



European Asylum Support Office

EASO

Quarterly Asylum Report

Quarter 3, 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 decisions¹ made on those applications by European Member States and Associated countries².

The analysis is based on bulk data³ submitted to Eurostat as per Art. 4 of European Regulation 862/2007 and downloaded by EASO on 21st of January 2013.

¹ 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.

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

³ Due to the rounding process to the closest "5" or "0" figures may differ when analysed separately (by reporting country, citizenship, indicator).

Summary

Trends in applications for international protection

- The total number of asylum applicants registered in the EU+ during Q3 2013 rose by 14% compared to Q2. In absolute terms, numbers of applications reached the highest level for any quarter since 2008.
- The number of Syrian applicants rose by 70% compared to the previous quarter.
- Applications from Russian citizens significantly decreased compared to Q2;
- The highest absolute increase in numbers of applications compared to Q2 was in Germany (+9,925; +37%), while the highest relative increase was in Malta (+325%; +1,120).

Trends in decisions on applications for international protection at first instance

- The total number of first instance decisions issued in the EU+ (88,880) increased by 4% compared to Q2. In comparison with Q3 2012, the increase was 31%;
- The highest first instance recognition rates were in Bulgaria (86% of 340 decisions), Malta (85% of 340 decisions), Romania (66% of 365 decisions), Italy (62% of 4,945 decisions), the Netherlands (61% of 3,905 decisions) and Sweden (52% of 9,950 decisions);
- The overall protection level granted at first instance in the EU+ was 32% (equal to the annual rate for 2012);
- The number of pending cases at the end of Q3 reached 342,345 which represents a 10% increase compared to Q2. This is the highest number of pending cases reported since the beginning of Eurostat data collection in 2008.

Key trends in focus

- *Inflow from Syria* – The number of asylum applicants coming from Syria continued to rise throughout Q3 reaching a peak of 14,835 asylum applicants. EASO data indicates that this increasing flow continued until December 2013.
- *Western Balkans* – Western Balkan citizens for the 8th consecutive quarter, remained the largest group of asylum applicants in the EU+, representing 18% of all asylum applicants. As in past years, the percentage change between the 2nd and 3rd quarter saw a major seasonal increase of +22%;
- *Inflow from Eritreans* – 7,590 Eritrean asylum applicants were reported in Q3 or 3 times more than the number registered in Q2 (2,485). Compared with Q3 2012, when 3,270 Eritreans lodged asylum applications, there was a 132% increase.

Section 1: Trends in applications for international protection

Numbers of asylum applicants in EU+

The total number of asylum applicants rose by 14% (128,180) compared to the previous quarter (Q2 2013: 112,705) reaching, the highest level recorded since EU level data collection started in 2008. In comparison with the number of applicants registered in the same quarters in 2012 and 2011 the increase was even higher: +27% and +44% respectively. When considering previous years, the transition from the 2nd to the 3rd quarter is generally marked by a sharp increase in numbers of applications.

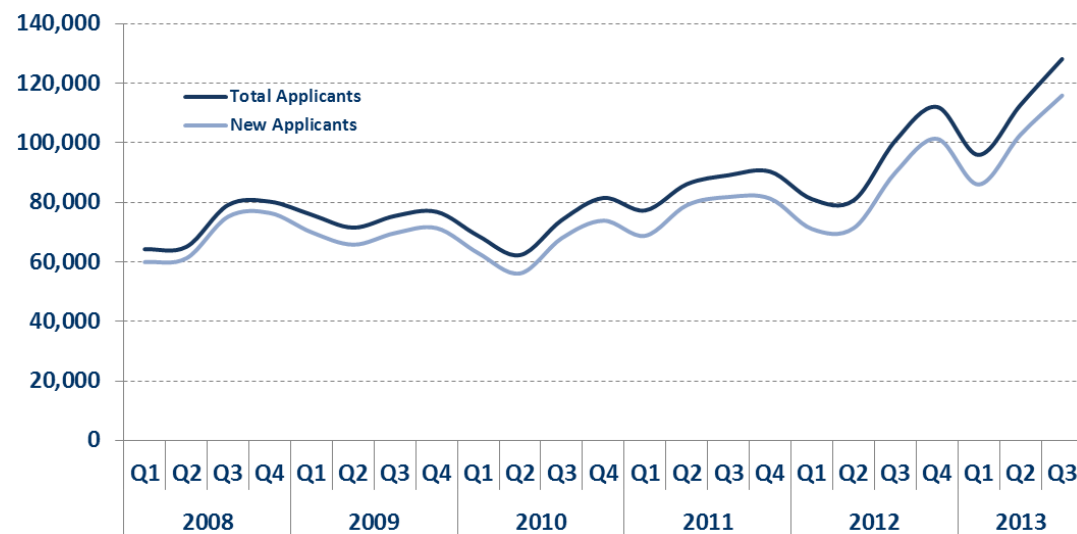


Figure 1: Total and new applicants⁴ in EU+ since January 2008

Source: Eurostat data as of 21.01.2014

Figure 2 shows the monthly evolution of the number of asylum applicants in the last three years. During the first nine months of 2013 the numbers of asylum applicants were systematically higher than those recorded in the past two years. February and August excepted, 2013 was also marked by relatively steady increases. While February tends to be a month where flows slow down due to the winter weather, the decrease in August was primarily caused by reduced flows from Russia and the Western Balkans.

⁴ 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.

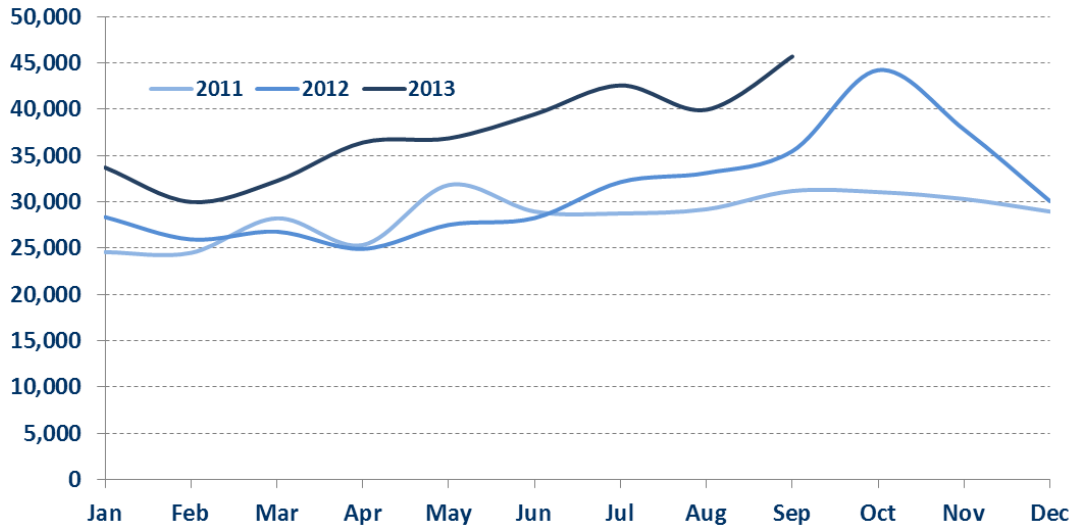


Figure 2: Total asylum applicants in EU+ since January 2011 monthly trend

Source: Eurostat data as of 21.01.2014

Main countries of origin of applicants for international protection

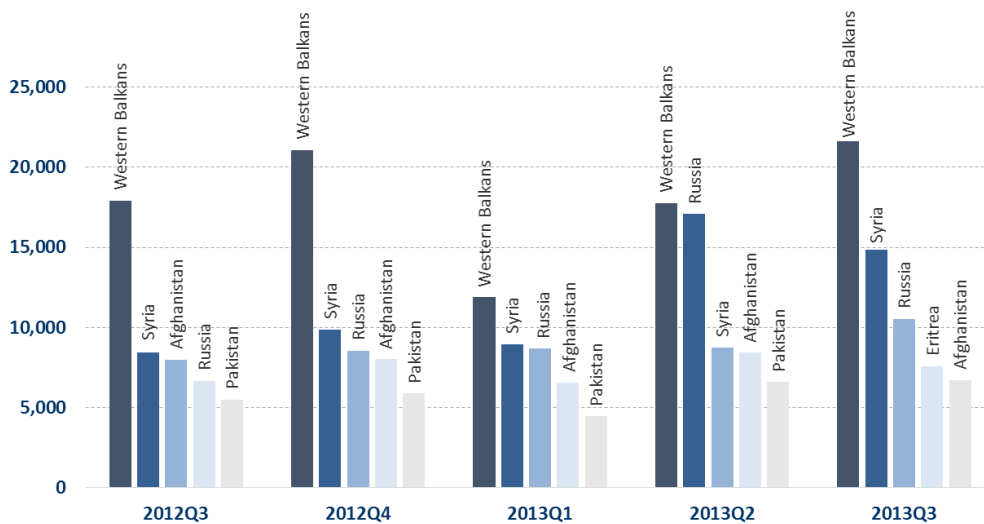


Figure 3: Main countries of origin of asylum applicants, 3rd quarter 2012- 3rd quarter 2013

Source: Eurostat data as of 21.01.2014

While the composition of the top five citizenships (or group of citizenships) remained stable from Q3 2012 to Q3 2013, the quarter under review saw the entry of Eritreans in the fourth position of the top five main countries of origin of asylum applicants - before Afghanistan. In Q3 2013, the composition of the five largest groups of asylum applicants registered in EU+ therefore consisted of: citizens from Western Balkans⁵ countries, followed by Syria, Russia, Eritrea and Afghanistan.

⁵ Western Balkan countries – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, fYRoM*, Kosovo**, Montenegro, Serbia.

*fYRoM: the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

**Kosovo: this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244.

Western Balkans continued to be the largest group in the EU+ and even exceeded their former quarterly peak reached during Q4 2012. Within this group, while Kosovar applicants decreased compared to Q2 2013, the number of Serbian and citizens of fYRoM applying for international protection in the EU+ more than doubled, with most of these applications being made in Germany.

Russian asylum applicants in the EU+ significantly decreased compared to the previous quarter, but remained at a higher level than earlier quarters. Germany and Poland continued to be the countries the most affected by this flow. According to information provided by Member States most of the new Russian applicants were from the Caucasus region.

Syrian asylum applicants reached the highest-ever recorded level in Q3 2013 (more than 14,835) representing the second largest flow after the Western Balkan group. Though more than two thirds of this flow was concentrated in Sweden, Germany and Bulgaria, at least 17 EU+ countries registered Syrian citizens among the top 3 country of origin of asylum applicants in Q3. A significant increase in numbers of applicants recorded as “Stateless” was also registered; levels tripling compared to Q2 2013. According to information received from EU+ States most of the new Stateless applicants were Palestinians who had been residing long-term in Syria.

With a sudden increase of more than 200% in Q3 compared to Q2, Eritreans seeking international protection in EU+ rose to 7,590 applicants and represented the 4th largest flow in the period under review. Significant increases in applications from this group were registered by Sweden, Norway, Germany, Italy and Malta.

