

75 thousand asylum seekers granted protection status in the EU in 2008

Asylum decisions in 2008

About 75 thousand asylum seekers were granted protection status in the EU Member States in 2008. This represents more than one-third of the world-wide decisions granting protection, and makes the EU the region with the highest number of asylum seekers who received a protection status.

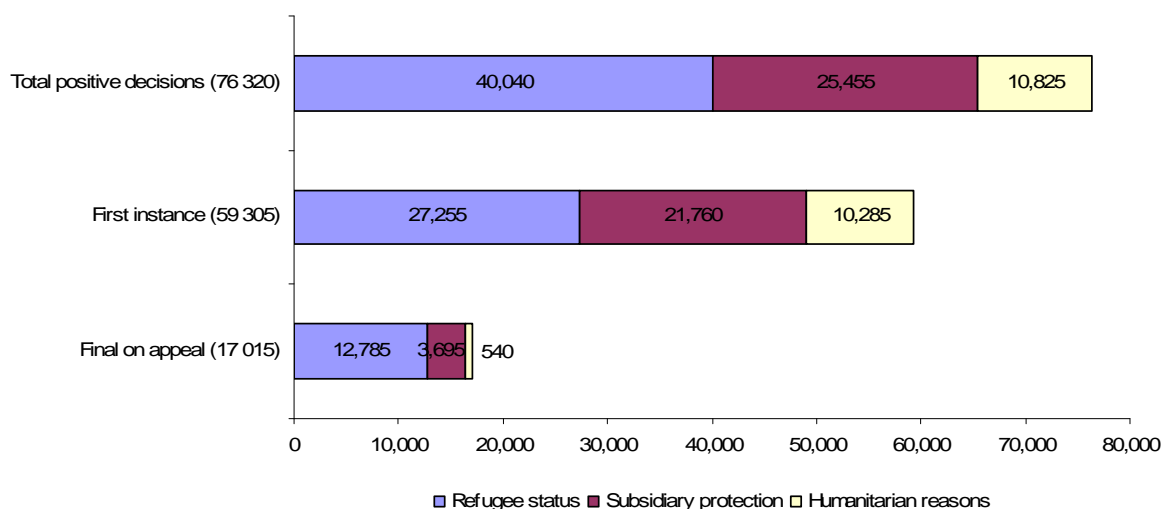
The majority of the asylum seekers that lodged an asylum claim in the EU see however their claim rejected. Over 70 percent of all claims are rejected at the first instance of the asylum procedure. More than 75 percent of those who

in response to this rejection lodge an appeal are eventually rejected at the final instance.

Out of those who were granted protection last year more than 40 thousand persons were granted refugee status and 25.5 thousand persons received a subsidiary protection status. 11 thousand obtained an authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons as provided under national legislation.

With 16.6 thousand persons, Iraqis were by far the largest group of beneficiaries of protection status in the EU last year.

Figure 1: Grants of protection status in EU-27¹⁾, total positive decisions, first instance and final decisions on appeal, 2008 (rounded figures)



1) First instance: no data available for CY

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asydcfsta](#), [migr_asydcfina](#))

More than one-third of world-wide recognitions of protection status in 2008 granted in the EU

In 2007 a record high number of first instance positive decisions was granted in the EU (62 500)¹. In 2008 there were also high numbers of positive decisions, and this was mainly due to the significant number of decisions granting refugee status in most of the EU Member States, in particular in Germany and the United Kingdom. To a large extent this increasing number is due to the growing number of Iraqi asylum seekers, who were granted protection relatively more often than asylum seekers from other countries of origin.

In 2008, although the number of recognitions of refugee status continued to increase, the overall number of first instance decisions granting a protection status decreased by 5 percent.

