





Summary of ad hoc query

AD HOC QUERY from France on selectivity and attractiveness of citizenship procedure in EU Member States (22 answers) – April 2021

BACKGROUND

In the framework of the French migration policy, access to nationality is the last step of the third country national's integration pathway within the national community. Selectivity and attractiveness of citizenship are consequently important markers of the reception policy. As such, France would like to know the figures for this procedure in the other EU Member States for a comparative study, namely: the annual number of applications for citizenships, the annual number of positive decisions issued, the annual number of rejected decisions issued in 2019 and 2020.

KEY CONCLUSIONS

Countries	Applications (procedure the Interior	Ministry of)			decisions	Number of rejected decisions		Selectivity rate (% of positive decisions based on the total number of applications processed)	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	
Belgium	N/a	N/a	26 511	22 188	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	
Bulgaria	24 505	10 070	13 809	15 235	2 095	4 117	73.9 %	77.8 %	
Croatia	5 052	4 732	4 458	3 699	678	816	87 %	82 %	
Cyprus	2 306	1 448	1 878	546	51	10	97.4 %	98.2 %	
Czech	3 590	3 507	2 973	2 656	185	214	82.8 %	86.8 %	
Republic									
Estonia	902	917	775	755	94	128	85.9 %	82.3 %	
Finland	9 449	9 520	6 256	4 766	2 685	2 123	70 %	66 %	
France	101 079	77 863	62 629	49 825	21 279	17 167	74.6 %	74.4 %	
Germany	N/a	N/a	128 905	TBC*	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	
Hungary	11 002	5 319	9 996	5 319	2 539	1 496	80 %	78 %	
Italy	107 516	80 521	73 462	78 167	9 612	14 283	88.43 %	84.55 %	
Latvia	176	154	109	138	19	22	13 %	19 %	
Lithuania	N/a	N/a	2 693	5 074	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	
Luxembourg	5 480	2 443	4 855	3 979	63	40	98.7 %	99 %	
Netherlands	42 820	42 050	24 660	47 560	820	1 360	97 %	97 %	
Poland	8 871	7 379	5 583	5 990	1 921	1 737	74 %	77%	
Portugal	180 060	152 021	121 091	149 157	6 203	8 046	67%	98%	
Slovakia	1 093	925	913	916	121	105	11 %	11 %	
Slovenia	3 692	2 333	2 361	2 159	772	584	75.4 %	78.7 %	
Spain	96 246	87 363	159 387	74 082	4 101	7 914	165.60%	84.79 %	
Sweden	91 011	83 770	64 743	67 878	7 073	8 401	85 %	85 %	

CZ: the number of applications is not similar to the number of applicants; each positive decision correspond to one applicant, whereas each negative decision may correspond to one or more applicants (included in the same application).

DE: official naturalization statistics only take into account completed naturalizations, but not submitted applications for naturalization, nor rejections and withdrawals of such applications. Data are available at the Länder level but they do not provide a complete overview. In addition, national naturalization figures for a given year are only available in the middle of the following year, so that no information is available for 2020.

EE: the number of positive decisions do not include pending cases.

ES: between May and December 2019, Spain launched a "shock plan" to catch up on its backlog of pending asylum applications filed in previous years, resulting in a selectivity rate of 165.60% (Source: Spanish Ministry of Justice).

FI: the number of applications and the number of decisions may not correspond to each other in a given year (an application may be filed in the previous year and the decision issued the following year). In 2020, the total number of decisions issued to third-country nationals was 7,184, and 8,941 in 2019. These figures are not official statistics; they are based on the Finnish Immigration Service's citizenship statistics.

IT: the data for 2020 are impacted by the pandemic crisis and the difficulty for third country nationals to submit an application. It is not possible to establish a strict correlation between the number of applications filed and the number of positive decisions, as the former may be processed in subsequent years.

NL: Numbers are rounded up to the nearest multiple of ten.

LU: the total number of applications processed were 4,918 in 2019, and 4,019 in 2020.

PL: the 8,871 applications filed in 2019 involved 10,991 people (the applicant and their minor children), while the 7,379 applications in 2020 involved 9,316 people. Regarding the number of favorable decisions, 6,880 people were naturalized in 2019 (5,583 applications approved), and 7,516 people in 2020 (5,990 applications approved). The 1,921 unfavorable decisions issued in 2019 involved 2,423 people, while the 1,737 decisions issued in 2020 involved 2,131 people.

