



Asylum

Asylum is a form of protection given by a State on its territory to a person who is threatened by persecution for reasons such as race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular group or political opinion in his or her country of citizenship or residence.

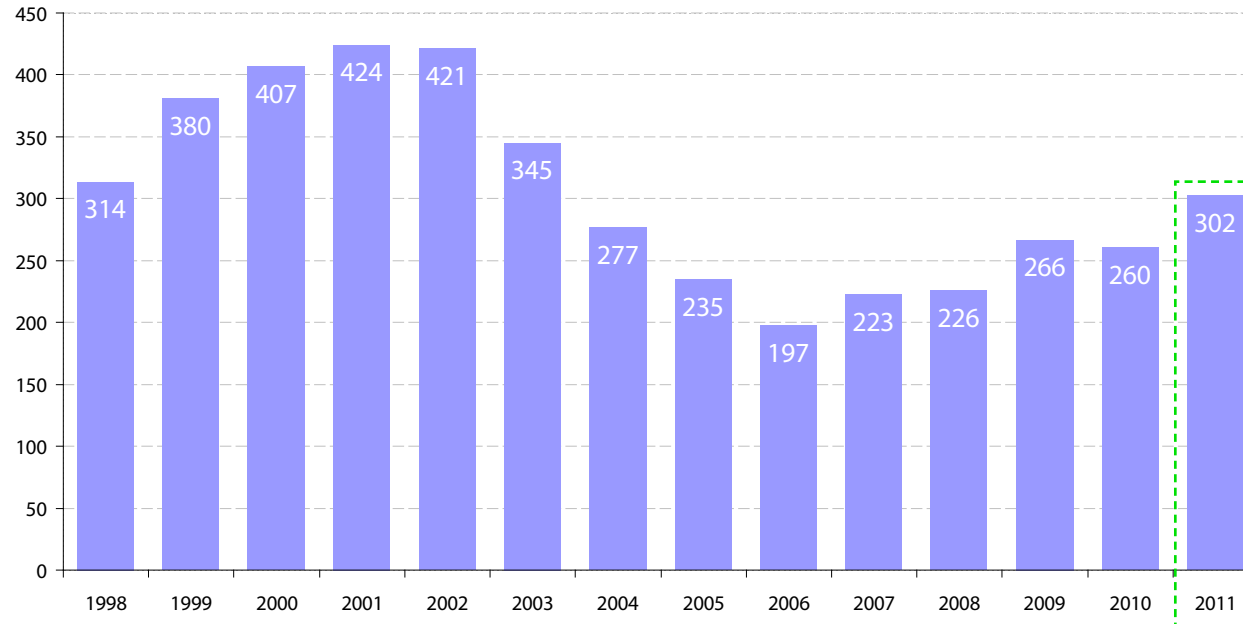
In the EU, Member States have committed to establishing a Common European Asylum System (CEAS). Under this system different legislative measures to harmonise common minimum standards have been adopted. The most important relate to the living conditions of the asylum-seekers (Directive 2003/9/EC); to harmonising the definition of refugee (Directive 2004/83/EC); to reducing differences between MS in terms of national procedure (Directive 2005/85/EC) and the "Dublin" Regulation that gives criteria for deciding which state is responsible for an asylum claim.

The following pages aim to show the number of asylum seekers - where they seek asylum and where they come from - as well as the number of first instance decisions on asylum.

1. Asylum applicants in EU 27

Data source: Eurostat ([migr_asyctz](#), [migr_asyappctza](#))

