

Foreigners and Asylum Seekers in Albania

Tirana, on January 24, 2018: The number of foreigners with residence permits in Albania in 2016 resulted 12,519, by increasing with 18.5 % compared to 2015. During 2016, the number of resident foreigners is 8,324 males and 4,195 females. The 30-59 age group occupies 62.4 % of total foreigners in 2016, by increasing with 25.8 % compared to the same age group in 2015.

In 2016, foreigners with origin from European countries are 8,324 and occupy 66.5 % of total foreigners.

Foreigners for employment reasons, in 2016, are 6,263, and occupy 50 % of total foreigners in the country.

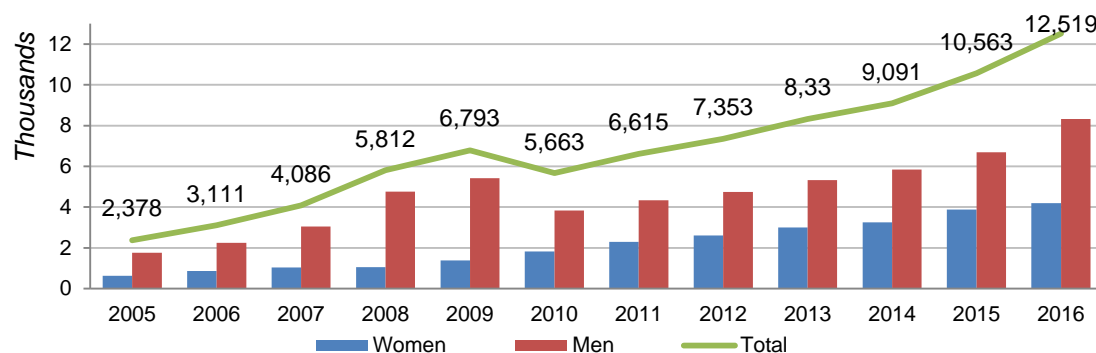
Irregular foreigners, identified in 2016, resulted in 915 people, by decreasing with 55.3 % compared to 2015.

Asylum seekers in Albania, in 2016, resulted in 240 people, by increasing with 126 % compared to 2015.

Foreigners in Albania

The number of foreigners with residence permits in Albania in 2016 is about 0.4 % of the resident population. During 2016, the number of resident foreigners is 8,324 males and 4,195 females. Men occupy 66 % of the number of foreigners with a residence permit in Albania.

Fig. 1 Foreigners with residence permits by sex, 2005 – 2016



Source: General Directorate for Border and Migration

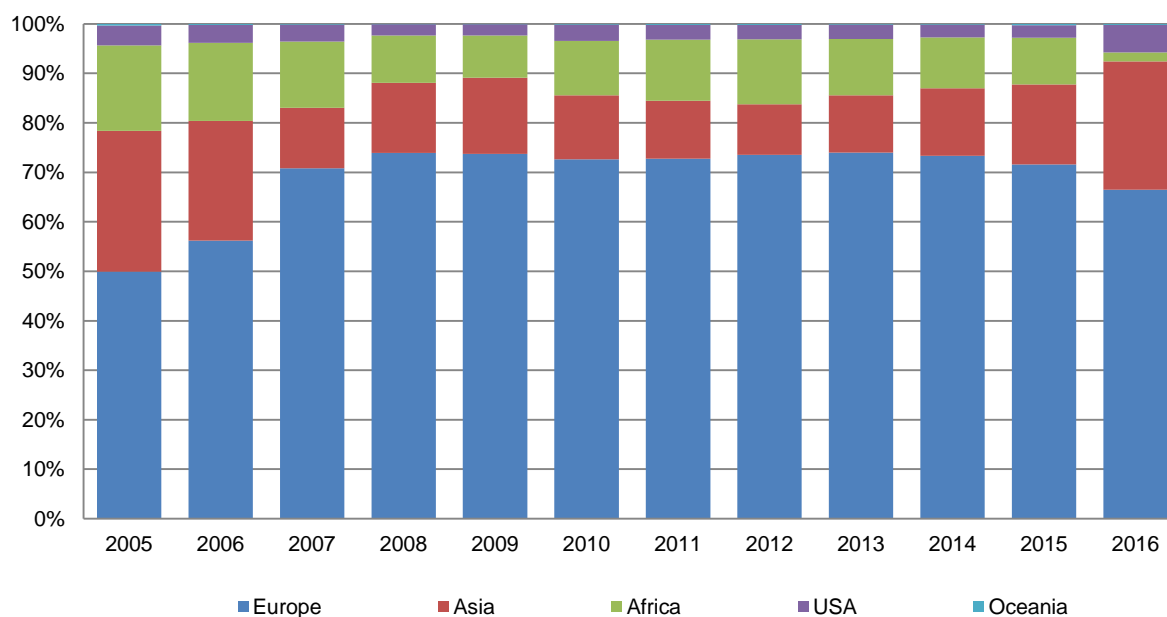
Tab. 1 Applications for Residence Permit in Albania, 2015 - 2016

