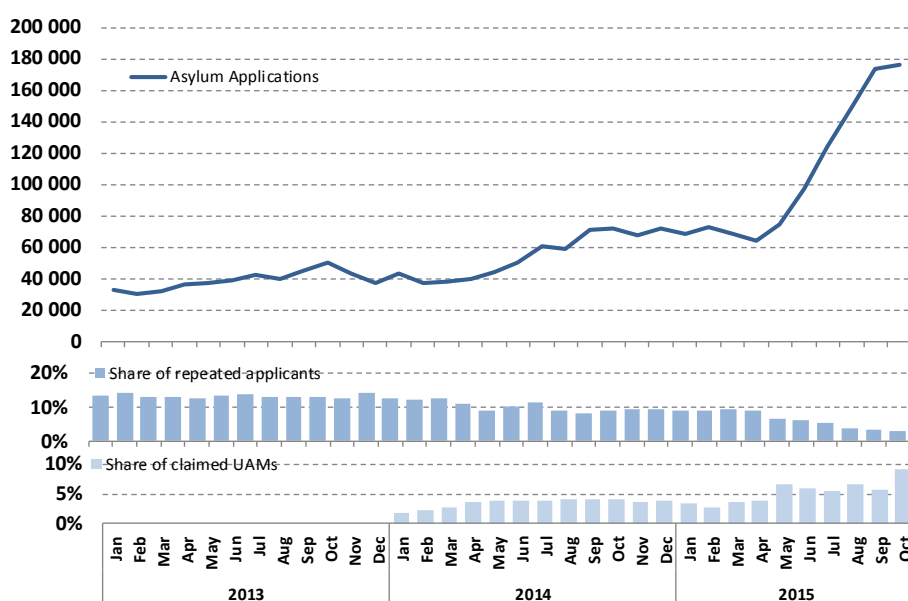


## Latest asylum trends

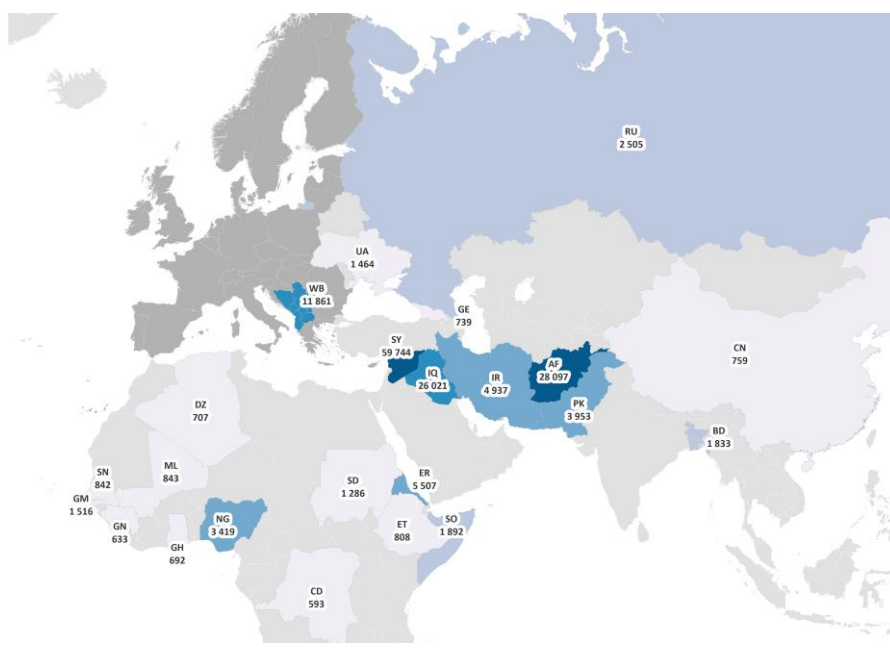
### 1. Number of applications for international protection in the EU+<sup>1</sup>

In October 2015, the number of asylum applications recorded by EU+ countries reached a new high with 176 191<sup>2</sup> applications and a sixth consecutive month of growth. This represents an increase of 1 % compared to the level recorded in September and two a half times above the level in the same month of last year. In 2013 and 2014, October was also the month with the highest number of applications in the year, just before the start of the colder season. **For the first ten months of 2015 the total number of applications has already exceeded the 1 million mark.** The share of repeated applicants has been steadily decreasing since March, falling to less than 3 % of the total, the lowest share recorded in the last three years.



Importantly, the number of claimed unaccompanied minors (UAMs) also grew for the sixth consecutive month in October and totalled more than 16 000, an 8-fold increase compared to April. The share of applicants who claimed to be UAMs at the moment of lodging an application also rose and reached 9 % of the total number of applicants in the EU+, three percentage points more than in September. The rise was entirely attributable to citizens of Afghanistan who exceeded 10 000 applicants and represented the main group of claimed UAMs (63 %), followed by Syrians (13 %) and Eritreans (5 %).

