

Asylum seekers in Albania

Year 2019

Tirana, on 21 August 2020: In the year 2019 result 6,557 asylum seekers in Albania, by increasing with 49.5 % compared to 2018.

Asylum seekers originating from Iraq and Syria account for 62.4 % of the total number of asylum seekers in 2019 and result 2,408 and 1,682 asylum seekers respectively.

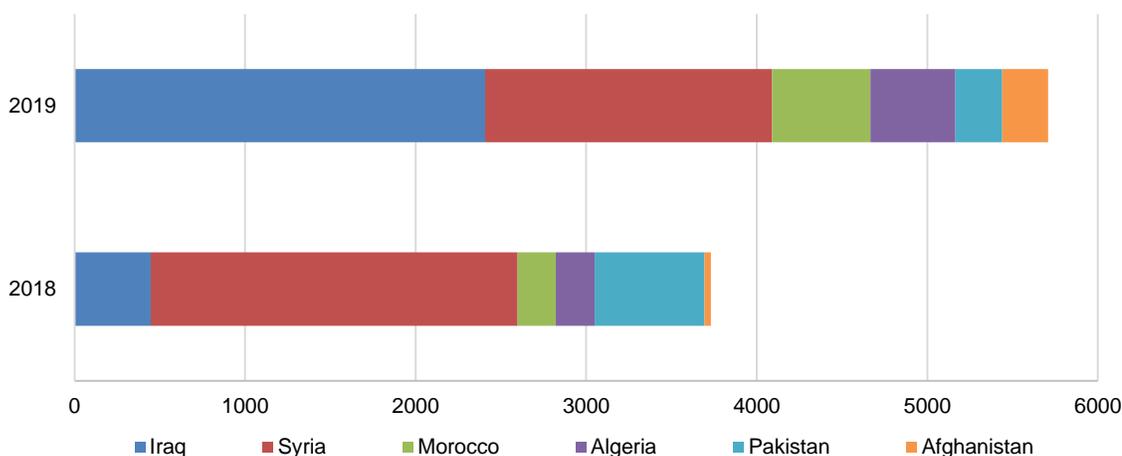
In 2019 result 485 people who have acquired Albanian citizenship, by increasing with 40.6 % compared to 2018.

During 2019, result that 741 people who have lost their Albanian citizenship, by increasing with 15.8 % compared to 2018.

Asylum seekers in Albania

Asylum seekers in Albania referred to the Directorate of Asylum and Citizenship at the Ministry of Interior, result 6,557 people in 2019. Analyzing the country of origin of asylum seekers, in 2019 we understand that most cases are those of Iraq origin, with 2,408 asylum seekers, from Syria with 1,682 asylum seekers, from Morocco with 576 asylum seekers, from Algeria with 499 asylum seekers, from Pakistan with 275 asylum seekers and from Afghanistan with 269 asylum seekers.

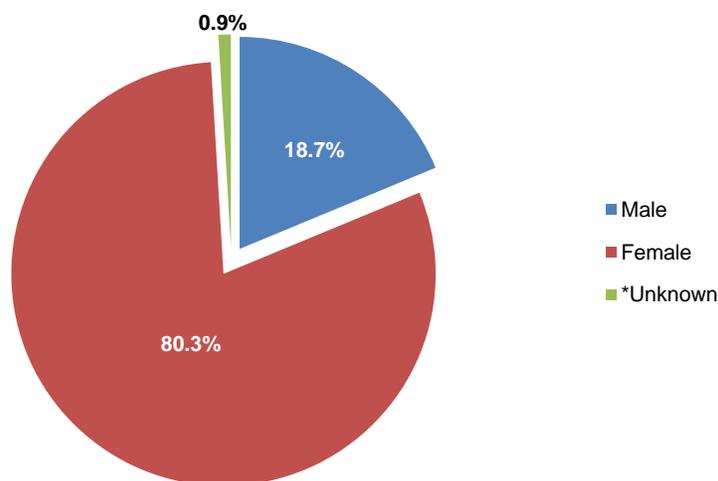
Fig. 1 Asylum seekers by country of origin, 2018 – 2019



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

If we analyze the data by sex, we notice that the number of female asylum seekers in 2019 is 5,266, while the number of male asylum seekers is 1,229, and for 62 asylum seekers there is not information about sex. It is noticed a dominance of women, in the number of asylum seekers in Albania for 2019 with 80.3 % of the total number of asylum seekers.