No.	Country	2015	2016
1	Italy	1,584	1,694
2	Turkey	1,199	1,032
3	Kosovo	806	730
4	Greece	250	229
5	USA	206	221
6	Canada	131	107
7	China	174	215
8	Republic of Macedonia	180	177
9	Germany	100	136
10	United Kingdom	129	118
11	Total	4,759	4,659

Source: General Directorate for Border and Migration

Foreigners in Albania by continents

Foreigners by country of origin in 2016, are headed by European countries, which occupy 66.5 % of total foreigners. Foreigners with origin from European countries are 8,324, by increasing with 10.1 % compared to 2015. Foreigners with origin from Asian countries are 3,244, by increasing with 89.6 % compared to 2015. Foreigners from Africa, America and Oceania are 951, by decreasing with 26.2 % compared to 2015.

Fig. 2 Foreigners with residence permits by country of origin, 2005 - 2016

Source: General Directorate for Border and Migration

Foreigners in Albania by reason

In 2016, according to the reason, foreigners applying for a residence permit for employment occupy 50.0 % of total foreigners, followed by applications for family reunification with 22.2 %, applications for humanitarian purposes by 19.1 %, applications for studies with 5.2 % and applications for other reasons by 3.4 %.

Tab. 2 Foreigners with residence permits according to the reason for the application, 2005 - 2016

Reason of application	Employment	Family Reunification	Study	Humanitarian	Other
2009	5963	622	90	35	83
2010	4148	977	183	42	313
2011	4450	1497	265	44	359
2012	4565	1867	515	47	359
2013	5302	1765	775	229	259
2014	5353	2266	752	441	279
2015	5862	2573	842	863	423
2016	6263	2783	652	2395	426

Source: General Directorate for Border and Migration

Irregular foreigners

Foreigners who are seized in Albanian territory without the necessary documentation or crossing the border via the land line result in a total of 915 people in 2016, by decreasing with 55.3 % compared to 2015.

Most irregular foreigners, over 70 % of them, have been identified in the border areas, while the rest in the territory.

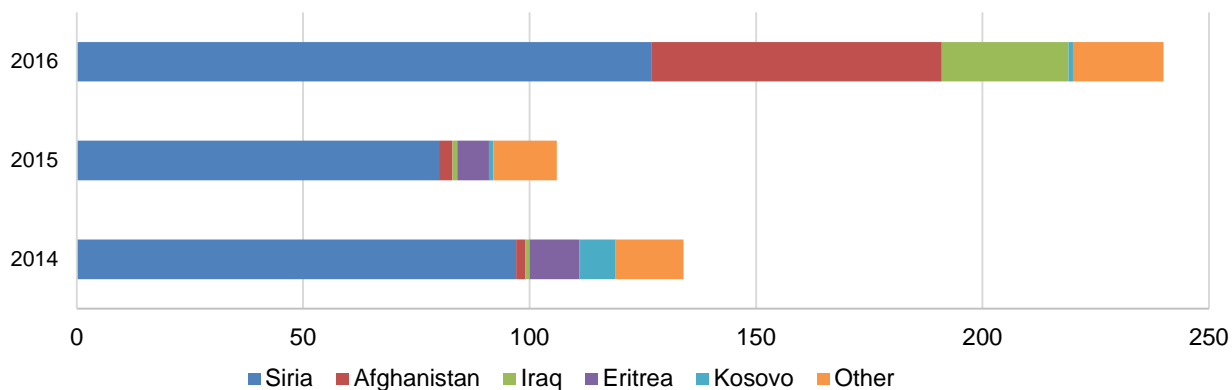
Asylum seekers in Albania

Asylum seekers in Albania, referring to the Asylum Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, resulted in 240 people in 2016, a number that is increased by 126 % compared to 2015.

