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Asylum decisions in the EU27

EU Member States granted protection to 84 100 asylum seekers in 2011

The **EU27** Member States granted protection to 84 100 asylum seekers in 2011 compared with 75 800 in 2010. The largest groups of beneficiaries of protection status[1] in the **EU27** were citizens of **Afghanistan** (13 300 persons or 16% of the total number of persons granted protection status), **Iraq** (9 000 or 11%) and **Somalia** (8 900 or 11%).

These data[2] on the results of asylum decisions in the **EU27** are released by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union** on the occasion of the World Refugee Day[3] on 20 June 2012.

One quarter of EU27 asylum decisions at the first instance resulted in protection status

In 2011, 365 600 decisions on asylum applications[4] were made in the **EU27**, of which 237 400 were first instance decisions and 128 200 final decisions on appeal. Decisions made at the first instance[5] resulted in 59 500 persons being granted protection status, while a further 24 600 received protection status on appeal[6]. In total, of the 84 100 persons who were granted protection status in 2011, 42 700 persons were granted refugee status, 29 400 subsidiary protection and 12 000 authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons. In addition, the **EU27** Member States received 4 100 resettled refugees[7].

The rate of recognition of asylum applicants, i.e. the share of positive decisions in the total number of decisions, was 25% for first instance decisions, split between refugee and subsidiary protection status (21%) and humanitarian status (4%). For final decisions on appeal the recognition rate was 19%, again split between refugee and subsidiary protection status (17%) and humanitarian status (2%). It should be noted that, while both refugee and subsidiary protection status are defined by EU law, humanitarian status is granted on the basis of national legislation relating to international protection.

More than three quarters of grants of protection status in the EU27 made in the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Sweden, the Netherlands and Italy

In 2011, the highest number of persons granted protection status was registered in the **United Kingdom** (14 400), followed by **Germany** (13 000), **France** (10 700), **Sweden** (10 600), the **Netherlands** (8 400) and **Italy** (7 500). These Member States accounted for more than three quarters of all those granted protection status in the **EU27**.

Afghans, Iraqis and Somalis largest groups granted protection status in the EU27

Afghans were the single largest group of persons granted protection status in the **EU27**. Of the 13 300 **Afghans** granted protection status in the **EU27**, 3 100 were recorded in **Germany**, 2 700 in **Sweden**, 1 800 in **Austria**, 1 400 in the **Netherlands** and 1 000 in the **United Kingdom**. Of the 9 000 **Iraqis** granted protection, 3 300 were registered in **Germany**, 1 400 in the **Netherlands** and 1 200 in **Belgium**, and of the 8 900 **Somalis**, 2 600 were in **Sweden** and 2 400 in the **Netherlands**.

Decisions on asylum applications in 2011

	Decisions*			Positive decisions**				Resettled refugees
	Total	First instance	Final decisions on appeal	Total	Of which:			
					Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	
EU27	**365 615**	**237 395**	**128 220**	**84 110**	**42 680**	**29 390**	**12 040**	**4 090**
Belgium	30 290	19 825	10 465	5 545	4 230	1 315	-	25
Bulgaria	625	605	20	210	10	200	-	-
Czech Republic	1 440	685	755	705	220	465	25	0
Denmark	5 805	3 570	2 235	1 735	955	585	190	515
Germany	64 870	40 295	24 575	13 045	8 780	1 015	3 250	145
Estonia	75	65	10	15	10	5	5	0
Ireland	2 695	1 365	1 325	150	135	15	-	45
Greece	9 295	8 670	625	585	240	165	180	0
Spain	3 395	3 395	:	1 010	340	650	20	-
France	76 765	42 220	34 550	10 740	8 270	2 470	-	130
Italy	25 655	24 150	1 505	7 485	1 870	2 265	3 350	0
Cyprus	5 805	2 630	3 175	135	70	5	60	-
Latvia	110	90	20	25	10	20	-	-
Lithuania	335	305	30	25	5	20	-	-
Luxembourg	1 390	1 015	375	85	70	15	-	0
Hungary	1 220	895	325	205	50	140	15	0
Malta	2 110	1 605	505	885	70	690	125	0
Netherlands	18 550	15 790	2 760	8 380	835	5 205	2 345	540
Austria	22 570	13 245	9 325	5 865	3 805	2 065	-	-
Poland	5 485	3 215	2 270	575	155	205	210	-
Portugal	120	100	20	50	20	30	-	30
Romania	2 365	1 075	1 290	185	140	40	0	0
Slovenia	285	215	75	25	15	10	-	0
Slovakia	225	215	5	120	5	85	35	0
Finland	2 935	2 595	340	1 340	180	930	230	585
Sweden	39 930	26 720	13 210	10 625	2 795	6 115	1 720	1 620
United Kingdom	41 270	22 835	18 430	14 360	9 385	4 690	285	455
Norway* **	9 545	9 545	:	4 015	2 810	765	435	-
Switzerland	20 730	15 990	4 740	6 795	3 710	1 005	2 075	0
Liechtenstein	100	45	55	30	5	-	0	0

Data are rounded to the nearest five.
0 means less than 3.
: Not available
- Not applicable
* The total number of decisions refers to the number of administrative decisions rather than the number of individuals.
** First instance and final decisions on appeal.
*** Data refer to first instance decisions only.