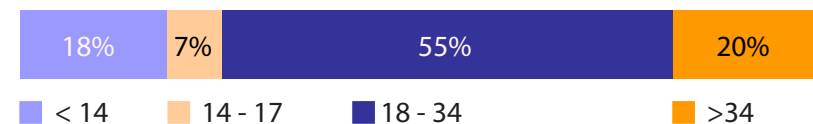
In 1 000 applicants



Breakdown by gender

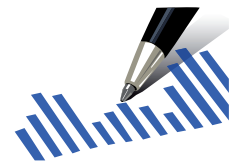


Breakdown by age group



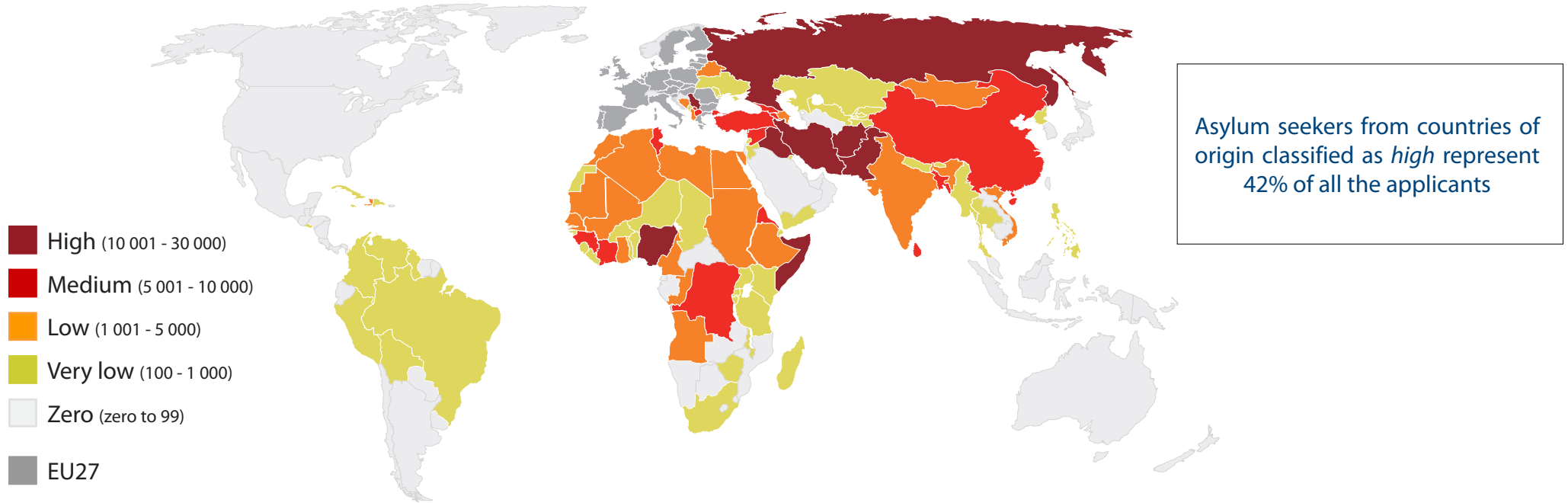
After a peak in 2001 the number of asylum applicants in the EU has decreased

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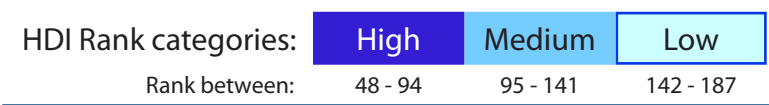
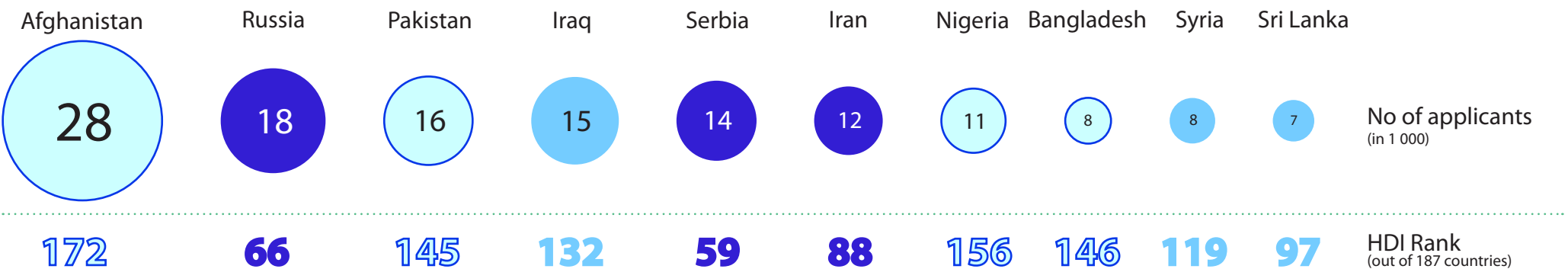
2. Asylum applicants in EU 27: country of origin of applicants (2011)

Data source: Eurostat ([migr_asyappctza](#))



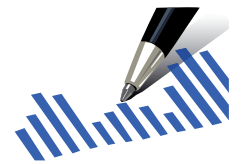
3. Number of applicants from the top ten countries of origin and Human Development Index (HDI) (2011)

Data source: [UNDP](#)