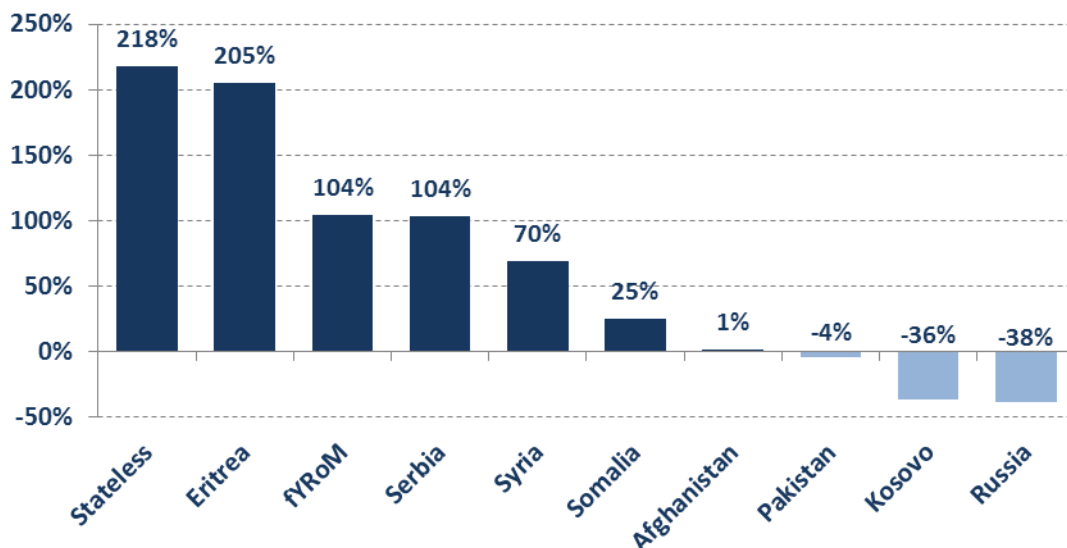


Figure 4: Main countries of origin of asylum applicant sin EU+, percentage change Q2/Q3 2013

Source: Eurostat login: 21.01.2014

Profile of applicants for international protection in Europe

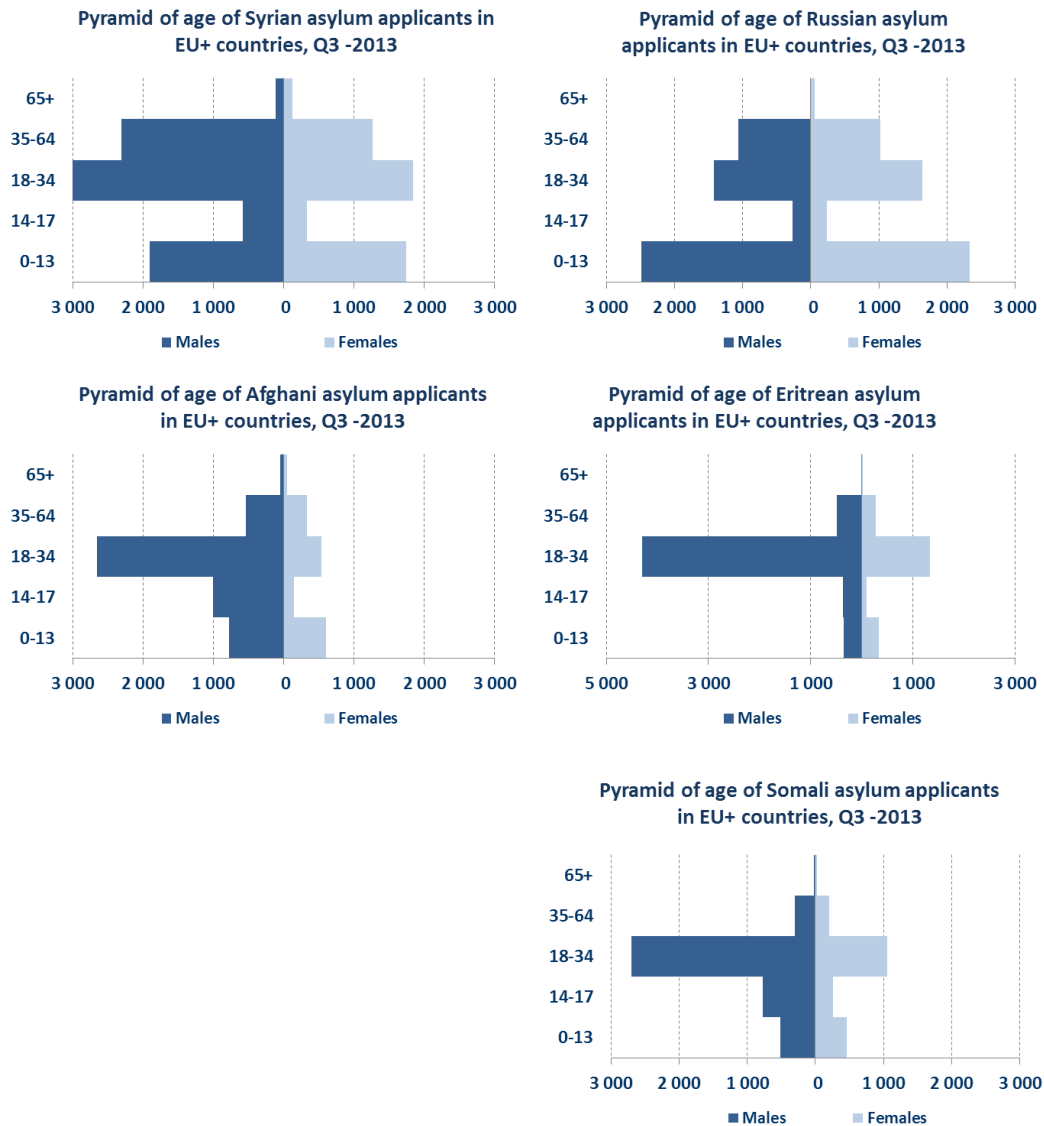


Figure 5: Asylum applicants pyramid of age for selected countries of origin

Source: Eurostat login: 21.01.2014

The above chart displays the profile (gender and age breakdown) of the Top 5 source countries of asylum applicants in Q3. The following differences are notable:

- The Syrian flow to the EU+ sees a large proportion of families, but also a significant number of single men;
- Russian and Serbian asylum applicants appear to overwhelmingly consist of families arriving with young children (0-13); this is usual for applicants coming from Russia and Serbia.
- The vast majority of Eritrean asylum applicants were young adult males, aged 18-34.

- Afghani and Somali were represented by large number of young males arriving in Europe, but also some families;

Where were asylum applications lodged in Europe?

The chart below shows the changes in terms of absolute numbers of asylum applicants in the EU+ countries, in Q3 compared to Q2 of 2013. In terms of absolute numbers, Germany, Sweden and France were the main countries of destination, receiving 54% of all asylum applicants registered in the EU+ during the quarter. The highest increase in absolute numbers compared to Q2 was reported by Germany (+9,925; +37%), while the highest relative increase was reported by MT (+325%; +1,120).

Bulgaria (+115%; +1,120), Sweden (+83%; +7,585), Italy (+31%; +1,875) also registered⁶ a higher number of applicants than in the previous quarter.

Conversely, significant decreases comparing with the 2nd quarter of 2013 were registered in Hungary (-53%; -5,010) and Poland (-54%; -4,030) where the number of applicants more than halved.

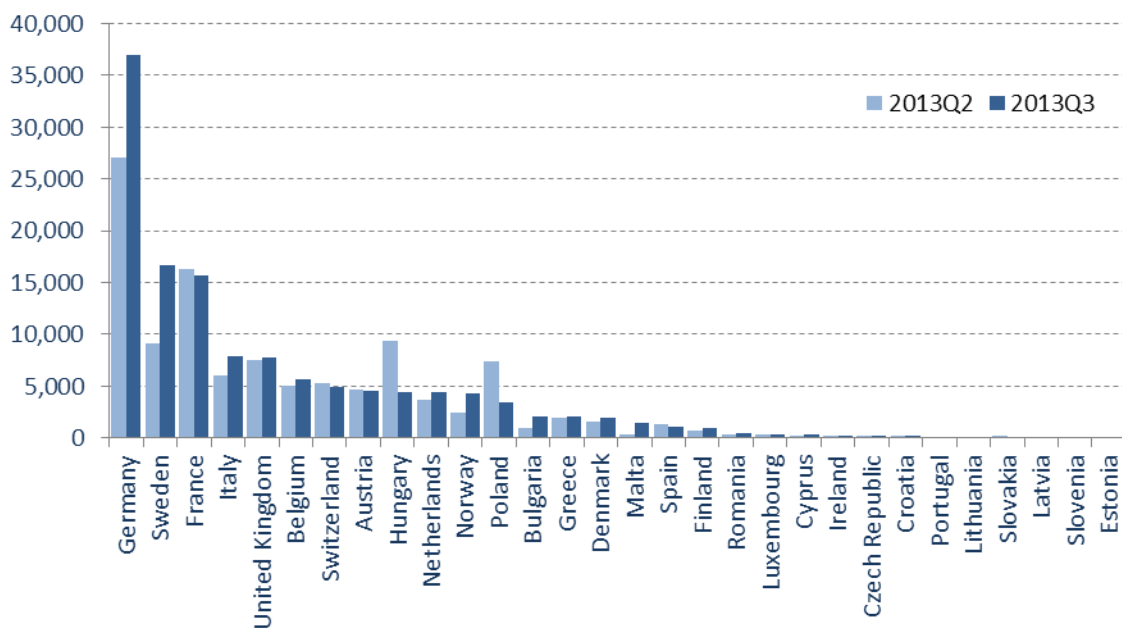


Figure 6: Total asylum applicants in European destination countries in 2nd and 3rd quarters 2013
Source: Eurostat data as of 21.01.2014

⁶ More than 10% increase and 250 applicants compared to Q2 2013

Section 2: Trends in asylum decisions

The bar chart below indicates the numbers of decisions issued by EU+ States, the recognition rate⁷ (%) and the type of protection granted.

