



European Asylum Support Office

EASO

# Quarterly Asylum Report Quarter 2, 2013

SUPPORT IS OUR MISSION

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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 analyzing data regarding applications for international protection made by asylum seekers and decisions<sup>1</sup> made on those applications by European Member States and Associated countries<sup>2</sup>.

The analysis is based on validated, public data<sup>3</sup> submitted to Eurostat as per Art.4 of European Regulation 862/2007.

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<sup>1</sup> Data on first instance decisions is provided quarterly by Member States and Associated countries to Eurostat with a 2-month deadline for submission, explaining the delay with which EASO reports based on this data can be provided.

<sup>2</sup> Referred to as "EU+" throughout the present document. Data are available for EU 28 and NO and CH.

<sup>3</sup> Unless otherwise specified

## Summary

### Trends in applications for international protection

- The total number of asylum applicants in EU+ in Q2 rose 18% (112,030 applicants) compared to the previous quarter (Q1 2013), reaching the highest level registered in any quarter since 2008 in the EU+.
- Russian asylum applicants in EU+ almost doubled compared to the previous quarter (but quickly declined in later months). In this way they overtook Syrians, reaching the second position in the top five countries of origin in EU+. Very high numbers of Kosovars continued to apply in Hungary.
- Total asylum applicants from Western Balkans remained in top place with 17,670 (16% of the total), however “new” applicants from Russia actually exceeded the “new” WB total.
- The highest increases in applications received compared to Q1 2013 was reported by HU (+306%; +7,095), MT (+188%; +225), PL (+148%; +4,430), AT (+29%; +1,060) and DE (+25%; +5,310).

### Trends in decisions on applications for international protection at first instance

- In Q2 2013, the total number of first instance decisions issued by EU+ countries (85,040) increased 7% compared to the first quarter of 2013 (79,755). In comparison with the same period of 2012, the increase was even higher (18%). DE (15,500, 18% of the total), FR (14,955, 18% of the total) and SE (11,630, 14% of the total) recorded the highest number of decisions.
- The highest first instance recognition rate was in MT (79% of 340 decisions), BG (71% of 340 decisions), NL (56% of 3,340 decisions), PT (55% of 100 decisions), IT (54% of 6,820 decisions) and FI (54% of 820 decisions).
- The average first instance recognition rate in EU+ was 34%, above the annual rate for 2012 (32%), but below that of Q1 (37%).
- The number of pending cases at the end of June 2013 (310,640) shows a 5% increase compared to March 2013. The rise in influx of Russian and Kosovar applicants that occurred in the second quarter produced a 42% increase for both nationalities’ stocks of cases.

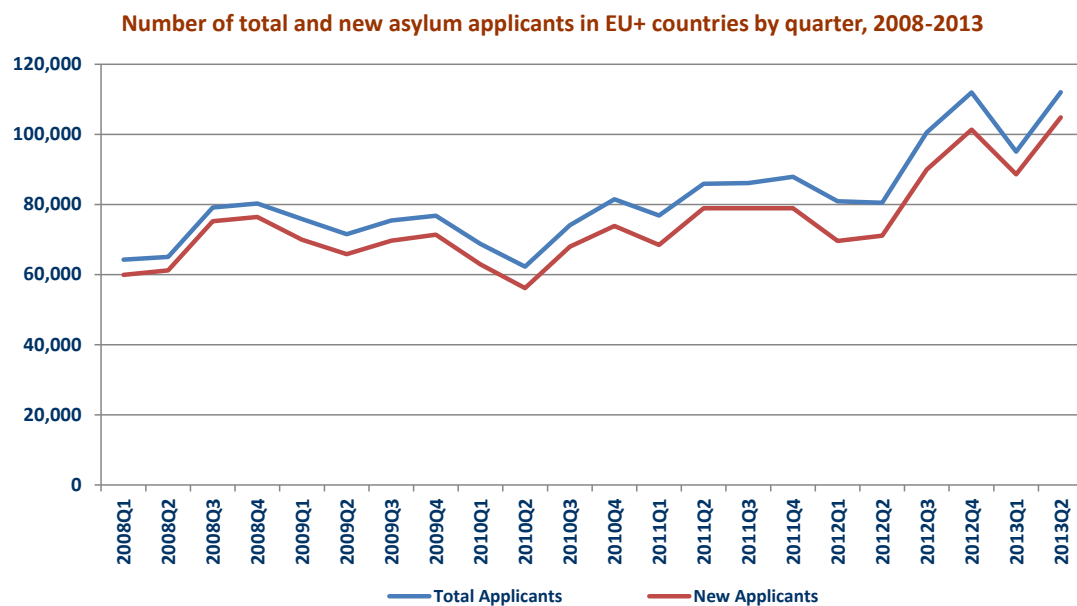
### Key trends in focus

- *Inflow from Syria* – The number of asylum applicants coming from Syria started to rise again in Q2 2013, reaching almost 3,000 at the end of June. The recognition rate for Syrians applicants slightly decreased in Q2 2013 to 87%, from 89% in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.
- *Western Balkans* – Despite a 96% rejection rate in 2012, WB continued to be, for the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive quarter, the largest group of Asylum applicants in European countries, representing 16% of the Q2 2013 total. Comparing the figures for Q2 with those for Q1, Western Balkan applicants went up +49%.
- *Inflow from Russia* – Russian applicants rose 97% in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2013 compared to Q1, reaching a peak of 6,430 applicants in EU + in the month of May, though numbers quickly dropped in subsequent months.

## Section 1: Trends in applications for international protection

### Numbers of asylum applicants in EU+ countries

The total number of asylum applicants rose 18% (112,030) compared to the previous quarter (Q1 2013-95,260) reaching the highest quarterly total since 2008. In comparison with the number of applicants registered in the same quarters of 2012 and 2011 the increase was even higher: +30% or more. When analyzing the seasonal trends we can observe that the sharp increase in Q2 2013 is somewhat uncommon when compared with the same periods of previous years where a stable or downward trend was experienced (with the exception of Q2 2011 when the ‘Arab spring’ produced its effects).



**Figure 1: Total and new applicants<sup>4</sup>; Source: Eurostat login: 03.10.2013**

Figure 2 shows the monthly trend for the last three years. As can be seen, the flows were higher in the first half of 2013 than in the same period of 2011 and 2012. EU+ countries registered a marked upward trend for the first month (April) of the second quarter of 2013 opposite to previous years, where the number of applicants has decreased; this was caused by a high flow of asylum seekers who targeted mainly DE, PL and HU.

Overall it can be noticed that the asylum numbers in EU+ increased significantly in the second quarter.

<sup>4</sup> Total applicants: all persons having submitted an application for international protection as defined in Art.2(h) of Directive 2011/95/EU or having been included in such application as a family member. New applicants for international protection (as defined by Art.2(h) of Directive 2011/95/EU) are those who lodged an application for asylum for the first time in a given Member State during the reference period. When data for new applicants is not available on Eurostat total applicants are considered new applicants.

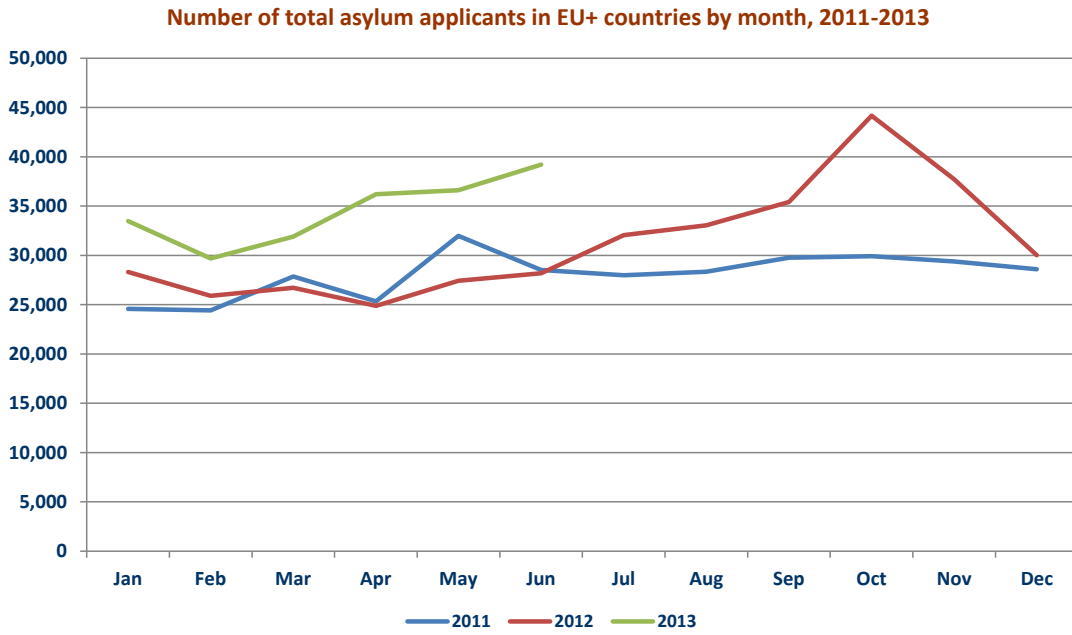


Figure 2: Total asylum applicants, monthly trend; Source: Eurostat login: 03.10.2013

**Main countries of origin of applicants for international protection**

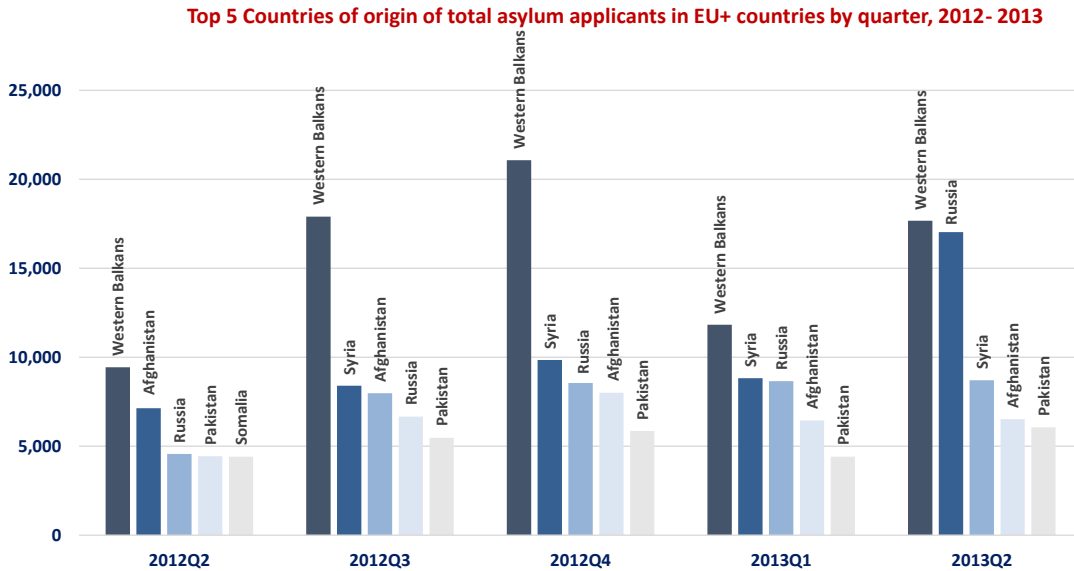


Figure 3: Composition of inflows by main countries of origin; Source: Eurostat login: 03.10.2013

The second quarter of 2013 represents the fourth consecutive period when the top 5 nationalities (or groups) have not changed. Nationals from all Western Balkans<sup>5</sup> countries,

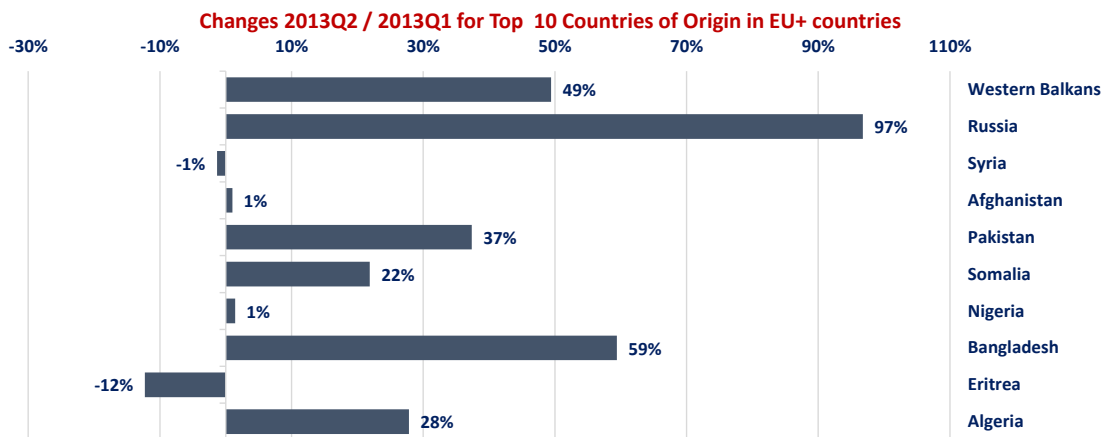
<sup>5</sup> Western Balkan countries – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYROM, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia

Russia, Syria, Afghanistan and Pakistan continued to be the five largest groups of asylum applicants registered in the EU+, also in the second quarter of 2013.