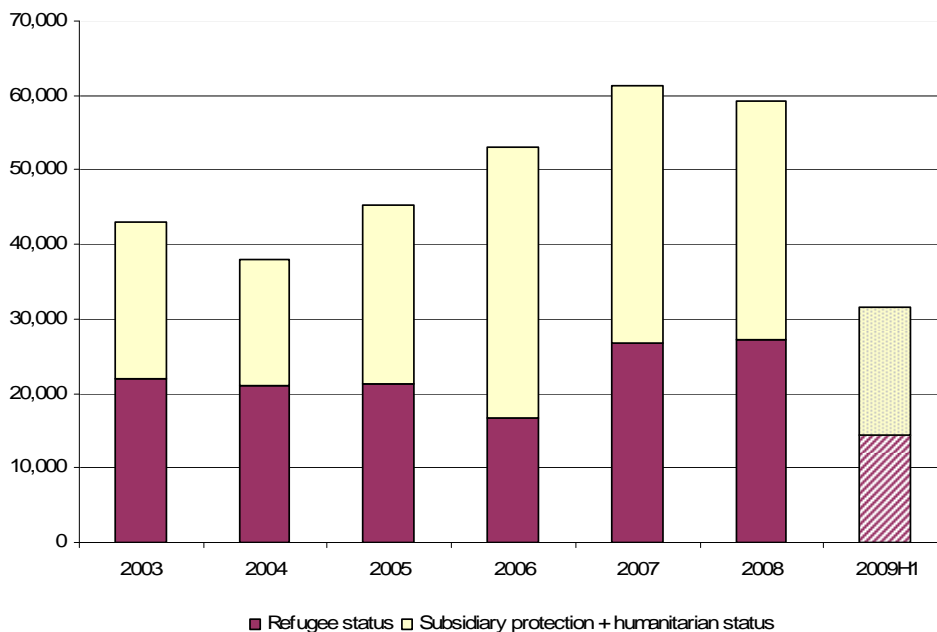
According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 2008 about 210 000 asylum seekers were granted protection status world-wide.² With more than one-third of all recognitions EU member states granted the highest number of positive decisions in the world.

Nearly 32 000 positive decisions were granted in the first six months of 2009. This is almost 5 000 more decisions granting protection status than in the same period of the previous year. These data relate only to the outcomes of the first instance of the asylum procedure.

¹ Comprehensive data on first instance decisions for all EU Member States are available since 2003. Annual data on final decisions on appeal are available since 2008.

² 2008 Global Trends: Refugees, Asylum seekers, Returnees, Internally Displaced and Stateless Persons; UNHCR, 16 June 2009, <http://www.unhcr.org/statistics>

Figure 2: Grants of refugee status and subsidiary protection/humanitarian status at the first instance in the EU-27¹⁾, 2003 – 1st semester 2009



1) 2008: no data available for CY; 2009: no data available for CZ

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asydctzy](#), [migr_asydcfstq](#))

France had the highest absolute number of positive decisions in 2008

With almost 11 500 decisions granting protection France is the top country in the EU in terms of the absolute number of grants of protection status followed by Germany (10 600), the United Kingdom (10 200), Italy (9 700) and Sweden (8 700). These five countries account for two-thirds of all grants of protection status in the EU.

The leading position of these countries reflects the trends in the influx of asylum applicants to the EU Member States. All these countries are also in the top five in terms of number of asylum applications lodged during 2008.

Table 1: Decisions¹⁾ on asylum applications at first instance and final decisions on appeal, 2008 (rounded figures)

