



## EMN INFORM

### *Migration and International Protection Statistics 2009*

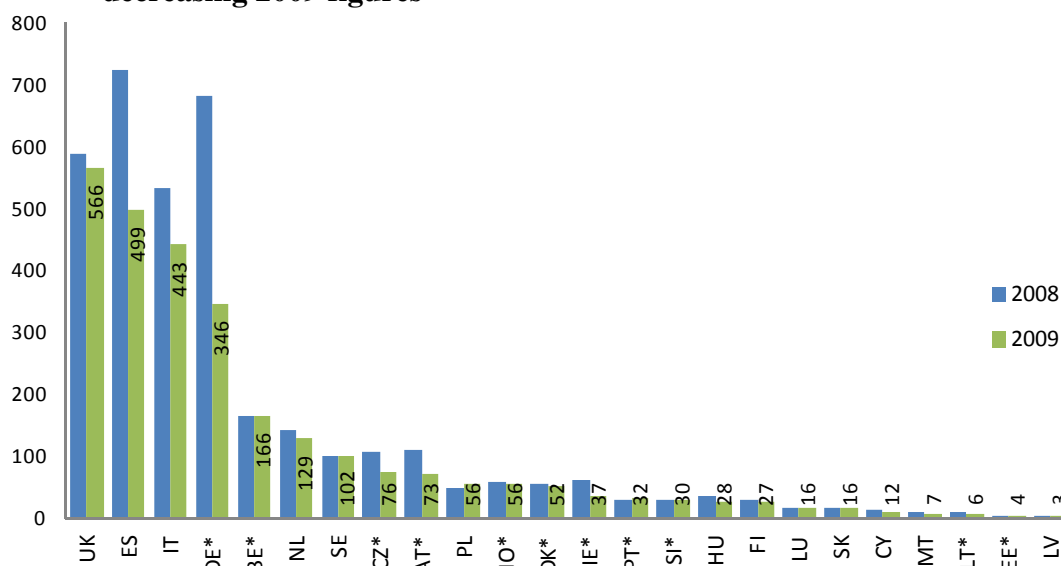
This EMN Inform presents a summary of the main findings of the analysis of migration and international protection statistics for the year 2009 based on contributions from 21 Member States.<sup>1</sup> The statistics were compiled in accordance with the Migratory Statistics Regulation 862/2007.

#### **1. Legal migration**

A total of 2.7 million people immigrated to EU Member States and Norway<sup>2</sup> in 2009 and 1.6 million people emigrated from a Member State and Norway, either to another Member State or a third country. Similar trends in international migration flows from 2008 continued into 2009.<sup>3</sup>

On immigration, the decrease in immigration, registered in 2008, continued through 2009. This decrease, however, follows an upward trend in immigration over the last decade, and can be observed at Member State-level, among the 20 Member States with valid statistics, for both 2008 and 2009, as well as in **Norway**.

**Figure 1: Overall Immigration by Member State in 2008 and 2009 (in 1 000), ordered by decreasing 2009 figures**



Source: EMN NCP National Statistical Tables \* Eurostat data used. Missing data for BG, GR, FR, CY, RO.

Note: Eurostat indicates breaks in series, in 2009, for DE, NL and AT

<sup>1</sup> The Synthesis Report and the 21 National Reports (from **Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden and United Kingdom** plus Norway.) plus Tables of Data are available from <http://www.emn.europa.eu> under "Migration and International Protection Statistics." The contributing Member States plus Norway are shown in **bold** when referenced in this Inform, and when reference to "Member States" is made, this is specifically for the above Member States. References to Member States not listed in bold, are on the basis of Eurostat data only.

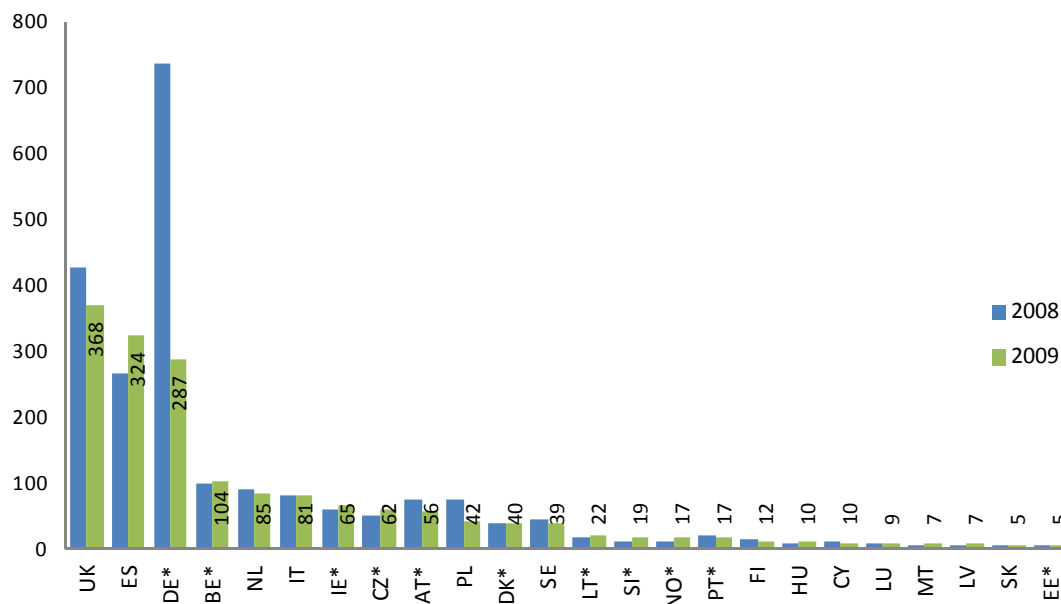
<sup>2</sup> Commission Decision C(2010)6171 in 2010 established the basis for **Norway** to participate in the EMN.

