



EASO

Quarterly Asylum Report

Quarter 2, 2014

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Introduction

The EASO Quarterly Asylum Report is produced by EASO's Centre for Information, Documentation and Analysis. It aims to provide an overview of key asylum trends by analysing data on applications for international protection, pending cases and decisions made on applications by EU Member States and Associated Countries¹.

The analysis is based on data² submitted to Eurostat as per Article 4 of the Migration Statistics Regulation³ and extracted from Eurostat database on 29 September 2014⁴.

It is important to note that the Eurostat Technical Guidelines for the data collection⁵ were amended in December 2013 and subsequently entered into force in the reference month of January 2014. The change affects the backward comparability of 2014 data. The main changes in the Eurostat Technical Guidelines for the data collection that affect the above comparison are:

- clarification of the first time and repeated applicant concepts;
- addition of an instruction on how persons subject to a Dublin procedure should be counted in the pending cases table;
- exclusion of rejections further to another MS accepting responsibility for the examination of the application under the Dublin Regulation, while the previous instruction was to report those cases as rejections⁶;
- clarification of the concept of humanitarian protection.

¹ Referred to in the content of the report as "EU+". This includes data from EU28, Norway and Switzerland.

² Figures published on Eurostat database are rounded to the nearest "5" or "0". The number presented in this report may therefore differ when analysed separately (by EU+, citizenship, indicator).

³ Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 311/76 on the compilation of statistics on foreign workers [2007] OJ L199/23 <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32007R0862>.

⁴ According to Migration Statistics Regulation, data on first instance decisions is provided by Member States and Associated countries to Eurostat on a quarterly basis and with a 2-month deadline for submission. Data on applicants and pending cases are monthly but have the same 2-month deadline for submission. These timelines explain the delay with which EASO quarterly reports are produced.

⁵ http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_SDDS/Annexes/migr_asyapp_esms_an3.pdf

⁶ With the purpose of enhancing the comparability of decision statistics across the EU+ countries and provide more relevant recognition rates, the new guidelines now instruct EU+ countries not to report any more rejections following the acceptance responsibility for the examination of the applications under Dublin regulation by another MS under the decision indicator. This should be taken into account in comparisons between the data collected under the former Eurostat guidelines and the current Eurostat guidelines.

Summary

Trends in applicants for international protection

- In the second quarter of 2014, the total number of applicants for international protection rebounded to the peak level registered in the last quarter of 2013, reaching 130 900 applicants, a 13 % increase compared to the previous quarter.
- In the quarter under review, Syrian citizens became the largest group of applicants in the EU+. The composition of the five largest groups of asylum applicants registered in the EU+ consisted of: citizens from Syria followed by Western Balkans countries, Eritrea, Afghanistan and Nigeria.
- Germany, Sweden and France were the main countries of destination, receiving 55% of all asylum applicants registered in the EU+.

Trends in decisions on international protection at first instance

- The 87 395 first instance decisions issued in the EU+ in Q2 2014 represented a 2 % decrease compared to the preceding quarter and marked the second consecutive contraction.
- In Q2 2014, 44 % of all first instance decisions issued resulted in a positive outcome. This is substantially higher than the 34 % rate recorded for all of 2013 but just under the rate in Q1 2014 (46 %).
- In 10 EU+ countries, more than half of the first instance decisions issued were positive and resulted in granting the applicant refugee status, subsidiary protection or humanitarian protection⁷.
- The stock of pending cases at the end of June 2014 (372 540) increased by 7 % compared to the level registered at the end of March 2014⁸.

Key trends in focus

- *Syria* – The number of Syrian applicants increased by 24 % compared to the previous quarter. With 22 595 persons recorded, Syrians exceeded by a large margin the next largest group of applicants from the six Western Balkan countries and set a new quarterly high since the Eurostat collection started in 2008.
- *Eritrea* – During Q2 2014, EU+ countries registered a 263 % increase in the number of applicants from Eritrea and reached a level never recorded before for this citizenship. As a result, Eritreans became the third largest group of applicants in the EU+, totalling 14 230 applicants for international protection or 11 % of the EU+ total.
- *Ukraine* – In Q2 2014, with 2 470 applicants, Ukrainians entered for the first time the top 20 citizenship of applicants in the EU+, ranking in 14th place. Applications by Ukrainian citizens were lodged throughout Europe.

⁷ Reported as: authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons under national law concerning international protection

⁸ At the time of writing, all data for 2014 in Austria and data on pending cases at the end of June in Belgium were not available. Also, no data have been available for pending cases for an extended period from Cyprus from May 2011- 2014 (excluding December 2012) and the Netherlands for the entire period 2012-2014. In order to ensure comparability of data in recent quarters, the figures reported by Austria and Belgium for Q1 2014 and Q2 2013 were excluded when calculating the absolute and relative changes.

Section 1: Trends in applicants for international protection

Applicants for international protection in the EU+

In the second quarter of 2014, the total number of applicants for international protection rebounded to the peak level registered in the last quarter of 2013, reaching 130 900 applicants, a 13 % increase compared to the previous quarter⁹. Overall, the pattern mirrors the evolution observed last year, when, in contrast with previous years, a strong rise occurred in the second quarter of the year rather than in the second half of the year.

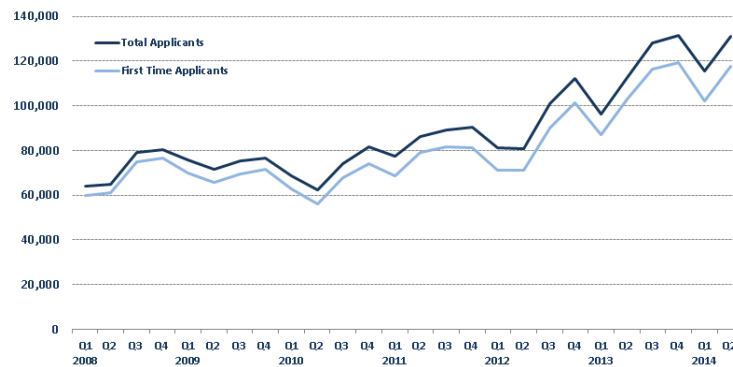


Figure 1: Total and first time asylum applicants¹⁰ in the EU+ since January 2008

Source: Eurostat data as of 29.09.2014

Figure 2 shows the monthly evolution of the number of applicants for international protection reported in 2014, compared to the last two years. Compared to the first half of 2013 and 2012, the chart shows a significantly higher level for the overall number of applicants registered in 2014 (+23 % against 2013 and +60 % against 2012). So far in 2014, the evolution follows the same pattern as observed in 2013 with lows at the end of the winter season (February) and sustained increases from March onwards. This steady rise was mainly caused by the surge of Eritrean applicants combined with the consistently high number of Syrians.

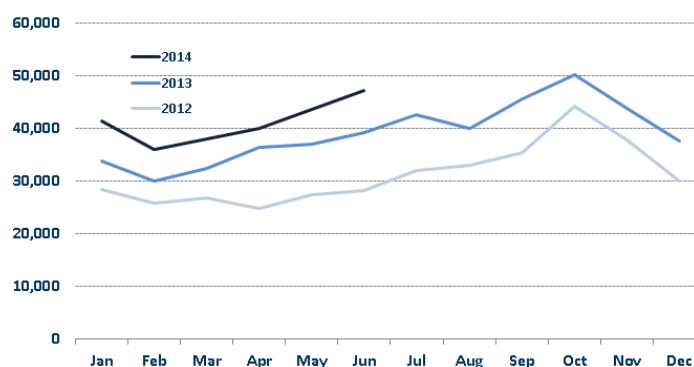


Figure 2: Total asylum applicants in the EU+ since January 2012 monthly trend

Source: Eurostat data as of 29.09.2014

⁹ Since Austria did not provide data for the period under review, this quarterly total is an under-estimate compared to previous quarters.

¹⁰ Total applicants: all persons having submitted an application for international protection as defined in Art.2(h) of Qualification Directive or having been included in such application as a family member. First time applicants for international protection are those who lodged an application for the first time in a given Member State. When data for first time applicants is not available on Eurostat total applicants are considered first time applicants.

Main citizenship/group of citizenship of applicants for international protection

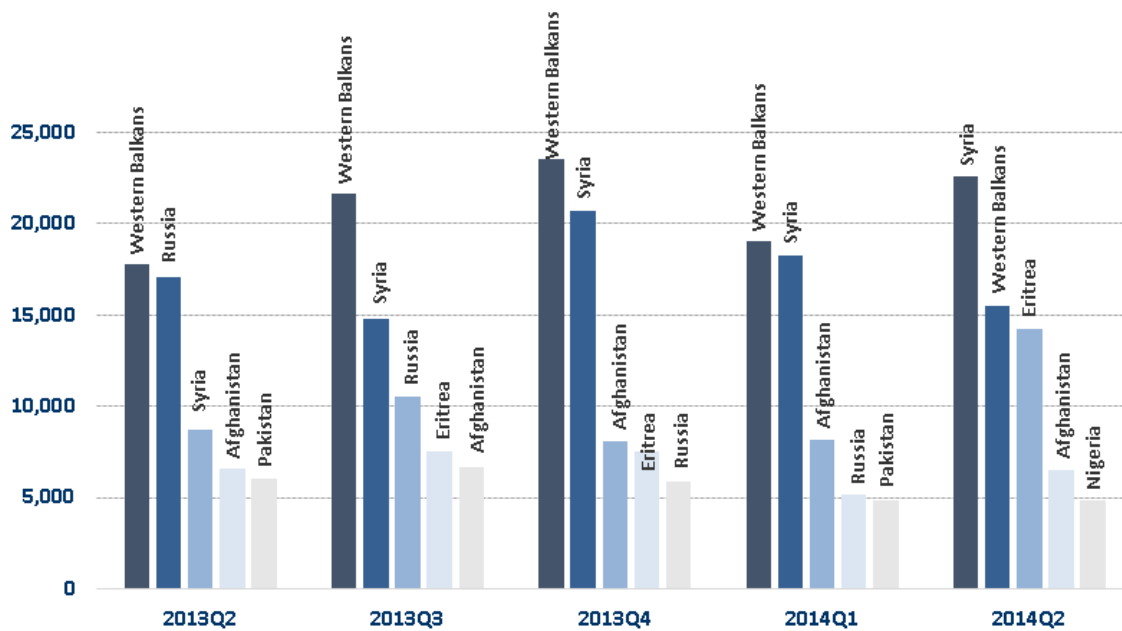


Figure 3: Main citizenship/group of citizenship¹¹ of asylum applicants, Q2 2013- Q2 2014

Source: Eurostat data as of 29.09.2014

For the first time since data collection under the Migration Statistics Regulation began in 2008, Syrian citizens became the largest group of applicants in the EU+, overtaking citizens from the six Western Balkan countries (considered as a group). Citizens of Eritrea and Nigeria were ranked in third and fifth place in number of applicants, respectively. Figure 3 shows the evolution through to Q2 2014 of the composition of the five largest groups of applicants registered in the EU+.

From Q1 to Q2 2014, **Syrian** applicants for international protection increased by 24 % reaching 22 595 applicants, which exceeded the previous peak registered during Q3 2013. Compared to the same quarter of last year (Q2 2013), the number of Syrian applicants increased massively (+168 %).

