News Published: 9 July 2019

Nationals from Colombia and Peru apply for asylum in the EU+ in record numbers



The monthly total of applications for international protection remains relatively stable.

In **May 2019**, the **monthly number of applications for international protection lodged in the 30 EU+ countries** (European Union Member States plus Norway and Switzerland) **remained stable** at around 57 000. However since the start of the year, some 287 500 applications have been lodged, which is 14 % more than in the same period last year.

The ten **main citizenships of origin of applicants** in May were Syria, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Iraq, Colombia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and Georgia. The **most notable rising trend** was for **Colombian nationals**, with 2 800 applications reaching the highest values in the past few years. Be it with smaller absolute numbers, **a record level was also reached for Peruvian applications.**

After a dip in April, in May there was again a 7 % increase in the number of **first-instance decisions** issued in the EU+, reaching 47 275. The **recognition rate** dropped slightly to 32 % in May, or 35 % when combining decision-data for the six-month period ending in May. The highest six-month recognition rates were for citizens from Yemen (89 %), Syria (87 %) and Eritrea (80 %) and the lowest for nationals from Moldova (0.4 %), North Macedonia (1 %), Georgia and India (each 3 %).

At the end of May, the number of **cases awaiting a first-instance decision** was stable with some 445 000 cases. Compared to the same month of last year, the stock went up by 16 300.

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

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