

Asylum seekers in Albania

Year 2021

Tirana, on 05 July 2022: In the year 2021 result 2,533 asylum seekers in Albania, marking an Increase by 13.5 % compared to 2020.

Asylum seekers originating from Afghanistan occupy 98.6 % of the total number of asylum seekers in 2021 and result 2,498 people.

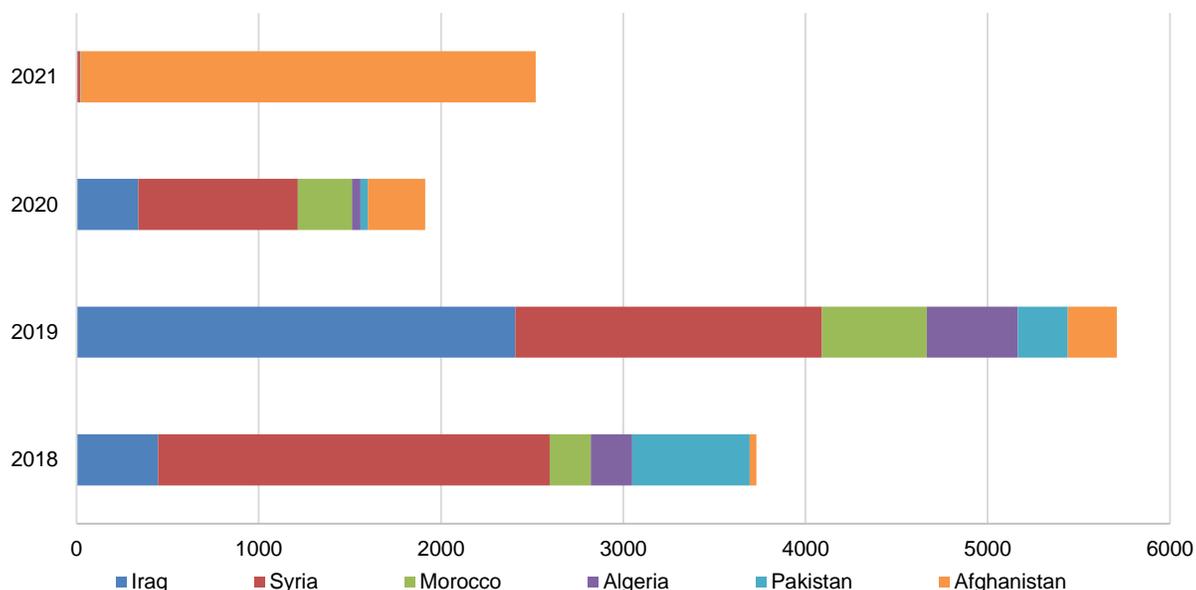
In 2021 result 711 people who have acquired Albanian citizenship, marking an increase by 68.1 % compared to 2020.

During 2021, result that 724 people who have lost their Albanian citizenship, making an increase by 41.1 % compared to 2020.

Asylum seekers in Albania

Asylum seekers in Albania referred to the Directorate of Asylum, Foreigners, and Citizenship at the Ministry of Interior, result 2,533 people in 2021. Analyzing the country of origin of asylum seekers, in 2021 we understand that most cases are those of Afghanistan origin, with 2,498 asylum seekers following with 19 asylum seekers from Syria.

Fig. 1 Asylum seekers by main countries of origin, 2018 - 2021



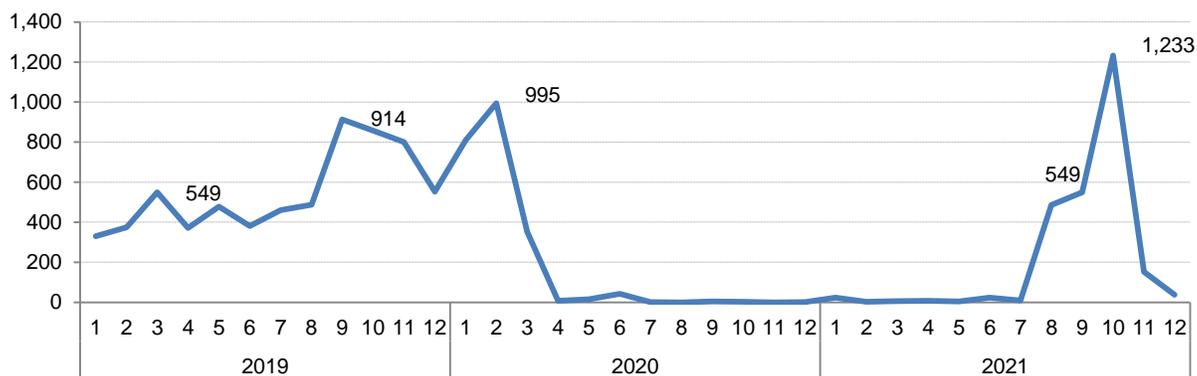
Source: Directorate of Asylum, Foreigners, and Citizenship at the Ministry of Interior