While Germany and Sweden received the vast majority of the Syrian applicants registered in the second quarter of 2014 (62 %), 19 EU+ countries reported Syrian citizens among the three most common citizenships of applicants they received. 97 % of Syrian applicants were first time applicants. The number of applicants recorded in the EU+ as “Stateless” rose by 70 % when compared to the previous quarter. This group is mainly composed by Palestinians and the sharp increase may reflect the deterioration of the security situation in Syria, where many Palestinians reside.

¹¹ The indicator applicants for international protection disaggregated by citizenship, including “stateless” as a separate category. In this report citizenship and nationality are used interchangeably.

Applicants from the **Western Balkan** countries decreased for the second consecutive quarter (-19 %) and totalled 15 470 in the second quarter of 2014. This represented the lowest number in the last five quarters. Except for the number of Montenegrin applicants, which remained stable, the number of applicants from the five remaining Western Balkan countries displayed a contraction: in relative terms, citizens of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) decreased by 31 %, followed by Bosnians and Serbs (both -22 %). In Q2 2014, Germany, France and Sweden represented the principal destination countries of Western Balkan applicants, receiving 85 % of the total for this group in the second quarter.

The number of **Eritrean** applicants in the EU+ **rose sharply** in the second quarter of 2014 (+263 % compared to Q1 2014) and reached an overall level (14 230) not registered since the beginning of the EU data collection. This number is almost twice as high as the number registered in the summer of 2013. As mentioned by Frontex¹², the overwhelming majority of Eritreans entered the EU+ in Italy after crossing the Mediterranean Sea and moved further into the EU+ to eventually apply for international protection in northern European Countries. Sweden, the Netherlands and Germany received the largest share of Eritreans (25 %, 22 %, 21 %, respectively) followed by Switzerland and Norway.

Nigerians applying for international protection in the EU+ increased by 36 % compared to the first quarter and entered the top five largest groups of citizenships of applicants. After two years of steady quarterly growth, in the second quarter of 2014 the total number of Nigerian applicants reached 4 820 persons, on par with the peak registered in the summer 2011. Applicants from **Mali** showed the second largest relative increase during the second quarter (+78 %) and totalled over 4 000 applicants in the EU+, setting a new quarterly high for this citizenship. In the last year and a half, EU+ countries received more applicants from Mali than during the entire period 2008-2012. In contrast with Eritrean applicants who mostly apply in northern European countries, Nigerian and Malian citizens apply for international protection principally in Italy which accounted for 50 % and 78 % of the EU+ totals for Nigerians and Malians reported in Q2 2014, respectively.

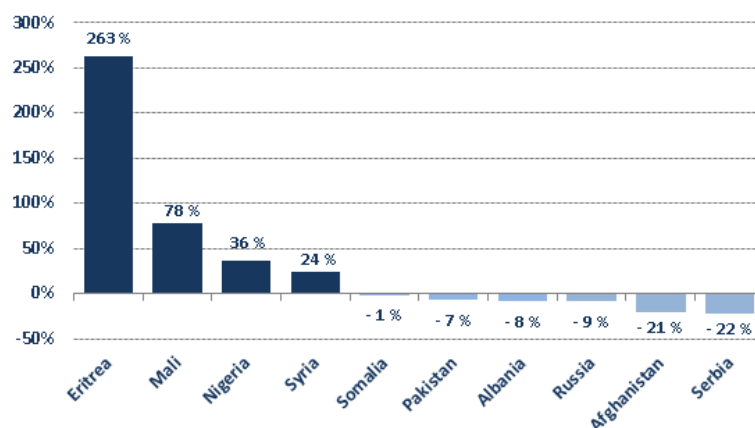


Figure 4: Main countries of origin of asylum applicants in the EU+, percentage change Q2 2014/Q1 2014

Source: Eurostat login: 29.09.2014

¹² http://frontex.europa.eu/assets/Publications/Risk_Analysis/Fran_Q2_2014.pdf

Profile of applicants for international protection in Europe

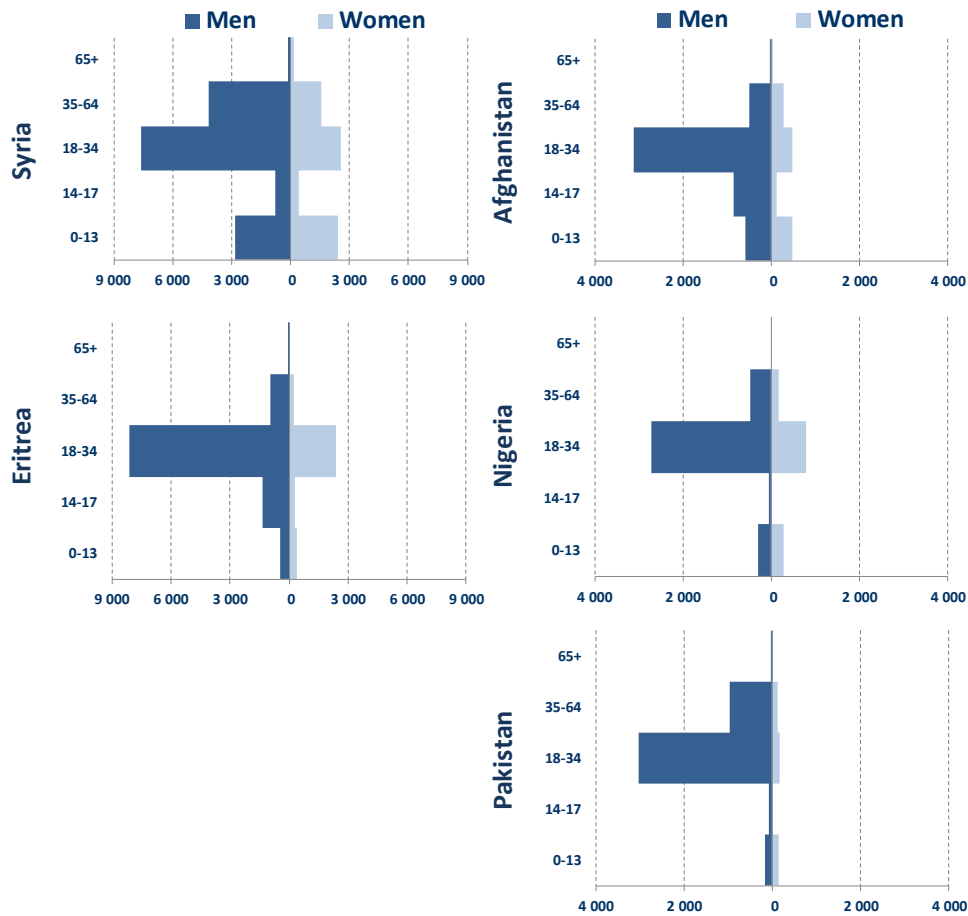


Figure 5: The age pyramid of applicants from selected countries of origin, by gender, Q2 2014

Source: Eurostat login: 29.09.2014

The charts in Figure 5 show the age-gender profile of applicants from the Top five citizenship source countries in Q2 2014. The left axis shows the age group categories in years.

- In the influx of Syrian applicants to the EU+, not only is there a large proportion of men 18-64 years, but there is also a significant number of families;
- Afghan applicants are mainly young men, but the distribution also indicates a proportion of families;
- Eritrean and Nigerian flows consist mainly of young single men, but also some families and women in the 18-34 years range;
- It is also worth mentioning the large share of Afghan (731) and Eritrean (1 542) applicants claiming to be unaccompanied minors, representing 36 % and 60 % of the minors in the two youngest age classes for Afghanistan and Eritrea respectively¹³;
- The vast majority of Pakistani applicants were adult males, predominantly in the age group of 18-34 years.

¹³ This information is provided by EU+ countries via the EASO Early warning and Preparedness System (EPS) data collection.

Country of destination

Figure 6 shows the changes in terms of absolute numbers of asylum applicants registered in the EU+ countries between Q2 2014 and Q1 2014. In the quarter under review, Germany, Sweden and France were the main countries of destination, receiving 55 % of all asylum applicants registered in the EU+, with Sweden becoming once more the second main receiving country in the EU+, as in the second half of 2013.

The largest increase in absolute terms compared to Q1 2014 was reported by Sweden (+5 970; +46 %), while the highest relative increase was recorded in Malta (+205; +103 %). The Netherlands (+73 %; +3 540), Norway (+62 %; +1 270), Denmark (+54 %; +825), Italy (+34 %; + 3 680), Poland (+19 %; +325) and Switzerland (+10 %; +490) saw significantly¹⁴ higher numbers of applicants than in the previous quarter.

Conversely, only Bulgaria (-26 %; -520) registered a significant¹⁰ decrease compared to Q1 2014.