	Total decisions			Total positive decisions			Refugee status			Subsidiary protection			Humanitarian reasons			Rejected		
	Total	First instance	Final decisions on appeal	Total	First instance	Final decisions on appeal	Total	First instance	Final decisions on appeal	Total	First instance	Final decisions on appeal	Total	First instance	Final decisions on appeal	Total	First instance	Final decisions on appeal
EU-27²⁾	281,120	209,230	71,890	76,320	59,305	17,015	40,040	27,255	12,785	25,455	21,760	3,695	10,825	10,285	540	204,805	149,935	54,875
BE	18,860	13,620	5,240	3,905	3,505	395	3,350	3,040	315	550	470	85	-	-	-	14,955	10,115	4,840
BG	700	670	25	305	295	10	30	25	0	275	265	10	-	-	-	395	375	20
CZ	2,880	1,400	1,480	260	215	45	130	120	10	105	70	35	25	25	0	2,615	1,180	1,435
DK	1,725	1,250	480	890	730	165	310	200	110	365	315	50	215	210	5	835	520	315
DE	30,405	19,330	11,070	10,650	7,870	2,775	8,935	7,310	1,625	1,715	565	1,150	0	0	0	19,760	11,465	8,295
EE	15	10	0	5	5	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	0
IE	7,250	4,790	2,460	1,760	1,465	295	590	295	295	5	5	-	1,165	1,165	0	5,495	3,325	2,165
EL	30,915	29,580	1,340	415	55	360	360	15	345	15	15	0	40	25	15	30,505	29,525	980
ES	6,250	5,130	1,120	290	275	10	160	150	10	115	110	5	:	15	:	5,960	4,850	1,110
FR	56,115	31,765	24,350	11,470	5,150	6,320	9,670	4,475	5,190	1,800	675	1,125	-	-	-	44,645	26,610	18,030
IT	20,260	20,225	30	9,740	9,740	0	1,805	1,805	0	6,310	6,310	0	1,620	1,620	:	10,520	10,485	30
CY	:	:	2,845	:	:	35	:	:	10	:	:	5	:	:	20	:	:	2,810
LV	25	10	15	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	10	15
LT	140	105	35	65	65	0	15	15	0	55	50	0	-	-	-	70	35	35
LU	965	485	480	240	185	55	105	50	55	0	0	0	140	140	0	725	300	425
HU	965	910	55	400	395	0	175	170	0	65	65	0	160	160	0	565	510	55
MT	2,915	2,685	230	1,410	1,410	0	20	20	0	1,390	1,385	0	0	0	0	1,505	1,275	225
NL	11,725	10,925	800	6,090	5,675	415	590	515	75	1,775	1,610	165	3,725	3,550	175	5,635	5,245	390
AT	13,705	5,905	7,795	5,675	3,640	2,035	3,755	2,205	1,550	1,665	1,180	485	255	255	0	8,030	2,270	5,760
PL	4,425	4,245	185	2,800	2,770	30	195	185	5	1,080	1,075	5	1,525	1,510	20	1,625	1,475	155
PT	105	105	0	70	70	0	10	10	0	60	60	0	-	-	-	40	40	0
RO	715	675	45	150	110	45	100	85	15	40	10	30	:	15	:	:	565	:
SI	260	160	100	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	260	155	100
SK	445	370	70	100	90	10	20	20	0	70	65	10	5	5	0	345	280	65
FI	1,770	1,675	95	740	655	80	90	90	0	490	435	55	160	135	25	1,030	1,020	10
SE	31,220	29,545	1,680	8,670	7,845	825	1,900	1,695	210	5,220	4,825	390	1,545	1,325	225	22,555	21,700	855
UK	33,525	23,665	9,865	10,190	7,080	3,115	7,715	4,750	2,965	2,280	2,190	85	195	135	60	23,335	16,585	6,750
IS	65	55	10	10	10	0	5	5	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	55	45	10
NO	10,325	9,015	1,310	3,710	3,050	655	1,110	1,075	30	1,220	1,170	50	1,375	805	570	:	5,965	:
CH	13,805	7,550	6,255	5,725	4,830	895	2,260	2,090	170	3,465	2,740	725	-	-	-	8,075	2,720	5,360
LI	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	0	:	:	0	0	-	0	:	15	:

1) Caution should be exercised when interpreting this table. The data relating to the number of 'Total decisions' and 'Rejected' presented in that table represent the number of administrative decisions rather than the number of individuals covered by decisions. Person rejected at the first instance and submitting an appeal may be subsequently a subject of either final positive decision or final rejection. Those finally rejected during the same reference year are therefore counted twice in 'Total decisions' and 'Total rejected'.

2) As a sum of available data

'-' not applicable

':' not available

Most of the asylum seekers granted protection in the EU receive refugee status

More than a half of asylum seekers granted protection in the EU in 2008 received refugee status, which represents the most traditional and important form of international protection offered to persons in need of international protection. Nearly 25 percent of all refugees in the EU were recognised by France, followed by Germany and the United Kingdom.