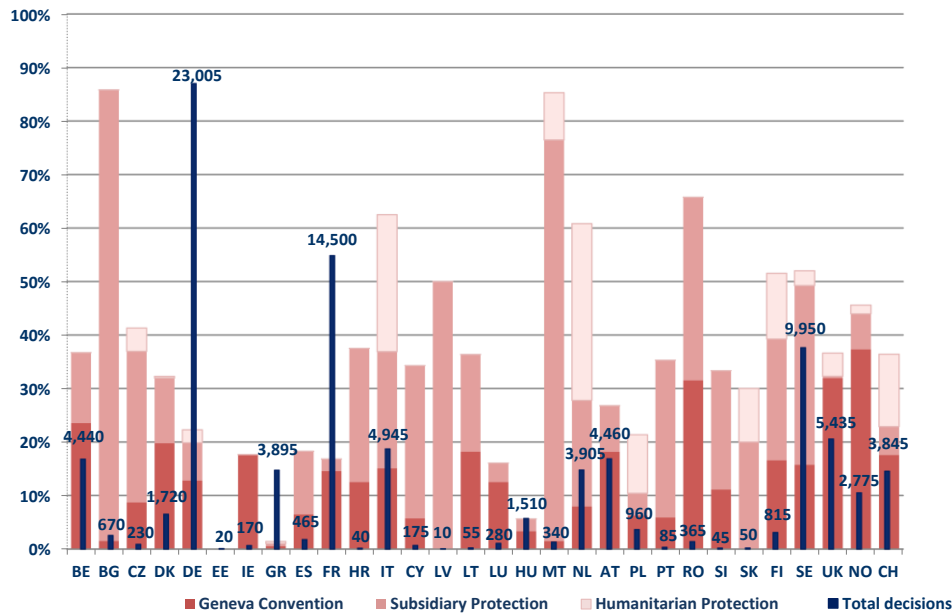


Figure 7: First instance decisions and type of decisions issued in EU+ during 3rd quarter 2014
 Source: Eurostat data as of 21.01.2014

Numbers of decisions

During the quarter under review, the number of first instance asylum decisions issued in the EU+ (88,880) increased by 4% compared to Q2. In comparison with Q3 2012, when 68,215 decisions were issued the increase was even higher (at 31%).

Of all EU + countries, Germany (23,005, 26% of the total), France (14,500, 16% of the total), and Sweden (9,950, 11% of the total) recorded the highest number of decisions this quarter accounting for more than half of all decisions issued in the EU+ in Q3. The United Kingdom (5,435, 6% of the total), Italy (4,945, 6%), Austria (4,460, 5%), Belgium (4,440, 5%), and the Netherlands (3,905, 4%) also issued significant numbers of decisions. These 8 countries together covered around 80% of all the decisions issued in Q3 in the EU+.

⁷ The recognition rate at first instance is here defined as the ratio between the amount of positive first instance decisions issued (Geneva convention status, subsidiary protection status and authorization to stay for humanitarian reasons under national concerning international protection) and the number of all first instance decisions issued (positive decisions and rejections) in the reference period under review.

While considering the increase of first instance decisions taken compared with the previous quarter, Bulgaria (+94%) Germany (+48%) and Poland (+45%) stand out. This increase was mainly due to prioritization of procedures put in place in order to deal with the increasing pressure from Syrian, Western Balkans and Russian asylum applicants.

Level of protection accorded

In Q3, the level of protection accorded amounted to 32%, the same level as the annual rate registered for 2012⁸.

Seven countries issued positive decisions in more than 50% of cases in Q3: Bulgaria (86% of 340 decisions), Malta (85% of 340), Romania (66% of 365), Italy (62% of 4,945), Netherlands (61% of 3,905), Sweden (52% of 9,950) and Latvia (50% of 10).

When looking at the recognition rate for each Member State, important variations can be noticed. These may be caused by diverse factors such as:

- different countries of origin of asylum seekers;
- national legislation on humanitarian protection;
- profiles of the applicants and individual cases.

⁸ The recognition rate for the year 2012 (32%) differs from the one presented in the EASO annual report for 2012 (28%) due to a revision (after 5 May 2013) made by 2 MS. These revisions produced a 4 percentage points increase in the overall protection rate in the EU+.

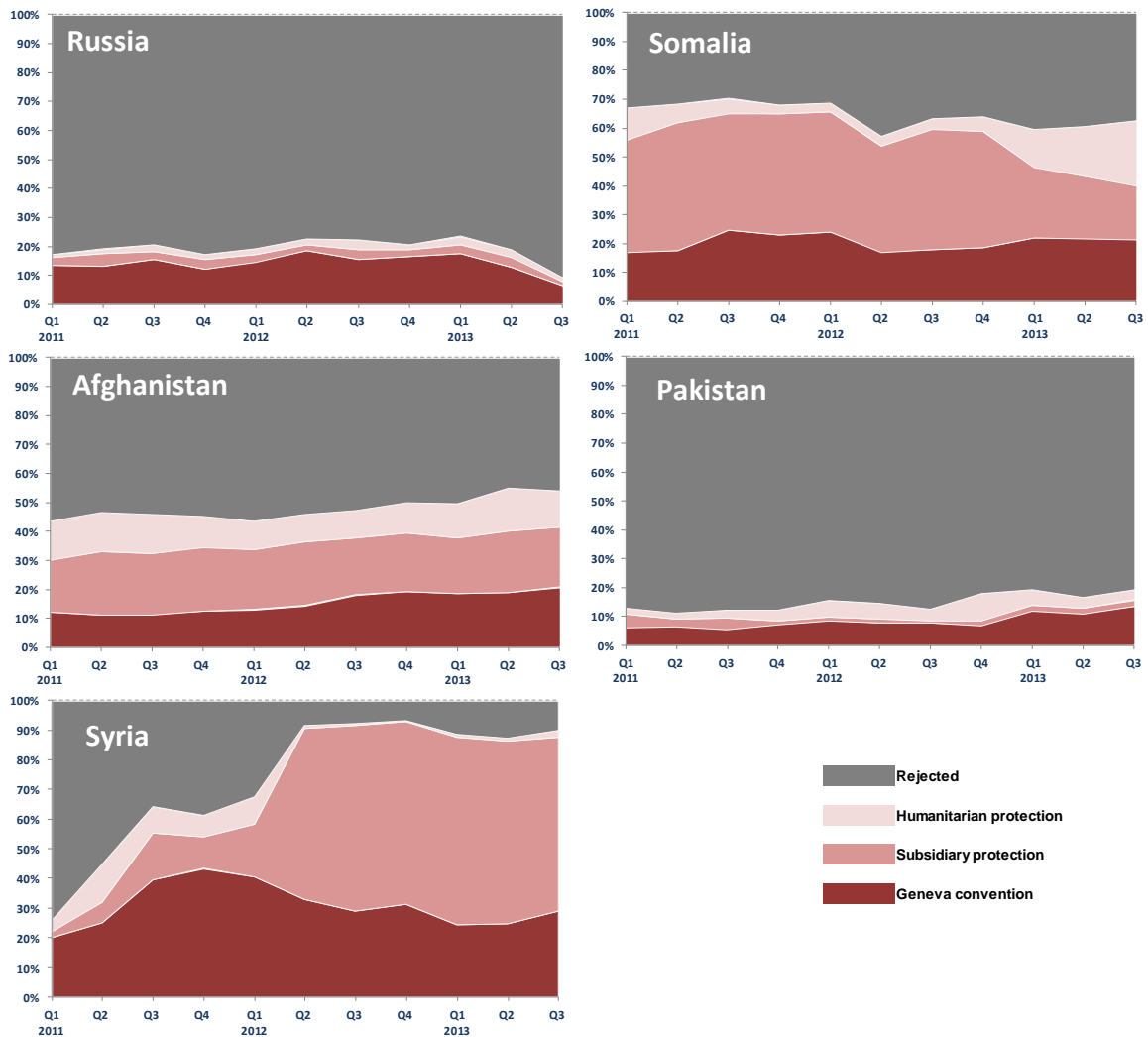


Figure 8: Evolution of first instance decisions issued on the top 5 countries of origin since Q1 2011;
Source: Eurostat data as 21.01.2014

The graphs above display the evolution of the type of decisions made by national first instance bodies for 5 main countries of origin at EU level: positive decisions (Geneva Convention, subsidiary protection and national humanitarian status) or rejections (from Q1 2011 to Q3 2013).

In 2013, the positive protection rate of Syrians remained slightly lower than the level recorded throughout in 2012, but was still around 90%.

While the number of decisions issued in Q3 to Russian applicants almost doubled compared to the previous quarter (9,150, 10% of the total decisions in EU+), the share of positive decisions issued halved to 9%.

Somali applicants had a recognition rate of 63% in Q3 2013, though the overall positive decision rate has slightly dropped in recent years as improvements were registered in the security situation in parts of the country. The first 3 quarters of 2013 were marked by a

change in the type of regime used for Somali applicants with a decrease in the grants of subsidiary protection in favor of an increase of humanitarian protection.

More than half of the decisions issued by the EU+ in Q3 involving Afghani applicants were positive. The graph shows that the rate and choice of regime has remained fairly stable since Q1 2011, while there is a slight but sustained increase in the positive decision rate mainly driven by an increase in the number of decisions granting Geneva Convention status.

Type of protection given

The use of Geneva Convention remained similar to the levels recorded in the first half of the year, while grants of Subsidiary and Humanitarian Protection slightly decreased compared to the same period. In the EU+, during Q3, the share of positive Geneva Convention decisions issued made up 16% of all first instance decisions issued (the annual average in 2012 was 14%), Subsidiary protection 11% (same level as in 2012), and 5% for humanitarian protection (down from 7% in 2012)⁹.

Geneva Convention Decision

In relative terms, Ireland (100%), the United Kingdom (87%), France (86%), Norway (82%) and Luxembourg (81%) gave Refugee Status in a very large proportion of the positive decisions they issued. The table below shows the countries of origin of asylum applicants who were most often granted refugee status under Geneva Convention during Q3 2013.

⁹ 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%.

EU+ country Citizenship	Positive decisions	Geneva Convention	Proportion of Gen. Conv. in pos. dcs.
United Kingdom	1 990	1 735	87%
Syria	355	355	100%
Iran	250	245	98%
Pakistan	250	220	88%
Other	1 135	915	81%
France	2 440	2 110	86%
Congo (DR)	235	230	98%
Russia	260	245	94%
Syria	370	240	65%
Other	1 575	1 395	89%
Norway	1 265	1 035	82%
Eritrea	480	480	100%
Somalia	305	250	82%
Syria	160	75	47%
Other	320	230	72%
Austria	1 195	810	68%
Russia	190	150	79%
Syria	220	170	77%
Afghanistan	340	160	47%
Other	445	330	74%
Belgium	1 540	1 045	68%
Guinea	155	150	97%
Congo (DR)	105	95	90%
Afghanistan	385	175	45%
Other	895	625	70%

Table 1: Positive decisions issued in selected EU+ countries, using the Geneva Convention, by country of origin of asylum applicants

Source: Eurostat data as of 21.01.2014

Subsidiary protection

The highest use of subsidiary protection among positive decisions issued during Q3 were registered in Lithuania (100%), Bulgaria (98%), Portugal (83%), Malta (87%), Cyprus (83%), Spain (64%) and Sweden (64%).