Analyzing the country of origin of asylum seekers, in Albania we understand that most of the cases are those of Syria, about 130 asylum seekers and those originating from Afghanistan, about 60 asylum seekers in 2016.

In 2016, it is noticed an increase in the number of asylum seekers from Afghanistan and Iraq.

Fig. 3 Asylum seekers by country of origin, 2014 - 2016



Source: Asylum Directorate, Ministry of Internal Affairs

Asylum seekers by sex

The number of male asylum seekers in 2016 is 186, by increasing with 126.8 % compared to 2015. The number of female asylum seekers in 2016 is 54, by increasing with 125.0 % compared to 2015.

It is noticed a dominance of men in the number of asylum seekers in Albania between 2014 and 2016, where men account for 77.5 % of the total number of asylum seekers in 2016.

Acquisition of Albanian citizenship

In 2016, result 281 people who have acquired Albanian citizenship, by increasing with 9.3 % compared to 2015.

Methodology

Definitions

Foreigner - is any person, with or without citizenship, who, according to the Albanian legislation, is not an Albanian citizen.

Residence Permit - is a document issued by the competent authorities which authorizes and permits a foreigner to stay in the Republic of Albania for more than 90 days within 180 days.

Stateless person - is the person who does not have the nationality of any state.

Work permit - is the authorization issued by the responsible state authority to a foreigner, for business purposes, to be employed, self-employed or for professional training.

Family reunification - is the entry and stay in the Republic of Albania of family members of an Albanian citizen, who do not have Albanian citizenship or a foreigner or a refugee resident in the Republic of Albania, with the purpose of maintaining the family, regardless of whether the family relationship is established before or after the entry of a foreigner into the Republic of Albania, in cases of family reunification of the foreigner's family.

Family members of a foreigner, asylum seeker, refugee or person under subsidiary protection - are their spouse, cohabitant, whose cohabitation has a stable and proven character; minors, unmarried children, part of the family composition including those deprived of custody and who are in custody of him or her or adopted by a court decision or a decision that is enforced directly, according to the international obligations of the Republic of Albania or to be recognized, in accordance with international obligations, as well as unmarried adult children when they can not objectively meet their needs due to their health status; first-line ancestors in the right line, when they are in charge of him or his / her spouse, according to the legislation of origin and do not enjoy the proper family support in the country of origin.

Volunteer Service - is a program of solidarity activities, based on activities recognized in the Republic of Albania, in pursuit of objectives of general interest.

Researchers and specialists - are foreigners with specialized knowledge, essential, for service, research equipment and a high level of qualification for the activity exercised by the enterprise or research institution.

Irregular stay - is the presence in the territory of the Republic of Albania of a foreigner who does not meet or no longer meets the conditions for entry, stay or residence in the territory of the Republic of Albania.

Albanian Citizenship - is acquired, recovered, lost or disposed 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.

Acquiring citizenship - a foreigner who has applied for Albanian citizenship, acquires it if he meets the conditions set forth in the law.

Asylum - is the form of international protection that the Republic of Albania provides refugees.

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.

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.

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.

State or place of origin - is the state whose citizenship is held by asylum seekers or refugees and, in the case of stateless persons, the country in which the refugee or asylum seeker has his habitual residence.

Data source

Data on foreigners with residence permits in Albania are provided by the General Directorate for Border and Migration;

Data on Asylum Seekers in Albania are provided by the Directorate on Asylum in the Ministry of Internal Affairs;

Data on obtaining and leaving citizenship are provided by the Legal Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.