25 500 asylum seekers i.e. about one-third of all recognised applicants in the EU obtained subsidiary protection status, granted to those who do not qualify as a refugee but who nevertheless have protection needs based on other considerations. With 6 300 decisions granting subsidiary protection Italy granted the highest number of such status in the EU, followed by Sweden (5 200). Although in principle the minimum rights and benefits attached to these two types of protection are the same, subsidiary

protection is considered to be complementary to refugee status and is principally of a more temporary nature. This may for example be reflected in the entitlement to such rights or benefits as the access to work and integration programmes or to the issuance of temporary residence permits.

Moreover, nearly 11 000 asylum seekers obtained an authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons, a status granted under national law to those persons who are not eligible for international protection as provided under EU law, namely for refugee or subsidiary protection status. The highest number of humanitarian status was granted by the Netherlands (3 700), followed by Italy (1 600) and Sweden (1 500). As humanitarian protection is granted under national law, the rights and obligations of those beneficiaries may vary between EU Member States and are not set in EU legislation.

Iraqi citizens by far granted the highest number of protection status in the EU

Table 2: Total decisions and decisions by stage of the procedure in the EU-27¹⁾ for the top ten countries of citizenship by type of protection status granted, 2008 (rounded figures)

	TOTAL				FIRST INSTANCE				FINAL ON APPEAL			
	Total positive decisions	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	Total positive decisions	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	Total positive decisions	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons
Iraq	16,640	9,370	5,150	2,120	15,095	8,220	4860	2,015	1,545	1,150	290	100
Somalia	9,520	2,090	5,940	1,490	9,120	1,760	5900	1,460	400	335	40	30
Russia	7,440	3,885	1,945	1,610	5,580	2,420	1570	1,585	1,865	1,465	375	25
Afghanistan	5,025	1,540	2,940	545	3,980	990	2475	515	1,040	545	465	30
Eritrea	4,605	2,155	2,320	125	4,225	1,865	2240	120	375	290	85	5
Sri Lanka	2,820	1,915	835	75	1,330	980	285	65	1,490	935	545	10
Iran	2,500	1,820	510	170	1,600	1,100	360	135	900	720	150	35
Serbia	2,425	1,315	455	660	1,485	695	205	585	935	620	245	70
Turkey	1,830	1,490	235	100	725	520	115	90	1,105	970	120	10
Zimbabwe	1,710	1,480	175	55	995	800	150	45	715	680	25	10
Other	21,810	12,980	4,950	3,880	15,165	7,905	3,595	3,665	6,645	5,075	1,355	215

1) First instance and total decisions: no data available for CY

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asydcfst](#), [migr_asydcfina](#))

With 16 600 grants of protection status i.e. more than 20 percent of all positive decisions in 2008 Iraqis represent the largest group of recognised asylum seekers in the EU. Somalis are the second largest group with 9 500 positive decisions, followed by Russian citizens (7 400) and Afghans (5 000). Significant numbers of decisions granting protection concerned also EU candidate or potential candidate countries: Serbia (2 400) and Turkey (1 800).

Iraqis were the largest group of asylum seekers who received a protection status in 2008 in ten countries and in five other they were placed

second. However, the distribution of different countries of citizenship varies in most of the destination countries and to a large extent reflects the patterns of the influx of asylum applicants to destination countries. These patterns may be influenced by such factors as geographical proximity, presence of certain ethnic communities, language and historical ties, economic, labour market and housing situation in the destination countries. Moreover the perceived likelihood that the destination country may grant protection or even the activities of smugglers may also have an impact on the influx of asylum seekers.

About three out of ten asylum seekers were granted protection status in the EU-27 in first instance procedures

As an outcome of an asylum claim the asylum seeker may be granted either a positive or a negative decision at the first instance. This decision, if not satisfactory, may be subsequently appealed and eventually maintained or overturned by a final positive decision.

