



## Key findings of EASO's Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the EU 2016

### EASO's 2016 Annual Report

provides a comprehensive overview of the number and nature of applications for international protection in all EU Member States plus Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Lichtenstein (the EU+). Based on a number of diverse sources, it examines asylum trends, including key challenges and responses during the year, major institutional and legal developments and provides an overview of the practical functioning of the **Common European Asylum System (CEAS)**.

### Strategy for the future

A proposal by European Commission outlined the intended **reform of the CEAS**, including changes envisaged to the Dublin and Eurodac systems, strengthened mandate of EASO as well as revisions to the Reception Conditions, Asylum Procedures and Qualification Directives. Initiatives launched under the **European Agenda for Migration** continued in 2016, including the relocation mechanism from Greece and Italy and the hotspot approach, while with regard to external dimension activities, the Commission set out to establish a new Partnership Framework with Third Countries.

### Key developments

In 2016, almost **1.3 million applications for international protection were made in the EU+**. This was a **7 % decrease** compared to 2015 when close to 1.4 million applications were lodged.



While the number of applications fell by 7 %, EU+ countries continued registering all applicants and processing their cases.

In 2016, EU+ countries issued close to **1.15 million first-instance decisions, an increase of 84 %** compared to 2015. Also decisions issued in rose in 2016 compared to 2015, **by 21 %**. The **overall recognition rate stood at 61 % for first instance decisions** and increased compared to previous year.

The highest numbers of asylum applicants recorded were citizens of **Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan and Nigeria**. The main **receiving countries** were **Germany, Italy, France, Greece and Austria**.



Almost one-third of applicants were persons younger than 18.

In 2016, **more than 65 000 un-accompanied minors (UAMs) applied for international protection** in the EU+, 37 % less than the previous year. Afghan nationals lodged 37 % of all UAM applications in the EU+.

The crisis in **Syria** continued to be a key factor in the number of applications for international protection in the EU+. Syrians accounted for **26 % of all applications** in the EU+.

In several EU+ countries asylum systems underwent internal restructuring but also creation of new institutions and changes in mandates. Policies in several areas were amended, including **content of protection, reception, registration of asylum applications, special procedures, matters concerning vulnerable groups and return**.

EASO continued **its operational support to Greece, Italy, Cyprus and Bulgaria**, progressively expanding its presence and the scope of its involvement on the ground. Since September 2015, EASO has supported **the EU relocation programme from Italy and Greece to other European countries**. The agency continued its activities in **capacity-building and training, facilitating practical cooperation among EU+ countries, collecting and analysing qualitative and quantitative information and information on countries of origin, and external dimension**.

For further information visit [www.easo.europa.eu](http://www.easo.europa.eu) or contact [info@easo.europa.eu](mailto:info@easo.europa.eu)

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