



Ad-Hoc Query on recent migration patterns and channels of inflow of refugee applicants in EU [only for BE, BG, EL, FR, DE, HU, IT, NL, PL, SE, UK]

Requested by PL EMN NCP on 30th July 2014

Compilation produced on 6th November 2014

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, United Kingdom (19 in Total)

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1) Background Information

Poland experiences new trends concerning both asylum and irregular migration resulting i.e. from increased share of Ukrainian nationals among asylum seekers in Poland. Due to this fact the Polish Ministry of the Interior has decided to analyze the new European tendencies concerning migration patterns and channels of inflow of refugee applicants.

There are basic quarterly asylum statistical data in the new Eurostat publication, so we do not request to provide them. However if you find it useful to illustrate some trends with abovementioned data, please use them as well.



Poland would therefore very much appreciate information regarding following questions:

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1. Please specify the main characteristics of the refugee inflow to your country in the 1st quarter of 2014, especially the main migration channels used by applicants of particular nationalities (top 3) and proportion between refugee applications submitted while crossing the border (including airports) and those submitted within the territory of the State.
2. Does your MS take part in resettlement programme? If yes, what is the number and top 3 nationalities of refugees re-settled in 2013 and 1st quarter of 2014?

The PL EMN NCP would very much appreciate if we could receive your responses by **25th August 2014**.

2. Responses





		Wider Dissemination?	
	Austria	No	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.
	Belgium	Yes	<p>1. During the first quarter of 2014 about 5,105 persons applied for asylum in Belgium. Only a small fraction of this total number of applicants (about 2.5 %) lodged an application at the border (mainly the airport in Brussels). The top 3 of countries of origin for the first quarter of 2014 were Afghanistan (985 applicants), Russia (455) and Syria (415). It should be noted that a substantial number of these asylum applications were subsequent asylum applications by people who were already residing on the Belgian territory. The applicants from the top 3 countries of origin came generally as irregular migrants to Europe via the Eastern Mediterranean Route (Syrians and Afghans) and the Eastern Land Border of the EU (Russians). There are also persons who travelled legitimately to the EU but came to Belgium and applied for asylum once their visa expired. There is no detailed analysis available on what proportion of asylum seekers came to Belgium via what channel, or which European countries were transited.</p> <p>2. Yes, since 2009, Belgium has regularly contributed to resettlement projects. In 2013 the selection was made in accordance with European priorities and consequently identified the refugees in the African Great Lakes region. The national focus was on vulnerable people. Within the quota of 100 refugees, three groups were therefore defined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 Burundian refugees staying in camps in Tanzania; • 40 Congolese refugees staying in camps in Burundi; • 20 vulnerable refugees who may originate from various regions of the world (women and children in danger, or people who have survived acts of violence or torture).

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			Belgium decided to resettle 100 refugees on its territory in 2014. On the basis of the priorities of the UNHCR and the European Union, Belgium has decided to resettle 75 Syrians fleeing the fighting in Syria and 25 Congolese refugees from the Great Lakes region. The resettled refugees are expected to arrive during the second half of 2014.
	Bulgaria	Yes	<p>1. In the first quarter of 2014, the top 3 groups of asylum seekers in the Republic of Bulgaria are from Syria (1328), Afghanistan (282), and stateless persons (108). The majority of Syrian nationals are typically families with little children. A big percentage of them also present a national passport and identity card. This applies to stateless persons as well, whose country of origin is considered to be Syria in accordance with paragraph 1, item 7 of the additional provisions of the Law on Asylum and Refugees. Most persons belonging to this category are Kurds by ethnic origin and religion – Sunni Muslim, less frequently Yazidi, while Christians are an exception. They come mostly from the following areas: Aleppo, Al-Hasakah. The Afghan nationals are mostly men and the majority are economic migrants. The fact signifying this is that the Republic of Bulgaria is only a transit country for them: part of them are caught while trying to leave the territory of our country illegally, while with respect to others, an EU Member State establishes that the Republic of Bulgaria is responsible for examining their application for international protection in accordance with Regulation (EU) № 604/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council.</p> <p><u>Main migration channels</u> Syrian nationals usually follow the route: Syria, Turkey, Bulgaria; entry is through the land border, Border Police stations in Malko Tarnovo and Svilengrad. Afghan nationals usually follow the route: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Bulgaria or Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, Bulgaria; entry is through the land border. Applications are lodged while crossing the border as well as in the special homes for temporary accommodation of foreigners managed by Migration Directorate, Ministry of the Interior. The persons who submitted an application are sent to the territorial units of the State Agency for Refugees under Art. 58 (4) of the Law on Asylum and Refugees.</p> <p>2. In a decision of the Council of Ministers of the Republic Bulgaria on 13 June 2012, the State Agency for Refugees was designated as the institution responsible for drafting and implementing a one-year pilot programme for the resettlement of 20 persons. The pilot programme was planned to be implemented for one calendar year (2013-2014), but it did not take place because of the refugee crisis in Bulgaria, which escalated at the end of 2013. Until now, the Republic of Bulgaria has not resettled refugees, but it has developed the necessary administrative capacity, which will be maintained in view of realizing the resettlement programme in the period 2018-2020.</p>
	Croatia	Yes	<p>1. During 2014, Croatia recorded decrease in the number of application for asylum compared to the last year. Largest number of applications for asylum is submitted by alleged Syrian citizens. Croatia is currently facing increase in the number of cases when asylum seekers falsely represent themselves as Syran citizens in order to improve their chances in asylum procedure. In such cases, data concerning citizenship is changed according to the exactly established facts regarding asylum seekers' country of origin during asylum procedure. However, there is</p>