However, Russian asylum applicants in the EU+ almost doubled compared to the previous quarter. Thus, they overtook Syrians, reaching the second position in the top 5 and new applicants exceeded even WB figures. DE and PL were the most affected countries by this flow. According to the information sent by Member States most of the new Russian applicants were of Chechen ethnicity.

Except Syrians, who recorded a decrease, all other four nationalities from the top 5 registered an increase compared to Q1 2013. WB returned to the level of Q4 2012 because of the 49% increase in mainly nationals from Kosovo<sup>6</sup>. Serbs and Kosovars represented the most important part of the WB flow in Europe, seeking asylum in DE and HU, respectively.

Pakistanis represented 5% of the total applicants in Q2 2013. Despite the 25% decrease registered in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2013 (compared to Q4 2012), in the period under review they exceeded the peak of Q4 by 12%. The main countries of destination for Pakistanis were HU, EL (south eastern migration route) and UK.



**Figure 4: Composition of inflows by main countries of origin, quarterly change; Source: Eurostat login: 03.10.2013**

<sup>6</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/99 and the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Kosovo declaration of independence

## Profile of applicants for international protection in Europe

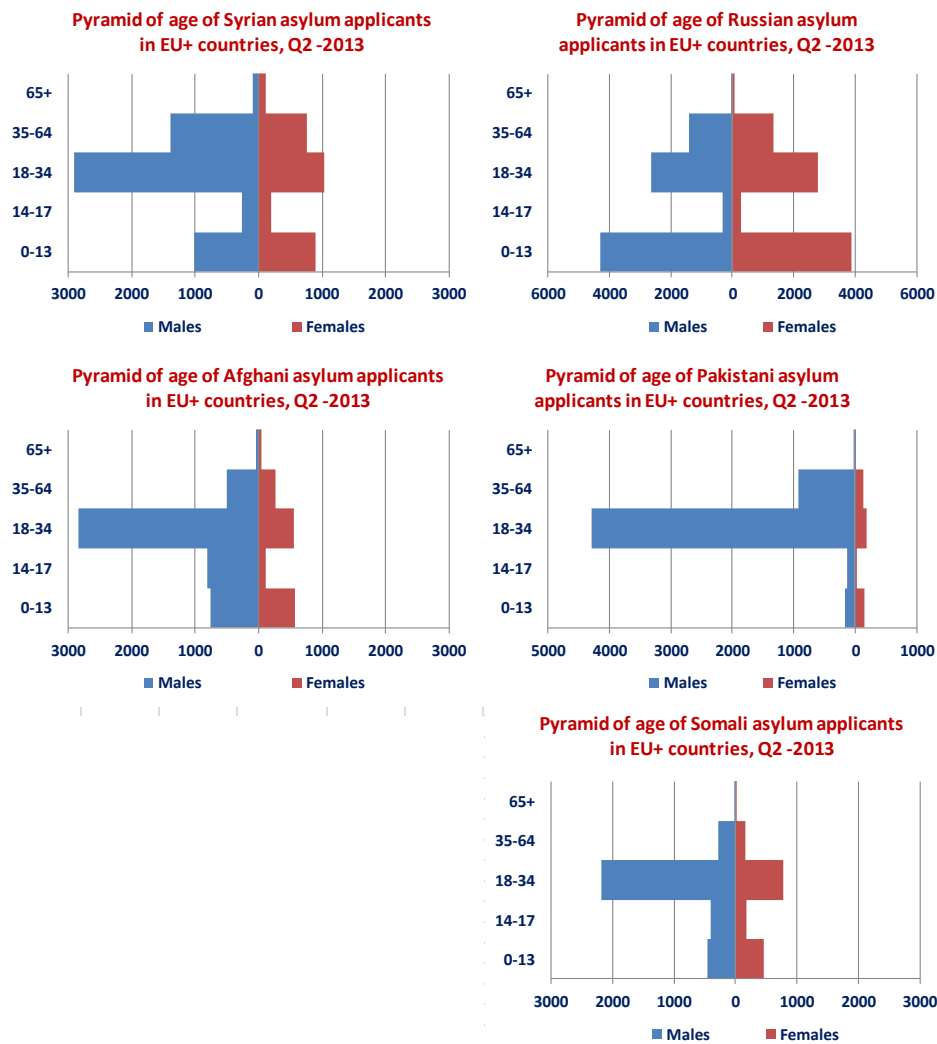


Figure 5: Pyramid of age for selected countries of origin; Source: Eurostat login: 03.10.2013

The above graph shows the profile (gender and age breakdown) of the Top 5 source countries of asylum applicants in Q2 2013. The differences are notable:

- The Syrian flow to the EU+ sees a large proportion of families, but also a significant number of young, single men;
- Russian asylum applicants appear to overwhelmingly consist of families arriving with young children (0-13); this is a general attribute for the applicants coming from Russia and was presented also in Q1 Report.
- Afghani and Somali were represented by large number of young males arriving in Europe, but also some families;
- The vast majority (71%) of Pakistani asylum applicants were young adult males, aged 18-34.



### Where were asylum applications made in Europe?

The chart below shows the changes in terms of percentage and absolute numbers of the asylum applicants in EU+ countries, in Q2 2013 compared to Q1 2013. In terms of absolute numbers, DE, FR and HU were the main countries of destination, receiving 46% of the total of asylum applicants registered in EU + in Q2 2013. The highest increase compared to Q1 2013 was reported by HU (+306%; +7,095), with the vast majority of third country nationals seeking asylum represented by Kosovars<sup>7</sup>.

MT (+188%; +225), PL (+148%; +4430), AT (+29%; +1060) and DE (+25%; +5310) registered<sup>8</sup> more applicants as well.

A significant decrease compared with the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2013 was registered in HR (-50%; -240), DK (-19%; -355), BE (-14%; -825), NL (-11%; -455), EL (-9%; -195) and CH (-9%; -495).

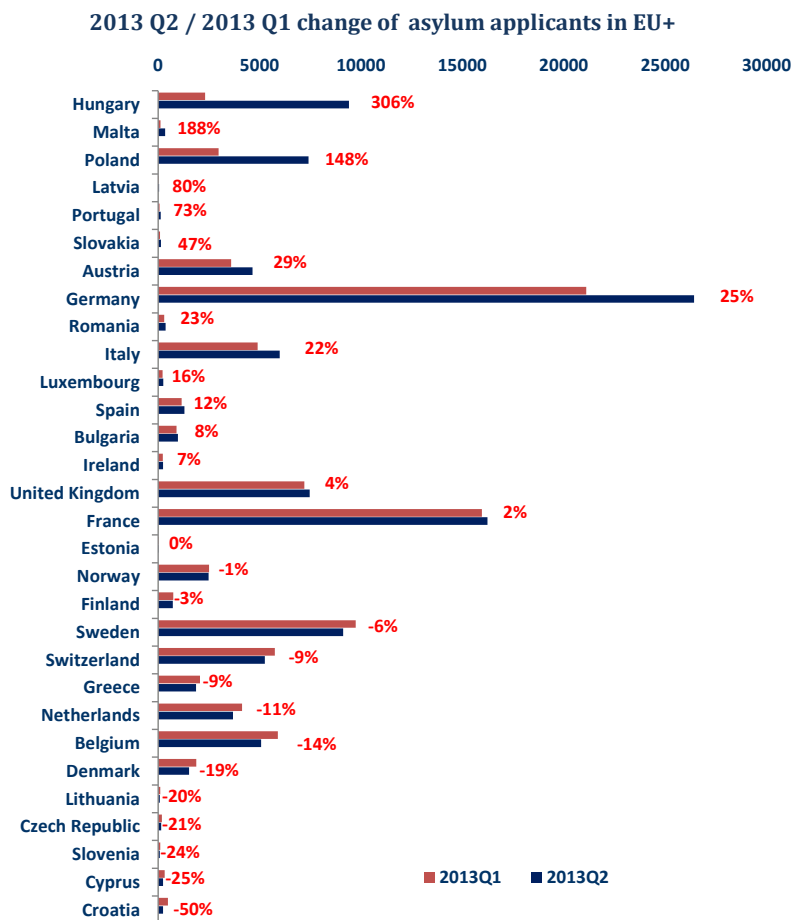


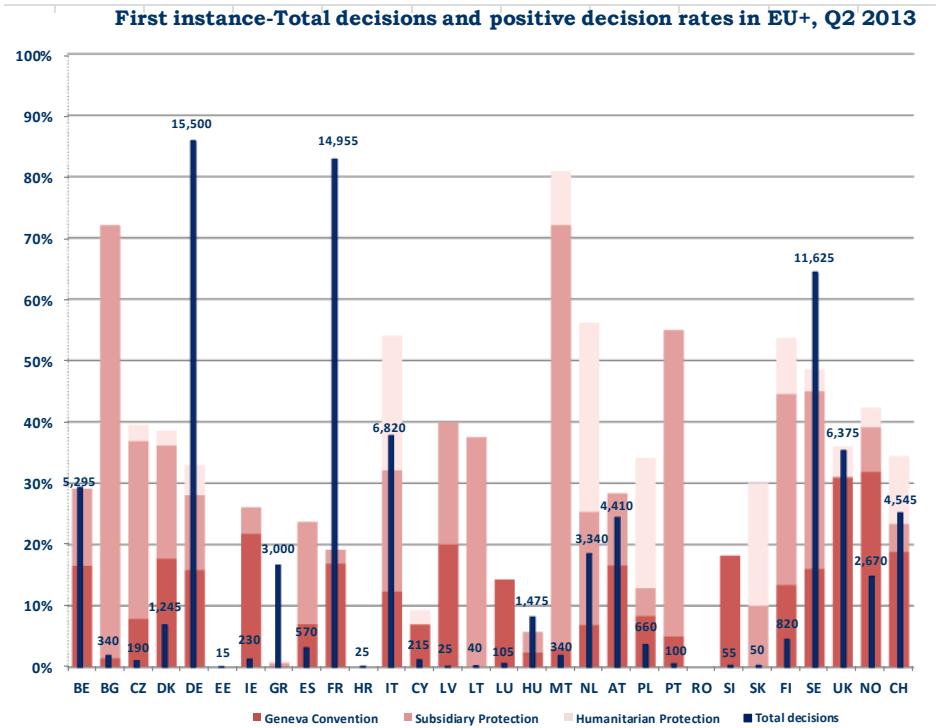
Figure 6: Distribution of the total asylum applicants and change (%) in European destination countries, quarterly trend; Source: Eurostat login: 03.10.2013

<sup>7</sup> Information received from HU and Frontex is that this was mainly due to an abuse of the asylum system in HU by Kosovars seeking to circumvent border controls by claiming asylum and then travelling on towards other Schengen states.

<sup>8</sup> More than 25% increase and 200 applicants compared to Q1 2013

## Section 2: Trends in asylum decisions

The bar chart below indicates the numbers of decisions issued by EU+ countries, the recognition rate<sup>9</sup> (%) and the type of protection granted<sup>10</sup>.



**Figure 7: First instance decisions and positive decision rates; Source: Eurostat login: 11.10.2013<sup>11</sup>**

### Numbers of decisions

In the period under analysis (Q2 2013) the total number of first instance decisions issued by EU+ countries (85,040) increased 7% compared to the first quarter of 2013 (79,755). In comparison with the same period of 2012, when 72,160 decisions were issued the increase was even higher, at 18%.

Of all EU+ countries, DE (15,500, 18% of the total), FR (14,955, 18% of the total), and SE (11,630, 14% of the total) recorded the highest number of decisions. IT (6,820, 8% of the total), UK (6,375, 7% of the total), BE (5,295, 6% of the total), CH (4,545, 5% of the total) and AT (4,410, 5 % of the total) reported also a high number of decisions.

<sup>9</sup> The recognition rate is the sum of the percentage of positive decisions made under one of the three legal regimes described in the next footnote

<sup>10</sup> The analysis takes into account the type of protection granted in regard to Geneva Convention status, Subsidiary Protection status, which are forms of international protection subject to European legislation, and Humanitarian Protection – subject to national legislation.