More than 28 percent of asylum seekers in the EU were granted protection status at the first instance in 2008. Out of those who were rejected at first instance and subsequently submitted an appeal 24 percent received a final positive decision. Importantly, the rates computed for first and final appeal instance decisions presented in the Table 2 cannot be aggregated and must be therefore interpreted separately (see methodological notes).

Although recognitions rates for the EU-27 at both first instance and appeal are nearly at the same levels some remarkable variations may be observed

for certain countries in relation to the level of the procedure and the status granted.

The variation between first and final appeal instances of the asylum procedure may be influenced by several factors. The differences in the national asylum procedures e.g. the length of the procedure, the rules relating to lodging an appeal, may be reflected in different recognition rates between the countries but also between different stages of the procedure. Moreover, recognition rates may also reflect the current asylum or more generally immigration policies. The increase in arrivals of certain nationalities, affected by conflicts, political, social and religious developments, to certain regions of Europe (due to geographical proximity) may have a significant impact on the outcome of the asylum claims resulting in more favourable or negative decisions.

Table 3: Rates of recognition¹⁾ of asylum applicants by stage of the procedure, 2008 (in %)

	Total positive decisions		Refugee status		Subsidiary protection		Humanitarian reasons	
	First instance	Final decisions on appeal	First instance	Final decisions on appeal	First instance	Final decisions on appeal	First instance	Final decisions on appeal
EU-27 ²⁾	28.3	23.7	13.0	17.8	10.4	5.1	4.9	0.8
Belgium	25.7	7.6	22.3	6.0	3.4	1.6	-	-
Bulgaria	43.8	33.3	4.0	3.7	39.8	29.6	-	-
Czech Republic	15.5	3.1	8.7	0.7	5.0	2.4	1.8	0.0
Denmark	58.3	34.3	16.0	23.2	25.4	10.5	16.9	0.6
Germany	40.7	25.1	37.8	14.7	2.9	10.4	0.0	0.0
Estonia	33.3	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ireland	30.6	11.9	6.2	11.9	0.1	0.0	24.3	0.0
Greece	0.2	26.8	0.0	25.7	0.1	0.0	0.1	1.1
Spain	5.4	1.1	2.9	0.7	2.1	0.4	0.3	0.0
France	16.2	25.9	14.1	21.3	2.1	4.6	-	-
Italy	48.2	0.0	8.9	0.0	31.2	0.0	8.0	:
Cyprus	:	1.3	:	0.4	:	0.1	:	0.7
Latvia	25.0	0.0	16.7	0.0	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lithuania	64.1	2.8	13.6	0.0	50.5	2.8	-	-
Luxembourg	38.4	11.5	9.9	11.5	0.0	0.0	28.5	0.0
Hungary	43.7	1.8	18.9	1.8	7.3	0.0	17.5	0.0
Malta	52.4	0.4	0.8	0.0	51.7	0.4	0.0	0.0
Netherlands	52.0	51.6	4.7	9.4	14.7	20.5	32.5	21.7
Austria	61.6	26.1	37.3	19.9	19.9	6.2	4.3	0.0
Poland	65.3	15.8	4.4	3.8	25.4	1.6	35.5	10.4
Portugal	64.2	0.0	8.5	0.0	55.7	0.0	-	-
Romania	16.0	:	12.6	:	1.3	:	2.1	0.0
Slovenia	2.5	0.0	1.2	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Slovakia	24.0	12.5	5.7	0.0	17.0	12.5	1.3	0.0
Finland	39.1	87.2	5.3	1.1	25.8	60.6	8.1	25.5
Sweden	26.6	49.0	5.7	12.4	16.3	23.3	4.5	13.3
United Kingdom	29.9	31.6	20.1	30.1	9.3	0.9	0.6	0.6
Iceland	17.0	10.0	7.5	0.0	9.4	10.0	0.0	0.0
Norway	33.9	:	11.9	:	13.0	:	8.9	:
Switzerland	64.0	14.3	27.7	2.7	36.3	11.6	-	-
Liechtenstein	:	:	:	:	:	:	-	-