EU+ country Citizenship	Positive decisions	Subsidiary protection	Proportion of Sub. prot. in pos. dcs.
Bulgaria	575	565	98%
Syria	420	420	100%
Stateless	125	125	100%
Iraq	20	10	50%
Other	10	10	100%
Malta	290	255	88%
Somalia	105	105	100%
Eritrea	95	95	100%
Syria	65	45	69%
Other	25	10	40%
Sweden	5 175	3 335	64%
Syria	2 380	1 965	83%
Eritrea	575	460	80%
Stateless	695	490	71%
Other	1 525	420	28%
Finland	420	185	44%
Iraq	185	110	59%
Somalia	65	35	54%
Afghanistan	55	20	36%
Other	115	20	17%
Denmark	555	210	38%
Afghanistan	60	55	92%
Somalia	50	45	90%
Syria	280	50	18%
Other	165	60	36%

Table 2: Positive decisions issued in selected EU+ countries, using Subsidiary Protection, by country of origin of asylum applicants; Source: Eurostat login: 21.01.2014

The table above shows the principal countries of origin of the asylum seekers who were in the EU+ countries making most use of subsidiary protection.

National protection for humanitarian reasons

Slovakia (67%), Poland (62%), the Netherlands (55%) and Italy (41%) were the main European countries to grant humanitarian protection among their positive decisions issued in Q3, based on their national legislation.

EU+ country Citizenship	Positive decisions	Humanitarian protection	Proportion of hum. prot. in pos. dcs.
Poland	205	105	51%
Georgia	10	10	100%
Kyrgyzstan	5	5	100%
Russia	115	80	70%
Other	190	90	47%
Netherlands	2 375	1 290	54%
Somalia	790	740	94%
Iraq	165	105	64%
Afghanistan	205	100	49%
Other	1 215	345	28%
Italy	3 090	1 265	41%
Mali	270	210	78%
Nigeria	240	170	71%
Pakistan	260	125	48%
Other	2 320	760	33%
Switzerland	1 400	520	37%
Afghanistan	165	150	91%
Somalia	110	75	68%
Syria	135	80	59%
Other	1 125	295	26%
Finland	420	100	24%
Somalia	65	20	31%
Iraq	185	25	14%
Afghanistan	55	15	27%
Other	180	60	33%

Table 3: Positive decisions issued in selected EU+ countries, granting Humanitarian Status, by country of origin of asylum applicants; Source: Eurostat login: 21.01.2014

Number of pending cases

The number of pending cases at the end of September 2013 (342,345) increased by 10% compared to the level registered at the end of June 2013 (311,425)¹⁰.

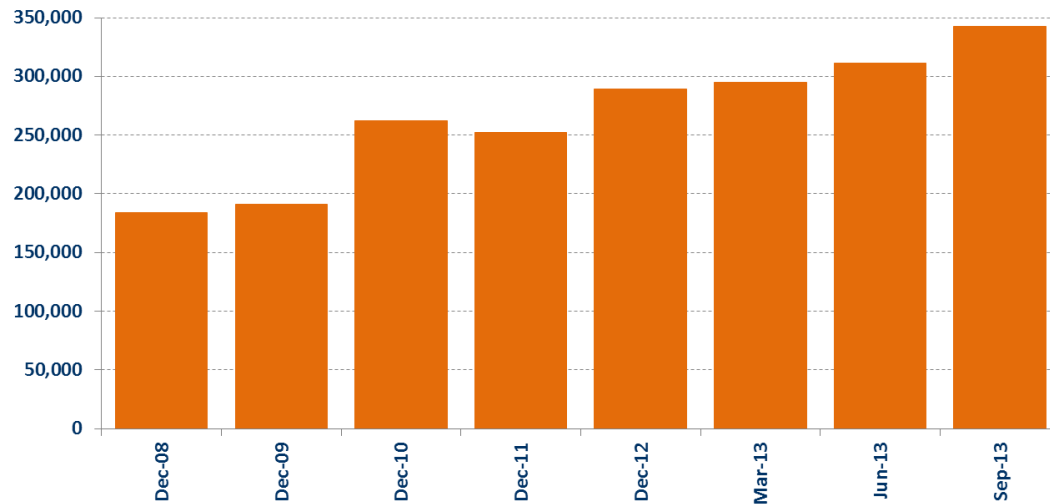


Figure 9: Stock of pending cases at the end of each year/month

Source: Eurostat data as of 21.01.2014¹¹

Germany (111,875), Greece (42,380) and France (40,270) reported the highest number of pending cases at the end of September 2013.

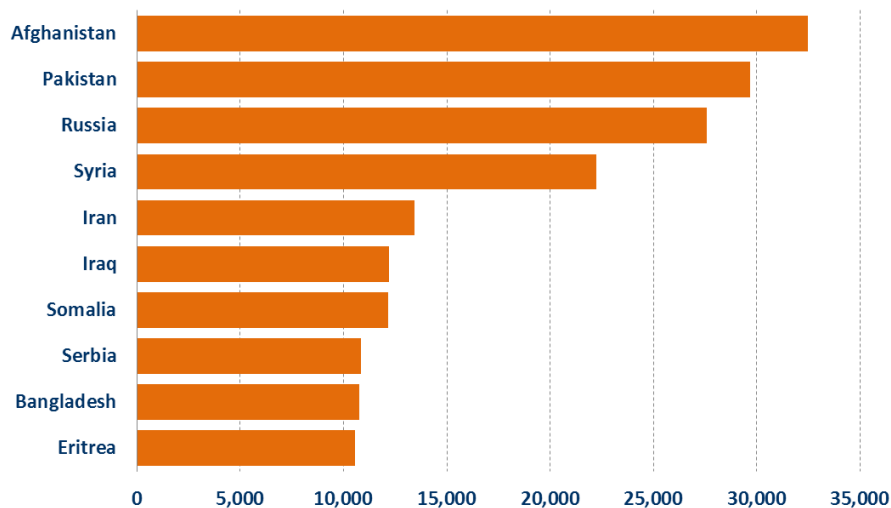


Figure 10: Stock of pending cases by main countries of origin as of 30th September 2013

Source: Eurostat data as of 21.01.2014¹²

¹⁰ Pending cases is a time-dependent indicator providing a snapshot of the situation on a particular day.

¹¹ No data available for Cyprus (May 2011- 2013 Q3 excluding Dec 2012), Romania (February to September 2013) and The Netherlands (2012-2013)

¹² No data available for Cyprus (May 2011- 2013 Q3 excluding Dec 2012), Romania (February to September 2013) and The Netherlands (2012-2013)

As for the previous quarter, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Russia remained the largest groups of asylum applicants that had not yet received decisions on their applications. Further to the sudden increase of Eritreans applying for international protection registered in Q3, the number of applications awaiting a decision also increased significantly, with Eritrea entering the top ten countries of origin in terms of pending cases at the end of September 2013.

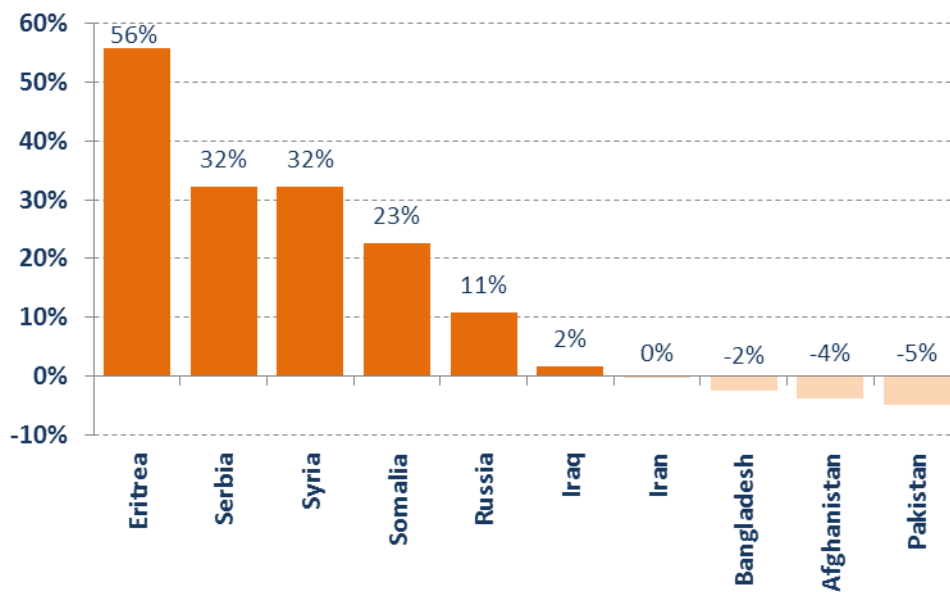


Figure 11: Percentage change in pending cases from 30th June 2013 to 30th September 2013 by main countries of origin

Source: Eurostat data as of 21.01.2014

The bar chart above shows the most significant changes in pending applications for Top 10 countries of origin identified during Q3 2013 compared to Q2 2013.

Pending cases of applicants from the Horn of Africa (Eritrea and Somalia in particular) increased 56% and 23% respectively in Q3 compared to 3 months earlier. The biggest increases were experienced in Malta, Germany, Norway, Sweden and Italy.

The unprecedented flow of more than 14,000 Syrians during the quarter under review led to an increase of 32% in the number of pending cases (+5,425). Sweden, Germany and Bulgaria had the highest share of this caseload.

Despite a decrease in applications and an increase in decisions taken on Russian applicants, the number of pending cases at the end of September still increased by 11% compared to the end of June 2013¹³.

¹³ This increase is primarily explained by the inclusion of pending cases related to accompanied minors in data provided by France since August 2013.

