

Press Release Published: 5 September 2023

Over half a million asylum applications in EU+ countries, in the first half of 2023



By the end of June, EU+ countries received 519 000 applications for asylum. Based on current trends, applications could exceed 1 million by the end of 2023.

Analysis [released](#) by the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) on the first half of 2023 reveals a continuation of more asylum applications being lodged in the EU, following a significant 53 % increase in 2022 over the-then previous year. During the first half of 2023, **applications for asylum rose to 519 000, a 28 % increase [compared to the first half of 2022.](#)**¹

As a result of the increase, many **EU+ countries are under pressure with processing applications** and protecting those in need. Accordingly, the number of [cases awaiting decisions](#) also increased by 34 % from 2022. In addition, approximately 4 million Ukrainians fleeing the Russian invasion, currently benefit from Temporary Protection. Together, these parallel trends pose significant challenges to EU+ asylum and reception systems authorities, so much so that by June 2023, the EUAA was offering [operational assistance](#) to 13 Member States.

Syrians [continued to lodge](#) the most applications for asylum in the EU+, as has been the trend for several years. In the first half of 2023, they **lodged 67 000 applications** which is up by nearly half (47 %) compared to the same period in 2022 and the most at this time of the year since 2016. **Germany continues to receive the most Syrian applications**, processing 62 % of all applications in the first half of 2023.

Of the decisions in the EU+ taken at first instance, around **41 % granted either refugee status or subsidiary protection**. Recognition rates for many citizenships [remained consistent with past trends](#) – for example, **Syrians** continued to be granted international protection at a rate of around 95 % and **Afghans** at around 58 %. However, some recognition rates have undergone significant changes, these include **Turkish** applicants who, for four years, have steadily been granted protection less often (down to 28 % from 54 % in 2019), and **Russians** and **Iranians** who have been granted international protection more frequently (up to 35 % from 20 % in 2021 for the former, and up to 47 % from 31 % in 2020 for the latter).

The first half of 2023 also saw a notable uptake in asylum applications from Ivorian (9 300) and Guinean (8 700) nationals in the EU+. **Ivorian applications more than doubled**, while **Guinean submissions rose by 60 %** compared to the same period in the previous year.

However, taken together, [applications by these two nationalities](#) still only accounted for 3.5 % of the overall figure. **France**, historically, tends to receive most of these applications but much of **the recent increase has taken place in Italy**. The recognition rates for both these citizenships have been steadily increasing from 2017 to reach 28 % for Ivorians and 32 % for Guineans, in the first half of 2023.

For more information and interactive data visualisations, please visit the [Latest Asylum Trends](#) page.

Any further information may be obtained from the European Union Agency for Asylum's Press Office at the following email addresses:

- Press Office: press@euaa.europa.eu
- Andrew McKinlay, Press Officer: andrew.mckinlay@euaa.europa.eu
- Anis Cassar, Spokesperson: anis.cassar@euaa.europa.eu

1

EUAA EPS data are preliminary and might differ from validated official statistics submitted to Eurostat at a later stage. Eurostat data are used in the annual EUAA Asylum Report. The total EPS numbers include an approximation for one EU+ country and may change after data updates.