<sup>3</sup> Aggregate migration data before 2009 is not fully comparable, as Eurostat reports a break in the data series for some countries.

Some 15 Member States (plus **Norway**) observed a decrease in immigration in 2009, whereas only five Member States reported an increase. Compared to 2008, the highest decreases in absolute terms of immigrants in 2009 were registered by **Italy** (-92 000), Czech Republic (-33 000) and **Ireland** (-27 000). The largest relative decreases were recorded by **Ireland** (-42%), Spain (-31%), Czech Republic and **Lithuania** (both -30%). Contrary to the general trend, a small group of Member States reported an increase in the number of immigrants from 2008 to 2009, including **Poland** (15%), **Portugal** (9%), **Estonia** (6%), **Belgium** and **Sweden** (both 1%). In the latter three Member States, this increase follows an overall upward trend since 2002, whereas **Portugal** generally has experienced a downward trend since 2002 (-59%). In **Poland**, **Estonia** and **Sweden** the increase is attributed to the fact that nationals who had emigrated, began returning to their home Member State.

On emigration, no clear trend can be observed at Member State level. The largest numbers of people emigrating were recorded in the **United Kingdom** (368 000), Spain (324 000) and **Germany** (287 000). In relative terms, the largest increase compared to 2008 was recorded by **Slovenia** (55%, 6 700), where 80% of the people emigrating were third-country nationals (in absolute terms twice as many as in 2008) of whom most were nationals of countries of former Yugoslavia returning to their countries of origin. A relative increase in emigration, compared to 2008, was also registered by **Norway** (32%, 4 100), **Lithuania** (29%, 5 000), **Latvia** (23%, 1 400), Czech Republic (20%, 10 300), **Malta** (12%, 800), **Hungary** (9%, 900), **Ireland** (8%, 5 100), **Estonia** (6%, 300), Denmark (4%, 1 500) and **Belgium** (3%, 3 400). The largest decrease in relative terms in 2009 was recorded by **Poland** (-44%, 32 405) followed by **Portugal** (-17%, 3 500), **Sweden** (-13%, 6 100), **Finland** (-11%, 1 500), **Luxembourg** (-9%, 900), Cyprus (-6%, 700), **Netherlands** (-5%, 4 700) and **Slovak Republic** (-2%, 100). In addition, **Italy** reported a decrease in emigration of less than a half a per cent (400).

**Figure 2: Overall Emigration by Member State in 2008 and 2009 (in 1 000), ordered by decreasing 2009 emigration figures**



Source: EMN NCP National Statistical Tables \* Eurostat data used. \*\*Missing data for BG, GR, FR, RO

Net-migration (immigration minus emigration) was positive in 2009, by about 1.1 million people,<sup>4</sup> thus continuing the downward trend in positive net migration from 2007 to 2008 by a further decrease of approximately 20%. Two Member States, **Ireland** and **Malta**, changed from having a positive net-migration in 2008 to a negative net-migration in 2009, primarily because of significant drops in immigration figures.

<sup>4</sup> Note that this number does not include Bulgaria, **France**, Greece, **Poland** and Romania.

Regarding usual residence, 20 252 000 citizens of non EU-27 countries have their usual residence in the EU and Norway.<sup>5</sup> The largest number of third-country nationals live in **Germany** (4 585 000). Approximately 767 000 persons acquired citizenship in a Member State in 2009. Most acquisitions of citizenship were recorded in **United Kingdom** (203 630), **France** (135 842) and **Germany** (96 122).

Family reasons and remunerated activities constituted the two primary reasons for obtaining first residence permits in the EU (each approximately 28% of the total). Educational reasons constituted a further 21%. These relative percentages roughly correspond to those of 2008, although the number of residents permits granted by all Member States for educational reasons increased by some 13%.

