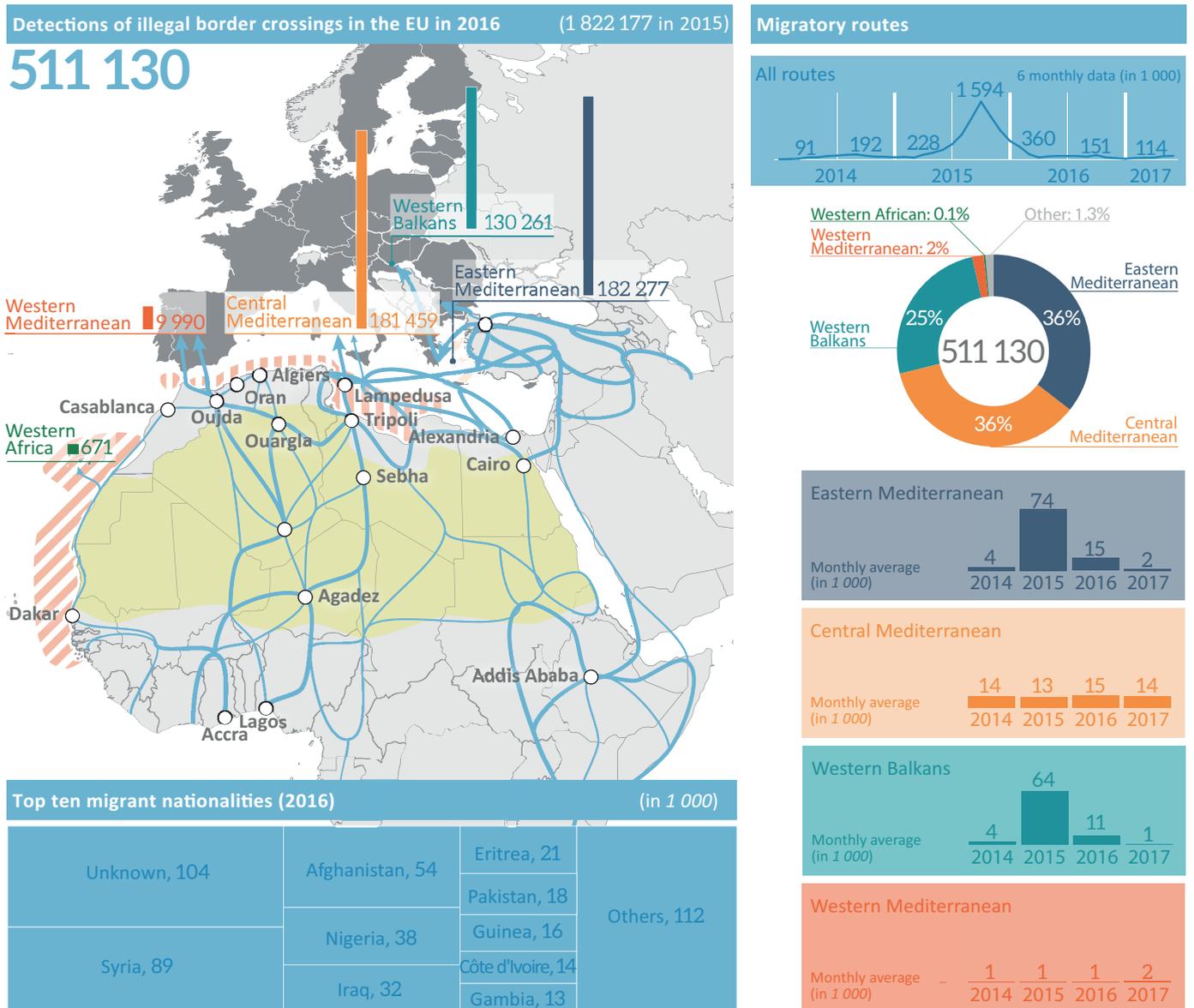# Recent migration flows to the EU

Detections of illegal border crossings in the EU (2016)

Frontex, the EU border surveillance agency, collects data on detections by national border-control authorities of illegal crossings of the EU's external borders. External borders are those between Member States and third countries, as well as between Schengen Associated Countries (Norway, Iceland and Switzerland) and third countries.