1) Rate of recognition calculated as a share of positive decisions (by status) in the total number of decisions (positive + rejections)

2) Based on the available data

'-' not applicable

':' not available

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asydcfst](#), [migr_asydcfina](#))

Eritreans and Somalis have the highest recognition rates at the EU level

Table 4: Rates of recognition¹⁾ by stage of the procedure and by the type of protection status granted in the EU-27²⁾ for the top ten countries of citizenship, 2008 (in %)

	FIRST INSTANCE				FINAL ON APPEAL			
	Total positive decisions	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	Total positive decisions	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons
Iraq	46.1	25.1	14.9	6.2	44.8	33.4	8.4	2.9
Somalia	73.1	14.1	47.3	11.7	45.6	37.8	4.4	3.3
Russia	43.7	19.0	12.3	12.4	33.1	26.1	6.6	0.5
Afghanistan	37.5	9.3	23.3	4.8	34.9	18.3	15.5	1.0
Eritrea	71.6	31.6	37.9	2.0	56.0	43.1	12.4	0.6
Sri Lanka	23.6	17.4	5.1	1.1	43.5	27.2	15.9	0.3
Iran	26.5	18.3	6.0	2.3	32.8	26.2	5.4	1.2
Serbia	16.2	7.6	2.3	6.4	17.8	11.7	4.7	1.4
Turkey	12.3	8.8	1.9	1.5	21.6	19.1	2.4	0.2
Zimbabwe	25.1	20.2	3.8	1.1	44.9	42.7	1.6	0.6

1) Rate of recognition calculated as a share of positive decisions (by status) in the total number of decisions (positive + rejections)

2) First instance: no data available for CY

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asydcfst](#), [migr_asydcfina](#))

Almost three out of four Somalis and Eritreans who lodged an asylum claim were granted protection status at the first instance in the EU last year. However, the likelihood to receive protection status

varies between countries of destination and while all or nearly all Somalis received protection in Portugal, Hungary, Malta and Italy only a marginal number of them was granted protection in Greece.

Table 5: Rates of recognition¹⁾ for the main countries of citizenship by stage of the procedure, 2008 (in %)

	Iraq		Somalia		Russia		Afghanistan		Eritrea	
	First instance	Final decisions on appeal	First instance	Final decisions on appeal	First instance	Final decisions on appeal	First instance	Final decisions on appeal	First instance	Final decisions on appeal
EU-27 ²⁾	46.1	44.8	73.1	45.6	43.7	33.1	37.5	34.9	71.6	56.0
Belgium	52.6	9.4	50.0	2.4	25.3	2.4	23.2	14.0	57.9	9.1
Bulgaria	65.2	66.7	66.7	*	0.0	*	46.8	100.0	*	*
Czech Republic	79.5	66.7	*	100.0	33.8	11.4	3.1	0.0	*	*
Denmark	62.3	58.6	52.6	0.0	77.9	0.0	52.1	21.4	100.0	*
Germany	80.1	55.6	79.3	77.8	23.4	24.1	47.5	33.4	70.6	88.2
Estonia	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Ireland	48.7	44.8	44.1	17.0	44.7	36.8	13.7	32.8	28.0	8.3
Greece	0.2	72.8	2.2	*	2.6	*	0.8	*	0.0	*
Spain	51.2	0.0	19.5	0.0	20.2	0.0	34.6	0.0	3.2	*
France	82.1	37.9	56.4	46.7	21.0	45.3	30.5	39.4	69.5	38.5
Italy	88.2	*	96.0	*	63.6	*	64.3	*	90.3	*
Cyprus	:	0.0	:	0.0	:	6.1	:	0.0	:	*
Latvia	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Lithuania	*	*	*	*	86.4	6.3	*	*	*	*
Luxembourg	50.0	60.0	33.3	25.0	0.0	18.5	75.0	33.3	0.0	12.5
Hungary	70.5	*	98.1	*	44.4	0.0	75.6	*	*	*
Malta	0.0	*	98.1	5.6	*	*	*	*	93.2	0.0
Netherlands	66.9	65.9	64.5	54.4	24.2	64.3	38.1	35.3	70.1	62.5
Austria	87.0	26.4	89.8	22.5	78.9	38.7	88.4	62.6	66.7	0.0
Poland	100.0	*	85.7	*	70.2	16.3	50.0	*	*	*
Portugal	*	*	100.0	*	*	*	*	*	100.0	*
Romania	70.8	:	*	:	0.0	:	*	:	*	:
Slovenia	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.0	*	*	*	*
Slovakia	73.3	0.0	*	*	0.0	0.0	63.0	71.4	*	*
Finland	55.7	40.0	47.0	*	26.0	50.0	69.1	96.2	*	*
Sweden	31.0	45.3	57.8	54.5	12.9	51.9	44.2	55.2	62.9	52.1
United Kingdom	28.6	22.8	52.4	55.8	42.3	19.5	41.5	25.9	61.5	56.4
Iceland	*	*	*	*	80.0	0.0	*	*	*	*
Norway	32.8	:	54.5	:	11.8	:	82.5	:	69.6	:
Switzerland	59.0	5.6	54.0	3.8	45.5	13.0	59.6	20.3	83.3	1.2
Liechtenstein	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

