

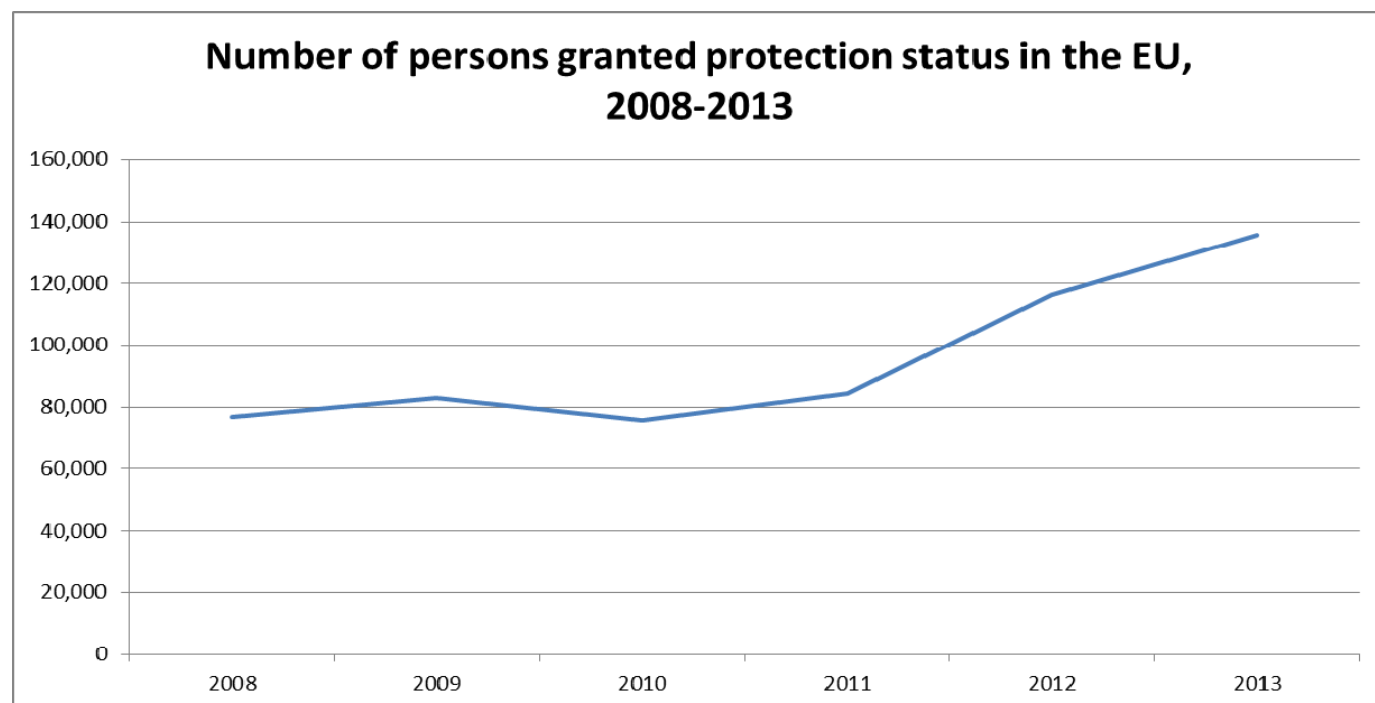
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Asylum decisions in the EU28

## EU Member States granted protection to 135 700 asylum seekers in 2013

Syrians main beneficiaries

The **EU28** Member States granted protection to 135 700 asylum seekers in 2013, compared with 116 200 in 2012. Over the last five years, more than 570 000 asylum seekers were granted protection status<sup>1</sup> in the EU.



EU refers to EU27 for the years 2008 to 2011 and to EU28 for the years 2012 and 2013

These data<sup>2</sup> on the results of asylum decisions in the **EU28** are released by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union** on the occasion of the World Refugee Day<sup>3</sup> on 20 June 2014.

### Syrians accounted for a quarter of all persons granted protection status in the EU28

The three largest groups of beneficiaries of protection status in the **EU28** in 2013 remained citizens of **Syria** (35 800 persons or 26% of the total number of persons granted protection status), **Afghanistan** (16 400 or 12%) and **Somalia** (9 700 or 7%).