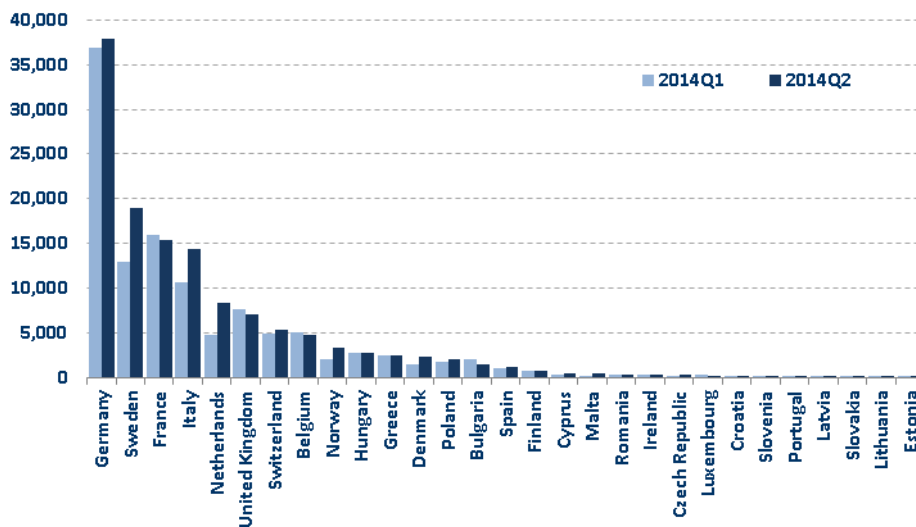


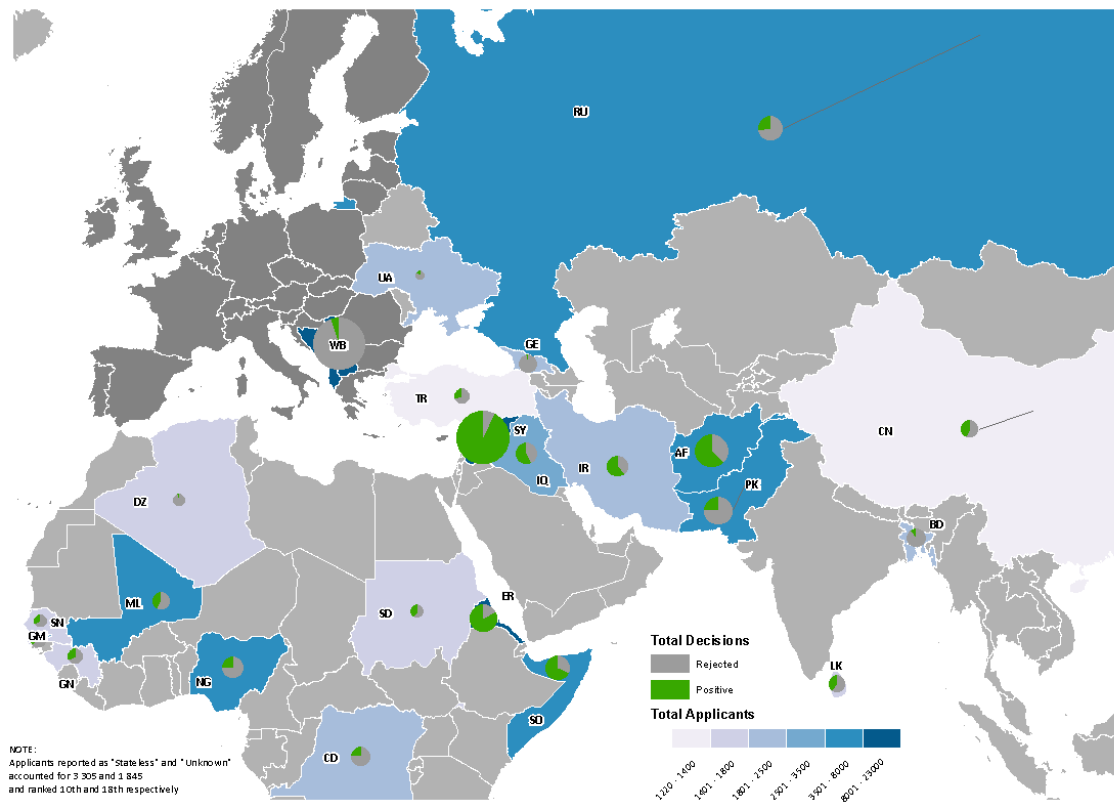
Figure 6: Total asylum applicants in European destination countries in Q1 and Q2 of 2014

Source: Eurostat data as of 29.09.2014

¹⁴ More than 10% increase/decrease and 250 applicants absolute difference compared to Q1 2014

Section 2: Trends in decisions on international protection at first instance

The map below displays first instance decisions on international protection issued in the EU+ for the top 25 countries of origin of applicants during Q2 2014. The citizenships can be clustered into two main groups: those which are mainly granted protection (both EU regulated international protection statuses and humanitarian protection) for which the corresponding pie chart is mostly green; and those which are mainly rejected characterized by a grey pie chart.



Map 1: Main citizenships of applicants, first instance decisions and positive decisions issued in the EU+ during Q2 2014

Source: Eurostat data as of 29.06.2014; Note: the groups "Stateless" and "Unknown" citizenships, which ranked, respectively, 10th and 18th in the EU+, are not plotted in the map

The bar chart in Figure 7 indicates the numbers of decisions issued by the EU+ countries at first instance (in blue), the recognition rates¹⁵ (%) and the type of protection granted.

¹⁵ The recognition rate at first instance is here defined as the ratio between the amount of positive first instance decisions issued (refugee status, subsidiary protection status and humanitarian protection (authorization to stay for humanitarian reasons under national law concerning international protection)) and the number of all first instance decisions issued (positive decisions and rejections) in the reference period under review.

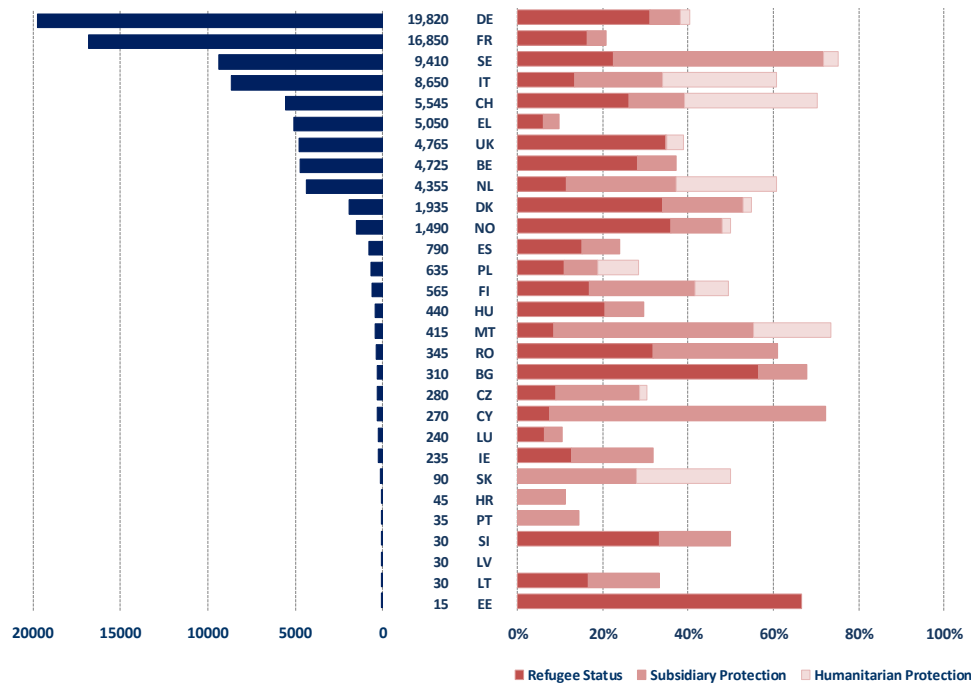


Figure 7: First instance decisions and type of decisions issued in the EU+, Q2 2014
Source: Eurostat data as of 29.09.2014

Numbers of decisions

During the quarter under review, the number of first instance decisions on international protection issued in the EU+ (87 395) decreased by 2 % compared to Q1 2014 and marked the second consecutive quarterly contraction. On the other hand, this was a 9 % increase on the same quarter in 2013 when 80 450 decisions were issued.

The highest numbers of first instance decisions issued in Q2 2014 were in Germany (19 820, 23 % of the total), France (16 685, 19 % of the total) and Sweden (9 410, 11 % of the total), the three countries together accounting for 53 % of all decisions issued in the EU+. Italy (8 650, 10%), Switzerland (5 545, 6 %), Greece (5 050, 6 %), the United Kingdom (4 765, 5 %), Belgium (4 725, 5 %) and the Netherlands (4 355, 5 %) also issued significant numbers of decisions.

In comparison with the previous quarter, the sharpest increases in the number of first instance decisions were reported by the United Kingdom (+31 %), Greece (+21 %) and Italy (+17 %). In Italy, the higher number of decisions coincided with a rise in applicants for international protection. On the other hand, Greece experienced a more stable inflow of applicants in recent quarters which has allowed the country to process their stock of pending cases and led to an increase in decisions.

Recognition Rate

In Q2 2014, 44 % of all first instance decisions issued resulted in a positive outcome, substantially higher than the 34% rate recorded for all of 2013¹⁶ but just under the rate in Q1 2014 (46 %).

In 10 countries, more than half of the decisions issued at first instance during Q2 2014 were positive: Sweden (75 % of 9 410), Malta (72 % of 415), Switzerland (70 % of 5 545), Cyprus (70 % of 270), Bulgaria (67 % of 310 decisions), Estonia (67 % of 15), the Netherlands (61 % of 4 355), Italy (61 % of 8 650), Romania (61 % of 345), and Denmark (55 % of 1 935).

As shown in Figure 7, the recognition rate at first instance can vary significantly from one EU+ country to another. While these variations can arise from diverse factors, these usually result from the following considerations:

- The structural differences in the caseloads (including countries/regions of origin of asylum applicants and their individual profiles) upon which decisions are issued;
- The differences across the EU+ States who may adopt different approaches, interpretations and policies concerning certain issues;
- The use of various forms of protection existing under national law reported as humanitarian protection¹⁷.

¹⁶ See footnote 6

¹⁷ Humanitarian protection is not harmonized at EU level and is reported only by 18 of the EU+ states (Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Norway and Switzerland)

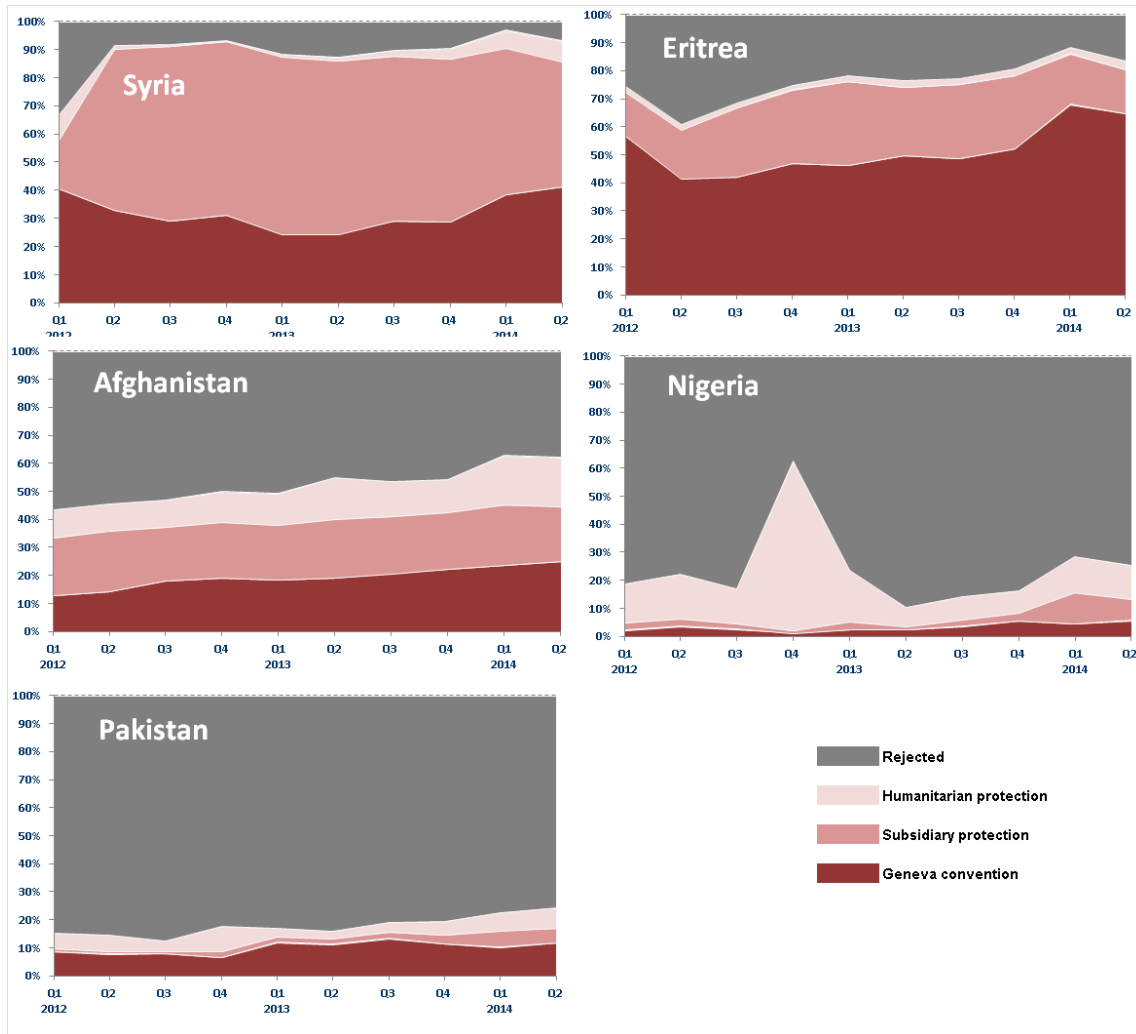


Figure 8: Evolution of first instance decisions issued on the top 5 countries of origin since Q1 2012;
Source: Eurostat data as 29.09.2014

The charts in figure 8 display the evolution of the type of decisions issued at first instance for the five main single countries of origin of applicants registered in the EU+. Decisions include positive decisions (refugee status, subsidiary protection and humanitarian protection) or rejections (from Q1 2012 to Q2 2014).

