groups applying for international protection in the EU+ countries, the levels of July set a new high since Eurostat started data collection in 2008.

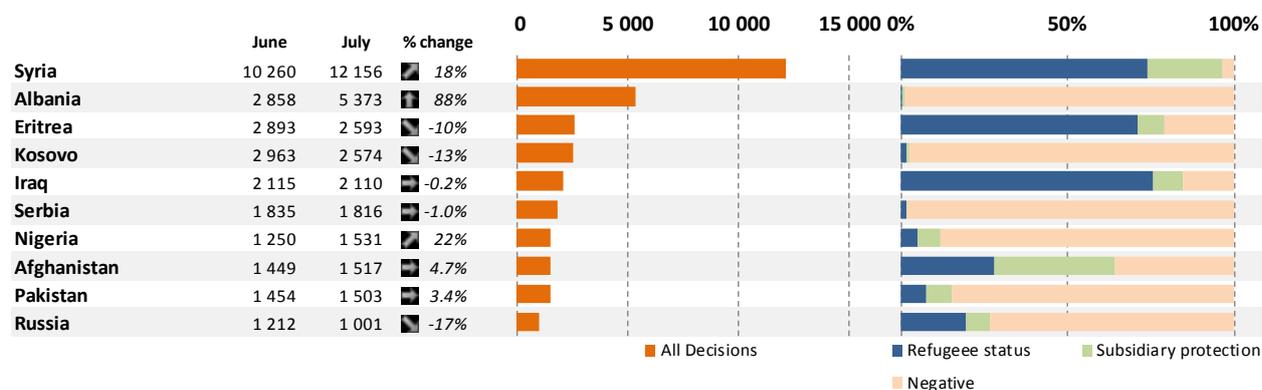
**Syria** – In July 2015, EU+ countries received 31 591 applications from Syrians, 59 % higher than in June and once again reaching a new high since the start of the crisis in Syria. It was the fifth consecutive month of increase, with Hungary becoming the main EU+ destination country followed by Germany and Sweden<sup>3</sup>. With regard to the distribution of applicants, in July a total of 17 EU+ countries reported Syria in their national top three main countries of origin, one more than in June.

**Afghanistan** – The number of Afghan applicants rose by 44 % from 13 090 in June 2015 to 18 888 in July. Compared to July 2014 this represents a five-fold increase. Hungary continued as the main destination country for Afghans, followed by Austria and Germany. Mirroring the pattern observed in the overall numbers, there has been a strong rise in the number of Afghan applicants claiming to be UAMs in recent months. In July, Afghan UAMs totalled 3 263, a 25 % increase compared to the level recorded in June.

**Western Balkan nationals (WB)** – The number of applicants from the six WB countries, considered together, further increased by 17 % in July, totalling 17 969. The number of Albanian applicants grew for the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive month and accelerated in July with a 33 % rise from June to reach 9 160 applicants. The large majority of Albanian applicants lodged their application in Germany, followed by Sweden and France.

**Iraq** – In July, Iraqis ranked fourth in the top countries of origin of applicants with 8 102 applications lodged, rising 29 % compared to June. The number of applicants has grown since the beginning of the year, more than tripling in July compared to January.

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



In July 2015, EU+ countries issued 49 543 first instance decisions, an increase of 10 % compared to June. The rise also sets a new high since monthly collection of these data started at EASO in April 2014. At EU+ level, 45 % of all decisions granted international protection, a one percentage point decrease in the rate since June. Three quarters of positive decisions led to the granting of refugee status and one quarter to subsidiary protection.

As the chart above shows, Syrian applicants continued to receive the most decisions at first instance. In July 2015, EU+ countries issued 12 156 decisions on Syrian applications, 18 % more than in June. This represents, at EU+ level, the highest number of decisions taken in one month for a single citizenship. The Syrian recognition rate remained at 97 %, the highest rate in the EU+ for any single country of origin; 74 % of all decisions issued in July on Syrian cases granted refugee status and 23 % granted subsidiary protection.

<sup>3</sup> On the basis of recent data on withdrawn applications, it appears likely that the vast majority of those applying in Hungary will also subsequently apply in another EU state.



Following the recent surge in Albanian applicants, some EU+ countries continued, as in June, to prioritise decision-making on their Albanian caseload. As a consequence, the number of decisions issued rose by a further 88 % in July compared to June, with **99 % of the decisions issued resulting in a negative outcome.**

The number of decisions issued on applicants from Afghanistan and Iraq rose slightly compared to June. Still the number of decisions remained significantly lower than the number of applicants registered from those countries of origin over the same period.