<sup>11</sup> No data available for RO

## Level of protection accorded

For Q2 2013 the level of protection accorded was 34%; above the annual rate for 2012 (32%).

The recognition rate for 2012 (32%) differs from the one presented in the EASO annual report for 2012 (28%) due to a revision (after 5 May 2013) by IT and NL of their initial decision data provided to Eurostat for 2012. This produced a 4% increase in the protection rate for the EU+ overall<sup>12</sup>.

Six countries issued positive decisions in more than 50% of cases in Q2: MT (79% of 340 decisions), BG (71% of 340 decisions), NL (56% of 3,340 decisions), PT (55% of 100 decisions), IT (54% of 6,820 decisions) and FI (54% of 820 decisions).

When looking at the recognition rate for each member state, we can notice that it varies extensively. This may be caused by a variety of factors such as:

- different countries of origin of asylum seekers;
- MS policy in terms of which countries of origin are considered “safe countries”;
- national legislation on humanitarian protection;
- profiles of the applicants and individual cases.

One of the main factors for granting a high level of protection is the place/country of origin (COI); for example, third country nationals originating in states with serious security instability or fundamental rights problems (e.g. Syria and Somalia).

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<sup>12</sup> This was due in both cases to the separate and later updating of decisions based on national humanitarian statuses.

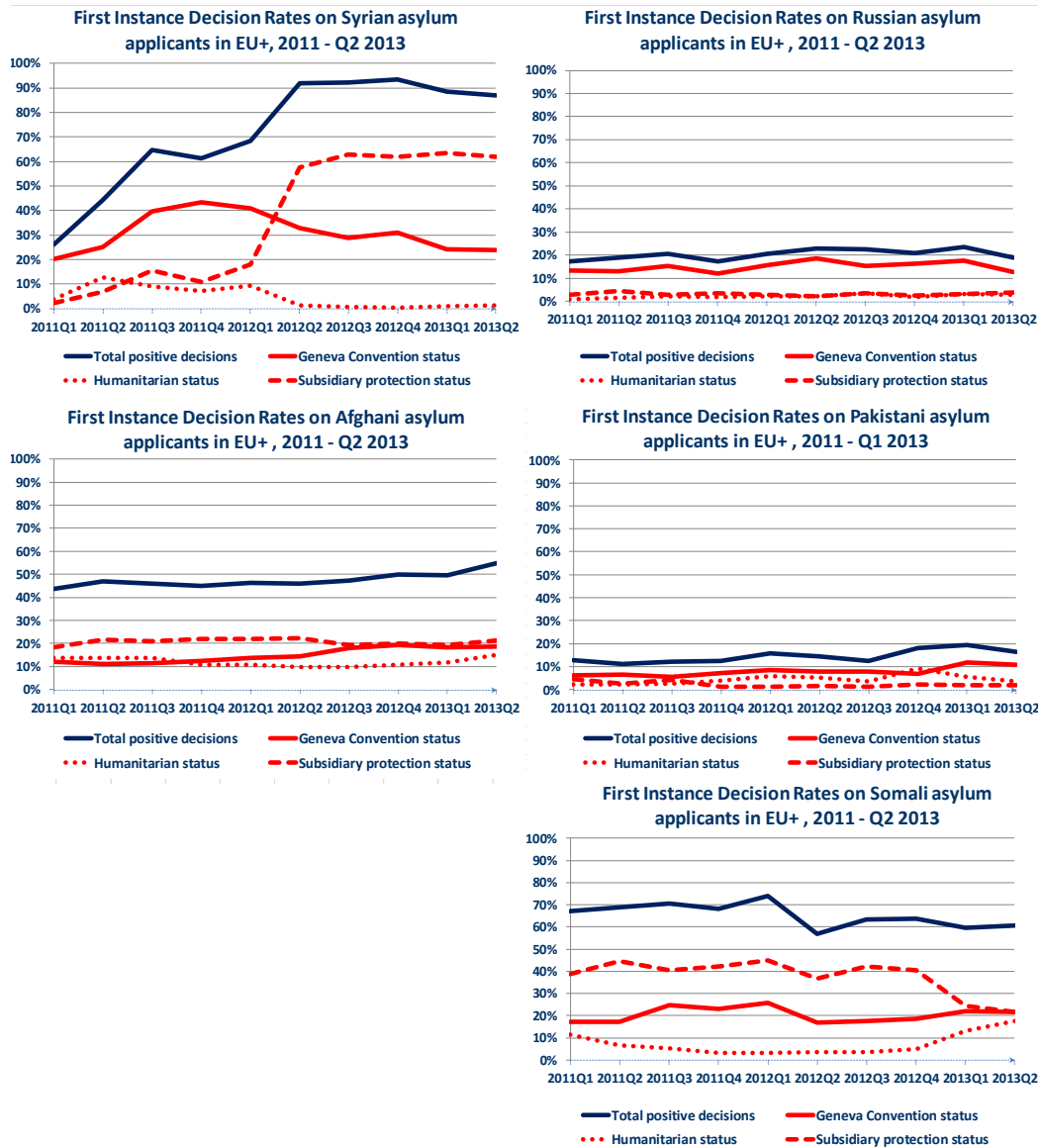


Figure no 8: First instance decisions and positive decision rates by top 5 countries of origin; Source: Eurostat login: 16.10.2013<sup>13</sup>

The graphs above show a comparison between the positive decisions (Geneva Convention, subsidiary protection and national humanitarian status) issued to applicants from the Top 5 countries of origin, for the period 2011 to Q2 2013. Note that the positive protection rate for Syrians has dropped slightly in recent months (87%) from levels seen in 2012. Despite the high number of decisions issued in the second quarter for Russians applicants (5,070, 6% of the total decisions in EU+) the share of positive decisions was under 20%; that means that EU+ considered the vast majority of applications to be unfounded.

<sup>13</sup> No data available on Eurostat for Romania

Somali applicants had the second highest recognition rate of the Top 10 countries of origin (61%) though the rate has dropped in recent years in concomitance with improvements in the security situation in parts of the country.

More than half of the decisions issued by EU + in Q2 2013 involving persons coming from Afghanistan were positive. The graph shows that the rate and choice of regime does not change greatly over large periods of time but in the last two quarters, the rates have slightly increased. Although the Pakistanis were also present in top 5 of asylum applicants the recognition rate for them in Q2 2013 was 16%, decreasing from 19% in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.

### Type of protection given

An increase in the use of Geneva Convention and Subsidiary Protection regimes was seen in Q2 2013 compared both to Q1 2013 and the average for 2012. In Europe, overall positive Geneva Convention decisions were made in 16% of cases (the annual average in 2012 was 14%), Subsidiary protection 12% (up from 11% in 2012), and humanitarian 6% (down from 7% in 2012)<sup>14</sup>.

#### Geneva Convention Decision

FR (88%), UK (86%), IE (83%), NO (75%) and CY (75%) gave Refugee Status in a very large proportion of the positive protection decisions they made. The table below shows the most significant countries of origin of asylum applicants who were granted refugee status under Geneva Convention during Q2 2013.

EU+ country	Positive decisions	Geneva Convention	%	COI	GC Decisions	%
<b>France</b>	2860	2525	88%	Russia	305	12%
				Sri Lanka	300	12%
				Democratic Republic of the Congo	250	10%
				Syria	215	9%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	2295	1965	86%	Iran	390	20%
				Syria	335	17%
				Pakistan	215	11%
<b>Norway</b>	1130	850	75%	Eritrea	280	33%
				Somalia	260	31%
				Sudan	100	12%
<b>Austria</b>	1250	730	58%	Afghanistan	150	21%
				Syria	145	20%
				Iran	125	17%
<b>Belgium</b>	1540	875	57%	Afghanistan	150	17%
				Guinea	105	12%
				Russia	70	8%
<b>Switzerland</b>	1565	855	55%	Eritrea	585	68%
				Somalia	50	6%
				Syria	40	5%
<b>Germany</b>	5105	2450	48%	Iraq	590	24%
				Iran	475	19%
				Syria	390	16%

<sup>14</sup> Again, the figures here were affected by the update of decision figures in Eurostat by IT and NL provided after the date of publication of the EASO annual report. The humanitarian protection rate thus went up to 7% from 2%.

**Table 1: Positive decisions issued in selected EU+ countries, using the Geneva Convention, by country of origin of asylum applicants<sup>15</sup>; Source: Eurostat login: 11.10.2013**

*Subsidiary protection*

BG (98%), PT (91%), MT (87%), CZ (79%), ES (68%) and SE (60%) used Subsidiary protection in a large proportion of the positive decisions they made.

EU+ country	Positive decisions	Subsidiary protection	%	COI	SP Decisions	%
<u>Bulgaria</u>	245	240	98%	Syria	195	81%
				Stateless	35	15%
				Egypt	5	2%
<u>Malta</u>	270	235	87%	Somalia	125	53%
				Syria	75	32%
				Eritrea	25	11%
<u>Sweden</u>	5635	3365	60%	Syria	2045	61%
				Eritrea	410	12%
				Stateless	340	10%
<u>Finland</u>	440	255	58%	Iraq	120	47%
				Somalia	50	20%
				Afghanistan	40	16%
<u>Denmark</u>	480	230	48%	Somalia	75	33%
				Syria	50	22%
				Russia	45	20%
<u>Belgium</u>	1540	655	43%	Syria	415	63%
				Afghanistan	190	29%

**Table 2: Positive decisions issued in selected EU+ countries, using Subsidiary Protection, by country of origin of asylum applicants; Source: Eurostat login: 11.10.2013**

The table above shows the principal countries of origin of the asylum seekers who were granted subsidiary protection by EU+ countries, highlighting the percentage share from the total positive decisions.

*National protection for humanitarian reasons*

SK (67%), PL (62%), NL (55%) and IT (41%) were the main European countries to use humanitarian protection Q2 2013, based on their national legislation.

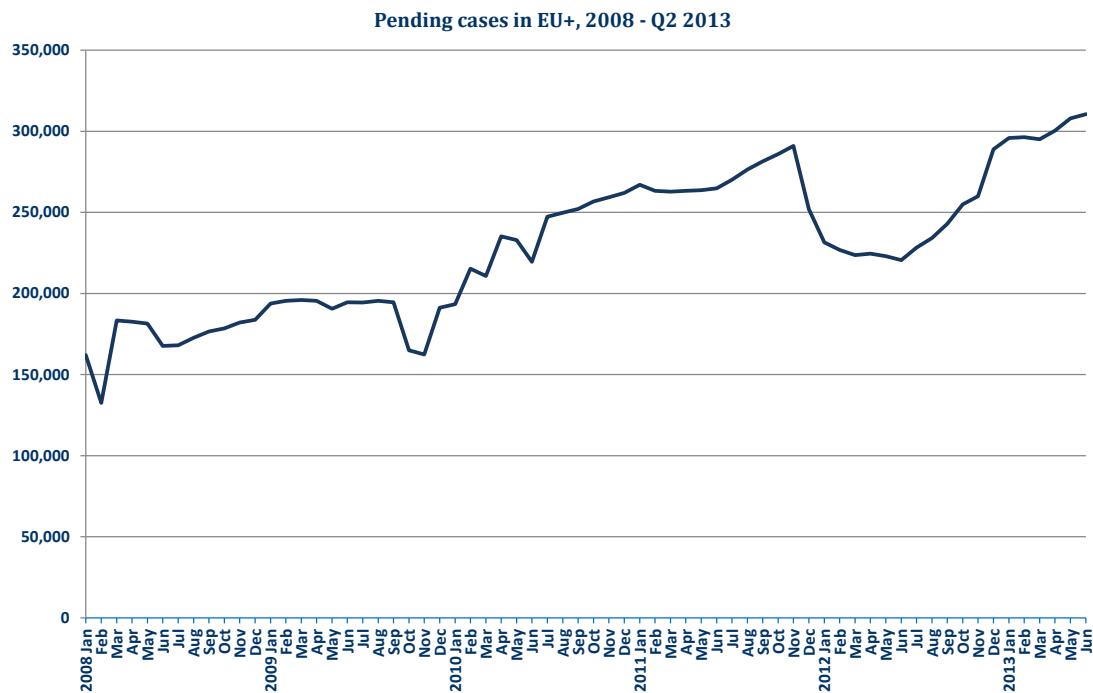
<sup>15</sup> At the right the table shows the main countries of origin of those receiving a positive decision issued under the Geneva Convention