In Q2 2014, the recognition rate at first instance reported for Syrians was 93 % was slightly lower than the rate in the first quarter (97 %), due to fewer decisions granting subsidiary protection. The remaining rejections may be explained by the individual nature of each case and by differences in national practices: firstly, persons claiming to be Syrians and subsequently found not to be may be rejected while still being reported as Syrians; secondly, applicants who absconded during the asylum procedure may be issued a negative decision; finally, certain applicants may be excluded from receiving refugee status or subsidiary protection in line with Articles 12 and 17 of the Qualification Directive.

The recognition rate for applicants from Eritrea was 84 % in Q2 2014, lower by 5 % compared to the recognition rate of Q1 2014. This was due to a slight decrease in number of decisions granting refugee status and subsidiary protection. Refugee status remains the type

of protection the most granted to Eritreans: 64 % of all first instance decisions issued to Eritreans in the second quarter of 2014 granted refugee status.

More than 60 % of the first instance decisions issued in the EU+ in 2014 to Afghan applicants were positive. Figure 8 shows that the trend in rate and type of protection has changed very little since Q1 2012, with a modest but sustained increase in the positive decision rate mainly driven by an increase in the number of decisions granting refugee status and a recent rise in decisions granting humanitarian protection in 2014.

In Q2 2014, the recognition rate for Nigerians was about 25 %, slightly lower than during the first quarter. Over the period shown in figure 8, excluding the peak in the last quarter of 2012¹⁸, the recognition rate started to rise since the summer of 2013 and peaked in the first quarter of 2014. Humanitarian protection is the most commonly used form of protection, with subsidiary protection being increasingly granted in the last six months.

Applicants from Pakistan had a recognition rate of 24 % in Q2 2014 or 2 percentage points more than during the first quarter of 2014. Over the period displayed, the recognition rate at first instance has been quite stable, while the type of protection used changed. Indeed, if refugee status remains the most common form of protection issued, recently subsidiary and humanitarian protection statuses have been increasingly granted.

Type of protection granted

In the EU+, the share of decisions granting refugee status made up 22 % of all first instance decisions issued during Q2 2014, while subsidiary protection and humanitarian protection were granted in 14 % and 7 % of the cases, respectively.

Refugee status

In relative terms, Estonia (100 %), the United Kingdom (89 %), France (80 %), Germany (77 %) and Belgium (74 %) granted refugee status in a very large proportion of their positive decisions. Table 1 below shows the countries of origin of asylum applicants who were most often granted refugee status in selected EU+ countries during Q2 2014.

¹⁸ The peak derives from the issuing of 3 900 decision issuing humanitarian protection in Italy

EU+ country Citizenship	Positive decisions	Refugee Status	Ratio of Refugee Status in Positive Decisions
United Kingdom	1 845	1 645	89%
Syria	315	305	97%
Eritrea	295	295	100%
Iran	230	220	96%
Other	1 005	825	82%
France	3 485	2 785	80%
Syria	500	275	55%
Russia	355	330	93%
Sri Lanka	295	280	95%
Other	2 335	1 900	81%
Germany	8 015	6 140	77%
Syria	4 385	3 390	77%
Afghanistan	840	525	63%
Unknown	610	500	82%
Other	2 180	1 725	79%
Belgium	1 740	1 295	74%
Afghanistan	305	180	59%
Syria	255	115	45%
Iraq	180	65	36%
Other	1 000	935	94%
Norway	740	540	73%
Eritrea	250	250	100%
Syria	180	70	39%
Somalia	115	85	74%
Other	195	135	69%

Table 1: Positive decisions issued at first instance in selected EU+ in Q2 2014, granting refugee status, by citizenship of applicants; only countries that issued more than 300 decisions in Q2 2014 are displayed;

Source: Eurostat data as of 29.09.2014

Subsidiary protection

The highest proportions of subsidiary protection decisions, as a share of all positive decisions issued during Q2 2014, were registered in Croatia (100 %) and Portugal (100 %) followed by Cyprus (89 %), Sweden (65 %) and Malta (65 %).

EU+ country Citizenship	Positive decisions	Subsidiary protection	Ratio of Subsidiary Protection in Positive Decisions
Sweden	7 060	4 615	65%
Syria	3 975	3 485	88%
Stateless	1 115	930	83%
Somalia	285	80	28%
Other	1 685	120	7%
Malta	300	195	65%
Syria	90	90	100%
Somalia	75	75	100%
Libya	100	10	10%
Other	35	20	57%
Finland	260	135	52%
Iraq	90	55	61%
Afghanistan	35	25	71%
Somalia	35	25	71%
Other	100	30	30%
Romania	195	100	51%
Syria	110	80	73%
Ukraine	10	10	100%
Afghanistan	10	5	50%
Other	65	5	8%
Netherlands	2 655	1 115	42%
Syria	1 210	745	62%
Eritrea	180	145	81%
Iraq	135	40	30%
Other	1 130	185	16%

Table 2: Positive decisions issued at first instance in selected EU+ in Q2 2014, using subsidiary protection, by citizenship of applicants; only countries that issued more than 300 decisions in Q2 2014 are displayed;

Source: Eurostat data as of 29.09.2014

Table 2 above shows the principal citizenships of asylum applicants mainly granted subsidiary protection status in selected EU+ countries.

Humanitarian protection¹⁹

Out of the 18 EU+ countries for which this type of protection is reported, Switzerland (44 %), Italy (44 %) and the Netherlands (39 %) were the main countries granting humanitarian protection among the positive decisions issued in Q2 2014.

¹⁹ Humanitarian protection is not harmonized at EU level and is reported only by 18 of the EU+ (Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Norway and Switzerland).

EU+ country Citizenship	Positive decisions	Humanitarian protection	Ratio of Humanitarian Protection in Positive Decisions
Switzerland	3 880	1 720	44%
Syria	910	600	66%
Afghanistan	565	480	85%
Somalia	235	165	70%
Other	2 170	475	22%
Italy	5 230	2 290	44%
Mali	505	430	85%
Pakistan	580	285	49%
Gambia, The	335	270	81%
Other	3 810	1 305	34%
Netherlands	2 655	1 030	39%
Syria	1 210	405	33%
Somalia	250	220	88%
Iraq	135	70	52%
Other	1 060	335	32%
Poland	185	60	32%
Russia	90	40	44%
Georgia	10	10	100%
Armenia	5	5	100%
Other	80	5	6%
Malta	300	65	22%
Libya	100	60	60%
Morocco	5	5	100%
:	:	:	:
Other	195	0	0%

Table 3: Positive decisions issued at first instance in selected EU+ in Q2 2014, granting humanitarian protection, by citizenship of applicants; only countries that issued more than 300 decisions in Q2 2014 are displayed

Source: Eurostat login: 29.09.2014

Stock of pending cases

The stock of pending cases²⁰ at the end of June 2014 (372 540) increased by 7 % compared to the level registered at the end of March.

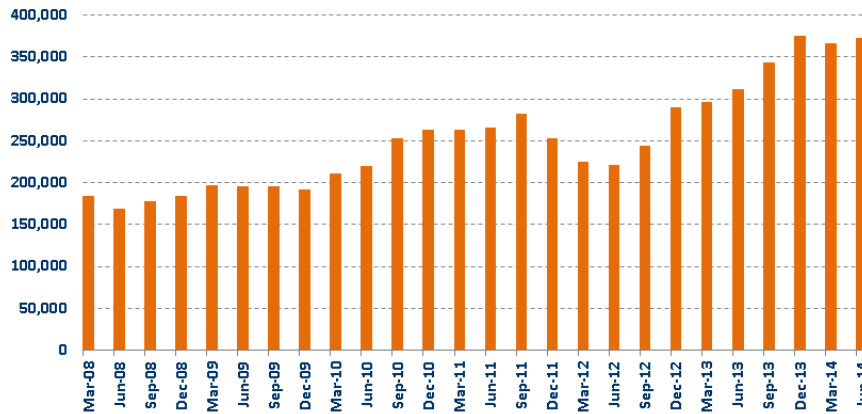


Figure 9: Stock of pending cases at the end of each year/month

Source: Eurostat data as of 29.09.2014²¹

Germany (157 900), Greece (43 885) and France (38 365) remained the EU+ countries with the highest stock of pending cases at the end of June 2014.

At the end of June 2014, the top ten citizenships of applicants awaiting a decision in the EU+ remained the same as at the end of March 2014. However, reflecting the developments in terms of asylum applicants received and decisions issued, the ranking changed: Syrians moved from the third to the first position, while Eritreans jumped from tenth to fourth position. Nigerians moved up two positions to take sixth position.

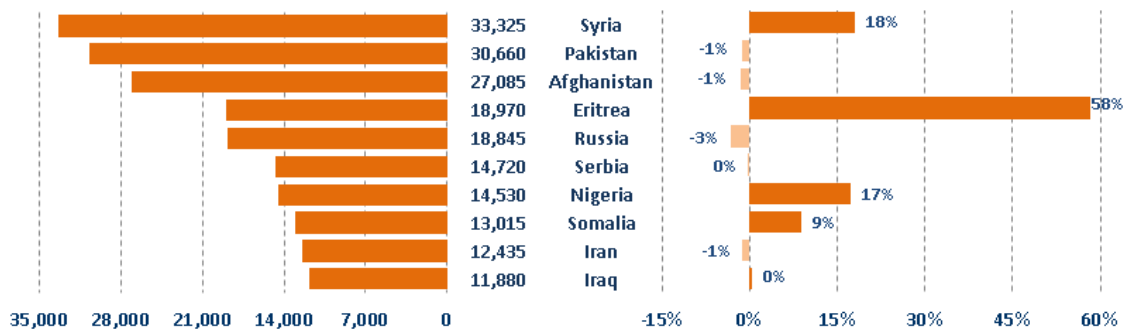


Figure 10: Stock of pending cases as of 30th June 2014 and percentage change in pending cases from 31st March 2014 to 30th June 2014 by main countries of origin

Source: Eurostat data as of 29.09.2014

²⁰ The stock of pending cases indicator gives a snapshot of the number of persons who lodged an application for international protection which is still under consideration by the responsible national authority at the end of the reference period.