PT: the data regarding the number of applications received and the number of positive decisions for 2020 are provisional and have yet to be approved.

LV: the data only concern third-country applicants who applied to citizenship through naturalization process.

LT: these data are temporary.

SI: the number of applications processed is higher than the number of applications submitted because the applications submitted in previous vears are taken into account.

Although the Covid-19 crisis probably had a large impact on the 2020 figures, here follows some key points:

In 2020, among the reporting Member States:

- Two countries (**SK, LV**) have a selectivity rate below 20% (11% and 19% respectively), with a number of applications below 1 000.
- Six countries (BG, FI, FR, HU, PL, SI) have a selectivity rate between 60% and 80%.
- Six countries (CZ, EE, ES, HR, IT, SE) have a rate between 80% and 90%.
- Four countries (CY, LU, NL, PT) have a rate above 90%.

Between 2019 and 2020, the selectivity rate increased in nine countries (BG, CY, CZ, IT, LV, LU, PL, PT, SI), decreased in six (EE, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU), and remained the same in three countries (NL, SE, SK).

The number of applications filed varies depending on the country: less than 1,000 applications in 2020 in three countries (EE, LV, SK), between 1,000 and 11,000 applications in nine countries (BG, CY, CZ, FI, HU, HR, LU, PL, SI), and over 42,000 applications in six countries (ES, FR, IT, NL, PT, SE). Between 2019 and 2020, the number of applications filed increased only in Estonia and Finland.

List of Member States that replied: Austria (response not for wider dissemination), Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.

DISCLAIMER: The responses of the Member States regarding this ad-hoc query have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among the EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided information that is to the best of their knowledge up-to-date, objective and reliable. However, the information provided in the present summary is produced under the exclusive responsibility of EMN France and does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCP's Member State. The responses are interpreted by EMN France to write this summary.





AD HOC QUERY ON 2021.22 AHQ on selectivity and attractiveness of citizenship procedure for TCNs in the EU

Requested by EMN NCP France on 21 April 2021

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden (21 in Total)

Disclaimer:

The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.

1. Background information

In the framework of the French migration policy, access to nationality is the last step of the third country national's integration pathway within the national community. Selectivity and attractiveness of citizenship are consequently important markers of the reception policy.

In that context, the General Directorate for Foreign Nationals in France within the ministry of the Interior in charge of the procedure for acquiring citizenship is launching a benchmark in the EU and would like to know the figures for this procedure for TCNs in the other EU Member States. Since 2020 was a particular year because of the health crisis, 2019 figures should be a good reference.

Consequently, we would like to know

• The number of applications for citizenships received in 2019 and in 2020

AD HOC QUERY ON 2021.22 AHQ on selectivity and attractiveness of citizenship procedure for TCNs in the EU

Disclaime

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- The number of positive decisions issued in 2019 and in 2020
- The number of rejected decisions issued in 2019 and 2020
- The selectivity rate (% of positive decisions based on the total number of applications processed) in 2019 and 2020

2. Questions

1. Please complete the attached table for your country for each figure requested

We would very much appreciate your responses by 19 May 2021.

3. Responses

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		Wider Dissemination	
II	EMN NCP Austria	No	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.

¹ If possible at time of making the request, the Requesting EMN NCP should add their response(s) to the query. Otherwise, this should be done at the time of making the compilation.

² A default "Yes" is given for your response to be circulated further (e.g. to other EMN NCPs and their national network members). A "No" should be added here if you do not wish your response to be disseminated beyond other EMN NCPs. In case of "No" and wider dissemination beyond other EMN NCPs, then for the Compilation for Wider Dissemination the response should be removed and the following statement should be added in the relevant response box: "This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further."