No HDI is calculated for Somalia

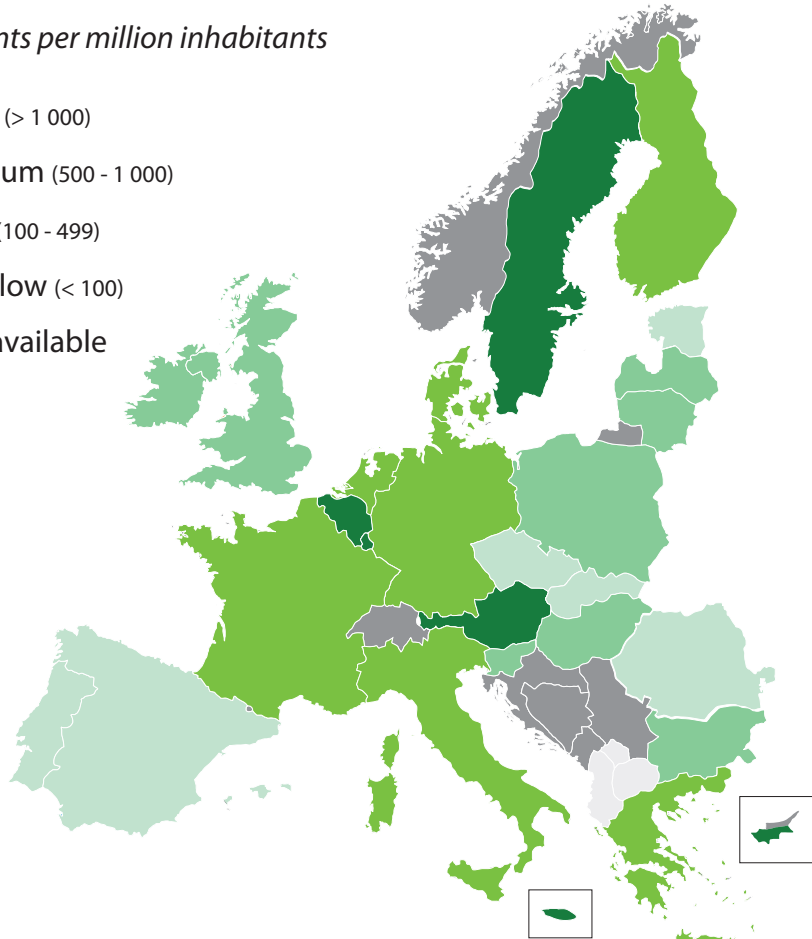
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4. Asylum applicants in EU 27: country of arrival (2011) Data source: Eurostat

Applicants per million inhabitants

- High (> 1 000)
- Medium (500 - 1 000)
- Low (100 - 499)
- Very low (< 100)
- Not available