²¹ At the time of writing, all data for 2014 in Austria and data on pending cases at the end of June in Belgium were not available. Also, no data have been available for pending cases for an extended period from Cyprus from May 2011- 2014 (excluding December 2012) and the Netherlands for the entire period 2012-2014. In order to ensure comparability of data in recent quarters, the figures reported by Austria and Belgium for Q1 2014 and Q2 2013 were excluded when calculating the absolute and relative changes

The bar chart above shows the percentage changes in the stock of pending applications between Q2 2014 and Q1 2014 for the top ten citizenships recorded in Q2 2014.

The high level of applicants for international protection from **Eritrea** and **Syria** during the second quarter increased the number of pending cases at EU+ level. Eritrean pending cases at end of June 2014 totalled 18 970 persons or +58 % compared to the end of March, while Syrian cases reached 33 325 persons or +18 %. For both caseloads, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland had the highest share.

The number of pending cases for **Nigerian** applicants grew for the fifth consecutive quarter. The increase in applicants, coupled with a stable number of decisions taken over the period, continues to suggest difficulties in EU+ countries in processing Nigerian cases.

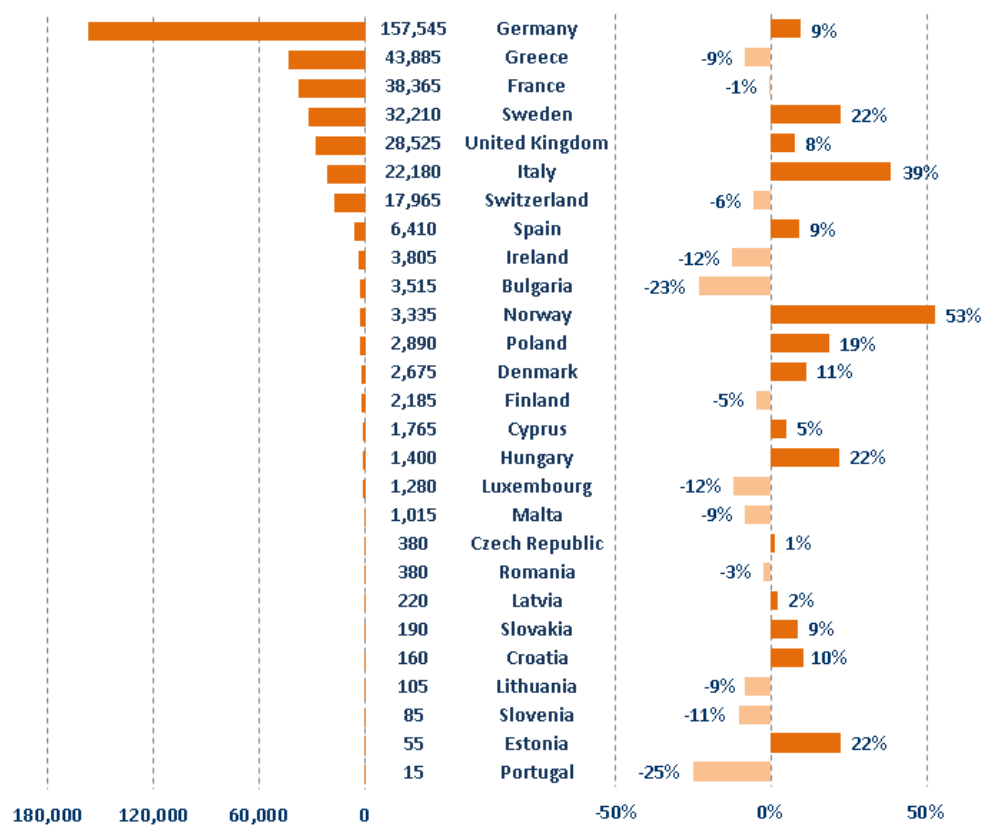


Figure 11: Stock of pending cases as of 30th June 2014 and percentage change in pending cases from 31st March 2014 to 30th June 2014 by reporting EU+ country

Source: Eurostat login: 29.09.2014²²

The highest relative increase in terms of pending cases in the first quarter was registered in Norway. The increase is almost entirely due to the Eritrean caseload, which tripled in Norway at the end of June compared to the end of March.

Italy (+39 %), Sweden (+22 %) and Poland (+19 %) registered significant²³ increases in their stock of pending cases compared to the level three months earlier. Although nine EU+ countries reported decreases in their stock of pending cases compared to the situation of March 2014, none of these represented substantial drops.

²² Data on the stock of pending cases not available for the Austria, Belgium, Cyprus and Netherlands

²³ More than 15% and 250 cases

Section 3: Key trends in focus

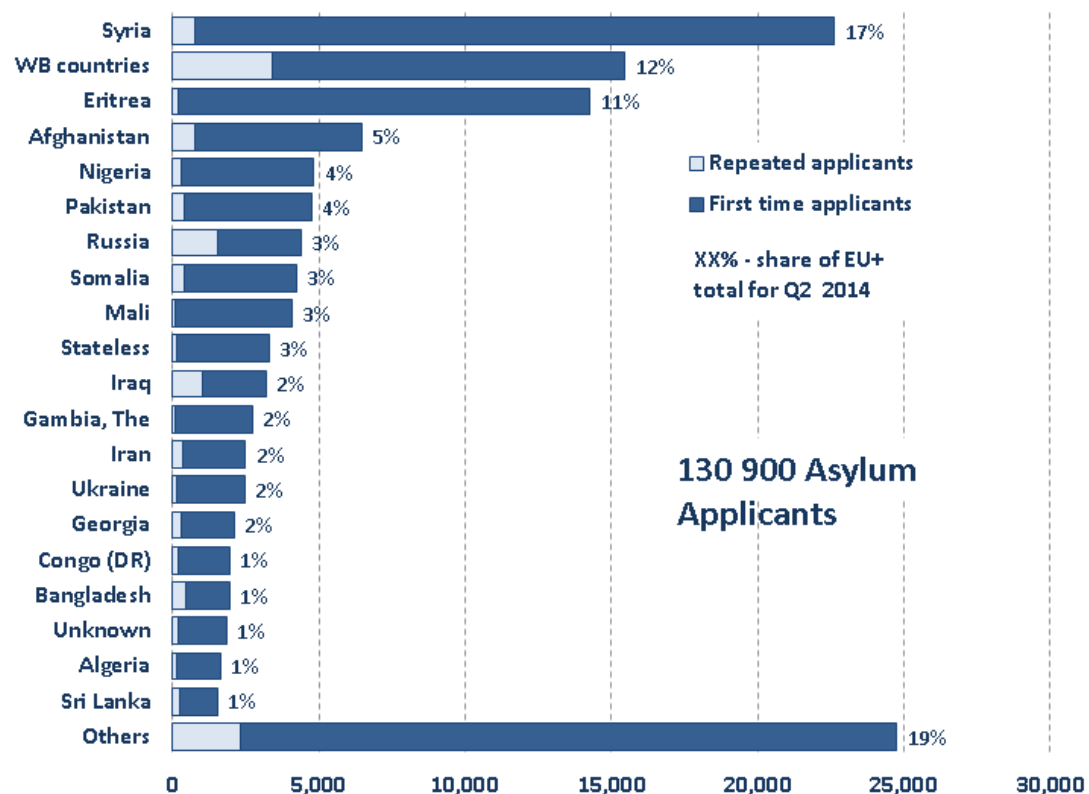


Figure 12: Distribution of asylum applicants in the EU+, Q2 2014

Source: Eurostat login: 29.09.2014

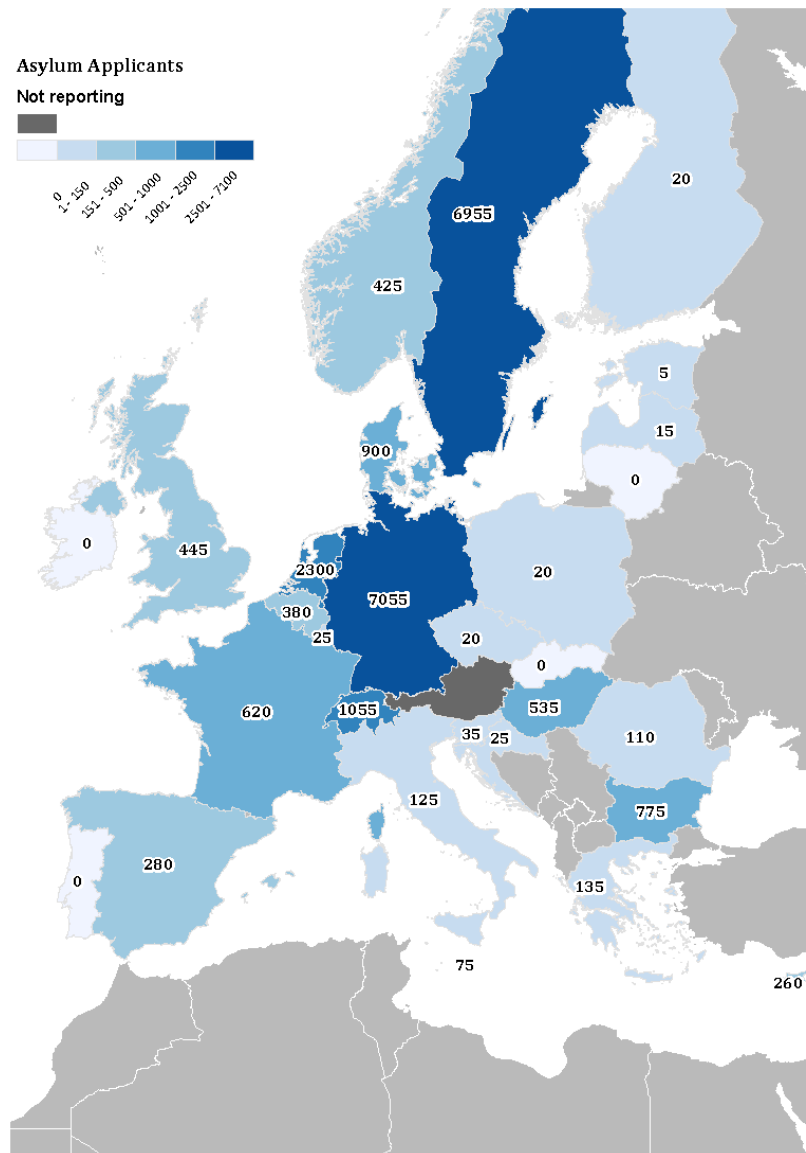
Syria

Syrian applicants continued to be the largest single citizenship of applicants in the EU+ and, with 22 595 persons recorded, they exceeded by a large margin, the group of applicants from the Western Balkan countries. However this number remains quite small when compared to the over 3 million registered by UNHCR as persons in need of international protection in the Western Asia region and represents 8 % of the 268 000 Syrians newly registered over second quarter of 2014²⁴.

The number of Syrian applicants increased by 24 % compared to the previous quarter. The monthly flow, which remained stable at around 6 000 per month, increased in magnitude since May and exceeded 9 000 persons in June, mainly because of more applicants²⁵ registered in Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands. With approximately 7 000 applicants each month recorded in Q2 2014, Germany and Sweden are the main receiving countries for Syrian applicants.

²⁴ <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

²⁵ 4 700 applicants more in Q2 2014 compared to Q1 2014 in the three countries of figure 14.



