

## Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors 63 300 unaccompanied minors among asylum seekers registered in the EU in 2016

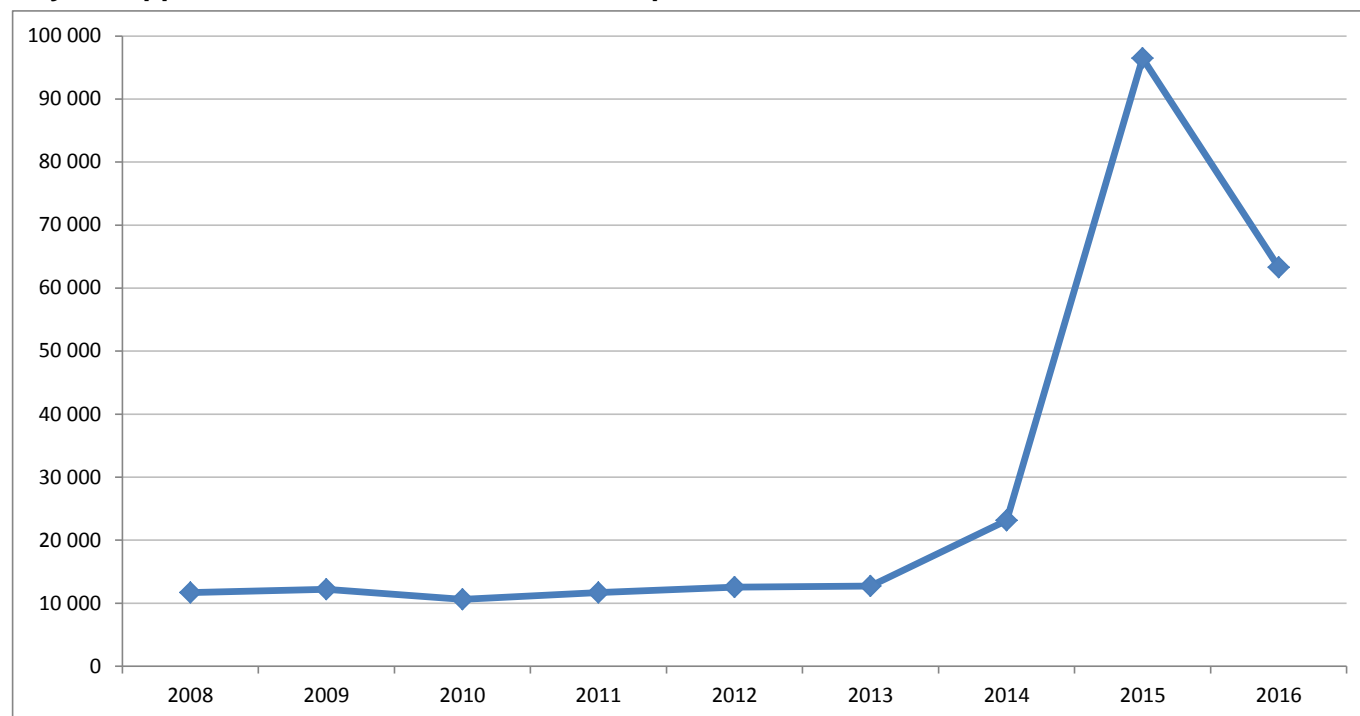
Over half are Afghans or Syrians

In 2016, 63 300 asylum seekers applying for international protection in the Member States of the **European Union** (EU) were considered to be unaccompanied minors, a number down by about a third compared with 2015 (with almost 96 500 unaccompanied minors registered) but still about 5 times higher than the annual average during the period 2008-2013 (around 12 000 per year).

In 2016, a substantial majority of unaccompanied minors were males (89%) and over two-thirds were aged 16 to 17 (68%, or about 43 300 persons), while those aged 14 to 15 accounted for 21% (around 13 500 persons) and those aged less than 14 for 10% (almost 6 300 persons). More than a third (38%) of asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors in the **EU** in 2016 were Afghans and about a fifth (19%) Syrians.