EU+ country	Positive decisions	Humanitarian status	%	COI	Hum Status	%
<u>Poland</u>	225	140	62%	Russia	95	68%
				Georgia	35	25%
<u>Netherlands</u>	1875	1030	55%	Somalia	625	61%
				Iraq	90	9%
				Afghanistan	60	6%
<u>Italy</u>	3685	1495	41%	Nigeria	195	13%
				Pakistan	150	10%
				Gambia	145	10%
<u>Switzerland</u>	1565	505	32%	Afghanistan	150	30%
				Syria	65	13%
				Somalia	55	11%

**Table 3: Positive decisions issued in selected EU+ countries, granting Humanitarian Status, by country of origin of asylum applicants; Source: Eurostat login: 03.10.2013**

### Backlog

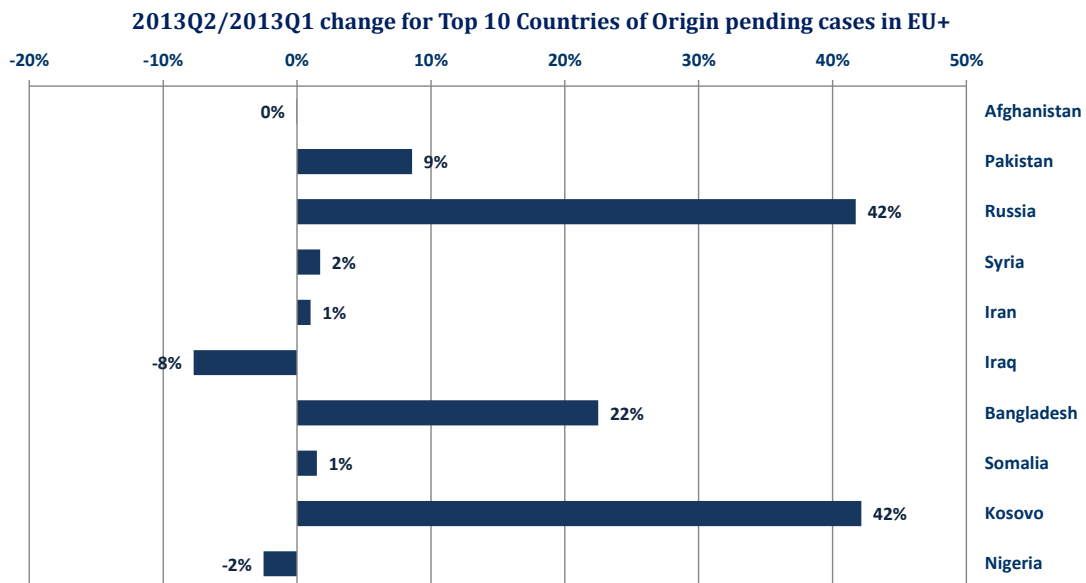
The number of pending cases at the end of Q2 2013 (310,640) shows a 5% increase compared to the end of Q1 2013 (295,095).



**Figure 9: Stock of pending cases at the end of each month; Source: Eurostat login: 16.10.2013<sup>16</sup>**

DE (95,095), EL (50,125) and FR (29,320) registered the highest number of applicants, subject to pending cases, at the end of June 2013.

<sup>16</sup> No data available for Cyprus (May 2011- 2013 Q2excluding Dec 2012), Romania (February to June 2013) and The Netherlands (2012-2013)



**Figure 10: Composition of pending cases by main countries of origin, quarterly change; Source: Eurostat login: 16.10.2013<sup>17</sup>**

The bar chart above shows the most significant changes in terms of stock of applications by Top 10 countries of origin identified during the Q2 2013 compared to Q1 2013.

The rise in influx of Russian and Kosovar applicants that occurred in the second quarter produced a 42% increase in the stock registered by EU+ at the end of June 2013 for both nationalities.

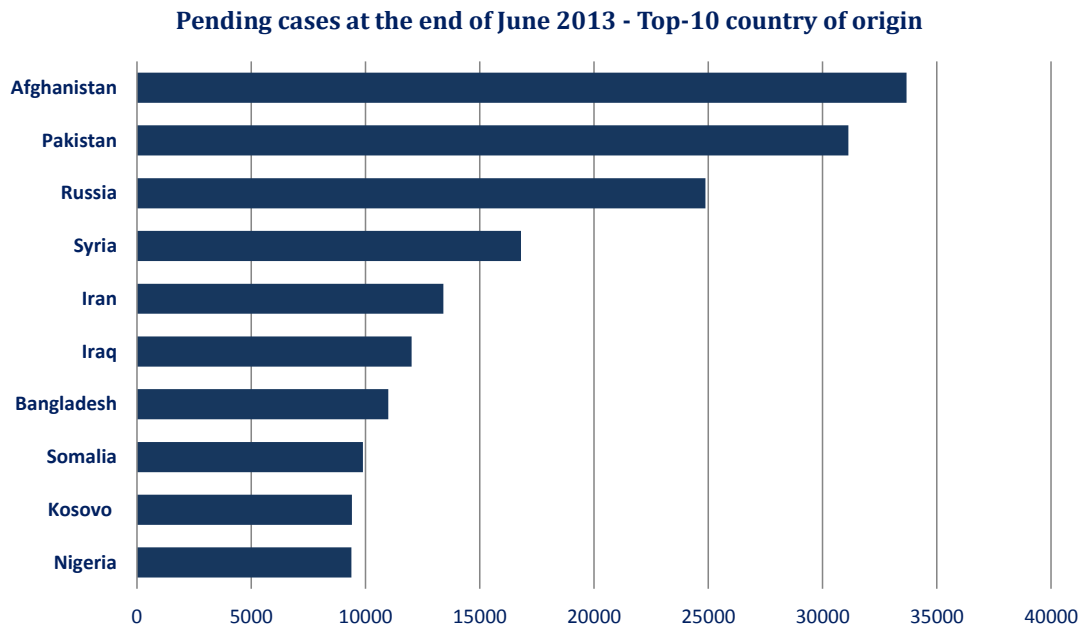
DE, AT and PL reported in June more than 75% of the total stock of Russian applications in the EU+.

Afghani, Syrian and Somali applicants waiting for a decision, recorded at the end of June 2013 were at almost the same level as at the end of March 2013.

Citizens coming from Pakistan awaiting a decision increased 9% compared to the previous quarter; from the EU+ stock of 31,140 Pakistani applicants waiting, more than half were registered in EL (15,965).

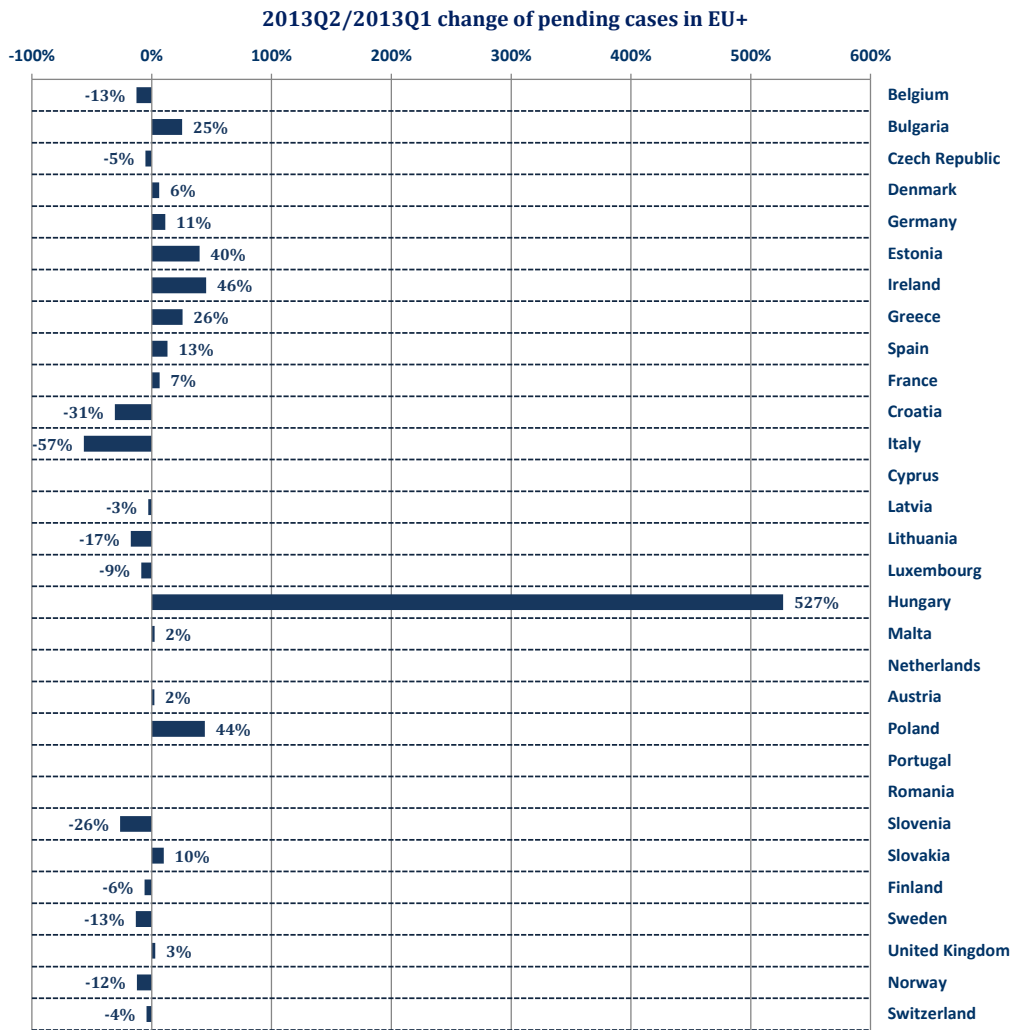
<sup>17</sup> No data available for Cyprus (May 2011- 2013 Q2excluding Dec 2012), Romania (February to June 2013) and The Netherlands (2012-2013)





**Figure no 11: Composition of pending cases by main countries of origin; Source: Eurostat login: 03.10.2013**

As for the previous quarter, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Russia remained at the end of June 2013 the largest group of nationals that had not received decisions on their applications. Due to the fact that the number of WB nationals applying for international protection increased in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, Kosovar nationals are also in the Top 10 and were subjects of pending cases at the end of June 2013 in HU, DE and FR.



**Figure 12: Distribution pending cases in European destination countries, quarterly change; Source: Eurostat login: 16.10.2013<sup>18</sup>**

By far the highest increase in terms of pending cases in June 2013 was registered by HU; because of the high number of Kosovar new applicants the number of pending cases increased more than five times in the period under review.

IE (+46%), PL (+44%) and EE (+40%) registered a significant increase in pending cases compared to end of March. Compared with the same period the most significant increase in absolute numbers was recorded in EL (+10,255)<sup>19</sup>, DE (+9,700), HU (+4,585) and FR (+1,810).

IT (-7,885; 57%), BE (-3,060; 13%), SE (-2,790; 13%) registered in the reference period the largest decreases<sup>20</sup> in terms of pending cases.

<sup>18</sup> No data available for, Netherlands, Cyprus and Romania

<sup>19</sup> Starting with 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2013 Greek Asylum Service became operational; On the same date the asylum department of Greek Police has stopped accepting new applications, but is still responsible for the backlog

<sup>20</sup> More than 10% and 1000 pending cases decrease

### Section 3: Key trends in focus

#### Syria

The number of asylum applicants coming from Syria started to rise again at the end of June, up to 3,000 per month. Furthermore, according to EASO unvalidated data for EU+ countries, August registered the highest figures for Syrian applicants (close to 4,000) since the beginning of the armed conflict in 2011.

Thus, with the closure of diplomatic missions by almost all of the Member States in Damascus, Syrians are increasingly travelling to the EU+ without valid visas or other travel documents.

As the internal conflict in Syria appears far from a resolution, it is very difficult to draw any conclusion regarding the likely future asylum pressure from this country in the EU+.

