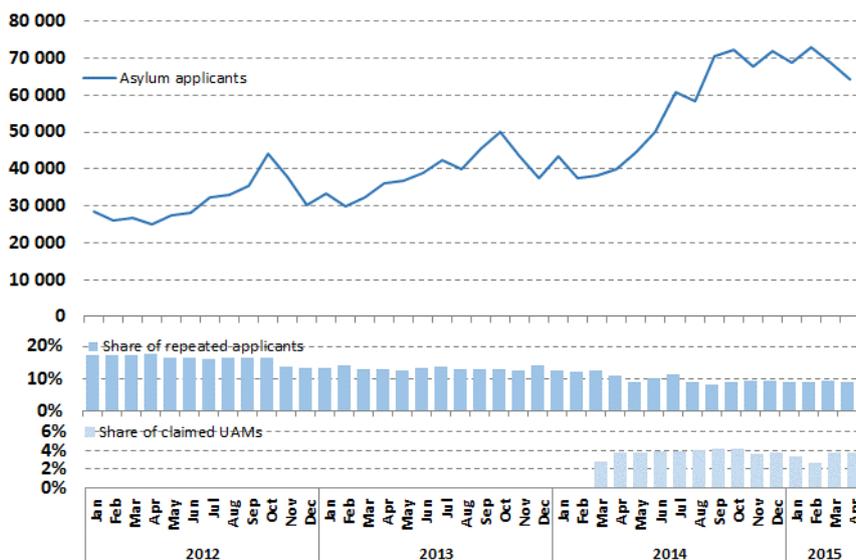


Latest asylum trends and main countries of origin (April 2015)

1. Number of applicants for international protection in the EU+¹

In April 2015, the total number of applicants recorded by EU+ countries (64 307) decreased by 7 % compared to March, but was 55 % above the level recorded in April 2014. The decline follows the drop in the number of Kosovar applicants for international protection, which fell for the second consecutive month and reached roughly 6 000, less than half the level recorded in March.

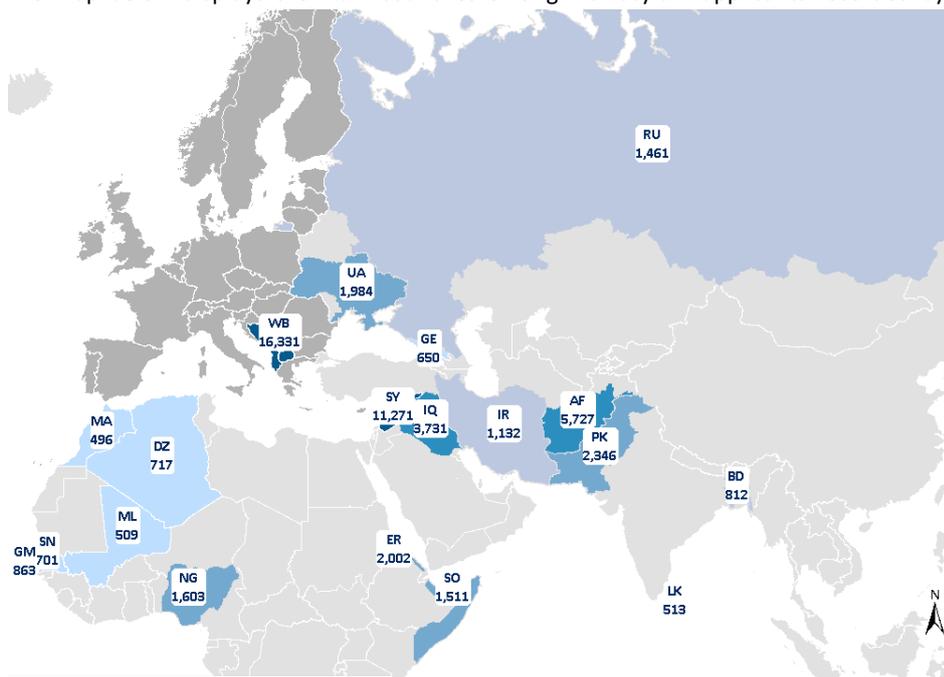


The share of repeated applicants reported by EU+ countries remained about 9 % of the total, roughly the same level as in previous months.

The number of claimed unaccompanied minors (UAMs) at the moment of lodging an asylum application totalled 2 425 in April. UAMs as a share of total applications remained at the same level as in March, just below 4 %. Citizens of Afghanistan continued to represent the main group of claimed UAMs (38 %), followed by Eritreans and Syrians.

2. Main countries of origin of applicants in EU+ countries in April 2015

The map below displays the main countries of origin of asylum applicants recorded by EU+ countries in April 2015.



Nationals of the six Western Balkan countries considered together were the most numerous and accounted for one fourth of the EU+ total for April. Western Balkan applicants as a group decreased by 29 % compared to March 2015.

However, the number of Albanian applicants increased 47 % compared to March and reached the highest monthly level since 2008.