Map 2: Distribution of Syrian asylum applicants in EU+, Q2 2014

Source: Eurostat data as of 29.09.2014

As shown in Map 2, the Syrian flow in Q2 2014 remained concentrated in Germany and Sweden, while the total number of Syrian applicants for international protection continued to diminish in Bulgaria (775), now the sixth main destination country. Denmark and the Netherlands reported the highest relative increases in Q2 2014, compared to Q1 2014, with 67 % and 63 % respectively.

While the largest share of Syrian applicants were registered in Germany and Sweden, 62 % of the EU+ total in Q2 2014, Syrians continued to register applications throughout the EU+, and were in the top three citizenships of applicants for 19 EU+ States during Q2 2014. Compared to Q1 2014, the share of Germany and Sweden increased by six percentage points and the flow did not spread further out to other EU+ countries.

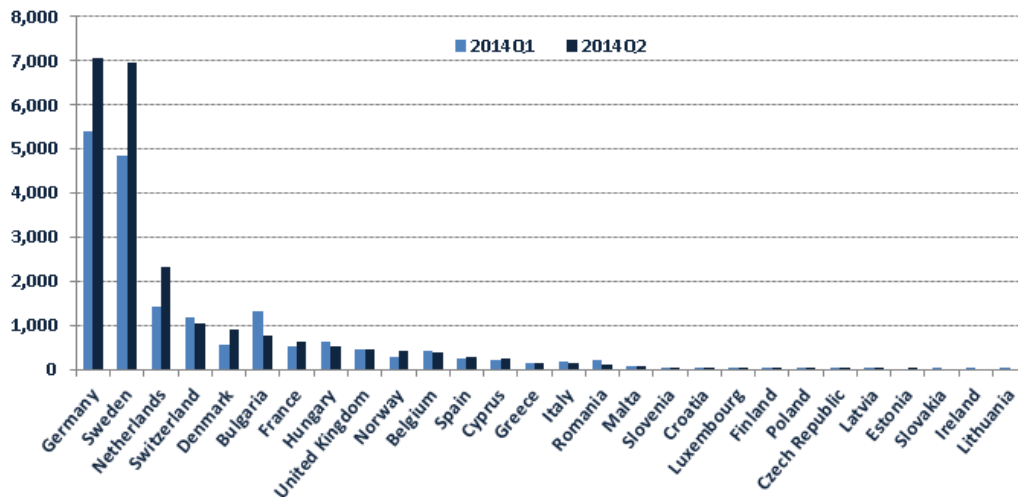


Figure 13: Distribution of Syrian asylum applicants in the EU+

Source: Eurostat data as of 29.09.2014

Although Italy and Greece continued to report small numbers of Syrian applicants, they represented a high proportion of those apprehended during an attempt to illegally cross the EU external borders, mainly at sea coming from Libya or Turkey²⁶.

Since the launch of a border control operation by Bulgarian authorities at the Bulgarian-Turkish land border at the beginning of 2014, the number of Syrian applicants in Bulgaria halved for the second consecutive quarter and represented in Q2 2014 a share of 3 % of all Syrian applicants registered in the EU+ in Q2 2014. By comparison, in Q4 2013, Syrian applicants in Bulgaria made up 12 % of the EU+ total.

Given the ongoing armed conflict in Syria alongside the continued outflow and the large numbers of Syrians already displaced in neighbouring countries such as Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Egypt since the beginning of the conflict, the flow of Syrian applicants towards the EU+ is likely to continue.

Recognition Rate

In Q2 2014, the share of positive decisions issued for Syrian applicants was 93 %.

While the majority of the EU+ States issue a high protection rate to Syrian applicants some States stand out with significantly lower protection rates. As discussed in section 2 such differences can be explained by different factors.

²⁶ http://frontex.europa.eu/assets/Publications/Risk_Analysis/FRAN_Q2_2014.pdf

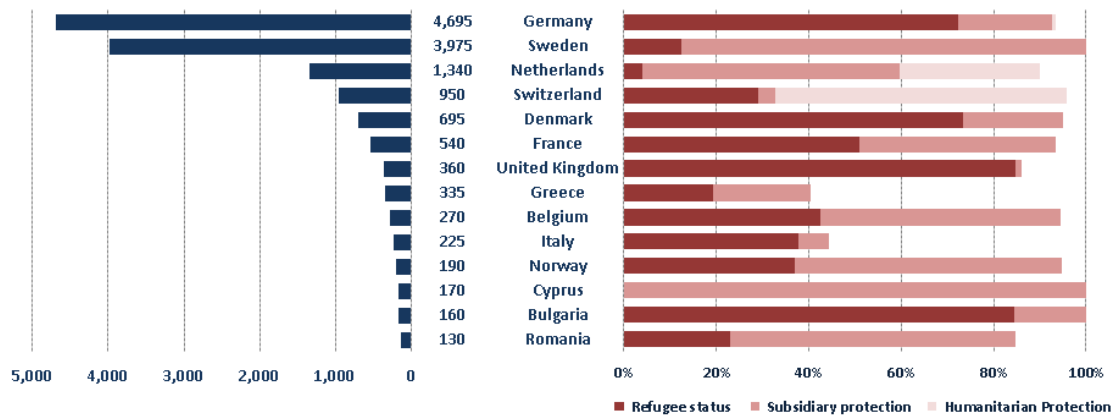


Figure 14: First instance decisions and type of decisions issued in the EU+ on Syrians; only countries that issued more than 100 decisions in Q2 2014 are displayed);

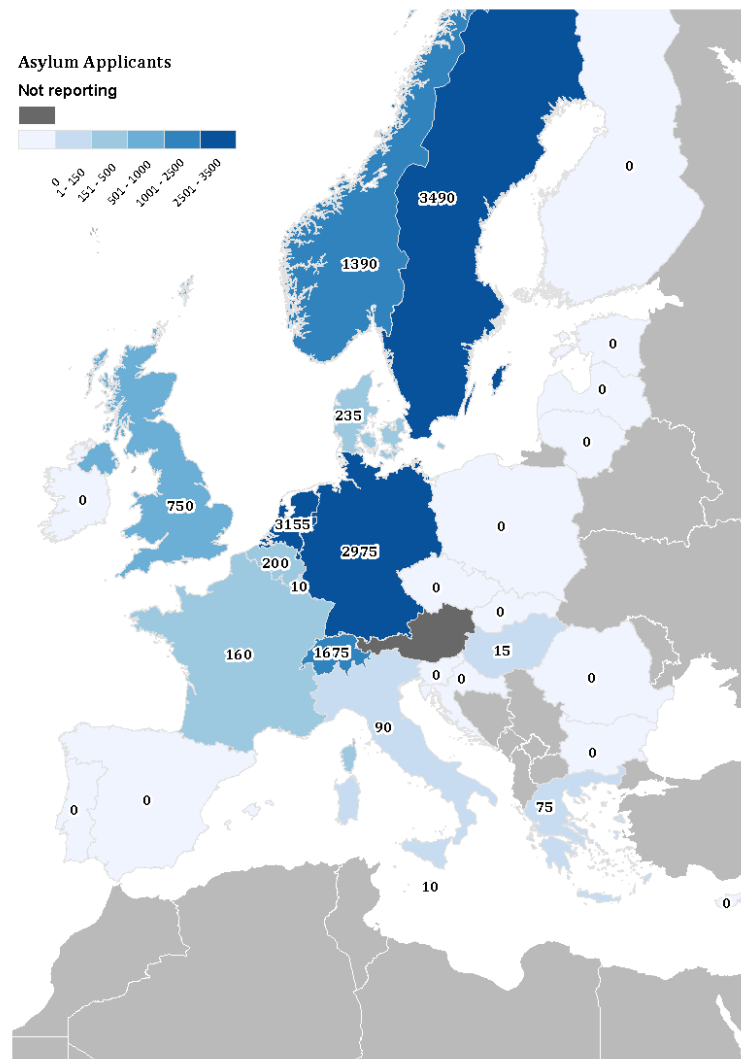
Source: Eurostat data as of 29. 09.2014

As shown in Figure 15, the type of protection granted by the EU+ countries to Syrians differs substantially. While the United Kingdom, Germany, Denmark, Bulgaria and France mainly grant refugee status, Norway, Romania, Sweden, the Netherlands and Cyprus more often grant Syrians subsidiary protection status. Switzerland is the only EU+ state where most of the first instance decisions issued to Syrians consisted of humanitarian protection.

At the end of June 2014, the stock of pending cases for Syrian applicants in the EU+ countries was of 33 325 persons, representing the largest caseload in the EU+ countries and a 18 % increase compared to the end of March. At country level, the stock of pending cases mirrored the changes in the number of applicants: the stock of Syrian pending cases grew in Sweden (+39 %) and Germany (+26 %) whereas it halved in Bulgaria (-47 %).

Eritrea

In Q2 2014, Eritreans became the third largest citizenship of applicants in the EU+, reaching 14 230 applicants for international protection and representing 11 % of the EU+ total in the second quarter. Despite the relatively high numbers, Eritreans applicants were mainly concentrated in a small number of EU+ countries.



Map 3: Distribution of Eritrean asylum applicants in EU+, Q2 2014

Source: Eurostat data as of 29.09.2014

During Q2 2014, EU+ countries registered a 263 % increase in the number of applicants from Eritrea, reaching levels never recorded before for this citizenship. The beginning of the spring (April 2014) was marked by a very large influx of Eritreans applying for international protection, already exceeding the monthly peak registered during the summer of 2013. The flow accelerated in May, doubling compared to April, and stabilized in June at around 5 500 applicants per month.

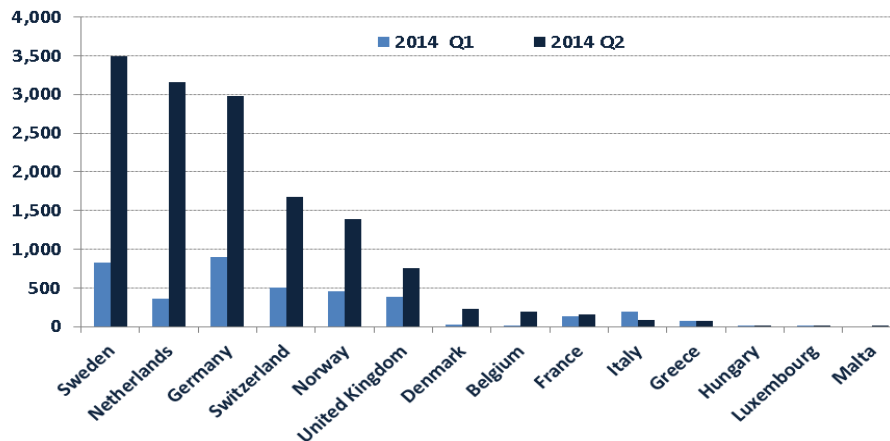


Figure 15: Distribution of Eritrean asylum applicants in EU+, 1st and 2nd quarter 2014
 Source: Eurostat login: 29.09.2014

With the exception of Italy and Greece, which were the only countries reporting a decrease in the number of Eritrean applicants compared to Q1 2014, all other countries registered an increase. All the main five destination countries registered a more than two-fold growth, with percentages in relative terms ranging from +205 % in Norway to +764 % in the Netherlands.