1) Rate of recognition calculated as a share of positive decisions (by status) in the total number of decisions (positive + rejections)

2) Based on the available data

'-' not available

* - Rate not calculated for those countries of citizenship where the number of decisions was 2 or lower during the reference period

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asydcfst](#), [migr_asydcfina](#))

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

DATA SOURCES

The data used for this publication are provided to Eurostat by the Ministries of Interior, Justice or immigration agencies of the Member States. Data are based entirely on administrative sources. 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.

All data presented in this publication are rounded to the nearest 5.

All data presented in this publication are provisional and may be subject of change.

Due to the use of different concepts national data may vary from the harmonised Eurostat statistics.

Differences between Eurostat data and data published by the UNHCR can be due to the fact that databases are updated at different times. Additionally, concepts used might vary in certain cases.

DEFINITIONS AND COVERAGE

'Asylum applicant' means a person having submitted an application for international protection or having been included in such application as a family member during the reference period. 'Application for international protection' means 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.

'Rejected applicant' means a person covered by decision rejecting an application for international protection, including decisions considering applications as inadmissible or as unfounded and decisions under priority and accelerated procedures, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during the reference period.

'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 a 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 origin, 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.

'First instance decision' means a decision granted by the respective authority acting as a first instance of the administrative/judicial asylum procedure in the receiving country.

'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.

'Recognition rate' was calculated as a share of positive decisions in the total number of decisions for each stage of the procedure (i.e. first instance and final on appeal). Total number of decisions consists of positive and negative decisions. Calculation of the overall recognition rate for all stages of asylum procedure cannot be made due to lacking information linking the outcomes at first instance and final on appeal for each person concerned.

ABBREVIATIONS

Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE), the United Kingdom (UK), Iceland (IS), Lichtenstein (LI), Norway (NO) and Switzerland (CH).

EU ASYLUM POLICY

The Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security (DG JLS) is responsible for developing the EU policies on asylum. For more information please see:

http://www.ec.europa.eu/justice_home/index_en.htm

Further information

Data: [Eurostat Website: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat)

Data on "Population, International migration and Asylum":
<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/data/database>

More information about "International migration and asylum":
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/publications/migration_asylum

Journalists can contact the media support service:

Bech Building Office A4/125 L - 2920 Luxembourg
Tel. (352) 4301 33408 Fax (352) 4301 35349
E-mail: eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu

European Statistical Data Support:

Eurostat set up with the members of the 'European statistical system' a network of support centres, which will exist in nearly all Member States as well as in some EFTA countries.

Their mission is to provide help and guidance to Internet users of European statistical data.

Contact details for this support network can be found on our Internet site:
<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

A list of worldwide sales outlets is available at the:

Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.

2, rue Mercier
L - 2985 Luxembourg

URL: <http://publications.europa.eu>
E-mail: info@publications.europa.eu