Detections of illegal border crossings in the EU in 2016 (1 822 177 in 2015)

511 130

- Western Balkans 130 261
- Eastern Mediterranean 182 277
- Western Mediterranean 9 990
- Central Mediterranean 181 459
- Western Africa 671

Map city labels: Casablanca, Oujda, Algiers, Oran, Ouargla, Sebha, Lampedusa, Tripoli, Alexandria, Cairo, Agadez, Dakar, Accra, Lagos, Addis Ababa

Migratory routes

All routes — 6 monthly data (in 1 000)

2014	2014	2015	1 594	2016	2016	2017
91	192	228		360	151	114

Pie chart (511 130):
- Eastern Mediterranean 36%
- Central Mediterranean 36%
- Western Balkans 25%
- Western Mediterranean: 2%
- Western African: 0.1%
- Other: 1.3%

Eastern Mediterranean — Monthly average (in 1 000)

2014	2015	2016	2017
4	74	15	2

Central Mediterranean — Monthly average (in 1 000)

2014	2015	2016	2017
14	13	15	14

Western Balkans — Monthly average (in 1 000)

2014	2015	2016	2017
4	64	11	1

Western Mediterranean — Monthly average (in 1 000)

2014	2015	2016	2017
1	1	1	2

Top ten migrant nationalities (2016) (in 1 000)

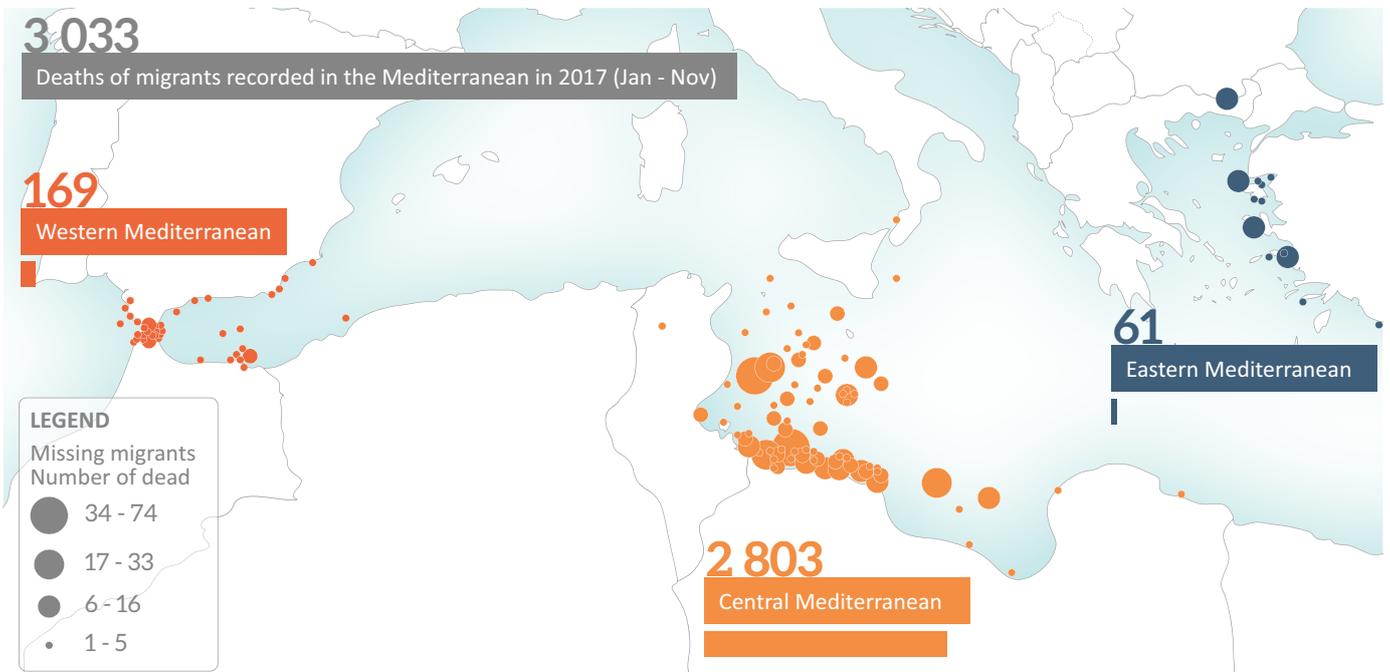|		
Unknown, 104	Afghanistan, 54	Eritrea, 21
		Pakistan, 18
	Nigeria, 38	Guinea, 16
Syria, 89		Côte d'Ivoire, 14
	Iraq, 32	Gambia, 13