The recent changes in numbers of applicants for international protection can be attributed mainly to developments in Eritrea's neighbouring countries: previously popular routes to Saudi Arabia via Yemen and to Israel via Egypt have become closed to Eritreans since the summer of 2013, after measures to stop incoming migration have been put in place combined with expulsion measures²⁷. An increase in outflows from Eritrea is also apparent however²⁸. The current situation in Libya, which facilitates the work of organised human smuggling and trafficking networks, coupled with the presence of the Mare Nostrum operation helps to explain the change in migration routes used by Eritreans towards arrivals by sea in Italy.

Recognition Rate

In the EU+, the ratio of all positive first instance decisions issued to Eritreans to the number of Eritrean applicants for international protection was 84 % during Q2 2014. This decision rate is higher than the 78 % rate registered over 2013.

Contrasting with the Syrian case, the form of protection granted by EU+ countries with regard to Eritreans is quite similar among EU+ as can be seen in Figure 15, with refugee status being the most granted type of protection. Still some EU+ countries stand out with significantly lower protection rates, confirming on one hand the specificity of each case but

²⁷ <http://www.irinnews.org/report/99095/horn-migrants-risk-new-routes-to-reach-europe>

²⁸ Info received from UNHCR, EASO Practical Cooperation meeting on Eritrea, 15-16 October 2014.

on the other hand also pointing to possible differences in the interpretation of the Eritrean situation among EU+ countries.

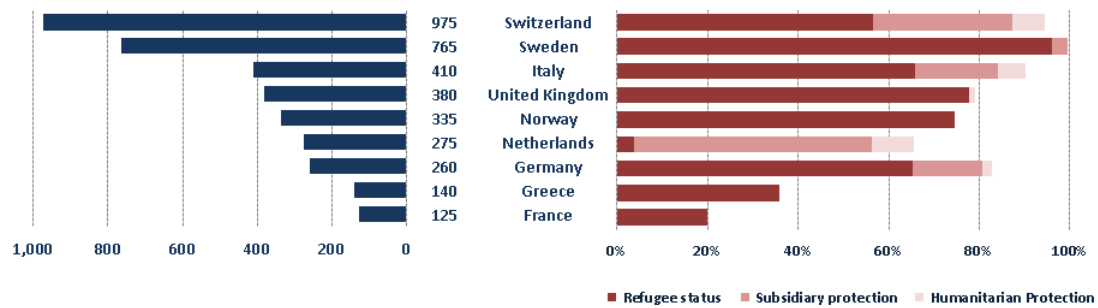


Figure 16: First instance decisions and type of decisions issued in the EU+ on Eritreans; only countries that issued more than 100 decisions in Q2 2014 are displayed);

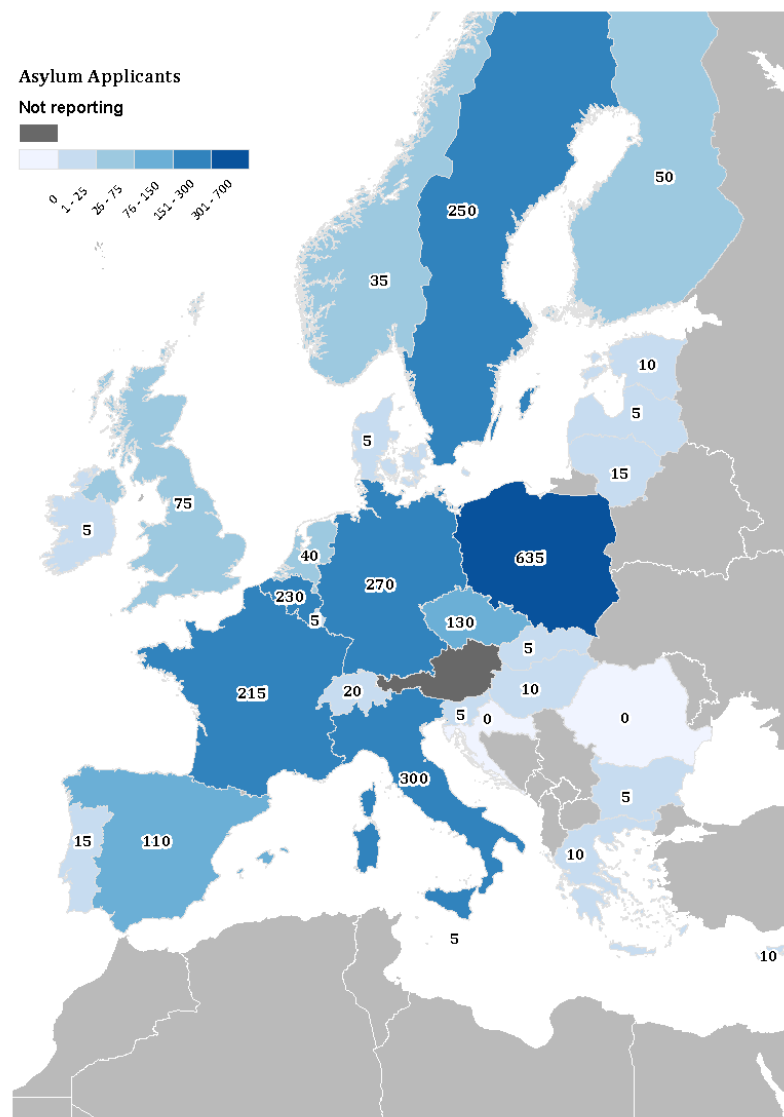
Source: Eurostat data as of 29.09.2014

By the end of June 2014, there were 18 970 pending cases at first instance for Eritrean applicants in the EU+. Compared to the situation at the end of March, this constitutes a 58 % increase in the number of pending cases registered, reflecting an increase in the number of applicants. Of the all pending cases related to Eritrean applicants, 78 % were in three main destination EU+ countries: Germany (7 365), Sweden (3 980) and Switzerland (3 540).

Ukraine

The unfolding of the Crimean crisis in February 2014 and the events which followed, created an unprecedented rise in applicants for international protection in EU+ from Ukraine. In Q2 2014, with 2 470 applicants, Ukrainians entered for the first time in the top 20 citizenships of applicants, occupying 14th position. Although initially a large proportion of applications lodged by Ukrainians were thought to be *sur place*, in fact, an EASO Practical Cooperation workshop held in July 2014 showed that, by summer, the majority of applicants had lodged their applications following a new arrival in the EU+.

In its latest update for the period under review (27 June 2014), UNHCR estimated that 54 400 persons were internally displaced in Ukraine. The number went up substantially in the second half of June.



Map 4: Distribution of Ukrainian asylum applicants in the EU+, Q2 2014
 Source: Eurostat data as of 29.09.2014

The significant rise in the number of Ukrainian applicants in the EU+ started in March 2014 and continued until June, exceeding 1 000 applicants per month for the first time. This is in contrast to the period 2008-2013, when the flow was very stable at EU+ level and averaged roughly 100 applicants per month. The number of Ukrainian applicants for international protection totalled 3 425 in the first half of 2014, seven times higher than during the same period of 2013 (505).

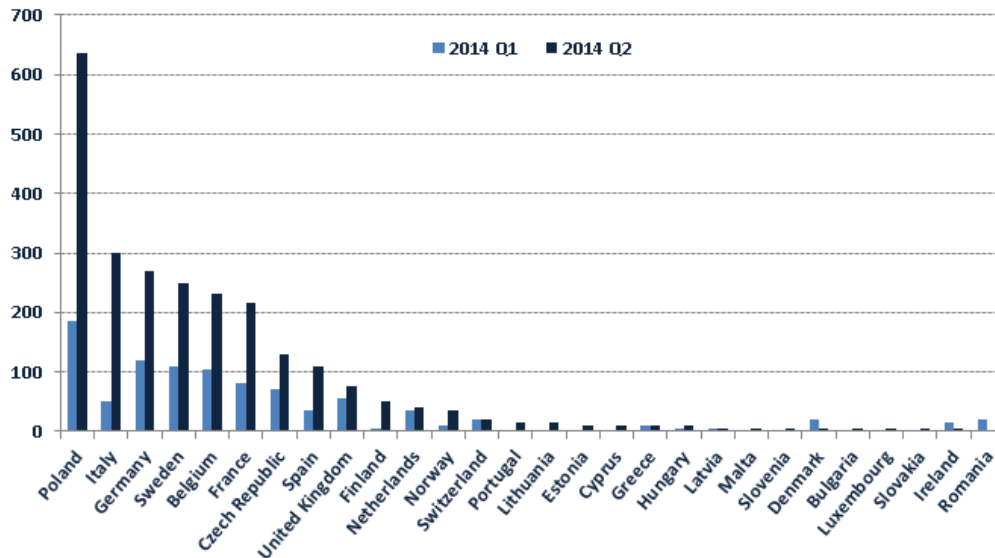


Figure 17: Distribution of Ukrainian asylum applicants in the EU+, Q1 and Q2 2014

Source: Eurostat login: 29.09.2014

Figure 17 shows the change in asylum applicants in the second quarter compared to the first quarter of 2014: the number of applicants more than doubled (+158 %) with applications distributed among the main 10 destination countries. Poland, had the highest absolute change (+450), while Italy experienced the strongest relative change (+500 %)²⁹.

The Ukrainian flow in the second quarter of 2014 was remarkable for its wide distribution: as shown in map 4, 28 EU+ countries recorded Ukrainian asylum applicants during the quarter, while, by comparison, this number was 26 in the case of Syrian applicants. It is also important to note that the majority of Ukrainian migrants prefer using other legal migration channels rather than the asylum procedure, insofar as these are available in EU+ countries³⁰. Some EU+ countries already have a significant Ukrainian diaspora residing legally (as well as illegally) on their territories, which may eventually constitute a pull factor if there were to be a drastic deterioration of the Ukrainian conflict.

²⁹ Considering the Countries with more than 100 applicants in Q2

³⁰ In Poland, for instance, until 1 July 2014 7886 Ukrainians applied for temporary residence permits (10 489 in total year 2013), 407 for EU long-term resident permit (543 in total year 2013) and 1 744 for permanent settlement (1869 in total year 2013).

Recognition Rate

Decision data indicate that the numbers of decisions did not follow the growing influx of applicants: only 465 first instance decisions on Ukrainian cases were taken in the second quarter, or a fifth of the total applicants registered over the same period.