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			<p>high percentage (roughly 50%) of discontinuation of proceedings concerning Syrians citizens due to absconding of applicants; therefore it is not always possible to verify information regarding their country of origin, so we continue to keep data regarding citizenship of those applicants in our statistics as Syrians.</p> <p>Algeria and Pakistan are other two countries that are in top 3 countries of origin in Croatia. Applications lodged by Algerian nationals are mainly rejected as manifestly unfounded or their proceedings as well as proceedings concerning Pakistanis are discontinued due to absconding of applicants.</p> <p>Compared to 2013, applications made by citizens from Afghanistan and Somalia that used to be top countries of origin, declined significantly.</p> <p>Alleged Syrian citizens tend to make application for asylum while in detention during the expulsion procedure (roughly 30%) or within territory of Croatia, more precisely in the area of district Zagreb. Algerians and Pakistanis make an application as well mainly within the territory of Croatia, in the area of district Zagreb. Please note that those citizens come in Croatia illegally, without any personal documents. Insignificant percentages (less than 10%) of mentioned citizens make an application while crossing border (including airports). According to this data it can be concluded that these groups of citizens come specifically organized in Zagreb through illegal migration channels, knowing Accommodation for asylum seekers is situated in town of Zagreb.</p> <p>2. Croatia does not take part in resettlement programme.</p>
	Cyprus	No	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.
	Czech Republic	No	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.
	Estonia	Yes	<p>1. There has not been a major change in the inflow of international protection applicants during the 1st quarter of 2014 in Estonia. Changes in the inflow (increase of the number of applicants from Ukraine in particular) have started taking place in the 2nd quarter of 2014 bringing Ukraine to the top of the list of applicants for international protection in Estonia by the end of July 2014 (20 applicants). In the 1st quarter of 2014 there have been 14 applications lodged at the border mainly in the Southern and Eastern parts of Estonia at the land border with Latvia and Russia, and 8 applications submitted within the territory of Estonia. Top three countries in the 1st quarter of 2014 have been Sudan (4), Russian Federation (4) and Egypt (3).</p> <p>2. No, Estonia does not take part in the resettlement programme.</p>
	Finland	Yes	<p>1. In the first quarter of 2014 Finland received a total of 722 asylum applications, of which the top three nationalities were Iraq (179), Russian Federation (53) and Somalia (52). In general, relatively few asylum applications are made at the border (somewhere in the region of 12 %), with perhaps the notable exception of Russian applicants, of whom approximately 35-40 % applied at the border. The same</p>