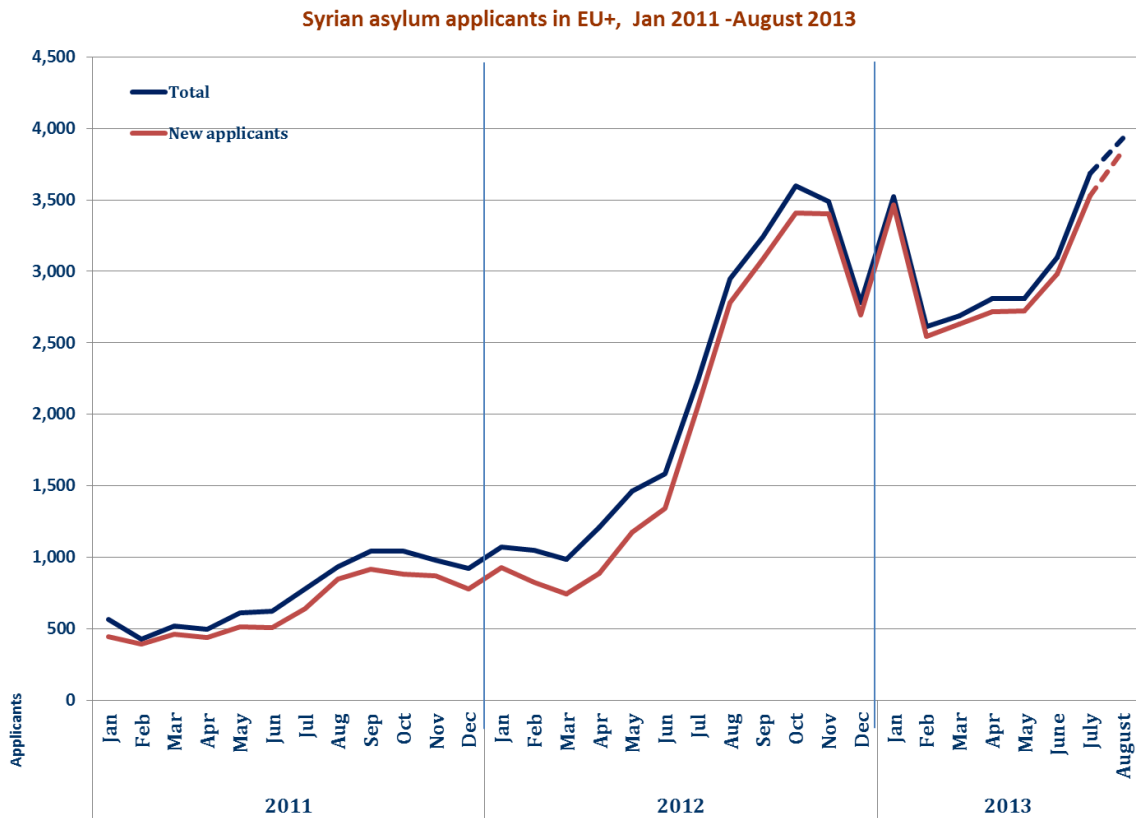
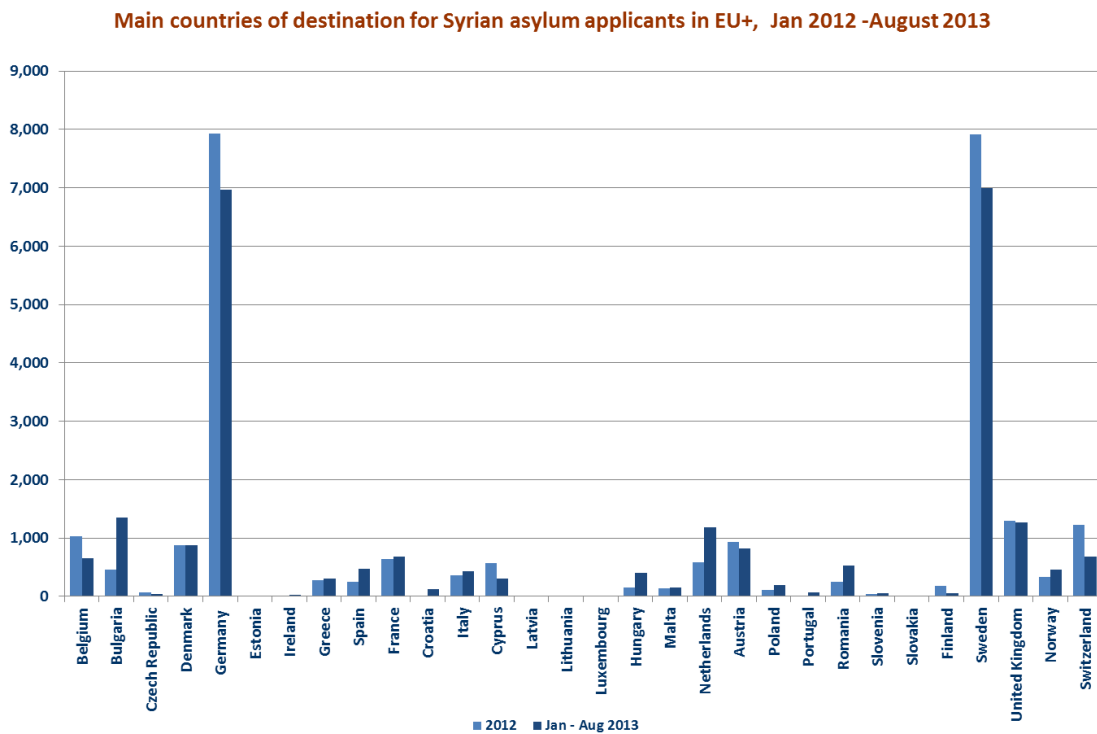


Figure 13: Syrian total and new asylum applicants; Source: Eurostat login: 03.10.2013 and EASO unvalidated data for July and August 2013



**Figure 14: Distribution of Syrian asylum applicants in European destination countries; Source: Eurostat login: 03.10.2013**

In the first eight<sup>21</sup> months of 2013, the proportion of Syrian applicants going to DE and SE continued to decrease somewhat, though the latter continued as the main countries of destination for more than 50% of total Syrian applicants in the EU+.

Syrians increasingly made applications in a number of other EU+ states; Syria was in the Top 3 countries of origin for 15 MS and Associated countries in Q2.

In the first half of 2013, BG, RO, HU and NL, for example, saw very significant increases in numbers of applications from Syrians compared to those they received over the course of 2012.

<sup>21</sup> Based on Eurostat data for the first 6 months of 2013 plus EASO unvalidated data for July and August 2013

Decision Trends

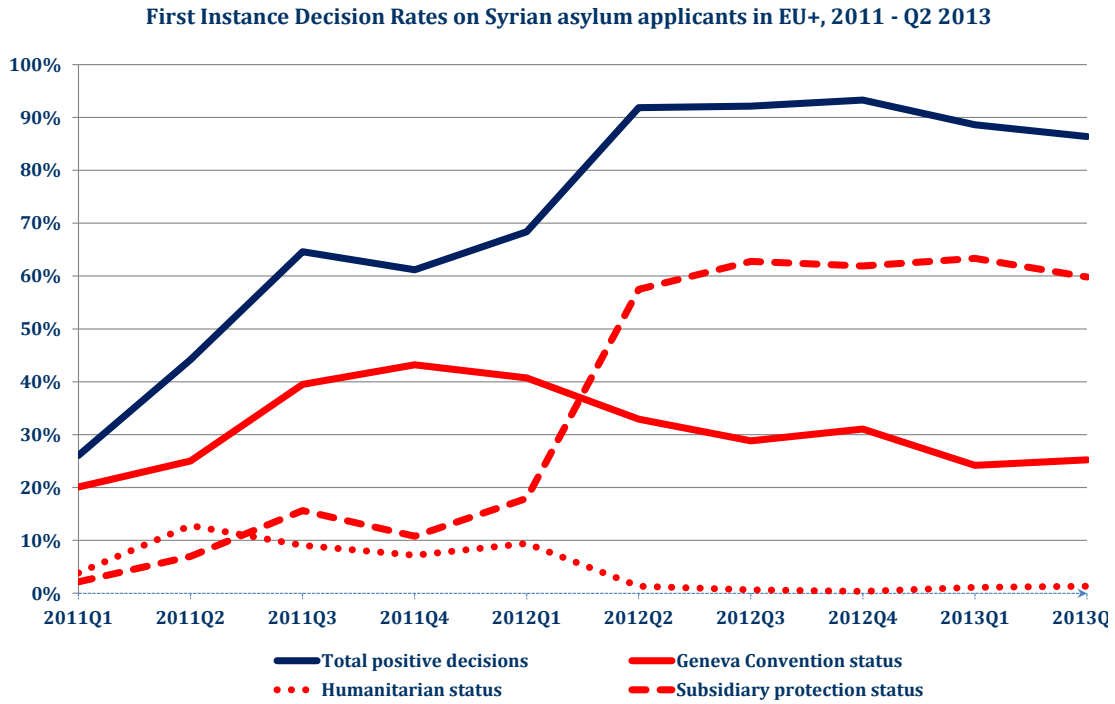


Figure no 15: First instance positive decision rates by type of protection accorded, quarterly trend; Source: Eurostat login: 16.10.2013

In Q2 2013 the recognition rate for Syrians applicants slightly decreased to 87%, from 89% in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.

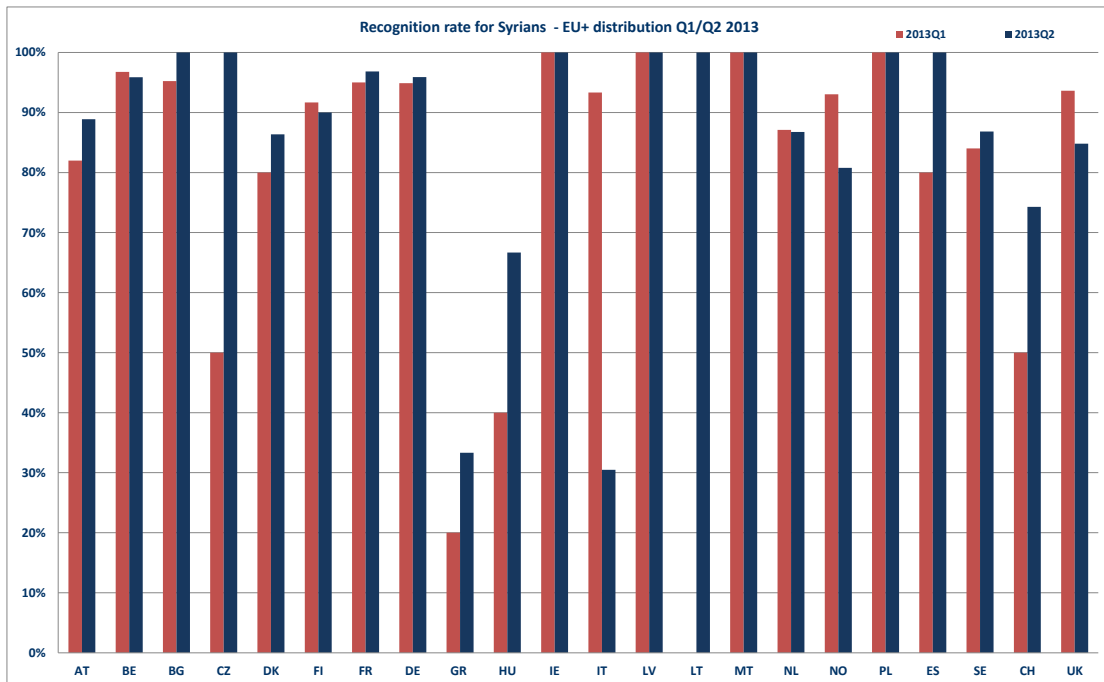
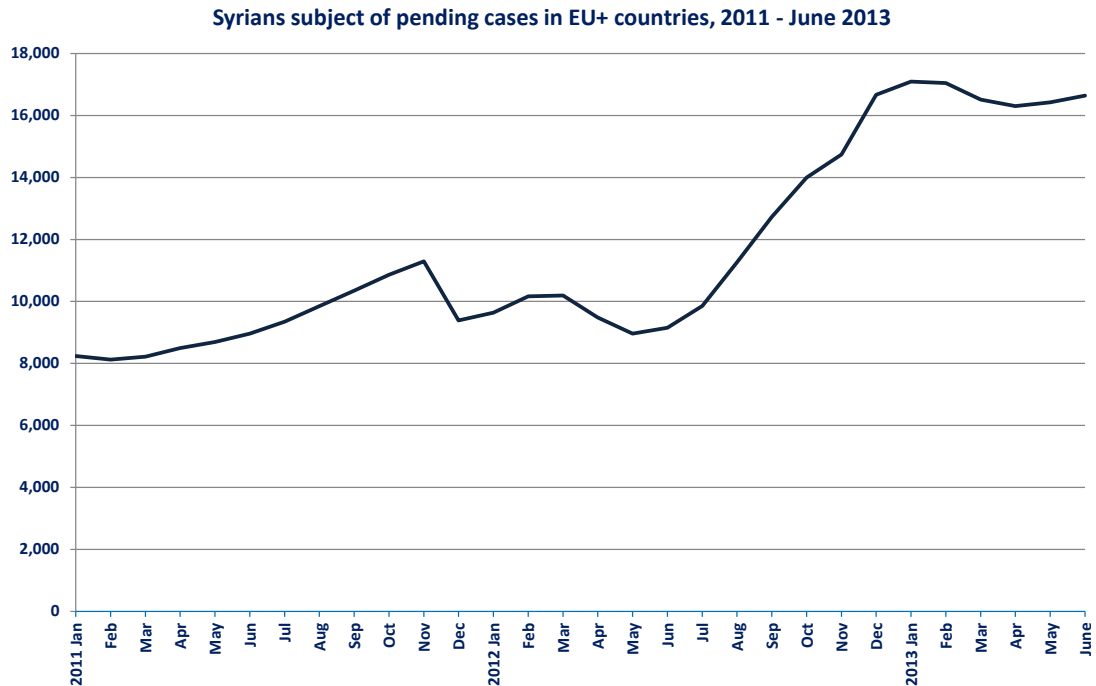


Figure 16: SY recognition rate – EU+ countries distribution Q1/Q2; (only countries that issued positive decisions in Q2 2013 are displayed); Source: Eurostat login: 16.10.2013

Protection rates for Syrians were significantly below the EU+ average in GR, HU and IT and CH in Q1 or Q2<sup>22</sup>.