## **2. Irregular migration: refusals, apprehensions and returns**

**The overall picture at EU level points to the continuation of a tendency of decreasing numbers of refusals at the external borders and of apprehensions. The number of third-country nationals returned following an order to leave increased by 5% when compared with 2008.**

A total of 499 645 third-country nationals were refused entry into an EU Member State in 2009, which represents a notable decrease of 21% compared to 2008. The refusals of entry were distributed very unevenly among the Member States. In particular, Spain stands out with 387 015 refusals, of which 97% were issued to nationals of Morocco. A large proportion of the overall decrease in the EU between 2009 and 2008 can be attributed to a reduced number of persons refused entry at the Spanish borders. The Member State with the second highest number of refusals was **Poland** (26 890), followed by **United Kingdom** (20 460). At the other end of the scale was **Luxembourg**, with no recorded refusals, and **Sweden** with 35.

Refusals of entry into the Member States with external borders to the Schengen Area (especially eastern borders) mostly occur at land borders (87% of the total number), whereas refusals of entry into other Member States are more likely to take place at air borders (12% of total). The most frequently used ground for refusal of entry, throughout the Member States, was related to the lack of a valid visa or residence permit (39% of the total number of refusals). Other frequently reported reasons were unjustified purpose and conditions of stay (24%), insufficient means of subsistence (13%) and lack of valid travel documents (9%). By decreasing order, Morocco, Ukraine, Brazil, Russian Federation, Georgia, Belarus, Croatia, Turkey, Serbia and China were the most frequent countries of citizenship of persons being refused entry.

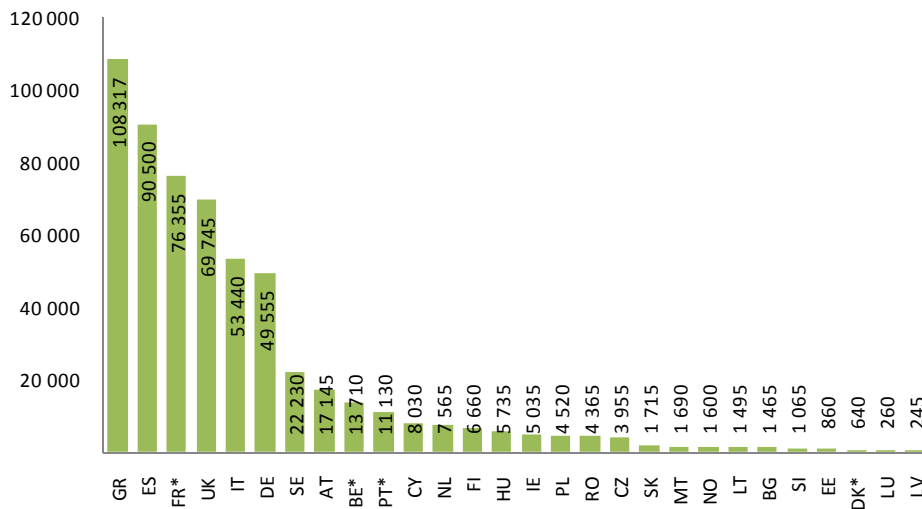
A total of 567 427 third-country nationals irregularly staying in the Member States were apprehended in 2009. This represents a 7% decrease compared to 2008, where 611 840 were apprehended. The highest number of apprehensions in the EU took place in Greece (108 317) followed by Spain (90 500), **France** (76 355), **United Kingdom** (69 745) and **Italy** (53 440).

As in previous years, different reasons for developments regarding irregular stay and the number of apprehensions of irregularly staying third-country nationals were observed, for example, related to changes in irregular migration routes and entry points of third-country nationals, increased surveillance and focus on countering irregular migration in several Member States, including cooperation with third countries, and developments with regard to international protection (apprehended third-country nationals may apply for international protection, and some of the persons apprehended may be rejected asylum applicants).

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<sup>5</sup> Data was not available for Bulgaria and Romania.

**Figure 3:** Third-country nationals apprehended/found to be irregularly staying, by Member State, 2009



Source: EMN NCP National Statistical Tables \* Eurostat data used.

The most frequent country of citizenship of the persons apprehended for irregular stay was Albania (68 985), Afghanistan, (49 670), Morocco (32 555), Iraq (23 425) and Brazil (18 565), which also comprised the top five in 2008.