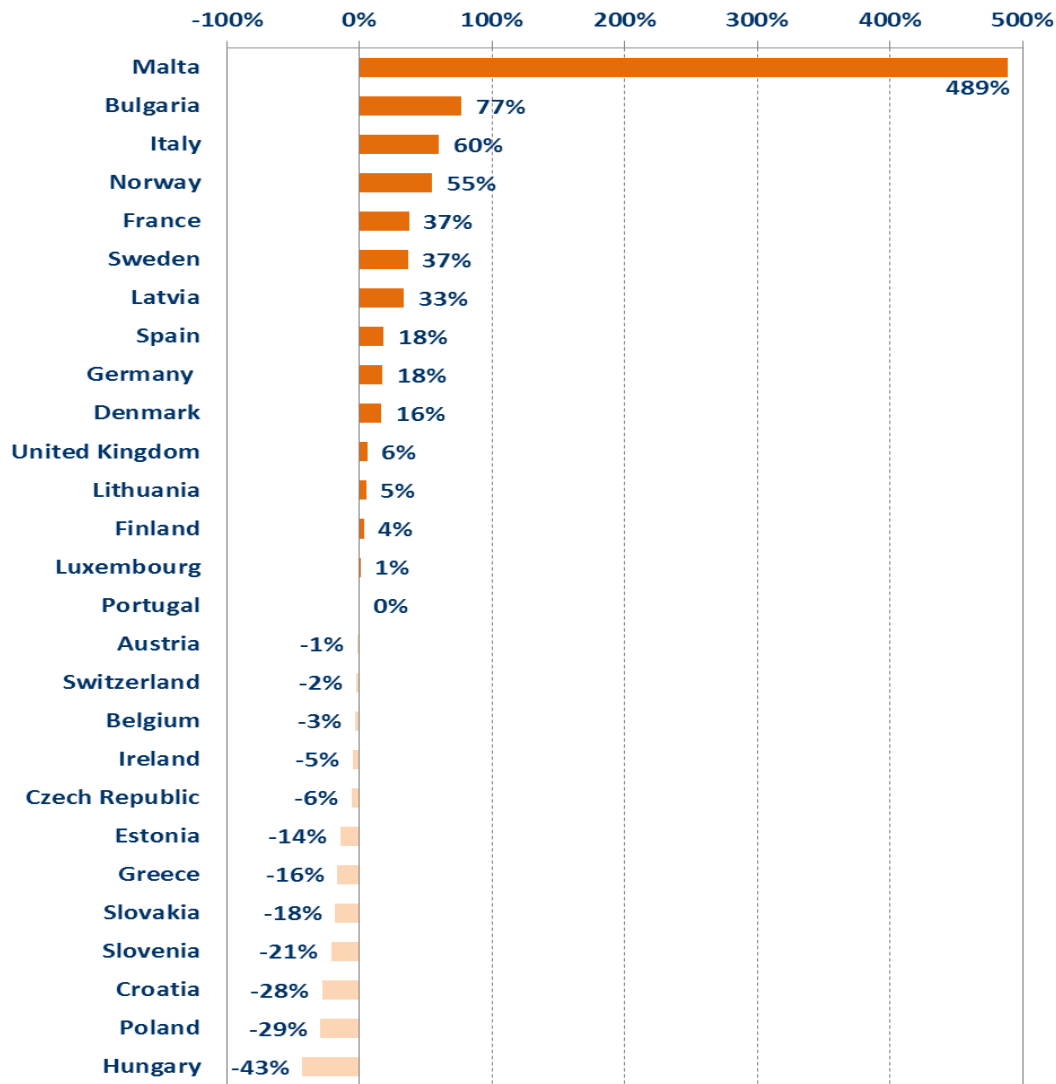


Figure 12: Percentage change in pending cases from 30th June 2013 to 30th September 2013 by reporting country

Source: Eurostat login: 21.01.2014¹⁴

By far, the highest increase in terms of pending cases in September 2013 was registered in Malta. Because of the high inflows of Somali and Eritreans applicants, the number of pending cases increased by almost five times in the period under review.

Bulgaria (+77%), Italy (+60%), Norway (+55%), France (+37%) Sweden (+37%) registered a significant increase in pending cases compared to 3 months earlier. Hungary (-2,330; -43%), and Poland (-1,030; -29%) registered the largest decreases¹⁵ over the same period¹⁶.

¹⁴ No data available for, Netherlands, Cyprus and Romania in Q3 2013

¹⁵ More than 10% and 1000 pending cases decrease

¹⁶ As of 7 June 2013, the new Greek Asylum Service became operational, taking over responsibility for asylum applications from the Hellenic Police; as a result there has been some confusion over how the historic backlog should be reported in EUROSTAT figures. EASO is currently working with EL via its Operational Support Plan (II) to resolve this issue.

Section 3: Key trends in focus

Syria

The number of Syrian asylum applicants almost doubled in Q3 compared to Q2 averaging almost 5,000 applicants per month.

Given that the internal armed conflict in Syria is far from a resolution, it seems likely that the pressure of Syrian asylum on the EU+ asylum system will remain high.

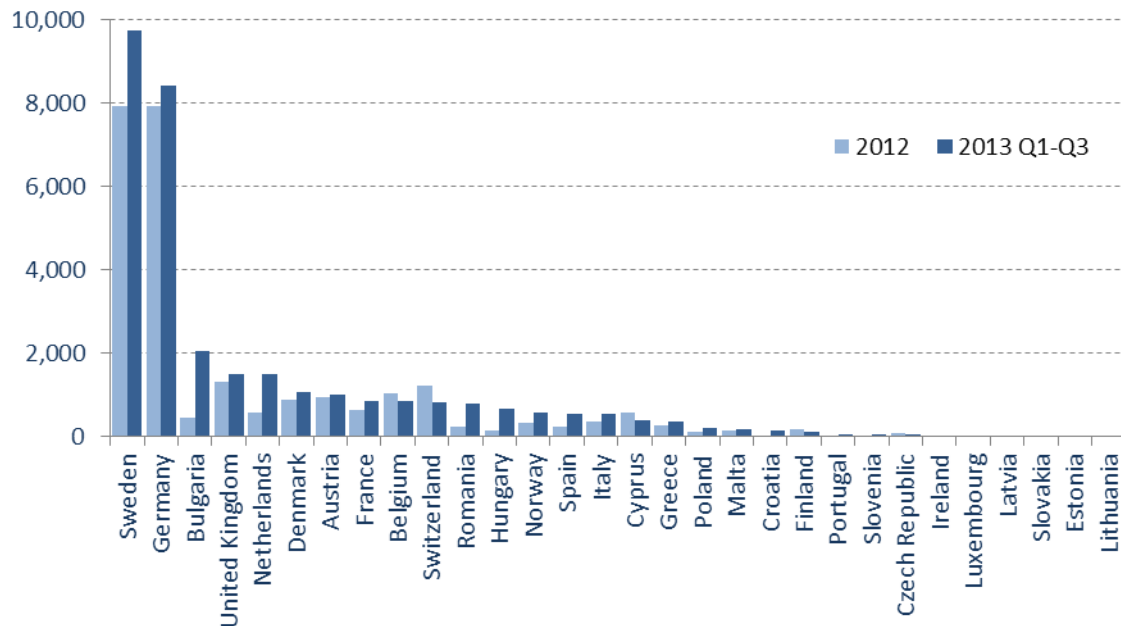


Figure 13: Distribution of Syrian asylum applicants in European destination countries
Source: Eurostat data as of 21.01.2014

In the first nine months of 2013, the proportion of Syrian applicants lodging applications for international protection in Germany and Sweden was 58%. They thus continued as the main countries of destination for Syrian applicants. However, Syrians increasingly made applications in a number of other EU+ States, especially in Bulgaria, which received from January to September 2013, 3.5 times more applicants than it did in the whole of 2012.

Syria was in the Top 3 countries of origin for 17 EU+ States on the 3rd quarter of 2013. The flow thus appears to have spread out over Europe as it increased in size.

Decision Trends

In Q3, the recognition rate for Syrian applicants remained at very high levels similar to that of the first half of the year, namely about 90%. Protection for Syrians remains effectively at 100% - the 10% gap shown in statistical data may be explained by Dublin returns to other

MS being reported as negative decisions (as per the old Eurostat guidelines¹⁷) or the fact that applicants who claim to be Syrians are later judged not to be and their application is rejected but the citizenship determined by the authority is not changed.

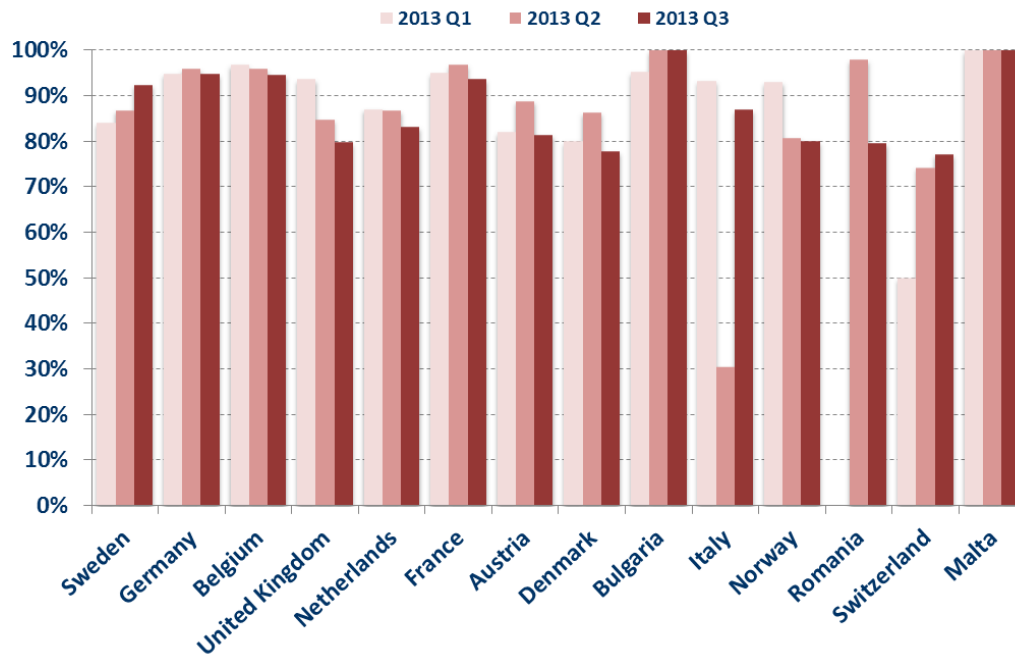


Figure 14: Syrian recognition rate – EU+ countries distribution 2013; (only countries that issued more than 100 decisions in 2013 are displayed);

Source: Eurostat data as of 21.01.2014

The overall protection rates for Syrians during the first three quarters of 2013 were roughly similar in most EU+ countries, as shown in the chart above. The only notable exception to this pattern is Switzerland, which recorded significantly lower rates especially in Q1 2013. As can be seen in the chart below, when considering the positive decision issued to Syrian applicants, important differences in protection regimes used emerge among the EU+ States.

¹⁷ In the new guidelines, this will no longer be the instruction to reporting MS. Eurostat developed the new guidelines in close collaboration with EASO, DG HOME and Frontex as Stage II of the EPS was being devised. A revised version of the Eurostat guidelines on asylum data collection was circulated on 13 December 2013; they will be applicable as of January 2014 onwards.