This information is issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

### Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors in the EU Member States\*, 2008-2016



\* excluding Croatia for the period 2008-2011

## Six in ten applied for asylum in Germany

In 2016, the highest number of asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors was registered in **Germany** (with almost 36 000 unaccompanied minors, or 57% of all those registered in the EU Member States), followed by **Italy** (6 000, or 10%), **Austria** (3 900, or 6%), the **United Kingdom** (3 200, or 5%), **Bulgaria** (2 750, or 4%), **Greece** (2 350, or 4%) and **Sweden** (2 200, or 3%). Among Member States with more than 1 000 asylum seekers considered to be unaccompanied minors in 2016, numbers rose most compared with the previous year in **Greece** (over 1 900 more unaccompanied minors in 2016 than in 2015, or +460%), **Germany** (13 700 more, or +61%), **Bulgaria** (935 more, or +51%) and **Italy** (1 950 more, or +48%). In contrast, the largest decreases were recorded in **Sweden** (with over 33 000 fewer unaccompanied minors in 2016 than in 2015, or -94%), **Hungary** (7 600 fewer, or -86%), **Belgium** (1 800 fewer, or -64%), the **Netherlands** (2 150 fewer, or -56%) and **Austria** (4 400 fewer, or -53%).

## Over half of young asylum seekers were unaccompanied minors in Slovenia and Italy

The largest shares of unaccompanied minors among all young asylum applicants in 2016 were recorded notably in **Slovenia** (where 57% of all asylum applicants aged less than 18 were unaccompanied in 2016), **Italy** (54%) and **Denmark** (49%), followed by **Bulgaria** (42%), **Croatia** (36%), the **United Kingdom** (34%), **Cyprus** (32%) and the **Netherlands** (27%). In total in the **EU**, unaccompanied minors accounted for 16% of all asylum applicants aged less than 18 in 2016.

### Asylum applicants considered unaccompanied minors in the EU Member States, 2016

	Total number 2015	Total number 2016	of which:		Share in all minor applicants (%)
			Males	Aged below 14	
<b>EU</b>	<b>96 465</b>	<b>63 290</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>15.9</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	2 850	1 035	87%	16%	18.2
<b>Bulgaria</b>	1 815	2 750	95%	17%	41.9
<b>Czech Republic</b>	15	-	-	-	-
<b>Denmark</b>	2 125	1 185	90%	10%	49.1
<b>Germany</b>	22 255	35 935	89%	10%	13.4
<b>Estonia</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Ireland</b>	35	35	85%	3%	5.9
<b>Greece</b>	420	2 350	87%	12%	11.9
<b>Spain</b>	25	30	68%	0%	0.7
<b>France</b>	320	475	76%	9%	3.1
<b>Croatia</b>	5	170	99%	9%	36.3
<b>Italy</b>	4 070	6 020	95%	1%	53.9
<b>Cyprus</b>	105	215	54%	1%	31.6
<b>Latvia</b>	10	5	67%	0%	2.4
<b>Lithuania</b>	5	0	100%	0%	0.6
<b>Luxembourg</b>	105	50	100%	0%	8.2
<b>Hungary</b>	8 805	1 220	99%	10%	14.3
<b>Malta</b>	35	15	100%	0%	3.3
<b>Netherlands</b>	3 855	1 705	78%	9%	27.4
<b>Austria</b>	8 275	3 900	94%	10%	21.8
<b>Poland</b>	150	140	63%	69%	2.4
<b>Portugal</b>	50	25	67%	4%	6.7
<b>Romania</b>	55	45	95%	7%	8.1
<b>Slovenia</b>	40	245	99%	9%	57.1
<b>Slovakia</b>	5	0	50%	0%	5.4
<b>Finland</b>	2 535	370	69%	34%	21.4
<b>Sweden</b>	35 250	2 190	80%	17%	20.2
<b>United Kingdom</b>	3 255	3 175	90%	7%	33.9
<b>Iceland</b>	5	20	89%	0%	6.5
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	5	5	67%	33%	17.6
<b>Norway</b>	5 050	270	82%	17%	21.5
<b>Switzerland</b>	2 670	1 985	84%	7%	21.5

Number of unaccompanied minors is rounded to the nearest 5.

Calculations are based on exact data, excluding the category "unknown" for both sex and age.

- Zero or not applicable 0 means fewer than 3.

The source dataset can be found [here](#) by sex and [here](#) by age group.