Fig. 2 Asylum seeker by sex, 2019

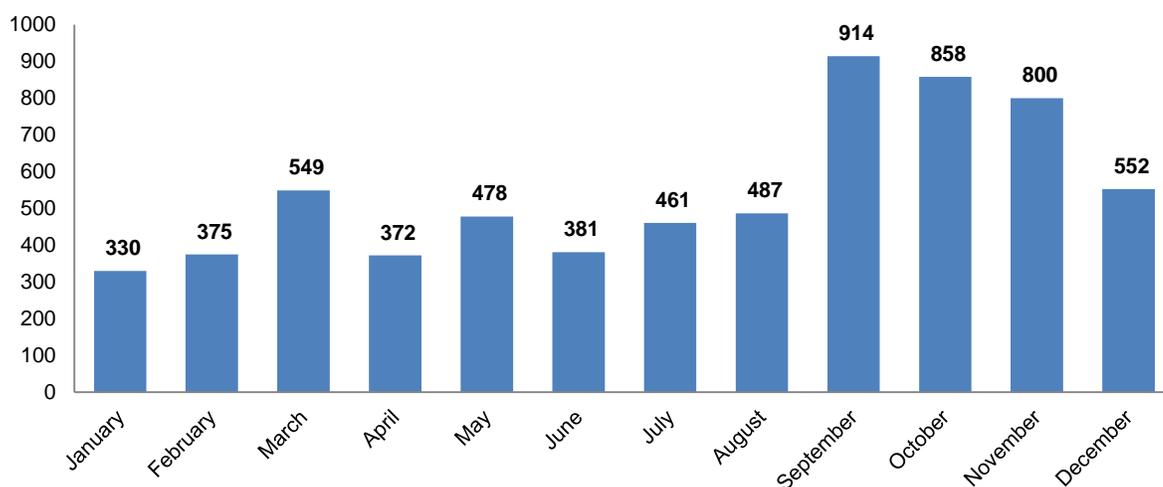


Source: Directorate of Asylum and Citizenship at the Ministry of Interior

* Category "Unknown" means cases of asylum seekers for which sex information is missing

Seeing at asylum request by months, we understand that the peak of applications were during the months September-November, which occupy 39.2 % of the total number of asylum seekers.

Fig. 3 Requests for asylum by months, 2019



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

During 2019 there were 24 positive decisions for granting refugee and supplementary protection status to asylum seekers, and the majorities are citizens from Iraq and Syria.

Acquisition and termination of Albanian citizenship

In 2019 there are 485 people who have acquired Albanian citizenship, by increasing with 40.6 %, compared to 2018.

In 2019 there are 741 people who have lost Albanian citizenship, by increasing with 15.8 %, compared to 2018.

Tab. 1 Acquisition, loss, recognize and regaining Albanian citizenship

| Year | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|
| Acquisition of citizenship | 316 | 345 | 485 |
| Loss of citizenship | 651 | 640 | 741 |

Source: Directorate of Asylum 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 and Citizenship at the Ministry of Interior.

Definitions

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

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.

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

Person without a citizen it's a person that doesn't have a citizen in any country

Refugee is the foreigner or the stateless person who, owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership to a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside his country of citizenship or his former habitual country of residence and has no possibilities or desire to seek the protection of that country, or the return to that country, as a consequence of such circumstances, in accordance with the criteria set in Article 1 (A) of the Geneva Convention.

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.

Complementary protection status is the recognition of the foreigner or of the stateless person by the authority responsible for asylum and refugees in the Republic of Albania as a person eligible for complementary protection.

Refugee status is the recognition of the foreigner or of the stateless person as a refugee by the authority responsible for asylum and refugees in the Republic of Albania.