Largest groups granted protection status, 2011

	Largest group			Second largest group			Third largest group		
	Citizens of	#	%*	Citizens of	#	%*	Citizens of	#	%*
EU27	**Afghanistan**	**13 310**	**15.8**	**Iraq**	**8 955**	**10.6**	**Somalia**	**8 900**	**10.6**
BE	Iraq	1 150	20.7	Guinea	900	16.2	Afghanistan	830	15.0
BG	Iraq	135	63.9	Afghanistan	30	13.5	Stateless****	10	5.8
CZ	Kazakhstan	210	30.1	Stateless****	110	15.6	Belarus	75	10.4
DK	Afghanistan	540	31.0	Syria	475	27.3	Iran	315	18.0
DE	Iraq	3 275	25.1	Afghanistan	3 060	23.5	Iran	1 890	14.5
EE	Russia	10	47.1	:	:	:	:	:	:
IE	Afghanistan	20	12.0	Pakistan	20	12.0	Iran	15	11.3
EL	Iraq	155	26.2	Afghanistan	140	23.9	Unknown	120	20.1
ES	Cuba	550	54.3	Occ. Palestinian Territory	95	9.6	Somalia	75	7.5
FR	Sri Lanka	1 245	11.6	Russia	1 220	11.4	Kosovo***	820	7.6
IT	Afghanistan	860	11.5	Somalia	670	9.0	Pakistan	615	8.2
CY	Iraq	25	18.8	Iran	20	15.0	Occ. Palestinian Territory	20	14.3
LV	Afghanistan	5	25.9	Syria	5	14.8	Russia	5	11.1
LT	Afghanistan	15	52.0	Belarus	5	20.0	Russia	5	20.0
LU	Iraq	20	23.8	Iran	15	17.9	Kosovo***	15	15.5
HU	Afghanistan	125	62.0	Unknown	20	8.8	Iran	10	4.4
MT	Somalia	405	45.9	Eritrea	255	28.9	Sudan	50	5.6
NL	Somalia	2 360	28.1	Iraq	1 400	16.7	Afghanistan	1 375	16.4
AT	Afghanistan	1 830	31.2	Russia	1 275	21.7	Syria	510	8.7
PL	Russia	370	64.8	Armenia	35	6.4	Belarus	25	4.7
PT	Dem. Rep. of Congo	10	19.2	Colombia	10	17.3	Somalia	10	15.4
RO	Afghanistan	55	28.8	Iraq	50	27.7	Cameroon	15	7.6
SI	Somalia	5	25.0	Bosnia and Herzegovina	5	12.5	Russia	5	12.5
SK	Afghanistan	45	36.9	Somalia	45	35.2	Occ. Palestinian Territory	5	4.9
FI	Iraq	420	31.3	Somalia	275	20.4	Afghanistan	195	14.4
SE	Afghanistan	2 740	25.8	Somalia	2 555	24.0	Eritrea	1 220	11.5
UK	Iran	1 985	13.8	Sri Lanka	1 160	8.1	Afghanistan	1 020	7.1
NO**	Somalia	1 205	30.0	Eritrea	1 140	28.4	Afghanistan	530	13.2
CH	Eritrea	2 925	43.1	Syria	555	8.2	Afghanistan	445	6.5
LI	Somalia	2 740	64.3	Eritrea	10	8.0	:	:	:

Data are rounded to the nearest five.

: No data presented for those countries of citizenship where the number of positive decisions was 2 or less during the reference period.

* Persons with this citizenship granted protection status as a percentage of the total number of persons granted protection in this country.