For publication 05 July 2022

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Seeing at asylum request by months, we understand that the peak of applications were during the months September-November, which occupy 76.4 % of the total number of asylum seekers. This is due to the political situation in Afghanistan.

Fig. 2 Requests for asylum by months, 2019 - 2021



Source: Directorate of Asylum, Foreigners, and Citizenship at the Ministry of Interior

During 2021 there were 7 positive decisions for supplementary protection status to asylum seekers, of which 4 belong to citizens from Afghanistan and 3 to Syria.

Acquisition and termination of Albanian citizenship

In 2021, there are 711 persons who have acquired Albanian citizenship, making an increase by 68.1 %, compared to 2020. If we analyze the data by sex, we notice that 443 persons who have acquired Albanian citizenship are men and 268 women. It is noticed a dominance of male with 62.3%.

In 2021, there are 724 people who have lost Albanian citizenship, making an increase by 41.1 %, compared to 2020. If we analyze the data by sex, we notice that 403 people who have lost Albanian citizenship are women and 321 males. It is noticed a dominance of women with 55.7 %.

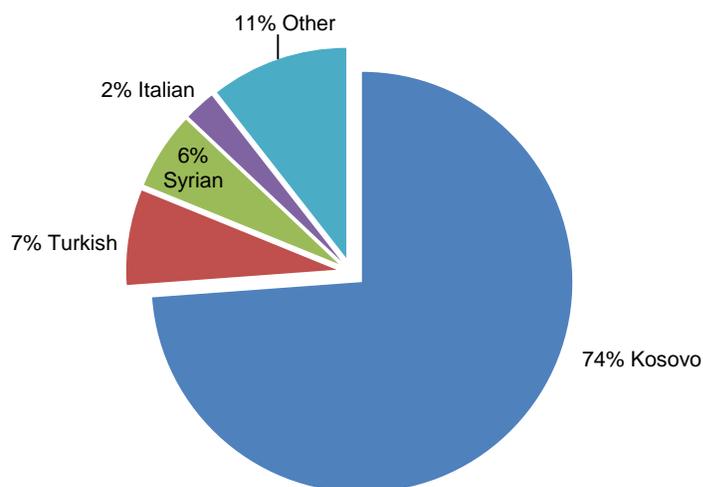
Tab. 1 Acquisition, loss, Albanian citizenship

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Acquisition of citizenship	316	345	485	423	711
Loss of citizenship	651	640	741	513	724

Source: Directorate of Asylum, Foreigners, and Citizenship at the Ministry of Interior

Analyzing the country of origin of persons who have acquired Albanian citizenship we understand that most of the cases or 73.8% are those from Kosovo, Turkey with 7.3%, Syria with 5.9%.

