

Asylum decisions in the EU27

EU Member States granted protection to 76 300 asylum seekers in 2008

The **EU27** Member States granted protection to 76 300 asylum seekers in 2008. The largest groups of beneficiaries of protection status¹ in the **EU27** were citizens of **Iraq** (16 600 persons or 22% of the total number of persons granted protection status), **Somalia** (9 500 or 12%), **Russia** (7 400 or 10%), **Afghanistan** (5 000 or 7%) and **Eritrea** (4 600 or 6%).

These data on the results of asylum applications in the **EU27** are taken from a report² issued by **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities**. They are published on the occasion of the Human Rights Day³ which will occur on 10 December.

Nearly 30% of EU27 asylum decisions at the first instance resulted in protection status

In 2008, 281 100 decisions on asylum applications⁴ were made in the **EU27**, of which 209 200 were first instance decisions and 71 900 final decisions on appeal. At the first instance⁵ 59 300 persons were granted protection status, and 17 000 received a final positive decision⁶ on appeal. The rate of recognition of asylum applicants, i.e. the share of positive decisions in the total number of decisions, was 28% in the first instance and 24% for final decisions. Of the 76 300 persons who were granted protection status, 40 000 persons were granted refugee status, 25 500 subsidiary protection and 10 800 granted authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons.

Two thirds of all grants of protection status in the EU27 registered in France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy and Sweden

In 2008, the highest number of persons granted protection status were registered in **France** (11 500), followed by **Germany** (10 700), the **United Kingdom** (10 200), **Italy** (9 700), **Sweden** (8 700), the **Netherlands** (6 100) and **Austria** (5 700).

The rate of recognition varies considerably among Member States. The highest rates in the first instance were recorded in **Poland** (65%), **Lithuania** and **Portugal** (both 64%), **Austria** (62%) and **Denmark** (58%), and the lowest in **Greece** (less than 1%), **Slovenia** (3%), **Spain** (5%), the **Czech Republic**, **France** and **Romania** (all 16%). The highest rates of recognition for final decisions were registered in **Finland** (87%), the **Netherlands** (52%) and **Sweden** (49%). However, it should be kept in mind that the country of citizenship of applicants differs greatly between Member States.

Iraqis were the single largest group of persons granted protection status in ten **EU27** Member States. Of the 16 600 **Iraqis** granted protection status in the **EU27**, 6 400 were registered in **Germany**, 4 000 in **Sweden** and 2 300 in the **Netherlands**. Of the 9 500 **Somalis** granted protection, 3 500 were recorded in **Italy** and 1 500 each in **Sweden** and the **Netherlands**, and of the 7 400 **Russians**, 2 700 were in **Poland**, 2 000 in **Austria** and 1 200 in **France**.

Decisions on asylum applications in 2008

	Decisions*			Positive decisions**				
	Total	First instance	Final decisions on appeal	Total	First instance		Final decisions on appeal	
					#	Rate of recognition (%)	#	Rate of recognition (%)
EU27***	281 120	209 230	71 890	76 320	59 305	28.3	17 015	23.7
BE	18 860	13 620	5 240	3 905	3 505	25.7	395	7.6
BG	700	670	25	305	295	43.8	10	33.3
CZ	2 880	1 400	1 480	260	215	15.5	45	3.1
DK	1 725	1 250	480	890	730	58.3	165	34.3
DE	30 405	19 330	11 070	10 650	7 870	40.7	2 775	25.1
EE	15	10	0	5	5	33.3	0	0.0
IE	7 250	4 790	2 460	1 760	1 465	30.6	295	11.9
EL	30 915	29 580	1 340	415	55	0.2	360	26.8
ES	6 250	5 130	1 120	290	275	5.4	10	1.1
FR	56 115	31 765	24 350	11 470	5 150	16.2	6 320	25.9
IT	20 260	20 225	30	9 740	9 740	48.2	0	0.0
CY	:	:	2 845	:	:	:	35	1.3
LV	25	10	15	5	5	25.0	0	0.0
LT	140	105	35	65	65	64.1	0	2.8
LU	965	485	480	240	185	38.4	55	11.5
HU	965	910	55	400	395	43.7	0	1.8
MT	2 915	2 685	230	1 410	1 410	52.4	0	0.4
NL	11 725	10 925	800	6 090	5 675	52.0	415	51.6
AT	13 705	5 905	7 795	5 675	3 640	61.6	2 035	26.1
PL	4 425	4 245	185	2 800	2 770	65.3	30	15.8
PT	105	105	0	70	70	64.2	0	0.0
RO	715	675	45	150	110	16.0	45	:
SI	260	160	100	5	5	2.5	0	0.0
SK	445	370	70	100	90	24.0	10	12.5
FI	1 770	1 675	95	740	655	39.1	80	87.2
SE	31 220	29 545	1 680	8 670	7 845	26.6	825	49.0
UK	33 525	23 665	9 865	10 190	7 080	29.9	3 115	31.6
IS	65	55	10	10	10	17.0	0	10.0
NO	10 325	9 015	1 310	3 710	3 050	33.9	655	:
CH	13 805	7 550	6 255	5 725	4 830	64.0	895	14.3