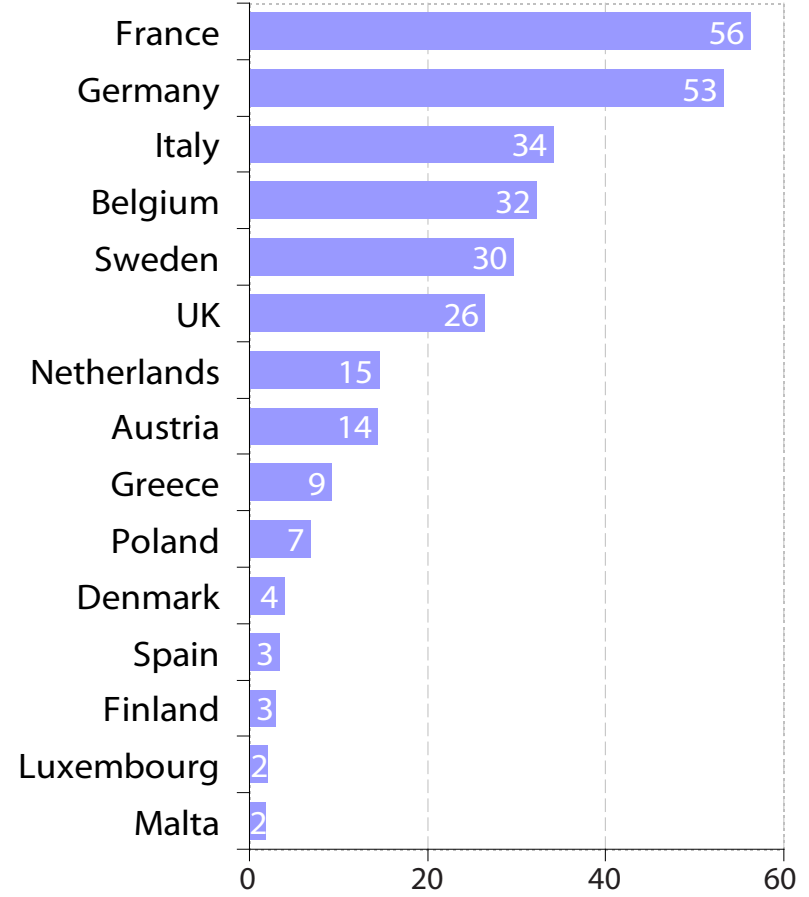


The EU average of 601 applicants per million inhabitants is within the *medium* category

Malta is the EU Member State with the highest number of asylum applicants per million inhabitants (4 526 cases). In terms of actual value, it occupies the 15th position with 1 890 applicants

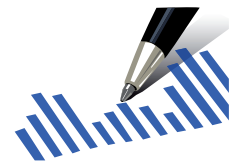
5. Asylum applicants in EU 27: top 15 arrival countries (2011) Data source: Eurostat