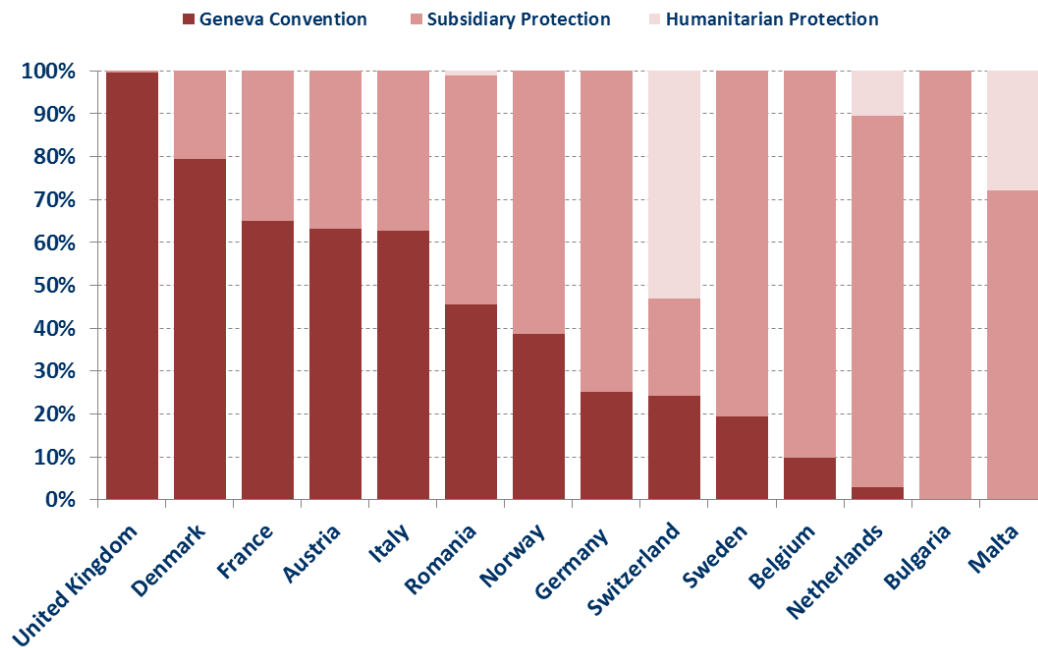


Figure 15: Positive decisions issued to Syrians in 2013 (only countries where more than 100 decisions were issued in 2013 are displayed)

Source: Eurostat data as of login: 21.01.2014

At the end of June 2013 (22,230), the EU+ registered 32% more pending cases of Syrian applicants than in June 2012 (16,830), despite most affected Member States having prioritized the Syrian caseload.

Western Balkans

Western Balkan citizens for the 8th consecutive quarter remained the largest group of asylum applicants in the EU+ countries, representing 18% of all asylum applicants registered in Q3 2013.

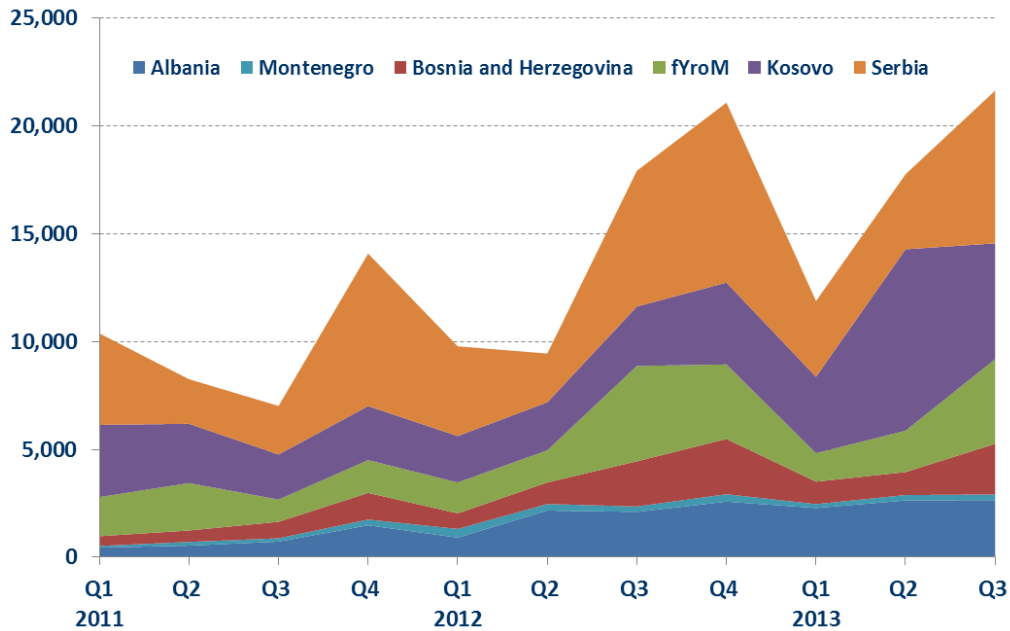


Figure 16: Western Balkan applicants in European destination countries, quarterly trend
 Source: Eurostat data as of 21.01.2014

Compared with the past years, when peaks were usually recorded in the last two quarters of each year, 2013 was marked by a sharp increase already in the 2nd quarter of 2013 driven by the massive movement of Kosovar applicants to EU+ States and Hungary in particular (see EASO report for Q2). In spite of this early increase, the usual rise from the 2nd to the 3rd quarter of the year was also confirmed in 2013 and Q3 saw the highest number of Western Balkan applicants ever registered in a single quarter (21,640).

Numbers of applications from all WB nationals rose (except Kosovars), with Serbians, Bosnians and Macedonians increasing the most significantly (more than 100%). In comparison with Q2 2013, the proportion of Kosovars in the WB flow declined substantially from 47% to 25%.

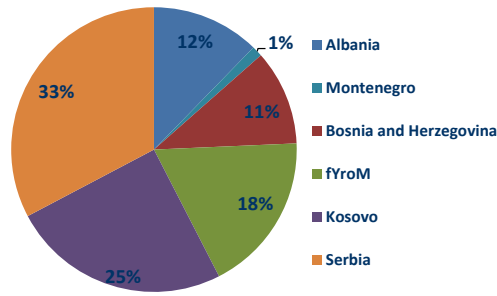


Figure 17: Composition of Western Balkan inflows;
Source: Eurostat data as of 21.01.2014

Among the main EU+ receiving countries, the proportion of Western Balkan applicants lodging their application in Germany rose significantly to 61% of the EU+ total in Q3 compared to the 30% in Q2. This was due mainly to a big decrease in flows towards Hungary in July and August further to amendments in the national policy on detention of asylum seekers.

The WB flow to Germany in Q3 thus rose very significantly, with 13,205 WB nationals making an application for asylum (a 148% increase compared to Q2). The majority of Western Balkan applicants in Germany are Serbs (45%), followed by citizens of fYRoM (27%). In contrast, France, which takes 14% of the flow of Western Balkan applicants to the EU+, received applications for international protection mainly from Kosovars (48%) and Albanians (38%).

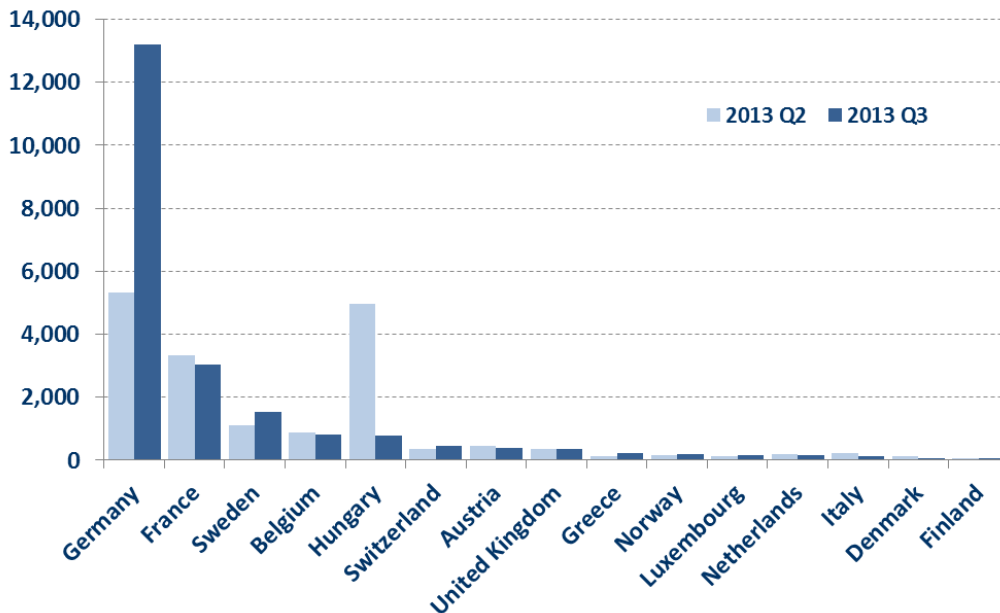


Figure 18: Distribution of Western Balkan applicants in EU+, 2nd and 3rd quarter 2013
Source: Eurostat login: 21.01.2014

Decision rates

As for 2012, over 95% of the applications made by Western Balkan applicants in the first 9 months of 2013 were rejected. However, the composition of the few positive decisions changed and shifted to a lower use of the Geneva Convention in favour of a higher number of decisions issued for humanitarian reasons. In France and Germany (receiving around three quarters of all WB applicants in Q3 2013) we can see slight differences in recognition rates for citizens of Albania, Bosnia and Serbia.

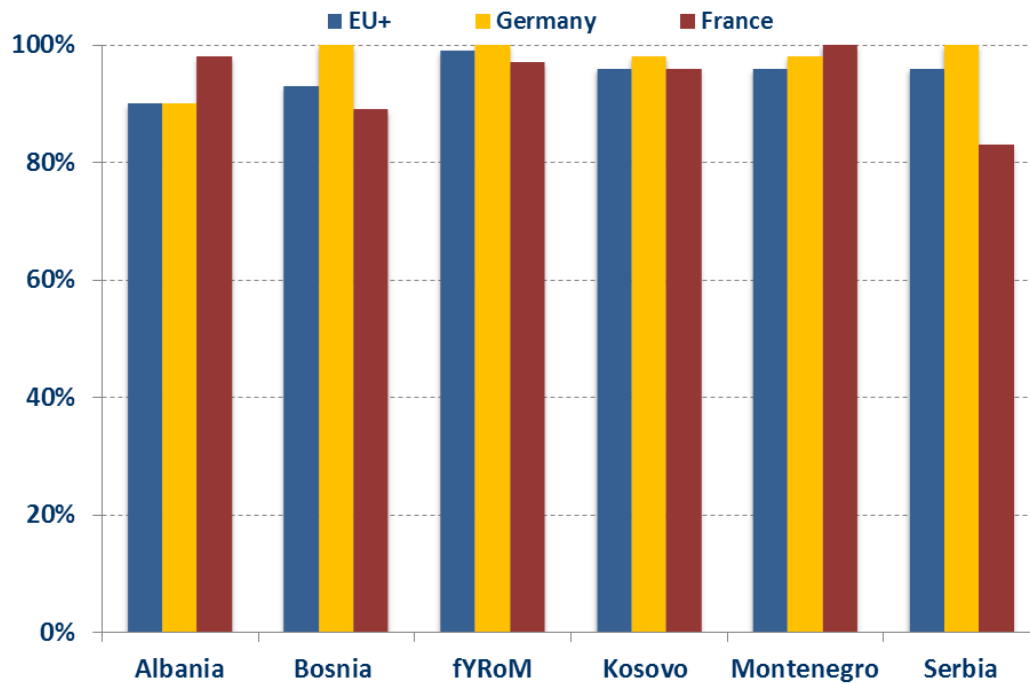


Figure 19: First instance negative decision rate, January – September 2013

Source: Eurostat data as of 21.01.2014

At the end of September 2013, 38,920 applicants from Western Balkans were still awaiting a decision; compared to the stock of pending cases at the end June 2013 this represents an increase of 26%.

