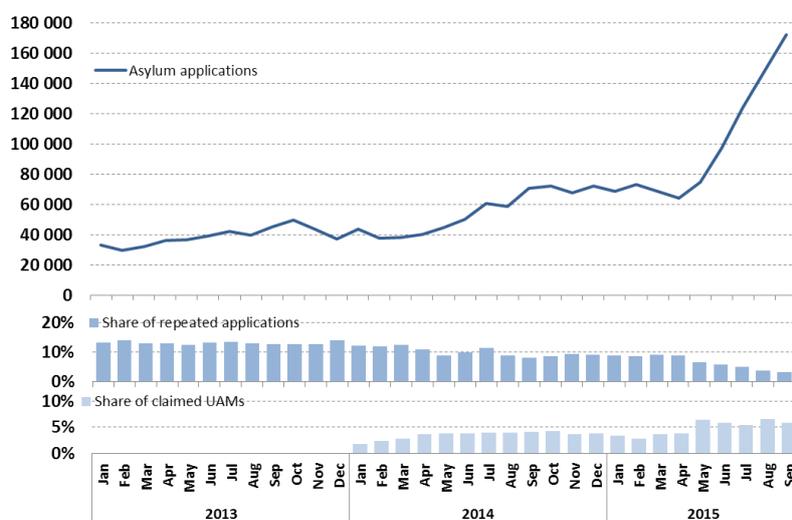


Latest asylum trends

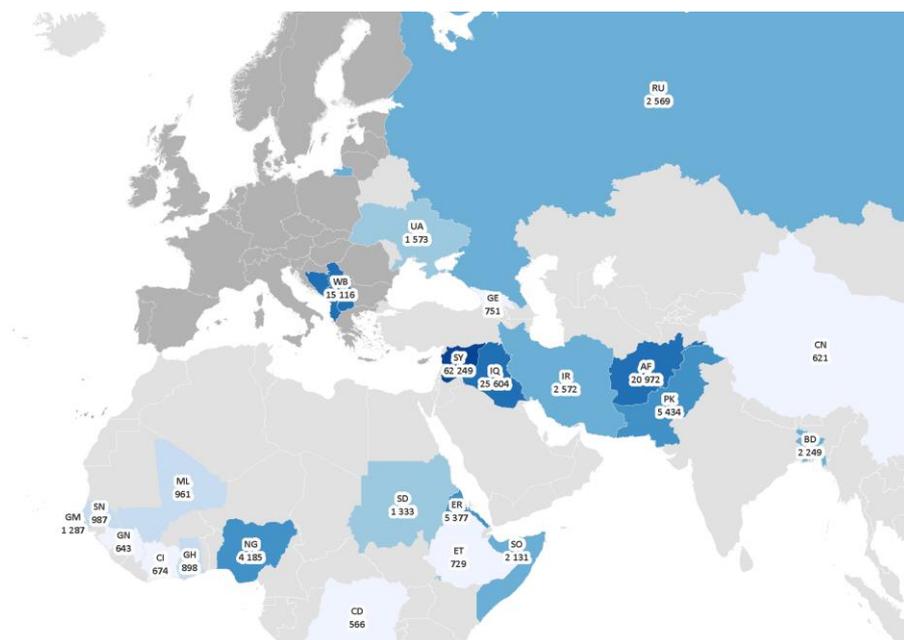
1. Number of applications for international protection in the EU+¹

In September 2015, the numbers of asylum applications recorded by EU+ continued rising for the fifth consecutive month and reached a new record high with about 172 185 applications² reported. This represents an increase of 16 % compared to the level recorded in August and two a half times above the level in the same month of last year. The total of applications for the first nine months of 2015 (about 892 000) has already exceeded the total of 2014 (more than 650 000 applications). The latest weekly information received by EASO indicates that **by the end of October 2015 the 1 million application mark will be passed.** The share of repeated applicants has been decreasing since March to about 3 % of the total, the lowest share recorded in the last three years.



In contrast, the number of claimed unaccompanied minors (UAMs) continued to rise in September compared to August and, for the first time since the EPS data collection started, totalled more than 10 000. The share of applicants who claimed to be **UAMs at the moment of lodging an application reached 6 % of the total number of applicants in the EU+,** one percentage point less than in August. Citizens of Afghanistan continued to represent the main group of claimed UAMs (46 %), followed by Syrians (21 %) and Eritreans (8 %).