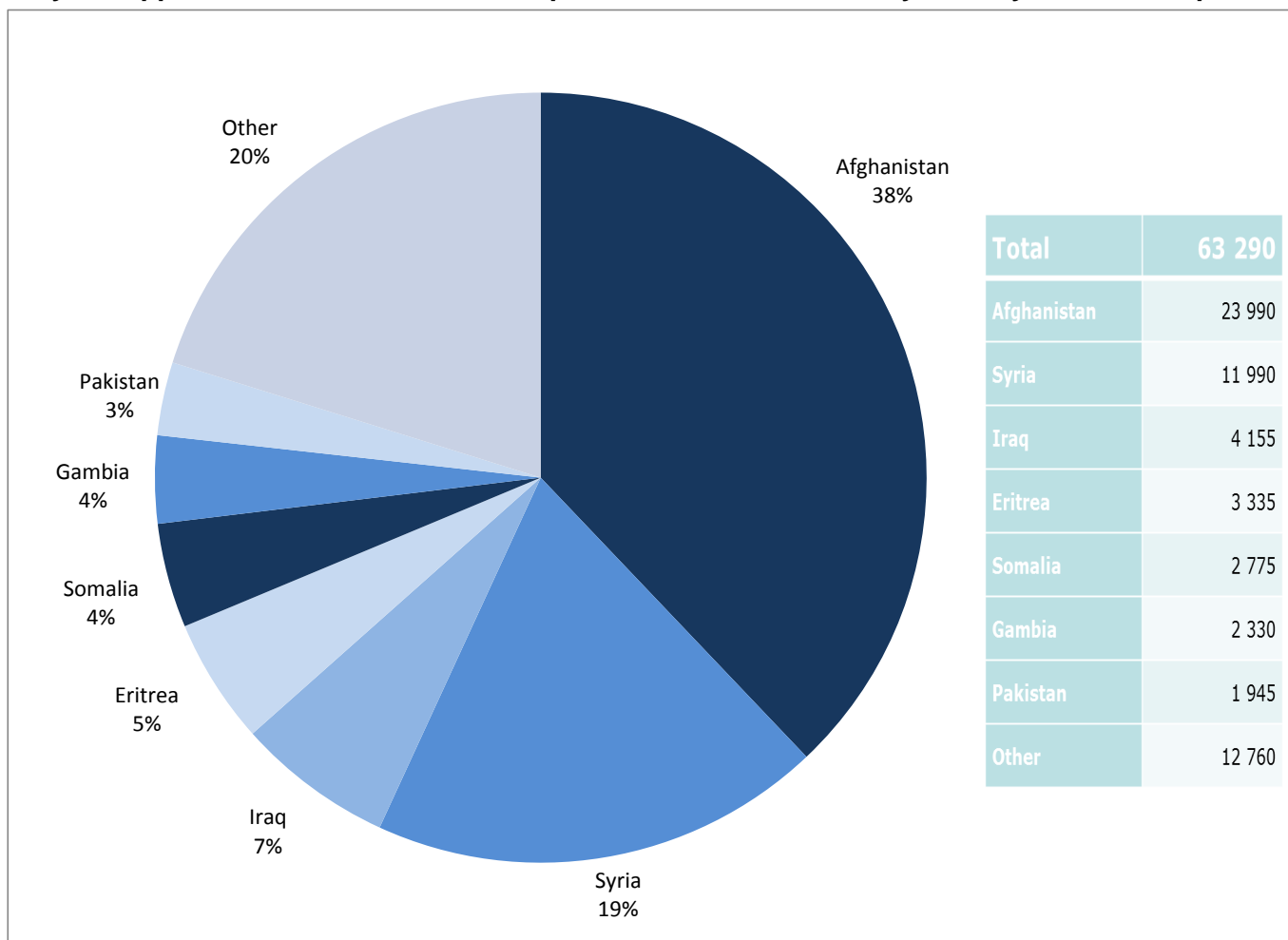
## Almost 4 out of 10 unaccompanied minors were Afghans

Most of the asylum applicants considered unaccompanied minors in the EU Member States were **Afghans** (38% of the total number of unaccompanied minors registered in 2016) or **Syrians** (19%).

Of the 24 000 **Afghans** considered unaccompanied minors in the EU in 2016, nearly two-thirds were registered in **Germany** (15 000). **Afghans** represented the most numerous citizenship of asylum seekers considered unaccompanied minors in half of the EU Member States.

Of the 12 000 **Syrians** seeking protection in the EU Member States and considered unaccompanied minors in 2016, 8 in 10 applied in **Germany** (10 000).

### Asylum applicants considered unaccompanied minors in the EU, by country of citizenship, 2016



The source dataset can be found [here](#).