Eritrea

Q3 saw the entry of Eritrean asylum applicants into the Top 5 group of asylum applicants, after four consecutive periods when the top 5 nationalities (or groups) had not changed.

A possible explanation of this phenomenon is that before the summer of 2013, most of the Eritreans in search of protection headed for the Gulf States, by way of Yemen and for Israel, via Egypt¹⁸. Once those routes were cut off by the measures implemented by Israel (at the border with Egypt) and Saudi Arabia (at the border with Yemen) asylum seekers coming from the Horn of Africa headed to Europa across the Mediterranean Sea.

The EU+ reported a 205% increase in Eritrean applications compared to Q2. Compared to the same quarter in 2012 a 132% increase can be noted.

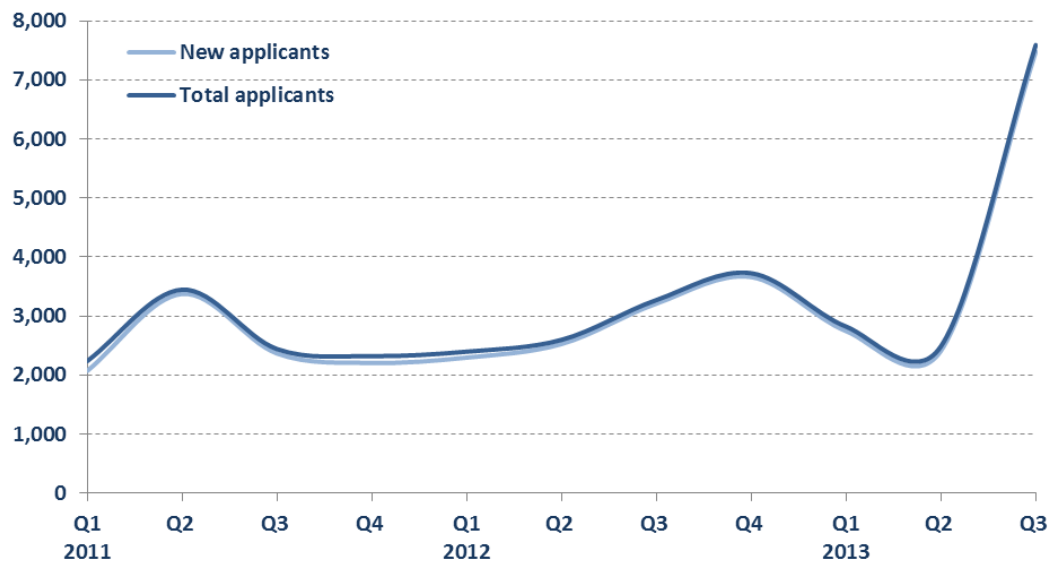


Figure 20: Eritrean total and new asylum applicants;

Source: Eurostat login: 21.01.2014

In the quarter under review, Sweden and Norway received the highest share of Eritreans with 24% and 22% of the total respectively. Relatively high numbers of Eritrean applicants were also registered by EU+ States situated on the route towards the Scandinavian area: Malta, Italy, Switzerland, France, the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark. This is a change from the previous year when Switzerland was the main receiving country of Eritrean applicants, receiving one third of all applications lodged by Eritrean citizens at that time.

¹⁸ <http://www.irinnews.org/report/99095/horn-migrants-risk-new-routes-to-reach-europe>

Decision rates

In the third quarter of 2013, 77% of all first instance decisions issued by the EU+ States on applications lodged by Eritreans resulted in positive outcomes; a 1% increase compared with the recognition rate from Q2 2013.

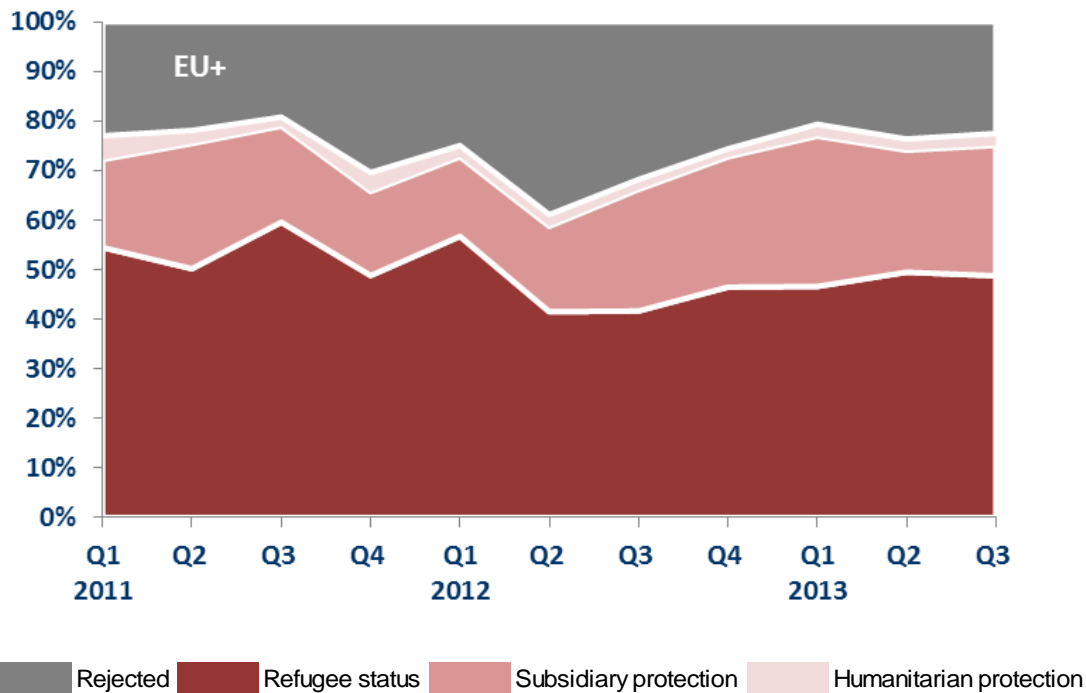


Figure 21: First instance positive decision rates by type of protection accorded, quarterly trend;
 Source: Eurostat data as of 21.01.2014

Analysing the type of protection afforded by the EU+ states to Eritrean applicants shows that close to 50% of all first instance decisions resulted in grants of refugee status, while for subsidiary protection this share was about 26%. In only 2% of all the cases, EU+ countries provided humanitarian protection according to their national legislation. The highest numbers of first instance decisions issued in Q3 were reported by Sweden (830), followed by Norway (645), Switzerland (595), Italy (340), the United Kingdom (275) and the Netherlands (225). Altogether, the first three States made up almost 63% of all the all decisions related to Eritrean applicants.

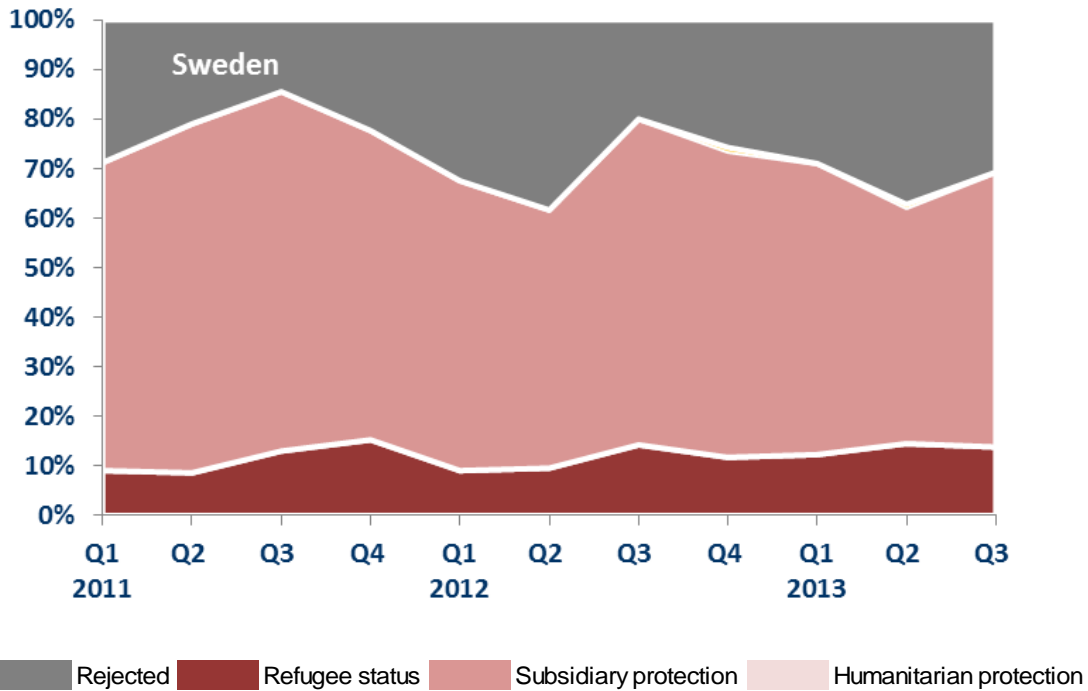


Figure 22: Sweden - First instance positive decision rates by type of protection accorded, quarterly trend; Source: Eurostat login: 21.01.2014

In Sweden, the overall recognition rate increased in Q3 (+69%) compared to Q2, reaching the same level as the average rate of 2012 (70%). This indicates that a very high proportion of the Eritrean claims were judged to be founded and mostly received subsidiary protection.

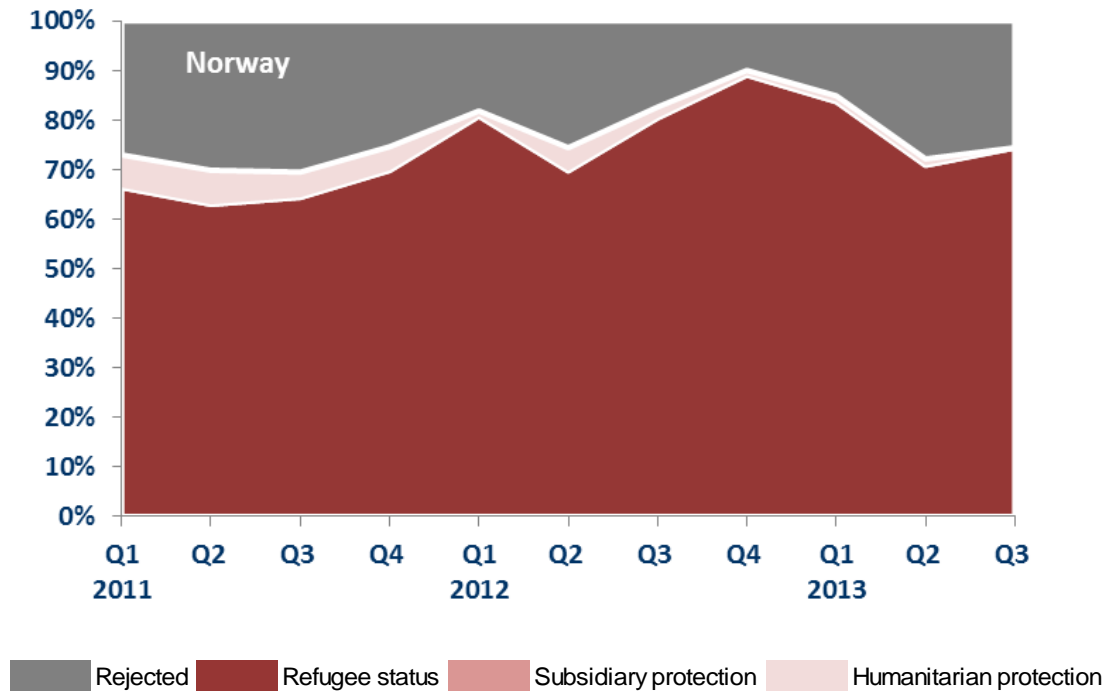


Figure 23: Norway - First instance positive decision rates by type of protection accorded, quarterly trend; Source: Eurostat login: 21.01.2014

Figure 23: Norway - First instance positive decision rates by type of protection accorded, quarterly trend; Source: Eurostat login: 21.01.2014

In Norway, the positive decision rate for Eritreans was 74% however in almost all positive outcomes, Norway granted refugee status under the Geneva Convention to Eritrean applicants.