Due to the lack of organizations reporting on the security and human rights situation in Eastern Ukraine and Crimea, resulting in the respective country of origin information (COI) being fragmented and inconclusive, some EU+ countries have put in place a practice to temporarily freeze decision-making regarding all or some types of Ukrainian applications. The decisions then focus mainly on clearly unfounded cases (e.g., non-political cases from Western Ukraine), which explains the relatively low decision rate recorded for Ukrainian applicants

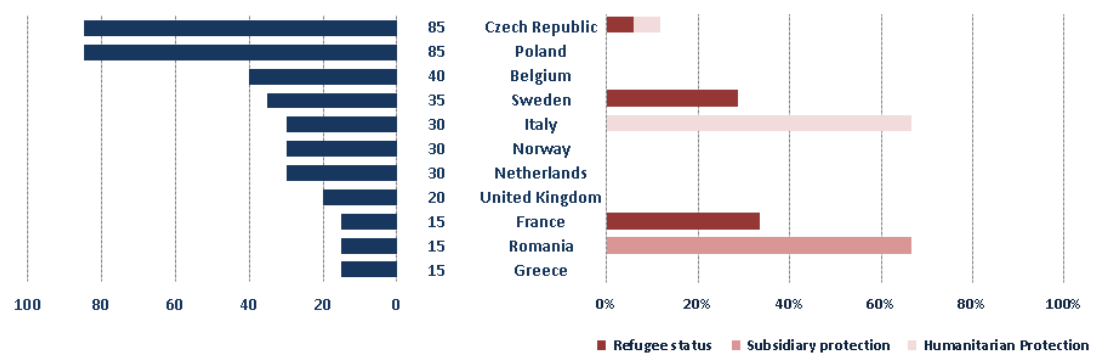


Figure 18: First instance decisions and type of decisions issued in the EU+ on Ukrainians;

Source: Eurostat data as of 29. 09.2014

At the end of June 2014, 2 970 applicants from Ukraine were still awaiting a final decision on their case in the EU+. Compared to the end of March, the EU+ caseload grew and increased by 128 %, mirroring the increase in number of applicants. Poland (700), Germany (580) Sweden (350) and Italy (280) covered 64 % of the all pending cases related to Ukrainian applicants.

Annex I – Statistical overview

Overview of asylum applicants, withdrawn applications and pending cases registered in the EU+ by main citizenship, 2013 Q1-2014 Q2

	2013				2014		2014Q2		Share in EU+	Sparkline
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	% change ¹⁾ on last year	% change ¹⁾ on prev. qtr		
Asylum applicants	96 105	112 790	128 285	131 645	115 450	130 900	↗ +16	↗ +13		
Syria	8 945	8 755	14 810	20 655	18 245	22 595	↗ +158	↗ +24	17	
Eritrea	2 810	2 440	7 555	7 550	3 920	14 230	↗ +483	↗ +263	11	
Afghanistan	6 500	6 540	6 670	8 105	8 200	6 475	↔ -1.0	↘ -21	4.9	
Nigeria	3 165	3 230	3 625	3 800	3 535	4 820	↗ +49	↗ +36	3.7	
Pakistan	4 425	6 055	5 815	4 810	5 125	4 760	↘ -21	↘ -7.1	3.6	
Serbia	3 520	3 485	7 065	8 650	6 005	4 705	↗ +35	↘ -22	3.6	
Russia	8 725	17 105	10 550	5 875	4 815	4 390	↘ -74	↘ -8.8	3.4	
Somalia	4 120	5 000	6 290	5 400	4 235	4 210	↘ -16	↔ -0.6	3.2	
Mali	1 985	1 855	1 780	1 355	2 285	4 070	↗ +119	↗ +78	3.1	
Albania	2 275	2 635	2 660	3 720	4 380	4 045	↗ +54	↘ -8	3.1	
Other	48 075	49 125	57 885	59 260	55 485	56 600	↗ +15	↗ +2.0	43	
Withdrawn applications	8 485	8 095	9 710	8 300	10 555	13 010	↗ +61	↗ +23		
Afghanistan	515	465	475	390	1 430	1 490	↗ +220	↔ +4	11	
Russia	525	580	1 420	1 265	1 450	1 215	↗ +109	↘ -16	9.3	
Syria	300	325	335	500	1 030	915	↗ +182	↘ -11	7.0	
Pakistan	710	600	805	445	380	700	↗ +17	↗ +84	5.4	
Georgia	425	315	330	335	495	605	↗ +92	↗ +22	4.7	
Serbia	450	395	375	360	540	600	↗ +52	↗ +11	4.6	
Nigeria	210	200	235	235	210	365	↗ +83	↗ +74	2.8	
Iraq	360	285	250	255	215	365	↗ +28	↗ +70	2.8	
Albania	110	130	135	155	210	345	↗ +165	↗ +64	2.7	
Kosovo	165	200	540	275	265	345	↗ +73	↗ +30	2.7	
Other	4 600	4 635	5 000	4 080	3 870	6 065	↗ +31	↗ +57	47	
Pending cases	295 410	311 515	342 750	375 020	365 695	372 540	↗ +20	↗ +7		
Syria	16 650	17 000	22 440	28 935	28 870	33 325	↗ +96	↗ +18	8.9	
Pakistan	28 685	31 215	29 690	31 800	31 390	30 660	↔ -1.8	↔ -1.2	8.2	
Afghanistan	33 695	33 780	32 500	34 330	28 950	27 085	↘ -20	↔ -1.4	7.3	
Eritrea	7 475	6 775	10 560	13 265	12 035	18 970	↗ +180	↗ +58	5.1	
Russia	17 540	24 870	27 580	25 300	20 590	18 845	↘ -24	↘ -3.3	5.1	
Serbia	9 330	8 205	10 855	14 930	15 020	14 720	↗ +79	↔ -0.2	4.0	
Nigeria	9 635	9 400	10 380	11 700	12 470	14 530	↗ +55	↗ +17	3.9	
Somalia	9 750	9 890	12 130	12 755	12 275	13 015	↗ +32	↗ +8.9	3.5	
Iran	13 285	13 450	13 425	13 975	13 070	12 435	↘ -7.5	↔ -1.2	3.3	
Iraq	13 025	12 035	12 250	13 150	12 400	11 880	↔ -1.3	↔ +0.4	3.2	
Other	136 340	144 895	160 940	174 880	182 390	177 075	↗ +22	↔ -1.4	48	

Source: Eurostat data as of 29.09.2014

Note:

- 1) In case of missing data in the quarter under review, rate of changes are calculated excluding the not reporting countries.
- 2) Kosovo: this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244.
- 3) FYROM: the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Overview of first instance decisions issued in the EU+ by main citizenship, 2013 Q1-2014 Q2

	2013				2014		2014Q2		Share in EU+	Sparkline
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	% change ¹ on last year	prev. qtr		
Total Decisions	79 020	84 870	89 125	102 705	89 420	87 380	➔ +3.0	➔ -2.3		
Refugee Status	12 885	13 990	13 915	16 510	19 345	19 435	➔ +39	➔ +0.5		
Syria	1 905	2 085	2 505	3 835	6 055	5 915	➔ +184	➔ -2.3	30	
Eritrea	1 350	1 520	1 605	2 615	3 115	2 460	➔ +62	➔ -21	13	
Afghanistan	1 105	1 260	1 240	1 270	1 125	1 360	➔ +7.9	➔ +21	7.0	
Iran	1 465	1 490	1 385	1 235	1 160	1 180	➔ -21	➔ +1.7	6.1	
Iraq	995	920	790	630	910	770	➔ -16	➔ -15	4.0	
Somalia	880	945	855	835	730	740	➔ -22	➔ +1.4	3.8	
Stateless	215	295	310	600	595	715	➔ +142	➔ +20	3.7	
Russia	695	665	595	760	600	605	➔ -9.0	➔ +0.8	3.1	
Unknown	60	85	80	190	350	580	➔ +582	➔ +66	3.0	
Sri Lanka	325	480	365	375	400	480	➔ +0.0	➔ +20	2.5	
Other	3 890	4 245	4 185	4 165	4 305	4 630	➔ +9.1	➔ +7.5	24	
Subsidiary protection	10 750	10 575	10 215	15 850	15 435	12 550	➔ +19	➔ -19		
Syria	4 980	5 245	5 115	7 795	8 265	6 410	➔ +22	➔ -22	51	
Stateless	340	445	715	2 385	1 790	1 100	➔ +147	➔ -39	9	
Afghanistan	1 190	1 410	1 235	1 175	1 040	1 075	➔ -24	➔ +3.4	8.6	
Somalia	1 015	935	750	1 335	920	875	➔ -6.4	➔ -4.9	7.0	
Eritrea	875	750	865	1 320	830	605	➔ -19	➔ -27	4.8	
Iraq	345	380	350	340	395	405	➔ +6.6	➔ +2.5	3.2	
China	50	60	40	45	220	300	➔ +400	➔ +36	2.4	
Pakistan	90	100	100	140	235	215	➔ +115	➔ -8.5	1.7	
Nigeria	85	40	70	80	265	185	➔ +363	➔ -30	1.5	
Russia	115	185	125	180	85	150	➔ -19	➔ +76	1.2	
Other	1 665	1 025	850	1 055	1 390	1 230	➔ +20	➔ -12	9.8	
Humanitarian protection	4 750	4 675	4 400	4 750	5 970	6 295	➔ +35	➔ +5		
Syria	80	105	190	510	1 010	1 040	➔ +890	➔ +3.0	17	
Afghanistan	680	985	755	665	840	945	➔ -4.1	➔ +13	15	
Somalia	530	770	885	1 010	805	455	➔ -41	➔ -43	7.2	
Mali	10	25	200	210	375	430	➔ +1 620	➔ +15	6.8	
Pakistan	135	130	170	225	255	300	➔ +131	➔ +18	4.8	
Nigeria	540	195	215	190	305	295	➔ +51	➔ -3.3	4.7	
Gambia, The	80	150	70	55	195	275	➔ +83	➔ +41	4.4	
Iraq	285	230	225	255	200	210	➔ -8.7	➔ +5.0	3.3	
Senegal	85	35	35	55	100	195	➔ +457	➔ +95	3.1	
Egypt	40	35	60	65	135	140	➔ +300	➔ +3.7	2.2	
Other	2 285	2 015	1 595	1 510	1 750	2 010	➔ -0.2	➔ +15	32	
Rejected	50 635	55 630	60 595	65 595	48 670	49 100	➔ -12	➔ +0.9		
Albania	860	1 105	2 045	2 930	3 005	3 770	➔ +241	➔ +25	7.7	
Serbia	3 240	2 630	4 355	5 525	5 025	3 625	➔ +38	➔ -28	7.4	
Pakistan	3 705	3 950	3 955	3 620	3 090	3 035	➔ -23	➔ -1.8	6.2	
Kosovo	1 915	2 505	2 830	4 120	2 750	2 555	➔ +2.0	➔ -7.1	5.2	
Russia	2 840	3 920	8 180	7 470	2 480	2 280	➔ -42	➔ -8.1	4.6	
Afghanistan	3 060	3 000	2 780	2 625	1 760	2 045	➔ -32	➔ +16	4.2	
Nigeria	2 180	2 540	2 255	2 060	1 710	1 810	➔ -29	➔ +5.8	3.7	
Georgia	1 605	1 370	1 540	2 070	1 715	1 680	➔ +23	➔ -2.0	3.4	
Bangladesh	1 775	2 020	1 970	1 945	1 915	1 615	➔ -20	➔ -16	3.3	
Congo (DR)	1 705	1 680	1 475	1 200	1 110	1 480	➔ -12	➔ +33	3.0	
Other	27 750	30 910	29 210	32 030	24 110	25 205	➔ -18	➔ +4.5	51	

Source: Eurostat data as of 29.09.2014

Note:

- 1) In case of missing data in the quarter under review, rate of changes are calculated excluding the not reporting countries.
- 2) Kosovo: this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244.
- 3) FYROM: the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Annex II – List of Abbreviations

EASO	European Asylum Support Office
EPS	Early Warning and Preparedness System
EU	European Union
EU+	European Union Member States plus Norway and Switzerland
Frontex	European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union
FYROM	the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WB	Western Balkan countries - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYROM, Kosovo (this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244), Montenegro, and Serbia