## Asylum applicants considered unaccompanied minors, by country of citizenship, 2016

	Applicants	Three main citizenships of asylum applicants considered unaccompanied minors								
	#	First citizenship	#	%	Second citizenship	#	%	Third citizenship	#	%
<b>EU</b>	<b>63 290</b>	<b>Afghanistan</b>	<b>23 990</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>Syria</b>	<b>11 990</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Iraq</b>	<b>4 155</b>	<b>7</b>
Belgium	1 035	Afghanistan	540	52	Guinea	80	8	Syria	75	7
Bulgaria	2 750	Afghanistan	2 040	74	Iraq	370	13	Pakistan	185	7
Czech Republic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Denmark	1 185	Afghanistan	525	45	Morocco	125	11	Eritrea	120	10
Germany	35 935	Afghanistan	14 960	42	Syria	10 045	28	Iraq	2 960	8
Estonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ireland	35	Afghanistan	10	26	Albania	5	21	Syria	5	12
Greece	2 350	Syria	765	32	Pakistan	640	27	Afghanistan	430	18
Spain	30	Syria	10	32	^	^	^	^	^	^
France	475	Afghanistan	130	28	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	45	10	Sudan	40	8
Croatia	170	Afghanistan	125	74	Pakistan	10	7	Syria	10	7
Italy	6 020	Gambia	1 720	29	Nigeria	765	13	Senegal	550	9
Cyprus	215	Somalia	135	63	Syria	50	22	Congo	5	3
Latvia	5	Vietnam	5	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lithuania	0	^	^	^	^	^	^	^	^	^
Luxembourg	50	Afghanistan	15	27	Morocco	10	20	Guinea	5	14
Hungary	1 220	Afghanistan	850	70	Pakistan	150	12	Kosovo*	55	4
Malta	15	Syria	10	67	Eritrea	5	27	^	^	^
Netherlands	1 705	Eritrea	775	45	Afghanistan	195	11	Syria	180	11
Austria	3 900	Afghanistan	2 445	63	Pakistan	315	8	Somalia	300	8
Poland	140	Russia	85	61	Vietnam	25	18	Tajikistan	5	5
Portugal	25	Congo	10	42	Côte d'Ivoire	5	13	^	^	^
Romania	45	Iraq	20	42	Syria	15	35	Afghanistan	5	16
Slovenia	245	Afghanistan	165	67	Pakistan	20	7	Syria	15	5
Slovakia	0	^	^	^	^	^	^	^	^	^
Finland	370	Afghanistan	100	27	Syria	95	26	Iraq	55	15
Sweden	2 190	Afghanistan	665	30	Somalia	420	19	Syria	180	8
United Kingdom	3 175	Afghanistan	740	23	Albania	405	13	Eritrea	405	13
Iceland	20	Iraq	5	22	Syria	5	17	^	^	^
Liechtenstein	5	^	^	^	^	^	^	^	^	^
Norway	270	Afghanistan	115	42	Eritrea	45	17	Syria	25	9
Switzerland	1 985	Eritrea	835	42	Afghanistan	340	17	Somalia	250	13

Number of unaccompanied minors is rounded to the nearest 5.

Calculations are based on exact data.

- Zero or not applicable      0 means fewer than 3.

^ No data presented for those countries of citizenship where the number of unaccompanied minors was 2 or fewer during the reference period.

\* Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99.

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

## Geographical information

The **European Union** (EU) includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

## Methods and definitions

Data on asylum are provided to Eurostat by the Ministries of Interior, Justice or immigration agencies of the Member States according to the provisions of Article 4 of the Regulation (EC) 862/2007 of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection.

An **asylum applicant considered to be an unaccompanied minor** is a minor (aged less than 18) who arrives on the territory of the Member States unaccompanied by an adult responsible for him or her whether by law or by the practice of the Member State concerned, and for as long as he or she is not effectively taken into the care of such a person. It includes a minor who is left unaccompanied after he or she has entered the territory of the Member States. 'Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors' refer to all applicants for international protection who are considered by the national authority to be unaccompanied minors during the reference period. The age of unaccompanied minors reported by Member States shall refer to the age accepted by the national asylum authority. In case the national authority carries out an age assessment procedure in relation to the applicant claiming to be an unaccompanied minor, the age reported shall be the age determined by the age assessment procedure.

'**Application for international protection**' means an application for international protection as defined in Art. 2(g) of Council Directive 2004/83/EC, i.e. including requests for refugee status or for subsidiary protection status, irrespective of whether the application was lodged on arrival at the border, or from inside the country, and irrespective of whether the person entered the territory legally (e.g. as a tourist) or illegally.

## For more information

Eurostat [database](#) on asylum and managed migration

Eurostat [metadata](#) on asylum applications statistics

Eurostat [news release 46/2017](#) of 16 March 2017 on asylum applicants in 2016.

Eurostat [news release 70/2017](#) of 26 April 2017 on asylum decisions in 2016.

Eurostat [Statistics Explained article](#) on asylum quarterly data.

Eurostat [Statistics Explained article](#) on asylum annual data.

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