**Syrians**, whose number has almost doubled compared with 2012, represented in 2013 the largest group granted protection status in half of the Member States and one of the three largest groups in 23 of the 28 Member States. Of the 35 800 **Syrians** granted protection status in the **EU28**, more than 60% were recorded in two Member States: **Sweden** (12 000) and **Germany** (9 600). Of the 16 400 **Afghans** granted protection, more than three-quarters were registered in **Germany** (5 000), **Austria** and **Sweden** (both 2 300), **Italy** (1 600) and **Belgium** (1 500). Of the 9 700 **Somalis**, 2 800 were granted protection status in the **Netherlands**, 1 700 in **Sweden** and 1 600 in **Italy**.

### Largest groups granted protection status, 2013

	Largest group			Second largest group			Third largest group		
	Citizens of	#	%*	Citizens of	#	%*	Citizens of	#	%*
<b>EU28</b>	<b>Syria</b>	<b>35 830</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Afghanistan</b>	<b>16 405</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Somalia</b>	<b>9 715</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	Syria	1 545	23	Afghanistan	1 455	22	Guinea	630	9
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Syria	2 020	81	Stateless**	335	13	Iraq	80	3
<b>Czech Rep.</b>	Syria	105	29	Belarus	80	21	Cuba	30	9
<b>Denmark</b>	Syria	1 380	41	Iran	425	13	Somalia	390	12
<b>Germany</b>	Syria	9 630	37	Afghanistan	5 005	19	Iran	2 720	10
<b>Estonia</b>	Russia	5	33	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Ireland</b>	Syria	40	20	Pakistan	20	10	Iran	15	7
<b>Greece</b>	Afghanistan	290	21	Iraq	195	14	Syria	175	12
<b>Spain</b>	Syria	150	27	Somalia	90	16	Palestine	75	13
<b>France</b>	Russia	1 990	12	Sri Lanka	1 530	9	Dem. Rep. of Congo	1 515	9
<b>Croatia</b>	Syria	10	43	Somalia	5	17	Kazakhstan	5	17
<b>Italy</b>	Afghanistan	1 600	11	Somalia	1 585	11	Mali	1 485	10
<b>Cyprus</b>	Syria	175	70	Egypt	15	7	Iraq	15	6
<b>Latvia</b>	Syria	15	46	Iran	5	14	Russia	5	11
<b>Lithuania</b>	Afghanistan	30	48	Syria	10	20	Belarus	5	8
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Iran	35	23	Afghanistan	20	13	Iraq	15	11
<b>Hungary</b>	Syria	130	31	Afghanistan	110	26	Somalia	50	12
<b>Malta</b>	Somalia	665	41	Eritrea	550	34	Syria	270	17
<b>Netherlands</b>	Somalia	2 780	26	Syria	2 105	20	Iran	1 035	10
<b>Austria</b>	Afghanistan	2 270	36	Syria	1 015	16	Russia	910	14
<b>Poland</b>	Russia	395	54	Syria	85	12	Georgia	60	8
<b>Portugal</b>	Guinea	25	19	Syria	15	10	Dem. Rep. of Congo	10	9
<b>Romania</b>	Syria	1 580	86	Iraq	40	2	Palestine	30	2
<b>Slovenia</b>	Syria	5	18	Afghanistan	5	13	Bosnia and Herzegovina	5	10
<b>Slovakia</b>	Afghanistan	20	27	Eritrea	15	18	Syria	10	16
<b>Finland</b>	Iraq	665	37	Somalia	240	13	Afghanistan	235	13
<b>Sweden</b>	Syria	12 015	46	Stateless**	4 110	16	Eritrea	2 565	10
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Iran	1 890	14	Pakistan	1 735	13	Syria	1 545	12
<b>Iceland</b>	Syria	5	38	Iran	5	31	:	:	:
<b>Norway</b>	Eritrea	2 235	33	Somalia	1 285	19	Syria	745	11
<b>Switzerland</b>	Eritrea	2 415	37	Syria	740	11	Afghanistan	720	11
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	China	5	57	Somalia	5	43	:	:	:

Data are rounded to the nearest five.

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

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

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

## 70% of protection status granted in five Member States

In 2013, the highest number of persons granted protection status was registered in **Sweden** (26 400), followed by **Germany** (26 100), **France** (16 200), **Italy** (14 500) and the **United Kingdom** (13 400). All together, these five Member States accounted for more than 70% of all those granted protection status in the **EU28**.