Others, 112

The map shows the different routes and the number of illegal entries into the EU in 2016 for each route. The line chart shows the number of illegal crossings at six-monthly intervals, and the pie chart the share that each route represents in the total. The four boxes below denote the monthly average number of illegal border crossings for each route. The table shows the top ten nationalities of migrants.

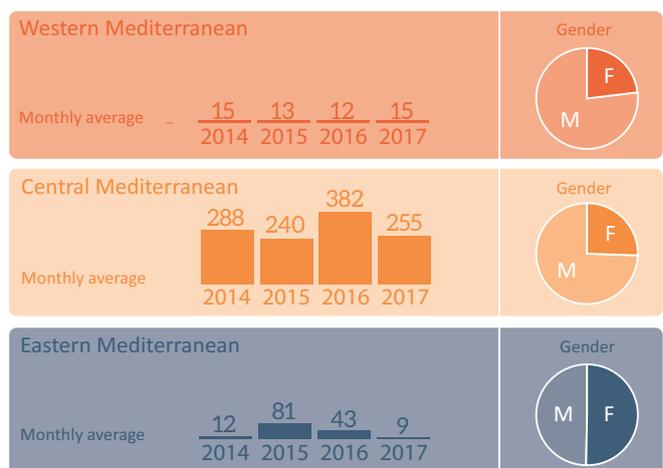This infographic complements the Briefing entitled 'Towards a Global Compact on Migration'.

Missing migrants along the Mediterranean migratory routes

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) carries out the Missing Migrants project, aimed at compiling data on migrants who have died or gone missing, either at the external borders or in the migration process. It excludes, for instance, deaths in refugee camps or during return to a migrant's homeland, or as a result of labour exploitation. Various sources of data are used such as relevant national authorities, IOM field missions, direct reporting by IOM and other organisations receiving survivors and media reports. IOM and UNHCR make sure that data are consistent.

3 033
Deaths of migrants recorded in the Mediterranean in 2017 (Jan - Nov)

169
Western Mediterranean

61
Eastern Mediterranean

2 803
Central Mediterranean

LEGEND
Missing migrants
Number of dead

- 34 - 74
- 17 - 33
- 6 - 16
- 1 - 5

The map shows the number of deaths on the Mediterranean routes from January to November 2017. The bar chart below on the left compares the number of deaths for the same period (Jan - Nov) for the last four years. The line chart shows the evolution of the phenomenon by six-monthly periods.

The three boxes on the right represent the monthly average number of migrant deaths on the three Mediterranean routes in the last four years, as well as a gender estimate.

Bar chart:
- Jan - Nov 2014: 3 283
- Jan - Nov 2015: 3 785
- Jan - Nov 2016: 5 143
- Jan - Nov 2017: 3 033

6 monthly data (in 1 000):
0.7 2.5 2.1 1.9 2.9 2.2 2.3 0.8
2014 2015 2016 2017

Western Mediterranean
Monthly average:
2014	2015	2016	2017
15	13	12	15
Gender: F / M

Central Mediterranean
Monthly average:
2014	2015	2016	2017
288	240	382	255
Gender: F / M