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			<p>proportion for Iraqis was less than 2 % and for Somalis around 20 %. However, owing to a certain ambiguity in the statistics derived from our registry database in this particular matter, we are unable to reliably obtain exact percentages.</p> <p>The citizens of Iraq submit their applications mainly inside the country at police stations soon after their arrival in Finland. Only some of them submit their applications while crossing the border including Helsinki-Vantaa airport. The citizens of Iraq arrive to Finland mainly from Sweden using the ferry connection between Finland and Sweden. Some of them also cross the land border between Sweden and Finland in Northern Finland. Some of them arrive to Helsinki-Vantaa airport using connection from another European country or connection from Istanbul for example.</p> <p>The majority of Russian applicants arrive legally, crossing the Finnish-Russian border with a Finnish visa. Some arrive without a passport or a visa and claim to have been smuggled across the border. In these cases it is harder to determine the immigration channel used, but it is known that at least some of these applicants have arrived into the Schengen area using visas issued by countries other than Finland, entering, for example, through Poland and the Baltics.</p> <p>The majority of Somali applicants arrive from Italy via Sweden to Finland by ferry without documents.</p> <p>The query only was about the first quarter; Finland has experienced a rise in Ukrainian asylum seekers in the second quarter.</p> <p>2. Finland does take part in UNHCR's resettlement programme. In the first quarter of 2014 a total of 55 refugees were accepted for resettlement of which the top 3 nationalities were Stateless/Palestinian (21), Afghanistan (12), and Somalia (8). These consist entirely of emergency cases, as no quota refugee decisions were made in the first quarter.</p>
	<p>France</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. In the 1st quarter of 2014, 15,918 requests for asylum were registered by the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (<i>Office Français de Protection des Réfugiés et Apatrides</i>), of which 11,426 were first applications, 1,348 were requests for reconsideration and 3,144 were requests from accompanying minors. The overall asylum applications registered during the 1st quarter of 2014 declined by 3.5% compared to the same period in 2013 (16,489 requests for asylum in the 1st quarter of 2013).</p> <p>In the 1st quarter of 2014, the top 3 countries of origin of asylum seekers applying for the first time are the Democratic Republic of the Congo (1,253, that is to say – 31.6% compared to the same period in 2013), Albania (637, - 10%), and China (625, + 34.1%).</p> <p>Asylum applications submitted while crossing the border continue to decrease in the 1st quarter of 2014. 262 opinions were issued compared to 355 in the 1st quarter of 2013, that is to say a decrease of 26.2%. 26% are positive opinions (compared to 10.1% in 2013). 69% of asylum seekers submitting their application while crossing the border are from Africa, and the top 3 countries of origin are the Central African Republic, Syria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.</p> <p>There are no data available concerning the main migration channels used by applicants.</p> <p>2. Yes, France takes part in the resettlement programme.</p> <p>97 refugees were resettled in 2013. The top 3 nationalities are Afghan (27), Ethiopian (24) and Sudanese (8).</p> <p>24 refugees were resettled in the 1st quarter of 2014. The top 3 nationalities are Afghan (13), Ethiopian (6) and Congolese (3, from Congo-Brazzaville).</p>