In total, of the 135 700 persons who were granted protection status in 2013, 64 500 persons were granted refugee status (47% of all positive decisions), 50 900 subsidiary protection (37%) and 20 400 authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons (15%). In addition, the **EU28** Member States received 4 800 resettled refugees<sup>4</sup>. It should be noted that, while both refugee and subsidiary protection status are defined by EU law, humanitarian status is granted on the basis of national legislation.

### Positive decisions on asylum applications in 2013

	Positive decisions*				Resettled refugees
	Total number	Of which:			
		Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	
<b>EU28</b>	<b>135 725</b>	<b>64 465</b>	<b>50 895</b>	<b>20 365</b>	<b>4 840</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	6 710	4 275	2 430	-	100
<b>Bulgaria</b>	2 495	180	2 315	-	0
<b>Czech Republic</b>	365	90	255	20	0
<b>Denmark</b>	3 360	1 865	1 415	80	515
<b>Germany</b>	26 080	13 870	7 955	4 255	280
<b>Estonia</b>	10	5	0	0	0
<b>Ireland</b>	205	185	20	-	85
<b>Greece</b>	1 415	585	395	435	0
<b>Spain</b>	555	220	325	10	0
<b>France</b>	16 155	13 410	2 745	-	90
<b>Croatia</b>	25	5	15	-	0
<b>Italy</b>	14 465	3 085	5 625	5 755	0
<b>Cyprus</b>	255	40	180	30	0
<b>Latvia</b>	35	15	20	-	0
<b>Lithuania</b>	60	15	45	-	0
<b>Luxembourg</b>	140	110	30	-	0
<b>Hungary</b>	420	200	215	5	0
<b>Malta</b>	1 610	45	1 450	115	0
<b>Netherlands</b>	10 620	1 685	3 900	5 035	310
<b>Austria</b>	6 345	4 345	2 000	-	0
<b>Poland</b>	735	200	140	395	0
<b>Portugal</b>	135	20	115	-	0
<b>Romania</b>	1 840	770	1 065	5	0
<b>Slovenia</b>	40	25	15	-	0
<b>Slovakia</b>	75	5	35	35	0
<b>Finland</b>	1 795	590	860	345	675
<b>Sweden</b>	26 395	7 435	17 135	1 825	1 820
<b>United Kingdom</b>	13 400	11 190	190	2 020	965
<b>Iceland</b>	15	10	5	0	:
<b>Norway</b>	6 770	4 840	1 170	765	955
<b>Switzerland</b>	6 605	3 165	885	2 555	0
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	5	0	5	0	0

Data are rounded to the nearest five.

0 means less than 3.

: Not available

- Not applicable

\* First instance and final decisions on appeal.

## More than a third of EU28 asylum decisions at the first instance resulted in protection status

In 2013, 326 600 first instance decisions on asylum applications<sup>5</sup> were made in the **EU28** and 135 000 final decisions on appeal. Decisions made at the first instance resulted in 111 100 persons being granted protection status, while a further 24 600 received protection status on appeal.

The rate of recognition of asylum applicants, i.e. the share of positive decisions in the total number of decisions, was 34% for first instance decisions. For final decisions on appeal, the recognition rate was 18%. In the Member States, the highest rates of recognition for first instance decisions were recorded in **Bulgaria** (87%), **Malta** (84%), **Romania** (64%), **Italy** and the **Netherlands** (both 61%), while those for final decisions on appeal were registered in **Bulgaria** (93%), **Italy** (78%), **Finland** (77%), **Romania** (60%) and the **Netherlands** (57%).