** First instance decisions only

*** Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244.

**** A stateless person is someone who is not recognized as a citizen of any state.

Recognition rates, 2011

	First instance positive decisions				Final positive decisions on appeal			
	Number	Rate of recognition (%)*			Number	Rate of recognition (%)*		
	Total	Total	Refugee and subsidiary protection status	Humanitarian status	Total	Total	Refugee and subsidiary protection status	Humanitarian status
EU27	**59 500**	**25.1**	**21.2**	**3.8**	**24 610**	**19.2**	**16.9**	**2.3**
BE	5 075	25.6	25.6	-	470	4.5	4.5	-
BG	190	31.7	31.7	-	15	81.0	81.0	-
CZ	320	46.5	44.8	1.7	385	51.3	49.7	1.6
DK	1 315	36.8	31.4	5.4	420	18.9	18.9	0.0
DE	9 675	24.0	19.3	4.7	3 370	13.7	8.3	5.5
EE	15	26.2	16.9	9.2	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
IE	75	5.4	5.4	-	75	5.7	5.7	-
EL	180	2.1	1.5	0.5	410	65.7	44.0	21.7
ES	990	29.1	28.5	0.6	20	:	:	:
FR	4 615	10.9	10.9	-	6 125	17.7	17.7	-
IT	7 155	29.6	16.8	12.8	325	21.7	4.4	17.4
CY	70	2.6	2.1	0.6	65	2.0	0.7	1.4
LV	20	20.2	20.2	-	10	42.9	42.9	-
LT	25	7.5	7.5	-	0	6.5	6.5	-
LU	35	3.4	3.4	-	50	13.3	13.3	-
HU	155	17.4	16.2	1.2	50	15.1	14.2	0.9
MT	885	55.0	47.2	7.8	0	0.4	0.4	0.0
NL	6 830	43.2	30.3	13.0	1 555	56.3	45.7	10.6
AT	4 085	30.8	30.8	-	1 780	19.1	19.1	-:
PL	475	14.8	9.5	5.3	100	4.3	2.5	1.8
PT	50	52.0	52.0	-	0	0.0	0.0	-
RO	75	7.1	7.1	0.0	110	8.4	8.4	0.0
SI	20	10.3	10.3	-	0	2.7	2.7	-
SK	115	54.2	38.9	15.3	5	71.4	71.4	0.0
FI	1 065	41.0	33.7	7.3	275	81.4	70.2	11.2
SE	8 805	32.9	28.9	4.0	1 820	13.8	8.9	4.9
UK	7 190	31.5	31.0	0.5	7 165	38.9	38.0	0.9
NO	4 015	42.0	37.5	4.6	:	:	:	:
CH	6 445	40.3	29.1	11.2	350	7.4	1.4	6.0
LI	15	30.4	30.4	0.0	15	25.0	25.0	0.0

Data are rounded to the nearest five.
0 means less than 3.
: Not available
- Not applicable
* Rate of recognition is the share of positive decisions (first instance or final on appeal) in the total number of decisions at the given stage. In this calculation, the exact number of decisions has been used instead of the rounded numbers presented in this table.

1. **Protection status** includes three different categories of protection:
   Person granted refugee status means a person covered by a decision granting refugee status, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during the reference period. Refugee status means status as defined in Art.2(d) of Directive 2004/83/EC within the meaning of Art.1 of the Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951, as amended by the New York Protocol of 31 January 1967. According to the Art.2(c) of that Directive refugee means a third country national who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group, is outside the country of nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country, or a stateless person, who, being outside of the country of former habitual residence for the same reasons as mentioned above, is unable or, owing to such fear, unwilling to return to it.
   Person granted subsidiary protection status means a person covered by a decision granting subsidiary protection status, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during the reference period. Subsidiary protection status means status as defined in Art.2(f) of Directive 2004/83/EC. According to the Art.2(e) of that Directive person eligible for subsidiary protection means a third country national or a stateless person who does not qualify as a refugee but in respect of whom substantial grounds have been shown for believing that the person concerned, if returned to his or her country of citizenship, or in the case of a stateless person, to his or her country of former habitual residence, would face a real risk of suffering serious harm and is unable, or, owing to such risk, unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country.
   Person granted authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons means a person covered by a decision granting authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons under national law concerning international protection, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during the reference period. It includes persons who are not eligible for international protection as currently defined in the first stage legal instruments, but are nonetheless protected against removal under the obligations that are imposed on all Member States by international refugee or human rights instruments or on the basis of principles flowing from such instruments. Examples of such categories include persons who are not removable on ill health grounds and unaccompanied minors.
2. The data in this release are provided to Eurostat by Ministries of the Interior or Justice, or immigration agencies, of the Member States. These data are supplied by Member States according to the provisions of Article 4 of the Regulation (EC) 862/2007 of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection.
3. For more information see:
   http://www.unrefugees.org/site/c.lfIQKSOwFqG/b.7084345/k.1569/World_Refugee_Day_2012/apps/s/link.asp
4. **A decision on an asylum application** means a decision on an application for international protection as defined in Art.2(g) of Council Directive 2004/83/EC, i.e. including requests for refugee status or for subsidiary protection status, irrespective of whether the application was lodged on arrival at border, or from inside the country, and irrespective of whether the person entered the territory legally (e.g. as a tourist) or illegally.
5. **First instance decision** means a decision made in response to an asylum application at the first instance level of the asylum procedure.
6. **Final decision on appeal** means a decision granted at the final instance of administrative/judicial asylum procedure and which results from the appeal lodged by the asylum seeker rejected in the preceding stage of the procedure. As the asylum procedures and the numbers/levels of decision making bodies differ between Member States, the true final instance may be, according to the national legislation and administrative procedures, a decision of the highest national court. However, the applied methodology defines that 'final decisions' should refer to what is effectively a 'final decision' in the vast majority of all cases: i.e. that all normal routes of appeal have been exhausted.
7. **Resettled refugees** means persons who have been granted an authorisation to reside in a Member State within the framework of a national or Community resettlement scheme. Resettlement means the transfer of third-country nationals or stateless persons, on the basis of their need for international protection and a durable solution, to a Member State where they are permitted to reside with a secure legal status. Data relate to resettled persons who have actually arrived into the territory of the Member State.

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