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	Germany	Yes	<p>1. In the 1st quarter of 2014 Germany registered a total of 32.949 first asylum applications and 4.871 subsequent asylum applications. The TOP nationalities were: 1. Syria (5.160 first, 367 subsequent applications), 2. Serbia (3.622 first, 1.667 subsequent applications) and 3. Afghanistan (2.401 first, 171 subsequent applications). These were followed by further 3 countries of the Western Balkans, Albania (1.280 first applications), Macedonia and Bosnia & Herzegovina. TOP 4, nationals from Albania, caused an increase of 1.280 % compared to the 1st quarter of 2013.</p> <p>There were no changes in the TOP 3 nationals (Syria, Serbia, Afghanistan) in the first half of 2014 but Germany saw a sharp increase of asylum applicants from Eritrea, TOP 4 (1.165 % increase compared to 1st half of 2013). While TOP 3 nationals (from Syria, Serbia, Afghanistan) proved to be rather constant (with rising numbers of applications), nationals from Albania and Eritrea have been of major concern since the beginning of this year.</p> <p>Nationals from the Western Balkans, including those from Serbia and Albania, use long distance busses straight to destinations in German cities (those from Albania usually via Montenegro – Croatia – Slovenia – Austria, occasionally via Kosovo to Montenegro and further on). Nationals from Eritrea almost exclusively use the central Mediterranean route from Libya by boat to Italy and continue through France or Austria to Germany.</p> <p>Nationals from Syria and Afghanistan use different routes either through Turkey – Greece – Macedonia – Serbia – Hungary - Austria to Germany or Turkey – Bulgaria – Serbia/Romania – Hungary – Austria to Germany. Some nationals (Syrians) use the central Mediterranean route from Libya or Egypt by boat to Italy and continue as Eritreans do.</p> <p>In the first quarter of 2014 requests for asylum were addressed to German border authorities/Federal Police as followed and are already included in the German asylum statistics:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="647 871 2063 1115"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>total</th> <th></th> <th>thereof airports</th> <th>last airport</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SYR</td> <td>874</td> <td>Austria, France, Airport</td> <td>142</td> <td>Greece, Turkey, Lebanon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AFG</td> <td>449</td> <td>Austria, Airport, France</td> <td>73</td> <td>Turkey, Greece, Russia</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SRB</td> <td>63</td> <td>Luxemburg, Interior, France</td> <td>2</td> <td>Serbia</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2. Germany takes part in the resettlement program with a quota of 300 persons in 2013 and 2014. The top three nationalities in 2013 have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Iraq - Iran - Syria <p>The resettlement program for 2014 is still to come so we have no data for the first quarter. By the end of the year it is expected to have the following nationalities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Iraq - Somalia 		total		thereof airports	last airport	SYR	874	Austria, France, Airport	142	Greece, Turkey, Lebanon	AFG	449	Austria, Airport, France	73	Turkey, Greece, Russia	SRB	63	Luxemburg, Interior, France	2	Serbia
	total		thereof airports	last airport																			
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			- Sri Lanka
	Hungary	Yes	<p>1. The Office of Immigration and Nationality does not collect statistic data on whether the application was submitted while crossing the border or within the territory of the country. In the first quarter of 2014, most asylum applications came from Afghanistan (1214), Syria (631), AND Kosovo (144). There are no official statistics on the most common flight routes used by asylum seekers; however, based on experience most Afghan and Syrian applicants come through Turkey, Greece, Macedonia and Serbia to Hungary. Applicants from Kosovo also travel through Serbia.</p> <p>2. Yes. Believing that resettlement is a form of solidarity and burden sharing, Hungary started its programme in 2012, during which an Iranian citizen was resettled from Ukraine. However, in the framework of our Annual Plan for the year 2013 and with the support of the European Refugee Fund – with the consent of the European Commission – Hungary undertook the resettlement of 10 persons. This was the second resettlement exercise of Hungary and, taking into consideration the deeply deteriorating humanitarian situation of the region, this action targeted Syrian refugees. The preparation of resettlement priorities for this year is currently in process as well as an overview of our opportunities for 2015.</p>
	Ireland	No	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.
	Italy	Yes	<p>1. During summer months, Italy faces an emergency as regards sea arrivals. So top three nationalities are Mali, Gambia and Pakistan. Although, the place of asylum, currently is not collected in Italy, we can state that most part of refugee applications are submitted while crossing the border.</p> <p>2. 2013* Ecuador (295); Tunisia (267); Morocco (204).The data for the 1st quarter of 2014 are not available.</p>
	Netherlands	Yes	<p>1. The exact division is not yet known. But the numbers over 2013 provide a reliable prognosis for 2014. In 2013 of the 14.400 asylum applications, 780 were made at the border.</p> <p>2. Yes. The average number is 500 persons per year. The top three in 2013 was 1) Congolese 2) Eritrean 3) Iraqi. Over 2014 there is no public data yet, but the number 1 country of origin will be Syria.</p>
	Poland	Yes	<p>1. Poland currently faces major shift regarding refugee applications, characterized mainly by sharp decrease in number of applications submitted by Georgian citizens, diminished inflow of citizens of Russian Federations (mainly of Chechen origins) and multiplied inflow of Ukrainian citizens as consequence of unrest in this country. The citizens of Russian Federation and Georgia submit their applications mainly (up to 90%) at the land border crossing point in Terespol, crossing the border with Belarus by train after travelling via Moscow (or using direct flights Tbilisi – Minsk) and Brest.</p>

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			<p>The Ukrainians applies both at the Polish-Ukrainian land border (roughly 50%) and inside the country (as a form of prolonging legal stay in Poland). The Ukrainians tend to stay to a greater extent in Poland until the refugee decision is issued (in case of Ukrainian citizens over 2/3 of refugee procedures this year lead to positive or negative decision; on the contrary in case of proceedings concerning Russian and Georgian nationals there is vast majority of discontinuation, mainly due to absconding of applicants).</p> <p>2. Poland does not take part in resettlement programme.</p>
	Portugal	Yes	<p>1. In the first quarter of 2014 Portugal registered a decrease of applications from Guinea Conakry nationals applying for asylum in Lisbon airport, the main nationality applying for asylum in 2013 in the airport. The main nationalities in the first quarter 2014 were Mali and Morocco applying for asylum at Lisbon airport, after refuse to enter and coming directly from Bamako and Casablanca/Marraquexe. Most of the asylum applications are made at border, namely Lisbon airport. Portugal also registers a significant inflow of Ukrainian citizens, after the first quarter 2014. The Ukrainians apply inside the territory and they have been issued with a provisional residence permit while a final decision on granting/refusing international protection isn't taken.</p> <p>2. Yes. Portugal accepted 14 resettled refugees in 2013 and the main nationality was Côte D'Ivoire. No data is yet available for 2014.</p>
	Romania	Yes	<p>1. Romania has not registered major changes regarding the number of asylum applications registered in the first 6 months of 2014. The general trend was slightly decreasing. The majority of asylum applicants were from Siria (47.14% out of the total number of applications). The general trend, during the reference period, was decreasing. The next country of origine in the top of asylum applicants was Afghanistan (11.14% out of the total number of applications) – general trend was slightly increasing. The number of asylum applications from Afghanistan was influenced by the detection by the Romanian border police, in the national territorial waters, of a boat with 37 illegal immigrants, all of them applying for international protection. The largest share of asylum applicants lodged their applications within the territory at the specialized structures of the General Inspectorate for Immigration or at the territorial branches of the border police (not border crossing points). Regarding the number of Ukrainians who applied for asylum, the number was low (3,01% out of the total number of applications, 20 in absolute figures). The majority lodged their applications at within the territory at the specialized structures of the General Inspectorate for Immigration (65.00% out of the total number of applications lodged by Ukrainians). 25.00% applied for international protection at the border checking points).</p> <p>2. According with the provisions of Government Decision 1596/2008 on resettlement of refugees in Romania, modified by Government Decision 810/2012, in 2014 were resettled in Romania 40 Iraqi refugees from Turkey, corresponding to the quota for 2012-2013.</p>