### Recognition rates, 2013

	First instance decisions				Final decisions on appeal			
	Total number	Positive	Rate of recognition (%)*		Total number	Positive	Rate of recognition (%)*	
			Total	Refugee & subsidiary protection status			Total	Refugee & subsidiary protection status
<b>EU28</b>	<b>326 575</b>	<b>111 115</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>134 965</b>	<b>24 615</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	21 390	6 280	29	29	11 485	430	4	4
<b>Bulgaria</b>	2 810	2 460	87	87	40	40	93	93
<b>Czech Republic</b>	900	345	38	36	415	20	5	4
<b>Denmark</b>	6 965	2 810	40	39	1 660	550	33	33
<b>Germany</b>	76 165	20 125	26	24	36 660	5 955	16	11
<b>Estonia</b>	55	10	17	13	0	0	0	0
<b>Ireland</b>	840	150	18	18	580	55	9	9
<b>Greece</b>	13 080	500	4	3	3 900	910	23	14
<b>Spain</b>	2 365	535	23	22	1 110	20	2	2
<b>France</b>	61 715	10 705	17	17	37 550	5 450	15	15
<b>Croatia</b>	185	25	12	12	95	0	0	0
<b>Italy</b>	23 565	14 390	61	37	95	75	78	71
<b>Cyprus</b>	800	165	21	20	960	90	9	7
<b>Latvia</b>	95	25	29	29	55	10	15	15
<b>Lithuania</b>	175	55	31	31	35	5	19	19
<b>Luxembourg</b>	1 245	130	11	11	670	10	1	1
<b>Hungary</b>	4 540	360	8	8	685	60	9	9
<b>Malta</b>	1 905	1 605	84	78	140	0	1	1
<b>Netherlands</b>	15 590	9 545	61	30	1 895	1 075	57	47
<b>Austria</b>	16 610	4 920	30	30	6 860	1 425	21	21
<b>Poland</b>	2 895	685	24	11	1 050	50	5	3
<b>Portugal</b>	305	135	44	44	100	0	0	0
<b>Romania</b>	1 435	915	64	64	1 550	925	60	60
<b>Slovenia</b>	195	35	19	19	60	0	3	3
<b>Slovakia</b>	190	70	35	17	115	5	4	4
<b>Finland</b>	3 185	1 620	51	42	230	180	77	55
<b>Sweden</b>	45 005	24 015	53	51	12 955	2 380	18	13
<b>United Kingdom</b>	22 355	8 505	38	34	14 010	4 895	35	27
<b>Iceland</b>	130	10	8	7	70	5	9	7
<b>Norway</b>	11 785	5 770	49	47	10 430	1 005	10	5
<b>Switzerland</b>	16 595	6 390	38	24	3 400	215	6	2
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	45	5	16	16	35	0	0	0

Data are rounded to the nearest five.

0 means less than 3.

\* 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. Rates of recognition for humanitarian status are not shown in this table, but are part of the total recognition rate.

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(e) of Directive 2011/95/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(d) 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(g) of Directive 2011/95/EC. According to the Art.2(f) of that Directive person eligible for subsidiary protection means a third country national or a stateless person who does not qualify as a refugee but in respect of whom substantial grounds have been shown for believing that the person concerned, if returned to his or her country of citizenship, or in the case of a stateless person, to his or her country of former habitual residence, would face a real risk of suffering serious harm and is unable, or, owing to such risk, unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country.

**Person granted authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons** means a person covered by a decision granting authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons under national law concerning international protection, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during the reference period. It includes persons who are not eligible for international protection as currently defined in the first stage legal instruments, but are nonetheless protected against removal under the obligations that are imposed on all Member States by international refugee or human rights instruments or on the basis of principles flowing from such instruments. Examples of such categories include persons who are not removable on ill health grounds and unaccompanied minors.
2. The data in this release are provided to Eurostat by Ministries of the Interior or Justice, or immigration agencies, of the Member States. These data are supplied by Member States according to the provisions of Article 4 of the Regulation (EC) 862/2007 of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection.
3. For more information see:  
[http://www.worldrefugeeday.us/site/c.arKK11MLIj0E/b.8092105/k.B369/World\\_Refugee\\_Day.htm](http://www.worldrefugeeday.us/site/c.arKK11MLIj0E/b.8092105/k.B369/World_Refugee_Day.htm)
4. **Resettled refugees** means persons who have been granted an authorisation to reside in a Member State within the framework of a national or Community resettlement scheme. Resettlement means the transfer of third-country nationals or stateless persons, on the basis of their need for international protection and a durable solution, to a Member State where they are permitted to reside with a secure legal status. Data relate to resettled persons who have actually arrived into the territory of the Member State.
5. **A decision on an asylum application** means a decision on an application for international protection as defined in Art.2(h) of Council Directive 2011/95/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.

**First instance decision** means a decision made in response to an asylum application at the first instance level of the asylum procedure.

**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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