	EMN NCP Belgium	Yes	citize Minis 2020 (data 2019 (data * Please no of Belgian Informatio For more i see the ch	nationality, a quasi-automation provided by the Federal Mignformation about the definition	number of positive decisions (including processing of pending cases / stock) 22188 (acquisition 21721 + naturalisation 467)* 26511 (acquisition 25828 + naturalisation 683)* ications for citizenship do not incl c procedure mostly concerning m gration Centre Myria on the basis on and scope of "acquisition", "national report by Myria (p. 2), available ationalite-FR-AS.pdf.	decisions (data not available) (data not available) ude the numbers inors (11481 in 2 of data extracted turalisation" and "	020, 13977 in 2019). from the national register.
1	EMN NCP Bulgaria	Yes	2020 2019	number of applications for citizenships filed (procedure Ministry of the Interior) 10 070 ³ 24 505 ⁵	number of positive decisions (including processing of pending cases / stock) 15 235 13 809	number of rejected decisions 4117 2095	selectivity rate (% of positive decisions based on the total number of applications processed) 77,8% ⁴ 73,9% ⁶

³ Number of new applications submitted in 2020.

⁴ 15 235 positive decisions out of 19 578 applications processed.

⁵ Number of new applications submitted in 2019.

⁶ 13 809 positive decisions out of 18 682 applications processed.

*	EMN NCP Croatia	Yes	2020 2019	for citizens	applications hips filed Ministry of the	(includin	of positive decisions g processing of cases / stock)	number of rejected decisions 816 678	selectivity rate (% of positive decisions based on the total number of applications processed) 82% 87%
٠	EMN NCP Cyprus	Yes	2020 2019	for citizens	applications hips filed Ministry of the	(includin	of positive decisions g processing of cases / stock)	number of rejected decisions 10 51	selectivity rate (% of positive decisions based on the total number of applications processed) 98,2% 97,4%
	EMN NCP Czech Republic	Yes	number o applicatio citizenshi filed (prod Ministry o Interior)[1	ns for ps cedure of the	number of posi decisions (inclu processing of p cases / stock) [2	ding ending	number of rejected decisions [3]	decisions base the total nur of applica processed)	sitive od on mber

			couples, n applicatio [2] Numbe [3] Rejecte	narried couple and their minor n does not have to be similar er of positive decisions is cour	nted: 1 decision equals 1 person.	minor children etc.)). Therefore, number of
	EMN NCP Estonia	Yes	include nu Please als to: 1. r 2. r	mber of pending cases. o note that the column "numbeasons for rejection provided	ion being incomplete (e.g. some	s both applications	s that have been rejected due
+	EMN NCP	Yes		number of applications	number of positive decisions	number of	selectivity rate (% of

	Finland			for citizenships filed (procedure Ministry of the Interior)	(including processing of pending cases / stock)	rejected decisions	positive decisions based on the total number of applications processed)
			2020	9 520	4 766	2 123	66 %
			2019	9 449	6 256	2 685	70 %
-11	EMN NCP France	Yes	the total n selectivity NB These	number of decisions. In 2020, rate was calculated) was 7 1 figures are not official statist	s year and the decision issued in the total number of decisions is .84 , and in 2019 the total number of sand Schengen area have been unmber of positive decisions (including processing of pending cases / stock)	sued to third-cour er of decisions iss sh Immigration Se	ntry nationals (from which the sued to TCNs was 8 941 . ervice statistics on citizenship
				, ,	, ,		
			2019	101,079	62,629	21,297	74.6 %
-	EMN NCP Germany	Yes	naturaliza an EMN st	tion applications submitted o udy of the federal states sho	lizations are recorded in the offi r rejections and withdrawals of s wed last year, there are some c cture. In addition, the (nationwid	such applications. orresponding figur	As a query in the context of es at the Länder level, but

				number of for citizens (procedure Interior)	fill in one field i applications	n the table number of (including pending of	and that only to of positive decis g processing of cases / stock) to be availab	o a limite ions r r		sele pos on app	ectivity rate (% of itive decisions based the total number of lications processed) Not available
			2019	Not a	available	128.905 naturaliz the	(comp ations accordir official fe ation statistics	ng to ederal	Not availa	able	Not available
II	EMN NCP Hungary	Yes		number of application citizenships	s for d	number of p lecisions (in processing o ases / stock	cluding f pending	numbe rejected decision	d	decisions b	rate (% of positive pased on the total applications
			2020	5 652 pers 11 002 per		319 perso 996 perso		1 496 ¡ 2 539 ¡	•	78 % 80 %	
	EMN NCP Italy	Yes			number of ap for citizen filed (procedur	Iships	number of decisions (i processing o	ncluding	-	er of ed decisions	selectivity rate (% of positive decisions based on

