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Asylum applications in the EU+ up by 10 % in the first half of 2019 from the same period in 2018



Applications from Latin America reached a new peak.

Preliminary analyses reveal that **in the first half of 2019 some 337 200 applications for asylum were lodged in the EU+, a 10 % increase from the same period a year earlier.** In contrast to this upward trend, **in June 2019 applications fell to the lowest level of the year**, but there were fewer working days.

Citizens of Syria, Afghanistan and Venezuela continued to lodge the most applications, with only Syrians seeking asylum in reduced numbers. Importantly, **applicants from several Latin-American countries have already lodged the same (or higher) number of applications as in the whole of 2018.** These citizenships are all exempt of visa requirements when entering the Schengen area, now accounting for more than one in four applications in the EU+.

The output of first-instance authorities remained at lower levels: some 277 700 decisions were issued at first instance, in line with the previous semester. As a result, the number of cases awaiting a decision at first instance remained stable throughout the past twelve months, and amounted to 439 000 at the end of June.

Some 95 300 first-instance decisions issued so far in 2019 have granted EU-regulated forms of protection (70 % refugee status and 30 % subsidiary protection) which amounts to a recognition rate of 34 %. Citizens from Yemen and Syria had the highest rate (86 %) whereas Moldovans (0.3 %) and North Macedonians had the lowest (1 %).

For more information and an interactive data visualisation, please visit the Latest Asylum Trends page.

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