¹ The EU+ is composed of EU-28 plus Norway and Switzerland. The share of repeated applicants is the proportion of repeated applicants in the total number of applicants for international protection. The share of UAM (unaccompanied minors) represents the proportion of asylum applicants claiming to be below the age of 18 years in the total number of applicants. It is important to emphasise that this term 'unaccompanied minor' here refers to applicants claiming to be minors and for whom an age assessment has not necessarily been carried out before provision of the data.

Syria once again was the top single citizenship of applicants. Applicants from Afghanistan rose to third most numerous citizenship in April. There was also an increase in the number of Iraqi applicants, which rose 17 % from March. In recent years, the number of asylum applicants from these countries has increased in the summer months, in part due to seasonal factors.

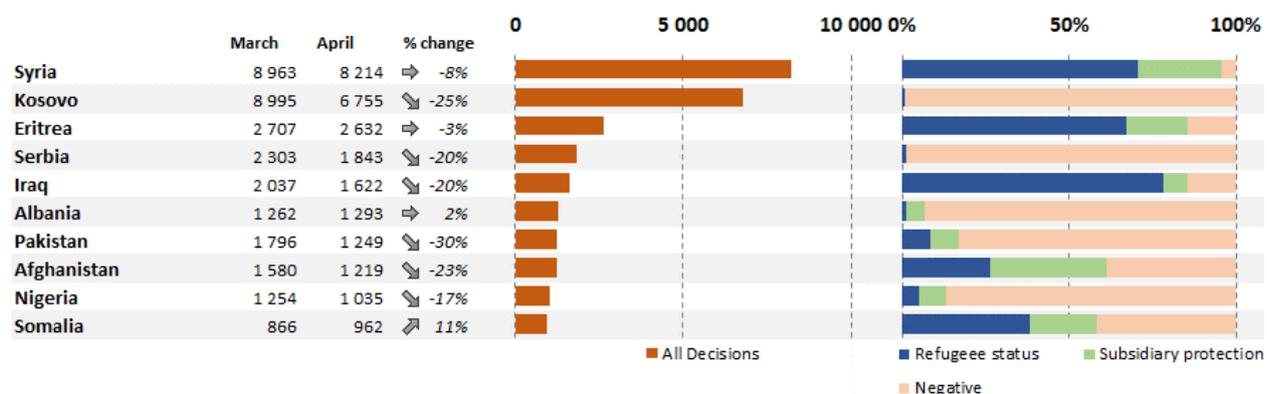
Syria – In April 2015, EU+ countries registered **11 271 Syrian applicants, a rise of 12 % compared to March** and 68 % more than the total registered in April 2014. Germany remained the main destination country for Syrian applicants, followed by Hungary and Austria. Syrian applicants lodged their applications throughout the EU+ and a total of 19 EU+ countries reported Syria in their national top three main countries of origin in April, three more than in March.

Western Balkan nationals (WB) – 16 331 applicants from the six WB countries considered together submitted applications for international protection in EU+ countries in April 2015, a drop of 29 % compared to March. The drop is due to a strong decrease in the number of Kosovar applicants², 7 520 less than in March. Despite this decrease, Kosovar applicants remained the largest WB citizenship, with 36 % of the WB total in April. Albania ranked second with 5 636 applicants recorded, 47 % higher than in March. The number of Serbian applicants continued to fall, decreasing by 20 % compared to March.

Afghanistan – The number of Afghan applicants grew for the second consecutive month and rose to 5 727 in April 2015, an increase of 23 % compared to March. Hungary was the main destination country for Afghans, followed by Germany and Austria.

Iraq – The number of Iraqi applicants rose to 3 731, which marked the second highest level after the peak recorded in January 2008. As for Syrian and Afghan applicants, the main countries of destination for Iraqis were Germany, Hungary and Austria. Together, these three EU+ countries comprised 71 % of the total number of Iraqi applicants recorded in the EU+ in April 2015.

3. Number and type of decisions issued in first instance in EU+ countries



In April 2015, EU+ countries issued 41 809 decisions at first instance, a decrease of 16 % compared to March, but 49 % above the level recorded in April 2015. At EU+ level, the share of positive decisions was 41 % of the total, one percentage point higher than in March.

Syrian asylum applicants had the highest number of decisions at first instance. 96 % of decisions resulted in a positive outcome, with 71 % granting refugee status and 25 % granting subsidiary protection. In April 2015, close to seven out of ten Syrian cases received a decision at first instance in one of three EU+ countries: Germany, Sweden and Bulgaria.

In April, the number of decisions issued on Kosovar cases fell by 25 % compared to March. 99 % of all first instance decisions issued to Kosovar cases were negative. Despite the relatively high number of decisions issued during April, at the end of the month there were still more than 22 000 Kosovars awaiting a decision at first instance.

EU+ countries issued 20 % fewer decisions on Iraqi cases in April than in the previous month. Despite this drop, the recognition rate for Iraqi applicants in the EU+ as a whole remained at the same level as in March, at 85 %.

² 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.