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



The map displays the main countries of origin of asylum applicants in EU+ countries in October, with Syria being, for the sixth consecutive month, the number one citizenship recorded. With more than 28 000 applications lodged in October, **Afghanistan became the second ranked country of origin of applicants.** Applicants from Iraq matched the numbers of September, totalling again over 26 000 in October. Compared to September, the number of applications from WB nationals dropped by 22 % to 11 861

<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> At the moment of writing this note data was available for 27 of the 30 EU+ countries.

applicants in October 2015, recording the lowest level since the beginning of the year, but still remaining (as a group) in fourth place overall in the list of top countries of origin.

Among the top ten citizenships of applicants in October, applications from Eritrean and Iranian citizens, as well as persons considered to be stateless, and those with unknown citizenship, increased in October compared to September.

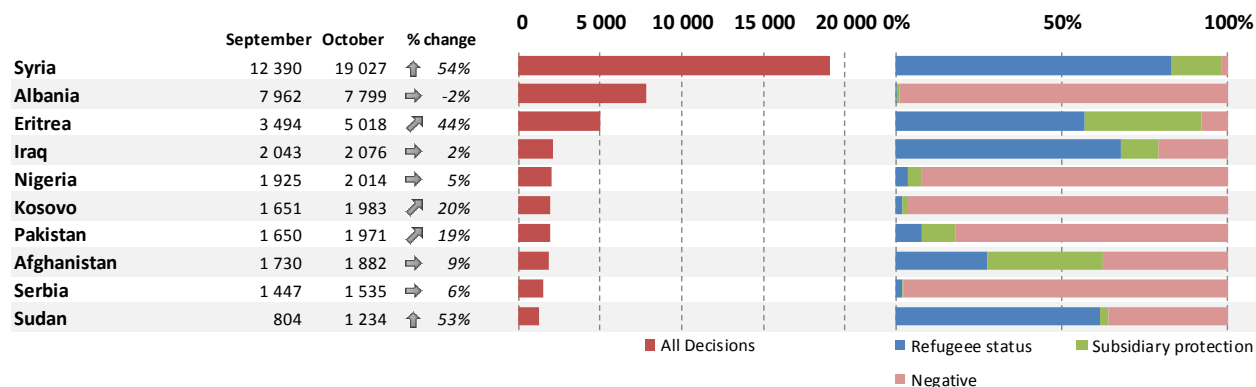
**Syria** – in October 2015, EU+ countries registered 59 744 applications lodged by Syrian citizens, a decrease of 5 % compared to September 2015, but close to four times the level recorded in the same month of 2014. While Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands continued as the main destination countries for Syrian applicants, the Syrian influx was spread throughout Europe with 19 EU+ countries reporting Syria in their national top three countries of origin.

**Afghanistan** – Mirroring the unprecedented number of Afghans arriving in EU by sea from Turkey, in October, the number of Afghan applications for international protection reached a new monthly high of more than 28 000. In October, the number of applicants rose 34 % compared to previous month, making the number of Afghan applications pass 130 000 in the first ten months of the current year.

**Iraq** – In October 2015, the number of Iraqi applicants (26 021) remained at the same average level recorded in September. Of all Iraqis registered in the EU+ countries since the beginning of 2015, 97 % were first-time applicants.

**Western Balkan nationals (WB)** – A total of 11 861 WB nationals lodged an application for asylum in the EU+ in October 2015, down 22 % compared to previous month. October saw the lowest monthly level of WB nationals registered in 2015. This drop was the result of the measures implemented by destination countries (mainly Germany) to add WB countries to their national list of safe countries of origin, prioritise decision-making on WB cases and speed up returns.

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



In October 2015, EU+ countries issued 64 229 decisions at first instance, the highest number since the EPS data collection started in March 2014, an increase of 15 % compared to September and 61 % higher than the level recorded in October 2014. In the EU+ as a whole, the share of positive decisions was 51 % of total decisions in first instance, six percentage points higher than in September 2015, reflecting the increased number of decisions issued on cases with high recognition rates (e.g. Syria and Eritrea).

Syrians continued as the citizenship receiving the highest number of decisions at first instance. In October, EU+ countries issued 19 027 decisions on Syrian applications, 54 % more than in September. Of those decisions, 98 % resulted in a positive outcome; 83 % granted refugee status and 15 % granted subsidiary protection. The number of decisions issued in the EU+ on Albanian cases in October slightly decreased by 2 % compared to the month before, falling to 7 799. About 99 % of all first instance decisions issued to Albanians were negative.

With the exception of Albanian applicants, the total number of decisions issued in October to all other top 10 citizenships increased compared to September.