At the end of June 2013 (16,800) EU+ countries registered approximately the same number of Syrian pending cases as for March 2013 (16,515), despite the relative increase of Syrian applicants. This can be explained by the fact that the Member States have prioritized the Syrian caseload.

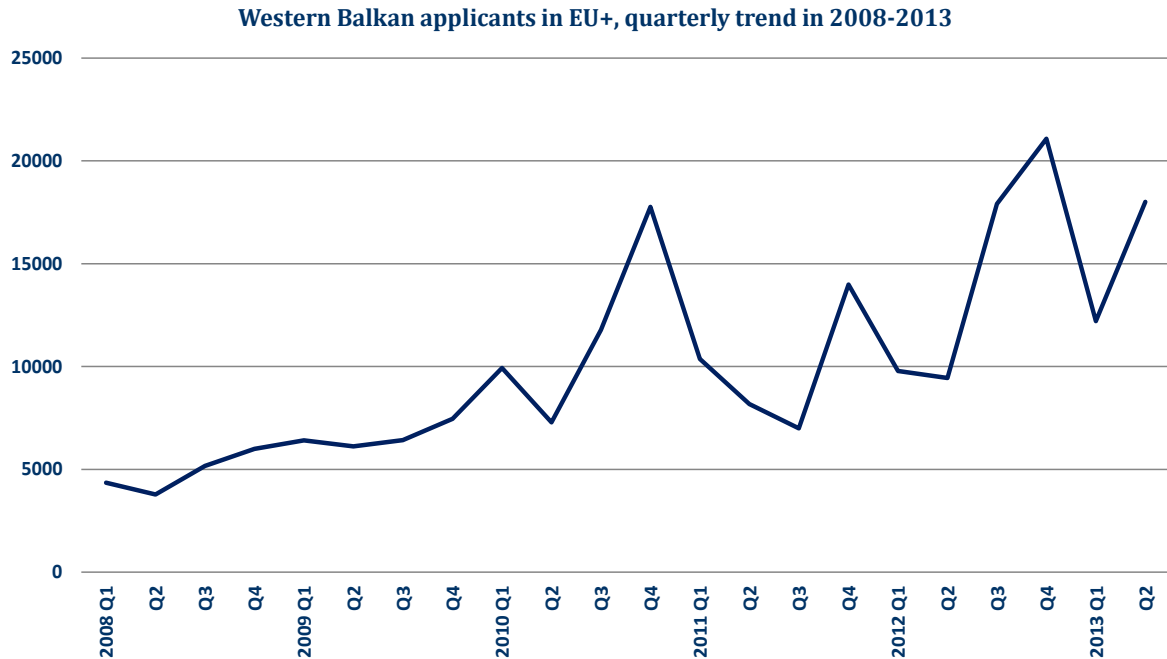


**Figure 17: Stock of pending cases related to Syrian asylum applicants at the end of each month;**  
**Source: Eurostat login: 16.10.2013**

<sup>22</sup> These apparently recognition low rates may be the result of a number of different factors: the existence of national forms of protection not included in the statistics; false claims of nationality by irregular migrants coming from other countries of origin; and large numbers of Dublin transfers, which are counted as rejections by MS.

## Western Balkans

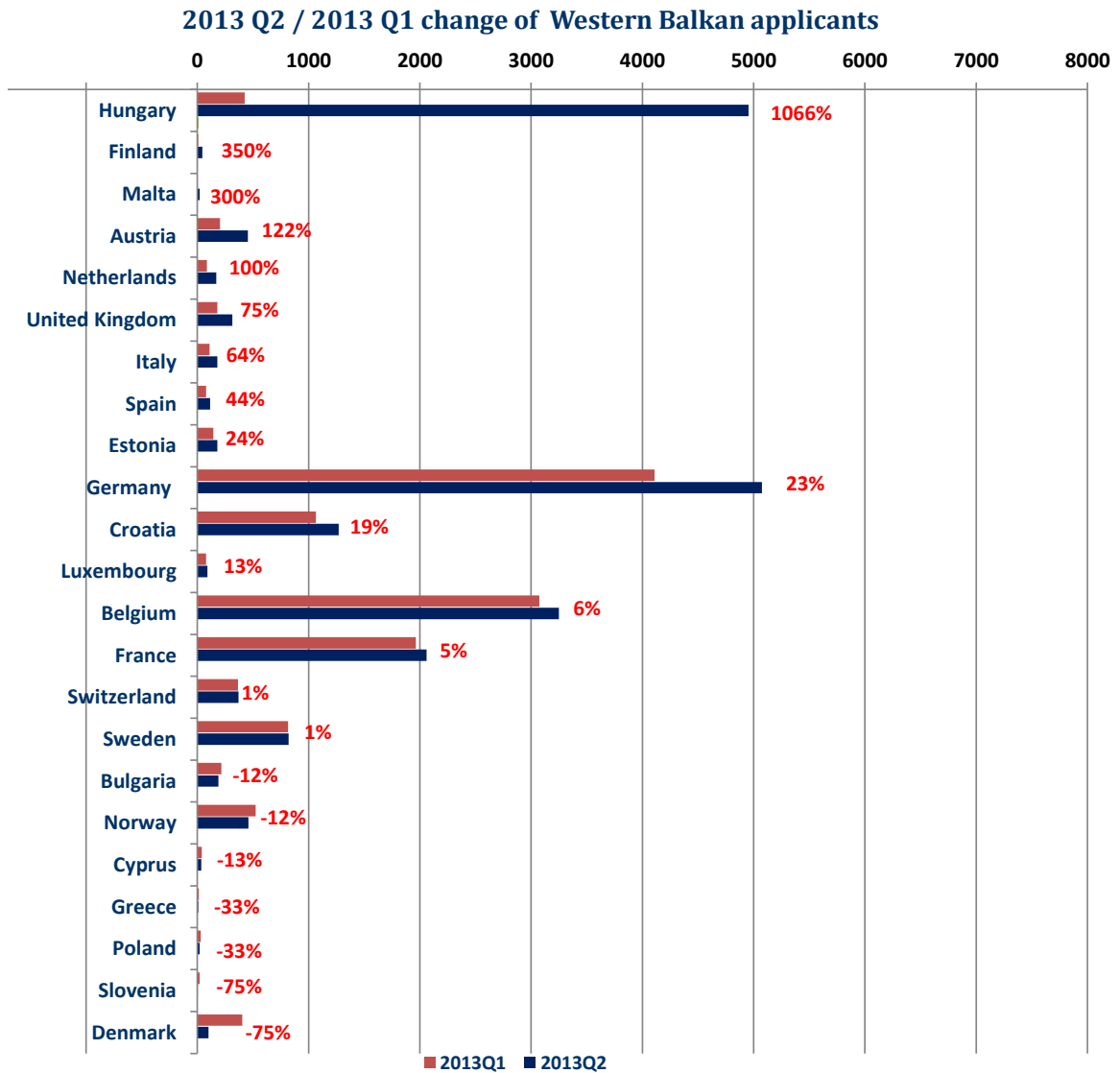
WB citizens, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2013 and for the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive quarter, continued as the largest group of asylum applicants in EU+ countries, representing 16% of the Q2 2013 total. The share bounced back to the 2012 Q4 level, from the 13% of the first quarter.



**Figure 18: Western Balkan applicants in European destination countries, quarterly trend; Source: Eurostat login: 05.10.2013**

Compared with the seasonal trend, when peaks occurred only in the last two quarters of each year, the massive movement of Kosovar nationals to EU+, using Hungary as an entry point to the Schengen area produced an atypical and sharp increase, reaching 17,670 applicants in Q2. The peak decreased in July and August after Hungary in July, made further amendments to the national asylum policy, in particular detailing the specific list of grounds for detention of asylum applicants in closed centres<sup>23</sup>, and a media campaign was organised in Kosovo and a number of Kosovars were returned on two charter flights to Pristina.

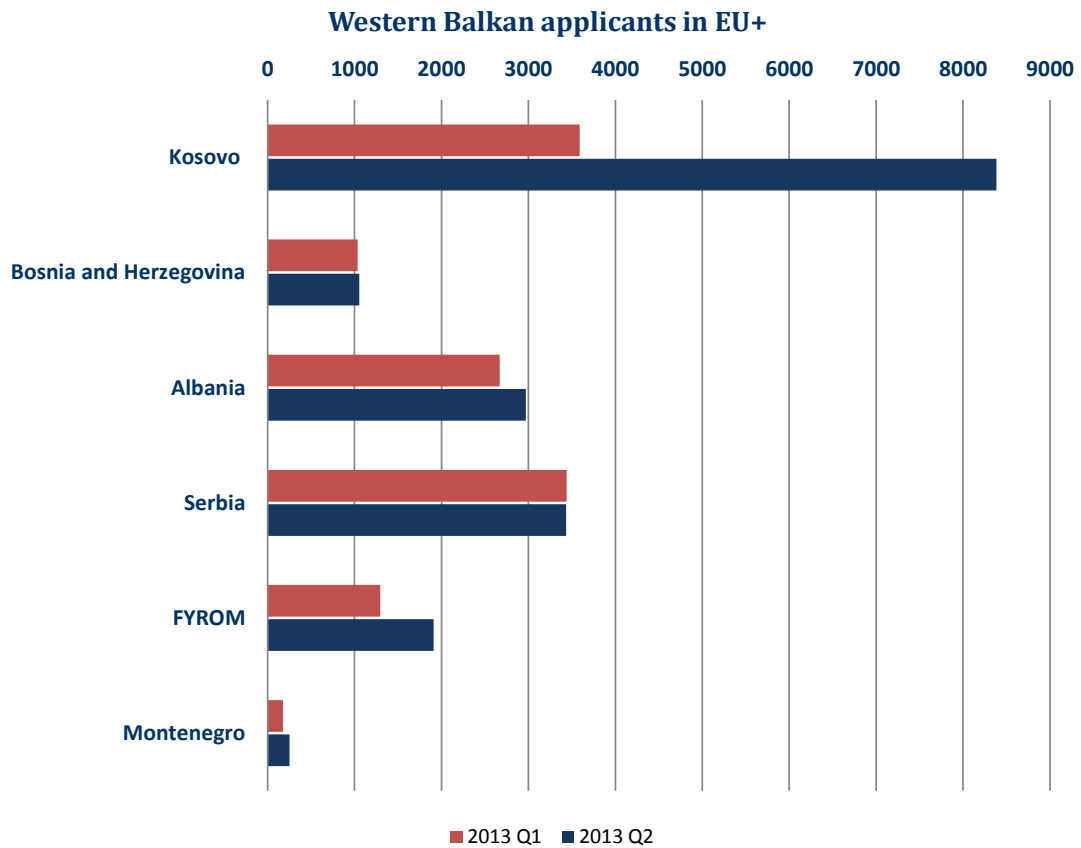
<sup>23</sup> Frontex FRAN Quarterly Q2 2013 [http://www.frontex.europa.eu/assets/Publications/Risk\\_Analysis/Fran\\_Q2\\_2013.pdf](http://www.frontex.europa.eu/assets/Publications/Risk_Analysis/Fran_Q2_2013.pdf)



**Figure 19: Distribution of Western Balkan applicants in European destination countries, quarterly trend; Source: Eurostat login: 05.10.2013**

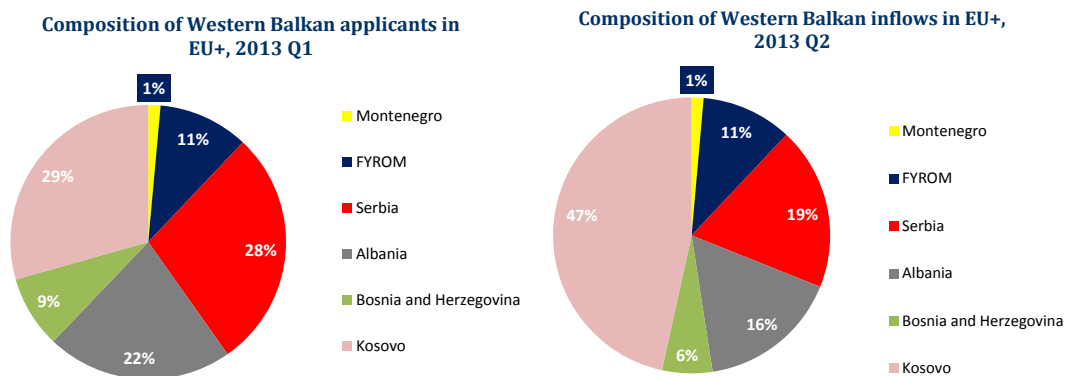
Western Balkan applicants increased in 16 countries in the second quarter of 2013. The rise in HU was unprecedented (1,066%), reaching almost the same number of applicants as DE in a quarter (98%). After a decrease in the first quarter, DE experienced a new increase in Q2 notwithstanding focusing on reducing the application processing time. AT, HR, BE and FR were the other countries to see increases in numbers of applications of WB nationals compared to the previous quarter, where absolute numbers are significant.