Eastern Mediterranean
Monthly average:
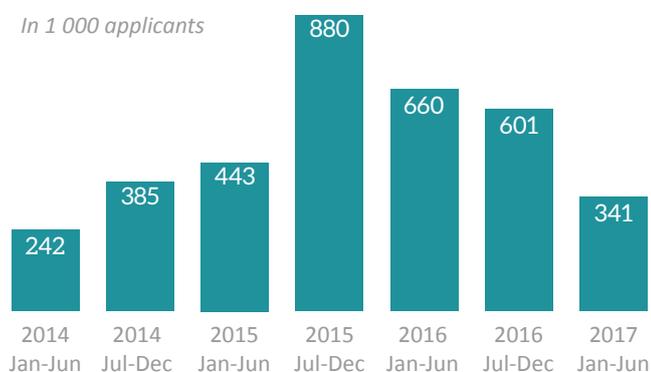| 2014	2015	2016	2017
12	81	43	9
Gender: M / F

It can be seen, for instance, that in 2015, despite the increase in migrant flows in the Eastern Mediterranean (see previous page), the Central Mediterranean remained the more deadly route, with nearly two deaths for every 100 travellers.

Notes. Data on fatalities are challenging to collect because reporting on deaths is poor, countless bodies are never found and the involvement of criminal actors means there may be fear among survivors to report deaths, and some deaths may be actively covered up. For instance, in 2015, over 50% of deaths recorded by the Missing Migrants Project refer to migrants who are presumed dead and whose bodies have not been found (mainly at sea). The sex of the deceased is unknown in over 80% of cases.
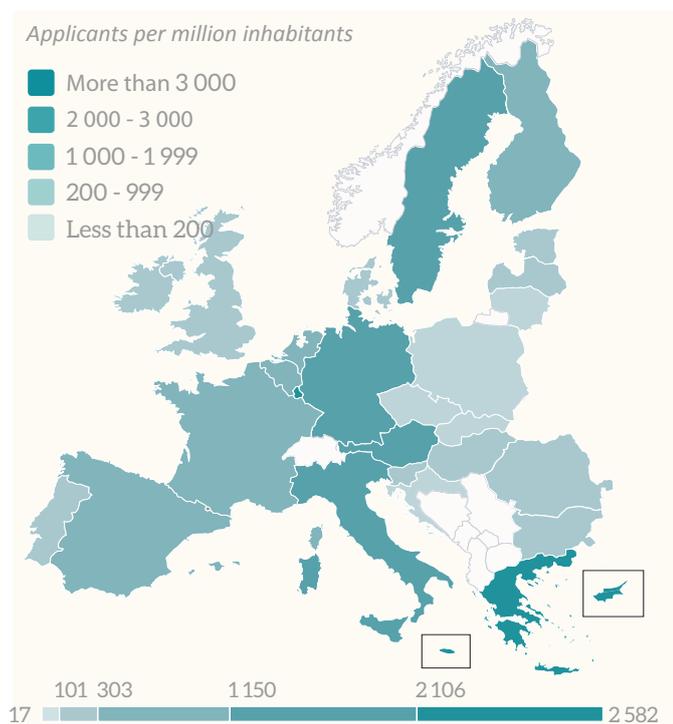
Asylum applicants in the EU-28

The bar chart shows the number of asylum applicants in the European Union. 'Applicants' refers to anyone applying for asylum or similar protection – as defined in the Qualification Directive – or included in an application as a family member. Data are presented for six-monthly periods. The table shows the breakdown of those Member States which together represent more than 90% of the total requests for asylum in the first six months of 2017.

In 1 000 applicants

In 1 000 applicants	2014 Jan-Jun	2014 Jul-Dec	2015 Jan-Jun	2015 Jul-Dec	2016 Jan-Jun	2016 Jul-Dec	2017 Jan-Jun
DE	78	125	182	295	411	334	101
IT	25	40	30	53	50	73	72
FR	32	32	32	44	41	43	47
EL	5	5	6	7	18	33	28
UK	15	18	16	24	21	19	16
ES	2	3	7	8	7	9	14
AT	9	19	28	60	26	17	12
SE	32	49	29	134	15	13	11
BE	10	13	12	33	9	9	9
Others	34	81	101	222	62	50	30

The map shows the relative weight of the number of applicants per million inhabitants in the 'country of arrival' (the EU Member State in which asylum has been requested) for the period from January to June 2017. The EU average is 669 applicants per million inhabitants. The bar below the map shows the range of applicants within the Member States. The horizontal bar chart shows the top 20 countries of origin for the period January to June 2017. The value in parenthesis represents changes with respect to the same period in 2016; a positive value shows an increase, negative a decrease (e.g. there was a decrease of 166 000 applicants from Syria in the first half of 2017 compared to the same period in 2017).