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	Sweden	Yes	<p>1. In the first seven months of 2014 Sweden has seen a large increase in the number of asylum claims + 69 %. As of 31 July the total number of asylum claims in Sweden was 31 915. The top three nationalities are Syria 11 775, an increase of 151 % compared to the same period last year, Eritrea 4 317, increase of 251 % and stateless (from mainly Syria) + 127 %.</p> <p>In regard to entry points the majority are detected inland, and has mostly arrived via Denmark and the Öresund bridge. The statistics for asylum claims at the external boarder (i.e. the air border) can only be seen at Arlanda airport in Stockholm where the Migration Board has a unit placed. The number for Syrians claiming asylum at Arlanda for the first seven months was 374, for Eritreans 108 and for Stateless 60.</p> <p>However, a larger number does arrive via the air border, but on intra-Schengen flights where there is no data available. Other statistics in regard to detections at the air border for asylum claims in Sweden, which is provided to Frontex for the Pulsar data collection is based on statements from the asylum applicants and can therefore not be verified, only data from the Migration Board at Arlanda is confirmed as entry at the external boarder and therefore the lower numbers.</p> <p>2. Yes Sweden take part in resettlement programme. The number of resettled refugees has for the last couple of years been 1900 refugees each year.</p> <p>The three most common nationalities for resettlement last year was Syria, Eritrea and Afghanistan. For the first quarter of 2014 the most common nationalities were Eritrea, Democratic Republic of Congo and Afghanistan.</p>																
	United Kingdom	Yes	<p>1. There were 23,731 asylum applications in the year ending March 2014, a rise of 1,101 (+5%) compared with the previous 12 months. The number of applications remains low relative to the peak number of applications in 2002 (84,132), and similar to levels seen since 2006 (23,608). The table below details the top three nationalities claiming asylum in the UK in the first quarter of 2014. This includes figures for applications received at the ports and applications received in-country.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="611 973 1993 1136"> <thead> <tr> <th>Asylum applications by Nationality (top 3) in 1st Quarter of 2014 (Jan – March)</th> <th>Total Asylum applications</th> <th>Applications received at the ports</th> <th>Applications received in-country</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pakistan</td> <td>825</td> <td>55</td> <td>770</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Iran</td> <td>446</td> <td>68</td> <td>378</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Albania</td> <td>432</td> <td>23</td> <td>409</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source : Home Office, Immigration Statistics January to march 2014 Asylum table as_01</p> <p>Most applications for asylum are made by those already in the country (89% of applications in the year ending March 2014) rather than by people arriving at port. Applicants tend to be young and male.</p> <p>2. The Gateway protection programme plays a key role in assisting those requiring resettlement in the UK. The programme is a humanitarian scheme that supports up to 750 refugees each year by relocating them from refugee camps to live in the UK. It supports refugees who have been identified by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as being highly vulnerable. The programme is managed by the Home Office and since 2007 has been co-funded by the European Refugee Fund (ERF) III and the Home Office</p>	Asylum applications by Nationality (top 3) in 1 st Quarter of 2014 (Jan – March)	Total Asylum applications	Applications received at the ports	Applications received in-country	Pakistan	825	55	770	Iran	446	68	378	Albania	432	23	409
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			In the first quarter of 2014 –the Gateway programme settled 29 Democratic Republic of Congo (from Burundi) 24 Iraq (from Syria). The total so far for the first quarter of 2014 is 53.
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