Fig. 3 Acquisition of Albanian citizenship by country of origin, 2021

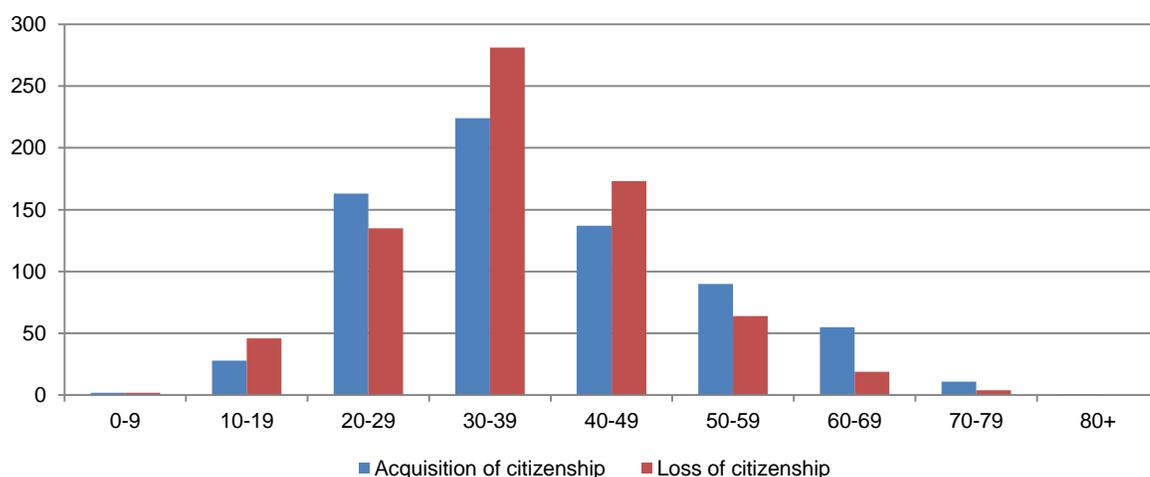


Source: Directorate of Asylum, Foreigners, and Citizenship at the Ministry of Interior

During 2021 the dominant age group is 30-39 years old with 31.5% of persons who have acquired Albanian citizenship followed by the age group 20-29 years old and 40-49 years old with 22.9% and 19.3% respectively.

For persons who have lost Albanian citizenship, the dominant age group is 30-39 years old with 38.8%, followed by the age group 40-49 years old and 20-29 years old with 23.9% and 18.6% respectively.

Fig. 4 Acquisition and loss of Albanian citizenship by group age, 2021



Source: Directorate of Asylum, Foreigners, and Citizenship at the Ministry of Interior

Methodology

The purpose of the yearly publication for asylum seekers in Albania is to present the results and indicators by sex, month of application, countries of origin, as well as the annual number of persons that acquired or lost the Albanian Citizenship.

Data on Asylum Seekers and the acquisition or loss of citizenship in Albania are provided by the Directorate of Asylum, Foreigners and Citizenship at the Ministry of Interior.

Definitions:

Asylum is the form of international protection that the Republic of Albania grants to refugees and persons under subsidiary protection.

Asylum seeker is any foreigner or stateless person that expresses in any way that he or she does not wish to return to his or her country, as well as any foreigner or stateless person who has applied for asylum in the Republic of Albania for whom no final decision has been made yet.

Asylum application is the official request of a foreigner or stateless person to the responsible authority for asylum and refugees, which is considered as a request for international protection under the UN Geneva Convention on Refugee Status. Any application for international protection is considered as an application for asylum, unless the foreigner clearly requires another type of protection, which applies separately.

Request for asylum is any statement by a foreigner or stateless person, expressed in any way and at any time before the competent authorities at the border crossing points or within the territory of the Republic of Albania, which requires international protection under international conventions and Albanian legislation.

Albanian citizenship is acquired, regained, lost or terminated of in accordance with the provisions of the law, which respects the recognized norms and principles of international law in the field of citizenship accepted by the Republic of Albania.

Albanian citizenship is acquired by: a) birth; b) naturalization; c) adoption

Acquisition of citizenship is taken by a foreigner who has applied for Albanian citizenship, and acquires it if he meets the conditions set forth in the law.

Loss of Albanian citizenship means that the acquisition of Albanian citizenship ends upon the request of the person when he meets the conditions laid down in the law.

Foreign national means a person who is not a national of the Republic of Albania and holds a foreign nationality..

Stateless person means a person who is not a national of any state due to the lack of a durable legal connection between him and a state.

Refugee means a person who, owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group, is outside the country of nationality or outside of the country of former habitual residence and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country or to return to it as a result of such circumstances, in accordance with the requirements of Article 1(A) of the Geneva Convention.

State or country of origin means the applicant's state of nationality, or, for stateless persons, the country of their former habitual residence;

Subsidiary protection status means the recognition by the Republic of Albania of a foreign person or a stateless person as eligible for subsidiary protection

Refugee status means the recognition by the Republic of Albania of a foreign national or a stateless person as a refugee.