Actual value, in 1 000

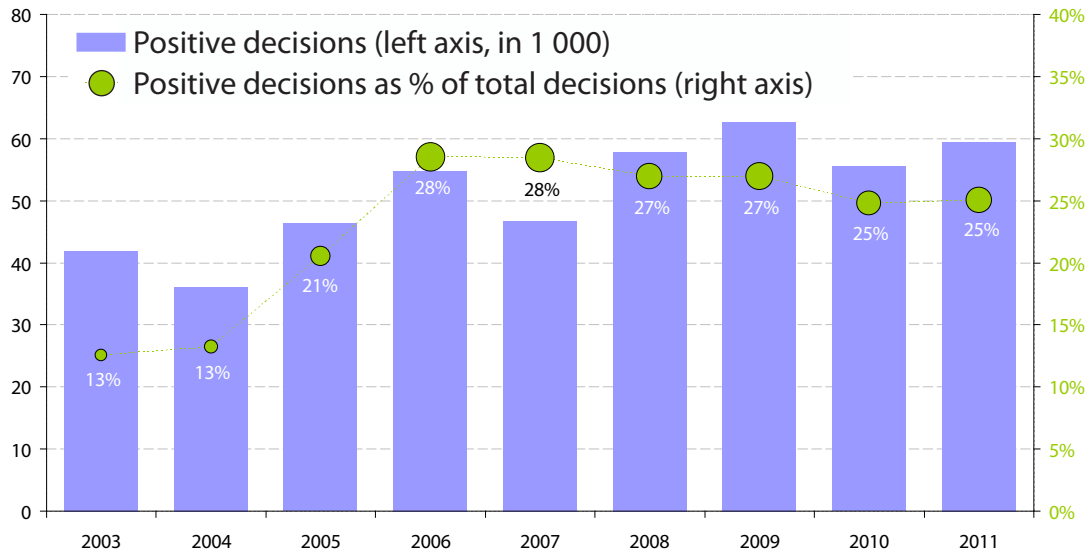


The top three countries represent 48% of the total asylum applicants

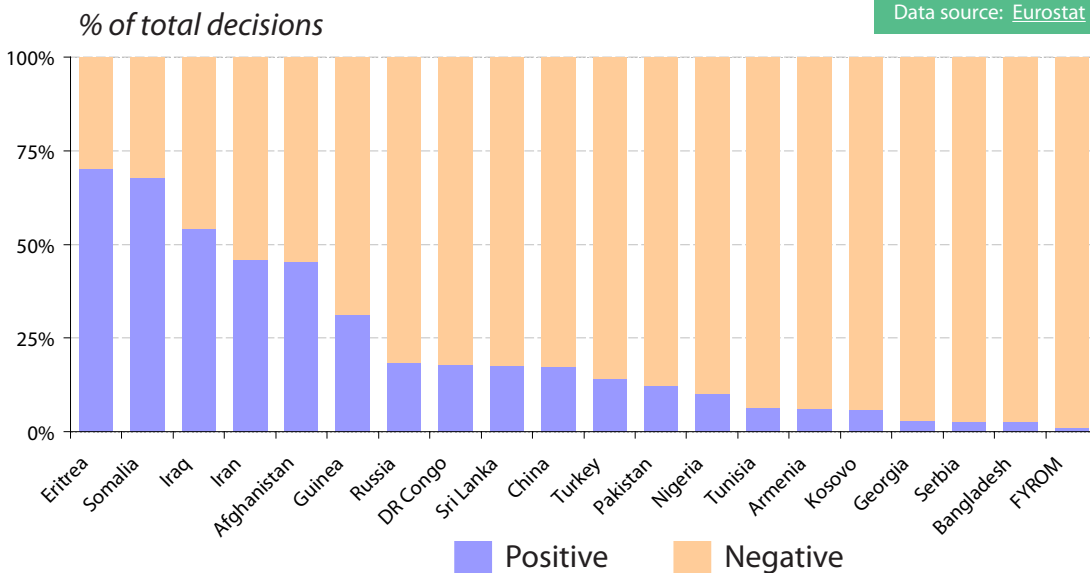
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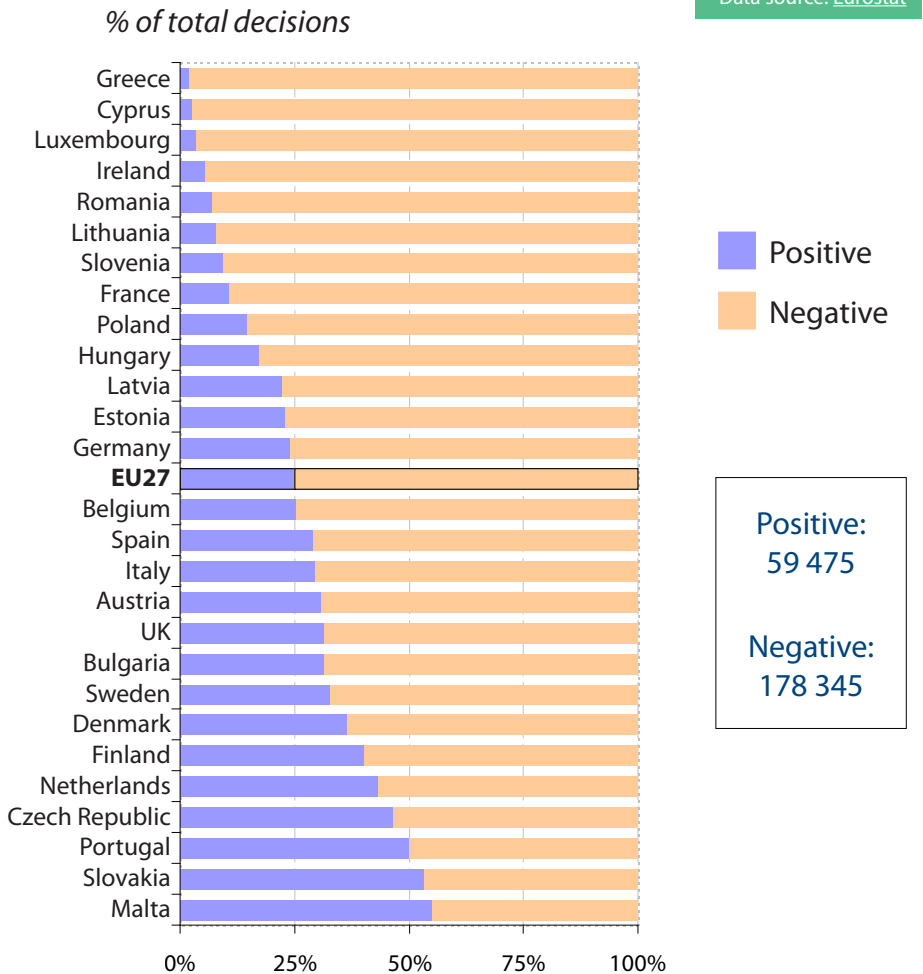
6. Positive first instance decisions on asylum in EU 27 Data source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta)



8. First instance decisions on asylum: top 20 countries of origin (2011) Data source: Eurostat



7. First instance decisions on asylum by arrival country (2011) Data source: Eurostat



Positive:
59 475

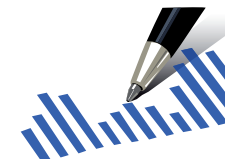
Negative:
178 345

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Notes

Country code: Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)

Extraction date: data has been extracted in March/April 2012.



Further information

1. Asylum applicants in EU 27

The graph represents the number of asylum applicants in the EU 27. Applicants means all persons that have applied for asylum or similar protection - as defined in Article 2(g) of [Council Directive 2004/83/EC](#) - or who have been included in such an application as a family member.