				of the Int	erior)	cases / stock)	-	the total number of applications processed
			2020	80.52	1	78.167	14.283	84,55%
			2019	107.51	16	73.462	9.612	88,43%
			crisis a countr It is not and the rejecti The reirrepro	and the consequency of origin. It possible to estate number of concarked increase becons, is evident asons for rejectionachability of the cindicated number of original sections.	blish a strict essions in th tween 2019 ns are dictate conduct of th	or applicants to obta correlation between	the applications sume former may be of civity, both in terms idential, income, critic for the security of those of previous y	minal requirements, the Republic.
=	EMN NCP	Yes	number	of applications	number of	positive decisions	number of	selectivity rate (% of

	Latvia			for citizenships filed (procedure Ministry of the Interior)	(including processing of pending cases / stock)	rejected decisions	positive decisions based on the total number of applications processed)
			2020	154	138	22	19%
			2019	176	109	19	13%
			In figure a	re mentioned third-country ap	oplicants only who applied to cit	tizenship through n	aturalization process.
ı	EMN NCP Lithuania	No		NCP has provided a response ted further.	to the requesting EMN NCP. Ho	wever, they have re	equested that it is not
П	EMN NCP Luxembourg	Yes		number of applications for citizenships filed (procedure Ministry of the Interior)	number of positive decisions (including processing of pending cases / stock)	number of rejected decisions	selectivity rate (% of positive decisions based on the total number of applications processed)
			2020	2443 ⁷	3979	40	99,0%8
			2019	5480°	4855	63	98,7%10

⁷ number of new applications submitted in 2020.

⁸ 3979 out of 4019 (3979 +40) applications processed.

⁹ number of new applications submitted in 2019.

¹⁰ 4855 out of 4918 (4855 +63) applications processed.

=	EMN NCP Netherlands	Yes		number of applications for citizenships filed (procedure Ministry of the Interior)	number of positive decisions (including processing cases / stock)
			2020	42050 42820	47560 24660
			•	by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (Immigratie- unded to the nearest multiple of ten.	en Naturalisatiedienst) on 28 May
	EMN NCP Poland	Yes	In 2019, administration children). In 2020, 737. 2. The number of posion in 2019, 5,583 application was 5,990 application in 2019, 1,921 application in 2019, 1,931 application in 201	ications for citizenships received in 2019 and in 2020. on authorities received 8,871 applications involving 10,991 79 applications were submitted to administrative bodies, coverative decisions issued in 2019 and in 2020. ations covering 6,880 people (the applicant + his minor childs covering 7,516 people. ations covering 2,423 people (the applicant + his minor child iscontinuation of proceedings, applications left without exact 2,131 people, respectively. (% of positive decisions based on the total number of applications detected proceedings had a positive decision, and in 2020 it was applicated proceedings had a positive decision, and in 2020 it was applicated proceedings.	dren) were approved, and in 2020 it dren) were not considered positively mination, etc.). In 2020, there were ations processed) in 2019 and 2020.

-	EMN NCP Slovakia	Yes		number of applications for citizenships filed (procedure Ministry of the Interior)	decision	of positive is (including ing of pending stock)	number of reje decisions (RD)/c suspension of p (SP)	decisions on	selectivity rate (% of positive decisions based on the total number of applications processed)
			2020	925	916		RD 33/SP 72 =	105	11%
			2019	1093	913		RD 38/SP 83 =	121	11%
-	EMN NCP Slovenia	Yes	Source: N	number of applica for citizenships fil (procedure Ministr Interior)	ations ed		_	number of rejected decisions	selectivity rate (% of positive decisions based on the total number of applications processed)
			2020	2.333		2.159		584	78,7%
			application						s bigger than the number of rs were resolved in individual
			year.						

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N	EMN NCP Spain	Yes	2020 2019 The data 03/31/202		decisions (including	number of rejected decisions 7.914 4.101 ring Spanish natio	selectivity rate (% of positive decisions based on the total number of applications processed) 84,79% 165,60% anality by residence. Updated
=	EMN NCP Sweden	Yes	2020	number of applications for citizenships filed (procedure Ministry of the Interior) 83770 91011	number of positive decisions (including processing of pending cases / stock) 67878 64743	number of rejected decisions 8401 7073	selectivity rate (% of positive decisions based on the total number of applications processed) 85%