**Figure 20: Composition of Western Balkan inflows in European destination countries; Source: Eurostat login: 05.10.2013**

The numbers of applications from all WB nationals rose in Q2 2013 in EU+, with Kosovars’ applications increasing the most significantly. In comparison with Q1 2013, the proportion of Kosovars in the WB flow rose significantly from 29% to 47%. Among the main European receiving countries, the proportion of asylum WB applicants from Serbia was still the highest in DE (45%).

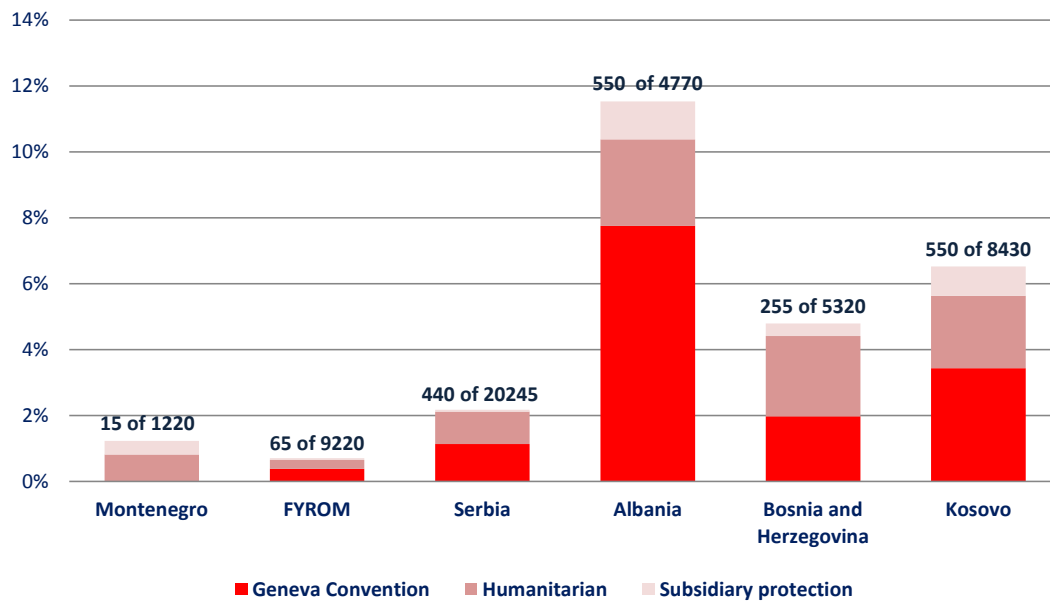


**Figure 21: Composition of Western Balkan inflows; Source: Eurostat login: 05.10.2013**

### Decision rates

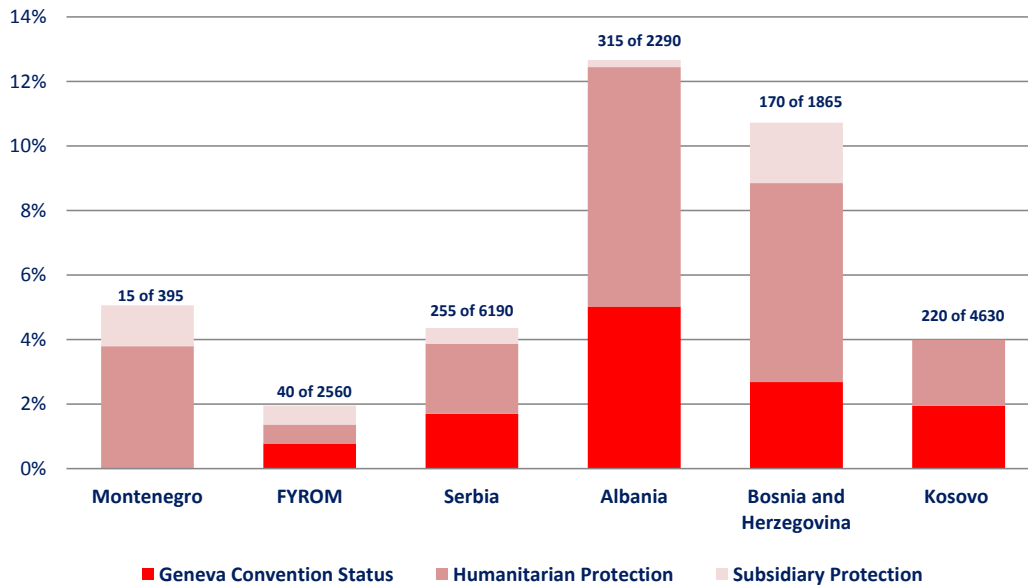
Despite a rejection rate of 96% overall for claims from WB asylum applicants in 2012, some positive decisions continued to be made. The recognition rate for WB citizens was higher in the first half of 2012 than the annual levels for the previous year, but with a different composition: a lower Geneva Convention rate and higher level of decisions issued for humanitarian reasons.

**First instance positive decision rate in EU+, 2012**



**Figure 22: First Instance positive decision rate by type of protection accorded, quarter rate; Source: Eurostat login: 05.10.2013**

### First instance positive decision rate in EU+, 2013H1



**Figure 23: First instance positive decision rate by type of protection accorded, annual rate; Source: Eurostat login: 05.10.2013**

#### *Pending cases*

At end of June 2013, 30,935 applicants from Western Balkans were still awaiting a decision; compared to the first three months of 2013 the number of pending cases increased 8 % in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

## Russia

The numbers of applications submitted by Russian nationals in EU+ started to rise in the second half of 2012 and experienced a significant increase in 2013, reaching a peak of 6,430 applicants in EU+, in the month of May 2013. This represented a 226% increase with respect to same period in 2012. However the rising trend went down in June and the declining trend was confirmed in July and, according to EASO data, in August 2013.



**Figure 24: Russian total and new asylum applicants; Source: Eurostat login: 3.10.2013 and EASO data for July and August 2013**

In the first half of 2013, DE and PL received the majority of the increasing Russian applicants, 40% and 35% of the total respectively. This was considerably higher than the share they experienced in the second half of 2012, 16% in DE and 26% in PL.

The majority of new Russian applicants in Europe were from the Northern Caucasus region, following the information received by EASO from Member States. However, the situation in the Northern Caucasus does not seem to have changed drastically enough within the period under review to explain the very significant increase in applications for asylum made in recent months. That high increase could have been caused by rumours spreading in Chechnya about Germany granting asylum to Russians of Chechen origin<sup>24</sup>. Because of this, it is more likely that, due to the socio-economic condition of the region, the new flow of

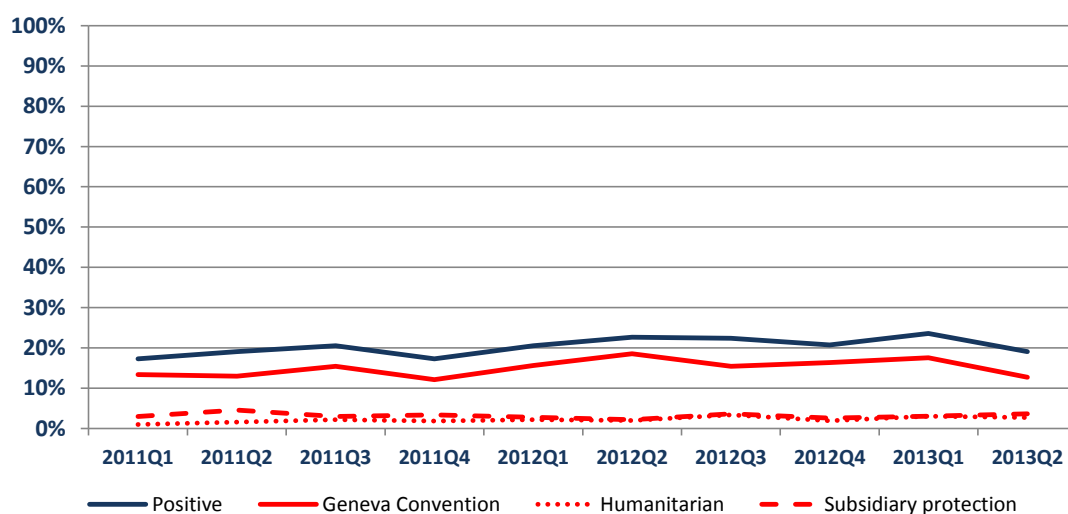
<sup>24</sup> Frontex FRAN Quarterly Q2 2013 [http://www.frontex.europa.eu/assets/Publications/Risk\\_Analysis/Fran\\_Q2\\_2013.pdf](http://www.frontex.europa.eu/assets/Publications/Risk_Analysis/Fran_Q2_2013.pdf)

applicants from the Caucasus is instead attracted by the benefits they believe are available in some EU+ countries when applying for asylum.

#### Decision rates

In Q2 2013, 19% of all 1<sup>st</sup> instance decisions issued by EU+ countries on Russian applications resulted in positive outcomes; a 5% decrease compared to Q1 2013. This decrease in recognition rate in the second quarter might indicate the increasing number of Russian applicants being assessed as having economic motives rather than looking those covered by international protection.

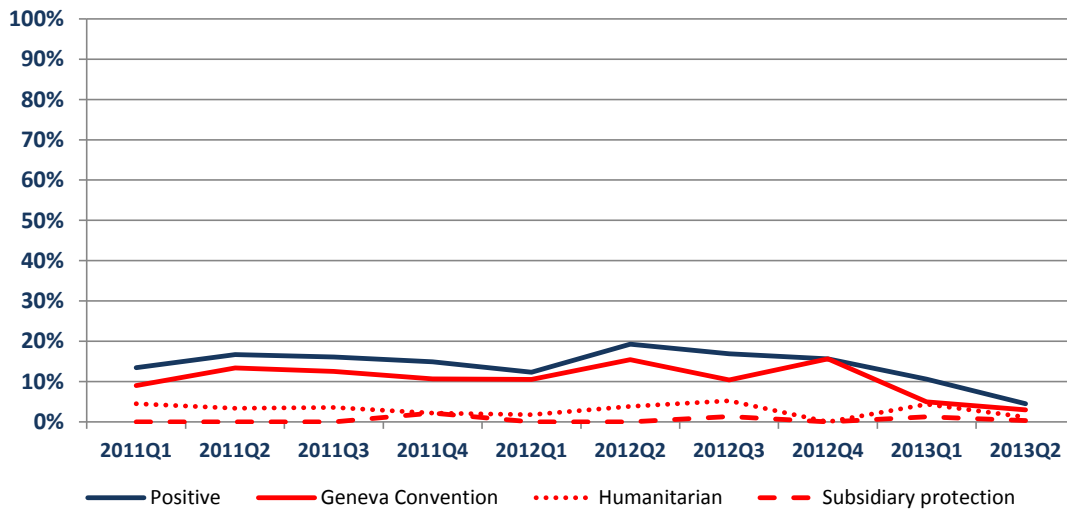
**First Instance Decisions Rate on Russian Asylum Applicants in EU+, 2011-2013Q2**



**Figure 25: First instance positive decision rates by type of protection accorded, quarterly trend; Source: Eurostat login: 16.10.2013**

Close to 14 % of all first instance decisions resulted in grants of refugee status, while for subsidiary protection the share was notably lower, at just 4%. In absolute terms, the highest number of asylum decisions (total decisions) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2013 was recorded in DE (1,685), followed by FR (1,295), AT (655), PL (375) and BE (290). Altogether, these five EU Member States accounted for 87 % of the total number of decisions issued in Europe related to Russian applicants.