Until 2007, data were collected on the basis of a gentlemen's agreement. From 2008 onwards they are reported by Member States (MS) under [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 862/2007](#).

Data for the year 2008 are incomplete as UK figures are not available for that year.

For the year 2011 the breakdown is presented by gender and by age group. Female figures were not available for that year, but an author calculation - total minus male - has been made in order to get the breakdown.

It is worth noting that the decrease in asylum applicants from 2004 onwards is mainly due to EU enlargement.

2. Asylum applicants in EU 27: country of origin of applicants (2011)

The map shows the country of origin of asylum applicants in the EU 27 for the year 2011, whether they apply physically in the MS or in their country of citizenship. In other words it shows the citizenship of applicants.

The countries of citizenship are divided in five categories based on the number of applicants from that country: *zero* - number of applicants in the year less than 99 -, *very low* - between 100 and 1 000 -, *low* - between 1 001 and 5 000 -, *medium* - between 5 001 and 10 000 - and *high* - between 10 001 and 30 000.

3. Number of applicants from the top ten countries of origin and Human Development Index (HDI) (2011)

The infographic shows two indicators: the Human Development Index (HDI) and the number of applicants from the most common citizenships of applicants.

The HDI is an index made by the [United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#) aimed at measuring the human development of a country. It is a combination of three indicators: life expectancy at birth (health), access to knowledge (education) and gross national income per capita (income). The index is a geometrical mean of the above indicators and has a value between 0 (least developed) and 1 (most developed).

Based on the index, 187 countries have been ranked and divided into four categories: *very high* (HDI value between 0.943 and 0.784 and rank between 1 and 47) *high* (value between 0.783 and 0.699 and rank between 48 and 94), *medium* (value between 0.698 and 0.511 and rank between 95 and 141) and *low* (value between 0.510 and 0.286 and rank between 142 and 187). No HDI is calculated for Somalia.

The ten countries considered are those with the highest number of asylum applicants in the EU in 2011.

An example to better understand the infographic: in the EU there were 28 000 Afghan applicants in 2011 and, based on the HDI, Afghanistan is a low developed country occupying 172nd place in the ranking.

4. Asylum applicants in EU 27: country of arrival (2011)

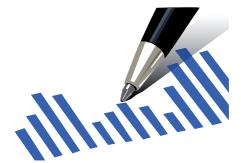
Country of arrival means the EU MS in which asylum has been requested by the applicant. The map shows the relative value of the number of applicants in the EU; the figure has been divided by the population of each MS and represents the number of applicants per million inhabitants (calculation by the author).

The countries are classified in four groups: *very low* - less than 100 applicants per million inhabitants, *low* - 100 to 499 applicants, *medium* - 500 to 1 000, and *high* - more than 1 000 applicants.

5. Asylum applicants in EU 27: top 15 arrival countries (2011)

The graph shows the top 15 countries of arrival in absolute terms. The figures are not related to the size of the country but show how many persons actually asked for asylum in those MS.

Those 15 countries received 97% of all asylum applicants in the EU in 2011.



6. Positive first instance decisions on asylum in EU 27

As stated by Eurostat “First instance decision means a decision granted by the respective authority acting as a first instance of the administrative/judicial asylum procedure in the receiving country”. Within a positive decision are the following categories: “person granted refugee status”, “person granted subsidiary protection status” and “person granted authorization to stay for humanitarian reasons”.

The number of asylum applicants and the number of first instance decisions during the same year differs. This is due to the time elapsed between a request and the decision. This time varies considerably, depending on national asylum procedures and the administrative workload of MS.

The graph shows the aggregate for the EU 27, but for some years and some countries data are not available. This is the case for Italy for the years 2003, 2004 and 2007; Luxembourg for the years 2004, 2009 and 2010; Netherlands and Belgium for 2007 and Cyprus for the year 2008.

The graph shows the number of positive decisions in thousands in 2011 (left-hand axis) and the percentage of total decisions it represents (right-hand axis). For example in 2011 there were almost 60 000 positive decisions, which represents 25% of the total number of decisions.

7. First instance decisions on asylum by arrival country (2011)

The graph shows the percentage of positive and negative first instance decisions for each MS in 2011. The EU average is 25% positive and 75% negative.

8. First instance decisions on asylum: top 20 countries of origin (2011)

The graph shows the positive and negative first instance decisions in percentage terms for the country of origin - meaning the citizenship of the applicants. The top 20 countries of origin in terms of total decisions are shown.