Applicants per million inhabitants

- More than 3 000
- 2 000 - 3 000
- 1 000 - 1 999
- 200 - 999
- Less than 200

101 303   1 150   2 106
17   2 582

Top 20 countries of origin

Country	In 1 000 applicants	Change
Syria	45.6	(-166)
Afghanistan	24.4	(-74)
Nigeria	22.2	(5)
Iraq	21.5	(-54)
Pakistan	16.2	(-10)
Albania	13.2	(-1)
Eritrea	11.9	(-2)
Bangladesh	11.0	(4)
Guinea	10.1	(5)
Iran	9.2	(-12)
Russia	8.4	(-6)
Côte d'Ivoire	7.8	(4)
Gambia	7.6	(0)
Somalia	6.6	(-2)
Senegal	6.2	(2)
Turkey	6.1	(2)
Venezuela	5.6	(4)
Mali	5.5	(1)
Ukraine	5.3	(-2)
Algeria	4.8	(0)

Notes. Asylum is a form of international protection given by a state on its territory to someone who is threatened by persecution on grounds of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular group or political opinion in their country of origin or residence. In the EU, this consists of refugee status as defined in the UN Geneva Refugee Convention, plus subsidiary protection for persons who do not qualify as refugees but in respect of whom substantial grounds exist that the person concerned, if returned to their country of origin, would face a real risk of suffering serious harm as defined in the Qualification Directive.

Not all those who cross the EU's external borders illegally will seek asylum, or indeed qualify under the definition above. They thus form part of the broader category of 'irregular immigrants', i.e. those who do not fulfil, or no longer fulfil, the conditions of entry as set out in Article 5 of the Schengen Borders Code or other conditions for entry, stay or residence in that Member State.

Country code: Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), Germany (DE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Italy (IT), Austria (AT), Sweden (SE), United Kingdom (UK). Others: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Croatia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.
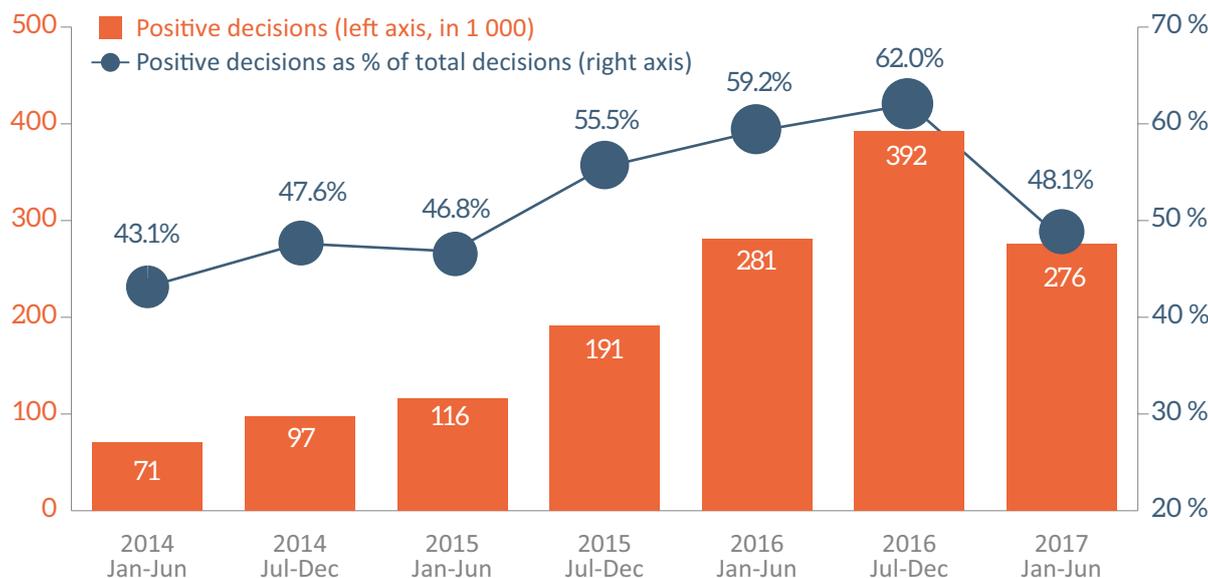
First instance decisions on asylum in the EU-28