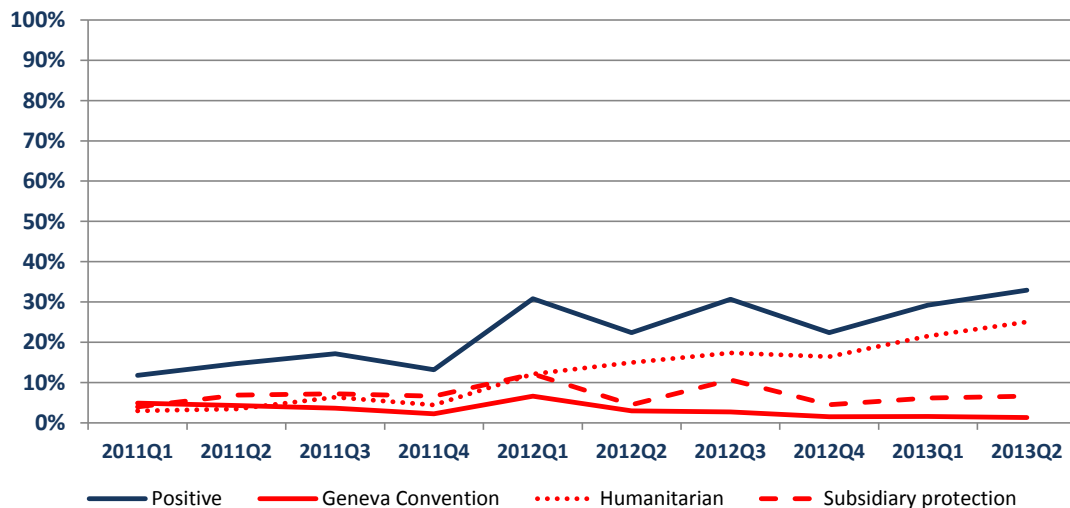
### First Instance Decisions Rate on Russian Asylum Applicants in DE, 2011-2013Q2



**Figure 26: First instance positive decision rates by type of protection accorded, quarterly trend;**  
Source: Eurostat login: 3.10.2013

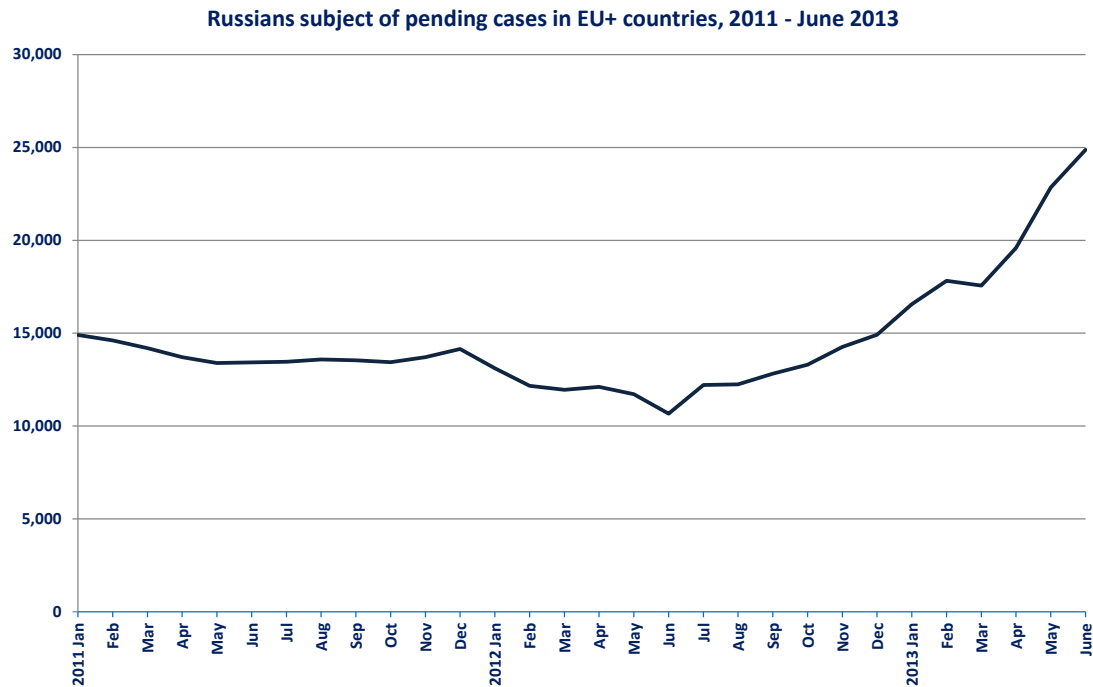
In DE, the overall recognition rate continued to decrease in the second quarter of 2013. This indicates that a very high proportion of the asylum claims from the new influx from Caucasus were judged to be unfounded or represented rejections due to Dublin transfers to PL.

### First Instance Decisions Rate on Russian Asylum Applicants in PL, 2011-2013Q2



**Figure 27: First instance positive decision rates by type of protection accorded, quarterly trend;**  
Source: Eurostat login: 3.10.2013

On the contrary in PL, the positive decision rate continued to increase from in the second quarter 2013. This increase derived from the use of humanitarian protection rate based on Polish national legislation, which foresees the granting of temporary protection (in exceptional cases) on the bases of human rights of minors and their families.

*Pending cases*

**Figure 28: Stock of pending cases related to Russian asylum applicants at the end of in each month;**  
**Source: Eurostat login: 3.10.2013**

The overview of backlog shows a sustained increase (42%) from 17,550 pending cases at end March 2013 to 24,875 estimated pending cases at the end of June 2013. Though the most affected European countries increased their resources to deal with the increased flow of Russian applicants, the subsequent massive increase in numbers from April offset the effects of such measures. The pending cases of Russian applicants significantly increased in all EU+ countries: DE (+83%), PL (+18%) and FR (+17%).

## Appendix - Data source

### Total and new applicants in EU+, by countries of origin

CITIZEN	2013Q1		2013Q2		Q2/Q1
	Total applicants	New applicants	Total applicants	New applicants	Total Applicants
Russia	8650	6910	17030	15315	97%
Syria	8970	7965	8715	7865	-3%
Afghanistan	6470	4320	6515	4925	1%
Kosovo	3585	2375	8385	7275	134%
Pakistan	4435	3595	6065	5390	37%
Somalia	4095	3755	4985	4580	22%
Iran	3395	2865	3410	2885	0%
Nigeria	3175	2785	3220	2775	1%
Serbia	3440	2310	3435	2280	0%
Eritrea	2815	2730	2470	2390	-12%
Iraq	2890	2400	2405	1910	-17%
Albania	2285	2010	2635	2390	15%
Georgia	2535	2165	2220	1870	-12%
Bangladesh	1700	1280	2710	2200	59%
Algeria	1910	1180	2430	1885	27%
Mali	1995	1790	1845	1765	-8%
DR Congo	1995	1510	1995	1485	0%
Sri Lanka	1820	1470	1765	1460	-3%
Turkey	1835	1490	1555	1195	-15%
Guinea	1675	1035	1585	1110	-5%
China	1430	1165	1475	1180	3%
FYROM	1295	775	1905	1240	47%
Morocco	1205	935	1515	1245	26%
Armenia	1405	1075	1315	925	-6%
Tunisia	1270	1075	1245	1085	-2%
Stateless	1140	1060	1245	1170	9%
Bosnia	1035	825	1055	790	2%
Sudan	895	795	915	835	2%
Egypt	730	595	960	860	32%
Gambia	735	665	860	815	17%
India	745	590	875	725	17%

Source Eurostat Login 16.10.2013



### Total and new applicants in EU+, by countries of destination

GEO	2013Q1		2013Q2		Q2/Q1
	Total applicants	New applicants	Total applicants	New applicants	Total Applicants
Germany	21115	18715	26425	23425	25%
France	15970	14560	16245	14615	2%
Sweden	9740	9745	9125	9125	-6%
United Kingdom	7205	6975	7475	7190	4%
Italy	4910	4850	6000	5810	22%
Switzerland	5760	5245	5265	4810	-9%
Hungary	2320		9415	9340	306%
Poland	2985	2595	7415	7065	148%
Netherlands	4145	3210	3690	2960	-11%
Belgium	5905		5080		-14%
Norway	2515	2400	2485	2385	-1%
Austria	3595		4655		29%
Greece	2070	2070	1875	1870	-9%
Denmark	1885	1885	1530	1530	-19%
Spain	1165	1110	1300	1250	12%
Bulgaria	905	870	975	935	8%
Finland	745	675	725	650	-3%
Romania	335	320	370	355	10%
Cyprus	320	300	240	145	-25%
Ireland	230	225	245	240	7%
Luxembourg	225	215	260	240	16%
Malta	120	105	345	345	188%
Croatia	480		240		-50%
Czech Republic	190	125	150	110	-21%
Portugal	75	75	130	130	73%
Slovakia	95	45	140	95	47%
Slovenia	105	95	80	70	-24%
Lithuania	100	60	80	50	-20%
Latvia	25	25	45	35	80%
Estonia	25	25	25	25	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>95260</b>	<b>76520</b>	<b>112030</b>	<b>94800</b>	<b>18%</b>

Source Eurostat Login 16.10.2013

### Total number of decisions and recognition rate, (Countries of origin)

CITIZEN	2013Q2				Tot. Decisions Q2	Recognition rate Q2
	Geneva Conv.	Humanitarian	Sub. protection	Rejected		
Syria	1990	105	5135	1070	8300	87%
Afghanistan	1250	1000	1425	3005	6680	55%
Russia	645	135	185	4105	5070	19%
Pakistan	515	170	95	3975	4755	16%
Somalia	955	770	945	1730	4400	61%
Iran	1485	105	90	1555	3235	52%
Eritrea	1520	70	750	725	3065	76%
Nigeria	70	240	45	2610	2965	12%
Iraq	915	230	390	1360	2895	53%
Serbia	55	80	5	2640	2780	5%
Kosovo	55	70	15	2485	2625	5%
Bangladesh	40	125	5	2020	2190	8%
DR Congo	365	45	25	1690	2125	20%
Sri Lanka	480	60	25	1180	1745	32%
Guinea	340	45	30	1195	1610	26%
Algeria	25	20	5	1550	1600	3%
Turkey	160	105	25	1290	1580	18%
Armenia	70	65	20	1345	1500	10%
Georgia	40	45	10	1380	1475	6%
Stateless	300	55	440	485	1280	62%
Albania	55	95	25	1100	1275	14%
China	185	25	65	880	1155	24%
FYROM	5	10		1125	1140	1%
Morocco	15	35		995	1045	5%
Mali	155	25	240	615	1035	41%
Tunisia	15	30		975	1020	4%
Sudan	320	20	35	535	910	41%
Côte d'Ivoire	135	85	55	620	895	31%
Bosnia	30	45		760	835	9%
Unknown	80	70	90	480	720	33%
Egypt	105	45	20	545	715	24%

Source Eurostat Login 16.10.2013

## Pending cases in EU+

GEO	2013M03	2013M06	Q2/Q1
Austria	21240	21705	2%
Belgium	23940	20880	-13%
Bulgaria	1755	2200	25%
Croatia	440	305	-31%
Cyprus			
Czech Republic	575	545	-5%
Denmark	1840	1955	6%
Estonia	25	35	40%
Finland	2595	2440	-6%
France	27510	29320	7%
Germany	85395	95095	11%
Greece	39870	50125	26%
Hungary	870	5455	527%
Ireland	3460	5035	46%
Italy	13900	6015	-57%
Latvia	170	165	-3%
Lithuania	115	95	-17%
Luxembourg	1945	1775	-9%
Malta	215	220	2%
Netherlands			
Norway	2785	2440	-12%
Poland	2450	3535	44%
Portugal	20	20	0%
Romania			
Slovakia	200	220	10%
Slovenia	190	140	-26%
Spain	3300	3735	13%
Sweden	21060	18270	-13%
Switzerland	20185	19315	-4%
United Kingdom	19045	19600	3%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>295095</b>	<b>310640</b>	<b>5%</b>

Source Eurostat Login 16.10.2013