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



The map below displays the main countries of origin of asylum applicants recorded by EU+ countries in September, with Syria being, for the fifth consecutive month, the number one citizenship recorded. **The number of applicants from Iraq more than doubled in September becoming the second ranked country of origin** with more than 25 000 applications lodged in September. Applicants from Afghanistan exceeded again 20 000 in September. Compared to the monthly high registered in

February, the number of applications from WB nationals has dropped by half to 15 116 applicants in September 2015 but still remains in fourth place overall in the list of top countries of origin.

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 moment of writing this note data was available for 26 of the 30 EU+ countries.

Among the top ten citizenships of applicants in September, applications from Nigerian, Russian and Iranian citizens, as well as persons considered to be stateless increased in September compared to August.

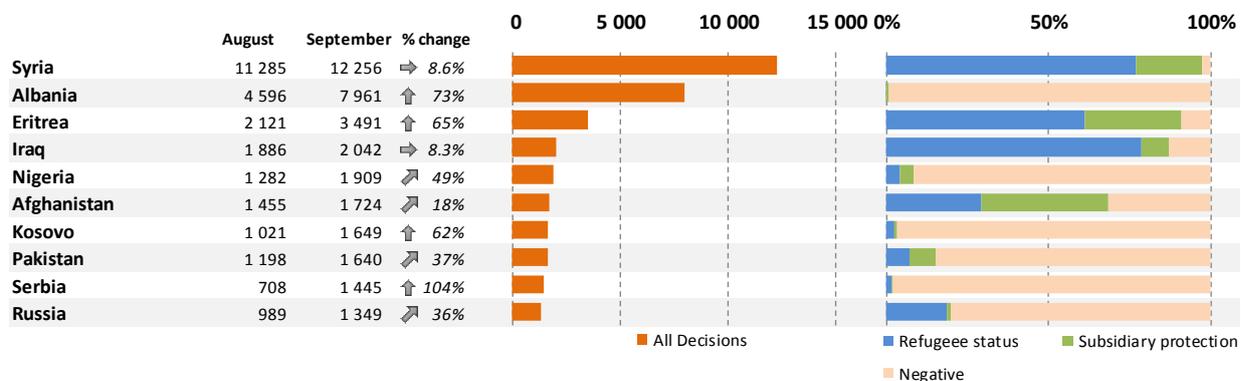
Syria – In September 2015, EU+ countries received over 62 000 applications from Syrians, an increase of 26 % compared to August and almost three and a half times the level recorded in the same month of last year. Fifteen of the EU+ countries reporting in September had Syria in their national Top 3 countries of origin

Iraq – The rise in the number of Iraqi applicants accelerated in September, totalling more than 25 000 applications in the EU+ which represented the highest monthly level since 2008 and an increase of 115 % compared to August. In September, the ranking of main destination countries changed with Finland ranking first, followed by Sweden, Belgium Germany and Austria. In September the flow of Iraqi applicants was mainly made by first time applicants (99 %) and a low proportion of claimed unaccompanied minors (3 %).

Afghanistan– With an increase of 5 % compared to August, in September the number of applications from Afghans rose to 21 000 reaching a new monthly high. This increase represented the seventh month of growth and was in line with the rise to that occurred at the same period last year. In the EU+, the main countries of destination for Afghans in September were Hungary, Sweden and Germany. Together, these three EU+ countries comprised 68 % of the total number of applications from Afghans recorded in the EU+ in September 2015.

Western Balkan nationals (WB) – Applicants from the six WB countries (considered together) submitted slightly over 15 000 applications for international protection in EU+ countries, a decrease of 8 % compared to August 2015. This drop represented the second consecutive monthly fall. The number of applications from citizens of Kosovo and Bosnia grew compared to August, while the others decreased. With a share of 57 %, Albanian nationals represented the largest portion of the group.

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



In September 2015, EU+ countries issued 53 990 decisions at first instance, an increase of 34 % compared to August and 61 % higher than the level recorded in September 2014. In the EU+ as a whole, the share of positive decisions was 44 % of total decisions in first instance, six percentage points lower than in August 2015 reflecting the increased number of decisions issued on cases with low recognition rate (e.g.: Albania, Nigeria, Kosovo, and Serbia).

Syrians continued as the citizenship receiving the highest number of decisions at first instance. In September, EU+ countries issued 12 256 decisions on Syrian applications, 9 % more than in August. Of those decisions, 97 % resulted in a positive outcome, with 77 % granting refugee status and 20 % granting subsidiary protection. The number of decisions issued in the EU+ on Albanian cases in September sharply increased by 73 % compared to August, reaching 7 961. About 99 % of all first instance decisions issued to Albanians were negative.

With the exception of Serbian and Kosovar applicants, the total number of decisions issued in September to all other top 10 citizenships represented the highest monthly figures since the beginning of the year.