At end of the September 2013, 10,560 asylum applicants from Eritrea were still waiting for a decision in the EU+; compared to the situation at the end of June 2013, this means a 56% increase in the number of pending cases. Switzerland (3,630), Germany (1,915), Sweden (1,500) and Norway (1,290) had 79% of the total number of pending cases involving Eritrean applicants.

Malta (+3,500%), Norway (+337%), Sweden (+159%) and Italy (122%) more than doubled their stock of Eritrean applicants awaiting a decision on their case compared to the situation at the end of June 2013.

Annex – Statistical overview

Overview of Asylum applicants, withdrawn applications and pending cases registered in EU+ by main citizenship, 2012 Q2-2013 Q3

	2012			2013		2013Q3	2013Q3		Share in EU+	Sparkline
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2		% change on last year	% change on prev. qtr		
Asylum applicants	80 660	100 700	112 035	95 910	112 705	128 180	↗ +27	↗ +14		
Syria	4 285	8 410	9 850	8 965	8 750	14 835	↗ +76	↗ +70	12	
Russia	4 570	6 665	8 560	8 675	17 065	10 520	↗ +58	↘ -38	8.2	
Eritrea	2 595	3 270	3 725	2 820	2 485	7 590	↗ +132	↗ +205	5.9	
Serbia	2 260	6 295	8 345	3 515	3 480	7 085	↗ +13	↗ +104	5.5	
Afghanistan	7 145	7 990	8 005	6 550	6 605	6 685	↘ -16	⇒ +1	5.2	
Somalia	4 420	4 355	4 775	4 135	5 035	6 300	↗ +45	↗ +25	4.9	
Pakistan	4 470	5 495	5 880	4 450	6 085	5 860	↗ +7	⇒ -4	4.6	
Kosovo ¹⁾	2 225	2 755	3 795	3 540	8 410	5 365	↗ +95	↘ -36	4.2	
Stateless	760	1 070	1 425	1 150	1 245	3 955	↗ +270	↗ +218	3.1	
fYRoM ²⁾	1 490	4 420	3 455	1 320	1 920	3 930	↘ -11	↗ +105	3.1	
Other	46 440	49 975	54 220	50 790	51 625	56 055	↗ +12	↗ +9	44	
Withdrawn applications	6 600	8 135	8 420	8 460	8 110	9 455	↗ +16	↗ +17		
Russia	405	440	445	525	600	1 390	↗ +216	↗ +132	15	
Pakistan	480	650	855	720	605	810	↗ +25	↗ +34	8.6	
Kosovo ¹⁾	130	120	215	160	210	530	↗ +342	↗ +152	5.6	
Afghanistan	365	455	495	530	470	445	⇒ -2	⇒ -5	4.7	
Somalia	290	300	475	475	355	390	↗ +30	↗ +10	4.1	
Serbia	625	625	660	445	410	385	↘ -38	↘ -6	4.1	
Syria	110	155	195	300	345	350	↗ +126	⇒ +1	3.7	
Georgia	315	355	390	435	340	330	↘ -7	⇒ -3	3.5	
Algeria	155	170	210	260	255	275	↗ +62	↗ +8	2.9	
Iran	165	200	185	230	200	265	↗ +33	↗ +33	2.8	
Other	3 560	4 665	4 295	4 380	4 320	4 285	↘ -8	⇒ -1	45	
Pending cases	220 640	242 955	289 020	295 090	311 185	342 345	↗ +41	↗ +10		
Afghanistan	28 645	30 820	33 985	33 685	33 770	32 485	↗ +5	⇒ -4	9.5	
Pakistan	14 930	16 500	27 990	28 665	31 185	29 665	↗ +80	⇒ -5	8.7	
Russia	10 655	12 810	14 900	17 550	24 875	27 575	↗ +115	↗ +11	8.1	
Syria	9 150	12 715	16 660	16 515	16 830	22 250	↗ +75	↗ +32	6.5	
Iran	10 560	11 240	13 165	13 275	13 430	13 415	↗ +19	⇒ -0	3.9	
Iraq	10 480	10 945	13 885	13 020	12 025	12 225	↗ +12	⇒ +2	3.6	
Somalia	8 190	8 835	9 560	9 745	9 895	12 135	↗ +37	↗ +23	3.5	
Serbia	6 850	9 275	10 970	9 325	8 210	10 855	↗ +17	↗ +32	3.2	
Bangladesh	5 275	4 675	8 800	8 980	11 045	10 780	↗ +131	⇒ -2	3.1	
Eritrea	4 980	6 575	7 380	7 485	6 780	10 560	↗ +61	↗ +56	3.1	
Other	110 925	118 565	131 725	136 845	143 140	160 400	↗ +35	↗ +12	47	

Source: Eurostat data as of 21.01.2014

Note:

1) Kosovo: this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244.

2) fYRoM: the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Overview of first instance decisions issued in EU+ by main citizenship, 2012 Q2-2013 Q3

	2012			2013		2013Q3	2013Q3		Share in EU+	Sparkline
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2		% change on last year	% change on prev. qtr		
Refugee status	10 565	10 065	12 645	12 750	13 925	13 860	↗ +38	↔ -0		
Syria	1 615	1 355	2 285	1 870	2 105	2 510	↗ +85	↗ +19	18	
Eritrea	700	715	1 135	1 355	1 520	1 615	↗ +126	↗ +6	12	
Iran	1 035	1 200	1 360	1 470	1 495	1 390	↗ +16	↘ -7	10	
Afghanistan	815	995	1 105	1 105	1 255	1 250	↗ +26	↔ -0	9.0	
Somalia	585	610	735	885	955	850	↗ +39	↘ -11	6.1	
Iraq	1 045	965	960	1 000	925	795	↘ -18	↘ -14	5.7	
Pakistan	285	255	335	540	520	665	↗ +161	↗ +28	4.8	
Russia	655	535	615	670	645	585	↗ +9	↘ -9	4.2	
Sri Lanka	405	345	325	325	480	370	↗ +7	↘ -23	2.7	
Congo (DR)	300	230	290	350	365	360	↗ +57	↔ -1	2.6	
Other	3 125	2 860	3 500	3 180	3 660	3 470	↗ +21	↘ -5	25	
Subsidiary protection	8 110	8 295	11 165	10 580	10 600	10 210	↗ +23	↘ -4		
Syria	2 820	2 950	4 555	4 895	5 255	5 125	↗ +74	↔ -2	50	
Afghanistan	1 265	1 075	1 160	1 160	1 430	1 250	↗ +16	↘ -13	12	
Eritrea	290	420	640	880	755	870	↗ +107	↗ +15	8.5	
Somalia	1 270	1 450	1 600	990	945	755	↘ -48	↘ -20	7.4	
Stateless	175	185	320	340	440	715	↗ +286	↗ +63	7.0	
Iraq	365	370	425	340	390	350	↘ -5	↘ -10	3.4	
Russia	75	125	95	115	185	135	↗ +8	↘ -27	1.3	
Unknown	415	275	120	165	90	135	↘ -51	↗ +50	1.3	
Pakistan	55	35	100	85	100	110	↗ +214	↗ +10	1.1	
Iran	90	60	115	115	90	85	↗ +42	↘ -6	0.8	
Other	1 290	1 350	2 035	1 495	920	680	↘ -50	↘ -26	6.7	
Humanitarian protection	3 585	2 865	12 975	6 195	4 905	4 455	↗ +55	↘ -9		
Somalia	120	125	200	530	770	895	↗ +616	↗ +16	20	
Afghanistan	550	540	625	715	1 000	755	↗ +40	↘ -25	17	
Iraq	190	140	250	295	230	235	↗ +68	↔ +2	5.3	
Nigeria	400	295	3 925	940	240	230	↘ -22	↔ -4	5.2	
Mali	115	5	45	25	25	210	↗ +4 100	↗ +740	4.7	
Syria	65	30	25	85	110	190	↗ +533	↗ +73	4.3	
Pakistan	195	120	445	255	170	175	↗ +46	↔ +3	3.9	
Russia	70	115	70	115	135	115	↔ +0	↘ -15	2.6	
Turkey	75	60	105	90	105	90	↗ +50	↘ -14	2.0	
Eritrea	40	35	40	70	70	80	↗ +129	↗ +14	1.8	
Other	1 765	1 400	7 245	3 075	2 050	1 480	↗ +6	↘ -28	33	
Rejected	49 905	46 995	64 105	49 980	55 860	60 355	↗ +28	↗ +8		
Russia	2 730	2 690	2 980	2 825	3 930	8 135	↗ +202	↗ +107	183	
Serbia	2 485	2 490	9 670	3 255	2 640	4 355	↗ +75	↗ +65	98	
Pakistan	3 180	2 895	4 040	3 645	4 005	3 970	↗ +37	↔ -1	89.1	
Kosovo ¹⁾	1 840	1 380	2 535	1 915	2 505	2 780	↗ +101	↗ +11	62.4	
Afghanistan	3 090	2 925	2 890	3 015	2 995	2 770	↘ -5	↘ -8	62.2	
Nigeria	1 940	1 920	2 405	2 160	2 605	2 265	↗ +18	↘ -13	50.8	
fYRoM ²⁾	1 060	1 605	5 245	1 385	1 120	2 160	↗ +35	↗ +93	48.5	
Albania	1 050	920	975	865	1 110	2 030	↗ +121	↗ +83	45.6	
Bangladesh	2 240	1 660	2 000	1 755	2 025	1 995	↗ +20	↔ -1	44.8	
Georgia	1 780	1 895	2 060	1 595	1 370	1 535	↘ -19	↗ +12	34.5	
Other	28 510	26 615	29 305	27 565	31 555	28 360	↗ +7	↘ -10	637	

Source: Eurostat data as of 21.01.2014

Note:

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- 2) fYRoM: the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.