Data are rounded to the nearest five.

0 means less than 3.

: not available

* The total number of decisions refers to the number of administrative decisions rather than the number of individuals

** 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.

*** EU27 as a sum or average of available data.

EU27: Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), the 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) and the United Kingdom (UK). Iceland (IS), Norway (NO), Switzerland (CH)

Largest groups granted protection status, 2008

	Largest group			Second largest group			Third largest group		
	Citizens of	#	%*	Citizens of	#	%*	Citizens of	#	%*
EU27**	Iraq	16 640	21.8	Somalia	9 520	12.5	Russia	7 440	9.7
BE	Iraq	625	16.1	Russia	595	15.3	Serbia	390	10.0
BG	Iraq	230	76.6	Afghanistan	25	8.3	Iran	10	3.0
CZ	Belarus	50	19.5	Iraq	45	16.4	Russia	35	14.1
DK	Iraq	260	29.0	Russia	110	12.2	Iran	100	11.1
DE	Iraq	6 380	59.9	Iran	655	6.1	Afghanistan	475	4.5
EE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IE	Nigeria	410	23.3	Iraq	160	9.1	Democratic Rep. of Congo	115	6.5
EL	Iraq	355	85.7	Afghanistan	20	5.3	Central African Republic	10	1.9
ES	Iraq	60	21.5	Colombia	30	9.7	Stateless	25	8.0
FR	Sri Lanka	1 715	14.9	Russia	1 235	10.8	Mali	990	8.6
IT	Somalia	3 545	36.4	Eritrea	1 625	16.7	Afghanistan	1 050	10.8
CY***	Iran	10	25.0	Georgia	10	22.2	Serbia	5	19.4
LV	:	:	:	:	:	:	-	-	-
LT	Russia	50	77.6	Ethiopia	5	4.5	Cuba	5	4.5
LU	Serbia	90	36.4	Montenegro	30	12.8	Angola	20	7.4
HU	Somalia	105	26.4	Afghanistan	60	15.6	Iraq	55	13.8
MT	Somalia	1 120	79.3	Eritrea	260	18.5	Sudan	15	1.0
NL	Iraq	2 305	37.9	Somalia	1 515	24.9	Afghanistan	200	3.3
AT	Russia	2 020	35.6	Afghanistan	875	15.4	Serbia	435	7.6
PL	Russia	2 695	96.3	Iraq	30	1.1	Belarus	20	0.7
PT	Somalia	20	27.9	Colombia	10	17.6	Sri Lanka	5	10.3
RO	Iraq	105	68.2	Somalia	10	5.3	Serbia	5	4.6
SI	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
SK	Afghanistan	35	34.7	Iraq	35	33.7	Cuba	10	9.2
FI	Iraq	235	31.8	Somalia	150	20.3	Afghanistan	70	9.8
SE	Iraq	3 975	45.9	Somalia	1 540	17.8	Eritrea	655	7.6
UK	Zimbabwe	1 635	16.0	Eritrea	1 455	14.3	Afghanistan	1 260	12.3
IS	Russia	5	40.0	Sri Lanka	5	40.0	:	:	:
NO	Eritrea	715	19.3	Iraq	610	16.5	Afghanistan	495	13.4
CH	Eritrea	1 355	23.7	Sri Lanka	525	9.1	Turkey	440	7.7

Data are rounded to the nearest five.

0 means less than 3.

- Not applicable

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

** EU27 as a sum or weighted average of available data.

*** No first instance data available.

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. **Eurostat**, Statistics in Focus, 92/2009 "**75 thousand asylum seekers granted protection status in the EU in 2008**", available free of charge in PDF format on the Eurostat web site. The data used for this publication are provided to Eurostat by the Ministries of Interior, 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.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/HRD10December2009.aspx>
4. **Asylum application** 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.
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.

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