First instance decisions (in Eurostat data) refer to decisions taken by administrative or judicial bodies in Member States on refugee status and subsidiary protection, as well as authorisations to stay for humanitarian reasons. First instance decisions also include decisions granted to persons who are subject to the Dublin Regulation.
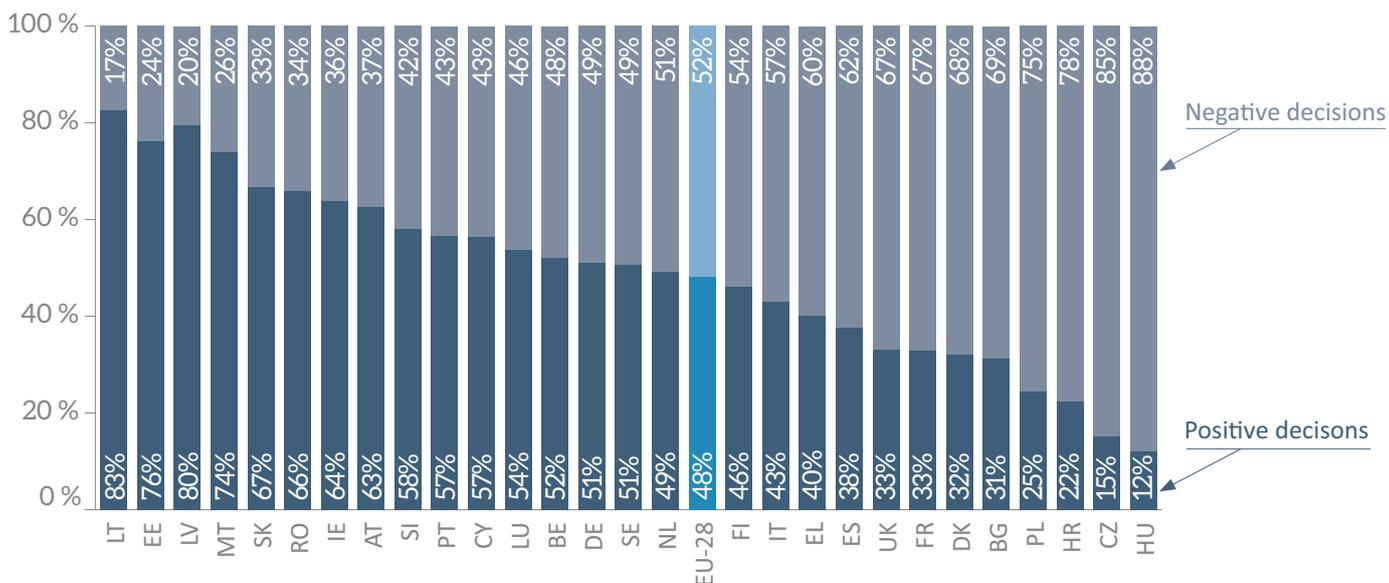
The number of asylum applicants and the number of first instance decisions during a given year differs. This is due to the time elapsed between a request being submitted and the decision. This time varies considerably, depending on national asylum procedures and the administrative workload of Member States.

The first graph shows the aggregate of positive decisions for the EU-28. The bar represents the positive decisions in thousands while the circles give the percentage that positive decisions represent in total decisions. The second graph presents the distribution between positive and negative decisions by Member State for the period January - June 2017.

Positive first instance decisions on asylum in the EU-28

First instance decisions on asylum by Member State (Jan - Jun 2017)

Data source: Frontex, International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm and migr_asydcfstq)
Extraction date: data were extracted in November/December 2017.
This Infographic updates and complements **previous editions** issued in September 2015 (PE 565.905), in April 2016 (PE 580.893) and in February 2017 (PE 595.918).