The most frequent countries of citizenship of those returned were: Albania (63 190), Morocco (15 380), Brazil (11 710), India (8 710) and Ukraine (8 340). For the EU-27 as a whole, a total of 595 553 third-country nationals were ordered to leave in 2009 with Greece, Spain and **France** being the Member States issuing most orders (respectively 126 140, 103 010 and 88 565). In total, 252 779 third-country nationals were returned following an order to leave. Both the numbers of orders to leave and returns were generally highest amongst the EU-15, with **United Kingdom** returning the most persons (64 945), followed by Greece (62 850) and Spain (28 865). As in previous years, the bulk of apprehensions and returns of third-country nationals relate primarily to citizens of third countries neighbouring, or within the geographical proximity of, the relevant Member State, or citizens of third-countries with historical, cultural or linguistic ties to the Member State.

When looking at the possible links between apprehensions, refusals and returns, there is a clear convergence of nationalities in some Member States, but the statistics do not show a clear correlation at EU level. The only countries of citizenship in the top five of all three categories - refused, apprehended and returned - were Brazil and Morocco. A direct link between the number of persons refused and apprehended is limited by the fact that some migrants who are apprehended initially entered the Member States legally and then overstayed their visas or residence permits.

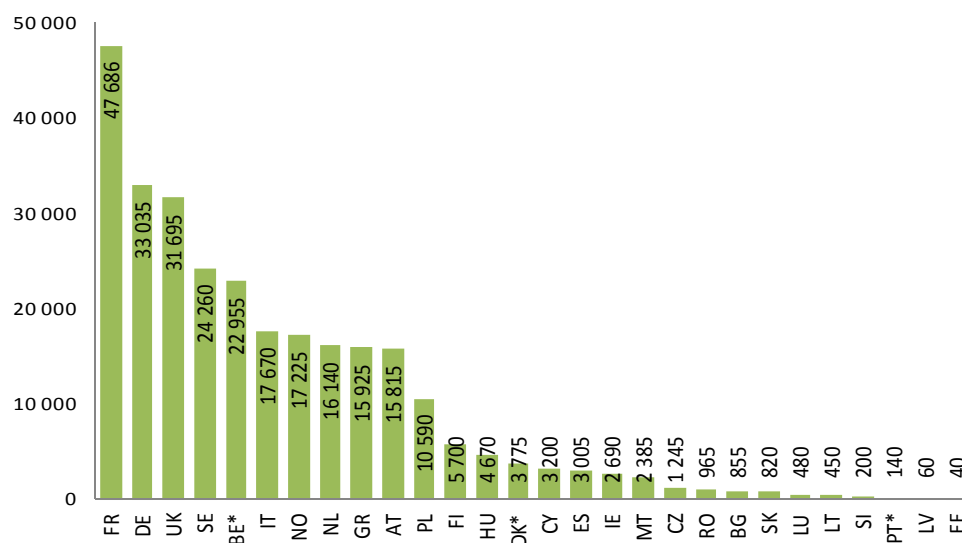
### **3. International protection, including asylum**

**A total of 266 400 applications for international protection were lodged in the EU Member States in 2009. Compared with a downward trend in the number of applications in the period 2004-2006, and a slight increase in 2008, the total number of applications remained largely stable in 2009.**

When looking at the total number of asylum applications in 2009, including repeated applications from the same applicant, shown in Figure 2 below, the number of applications lodged in the Member States varies significantly. Most were received by **France** (47 686 applications), **Germany** (33 035), **United Kingdom** (31 695), **Sweden** (24 260) and **Belgium** (22 955), all of whom

received more than 20 000 applications, whilst **Estonia** (40), **Latvia** (60), **Portugal** (140), **Slovenia** (200) and **Lithuania** (450) received fewer than 500.

**Figure 4: Total number of asylum applications by Member State, ordered by number of applications, 2009**



Source: EMN NCP National Statistical Tables \* Eurostat data used

As in 2008, most applicants per capita were received in **Malta** (5 800 applicants per 1 000 000 inhabitants), **Cyprus** (3 300) and **Sweden** (2 600). **Norway** recorded 3 570 applicants per 1 000 000 inhabitants. The fewest numbers per capita were recorded in **Portugal**, **Latvia** and **Estonia** (15, 25 and 30 applicants per 1 000 000 inhabitants, respectively). The largest total numbers of applications were, in decreasing order, lodged by nationals of Afghanistan, Russian Federation, Somalia, Iraq and Kosovo.<sup>6</sup> Compared to 2008, applications from nationals of Afghanistan, Georgia and Kosovo increased significantly. Applications from nationals of Serbia continued the decline, as also observed in 2008. The largest groups of new asylum applicants in 2009 were nationals of Somalia, Iraq, Russian Federation, Afghanistan and Kosovo.

The applications received in the Member States depended on various factors, other than the situation in the countries of origin, such as “accessible” migration routes; existing migration chains, social networks and diaspora, as well as the perception of the living conditions and possibility to remain in the Member State. The focus on apprehending irregularly staying third-country nationals by authorities in some Member States may also influence the number of applications as some third-country nationals, when apprehended, apply for asylum.

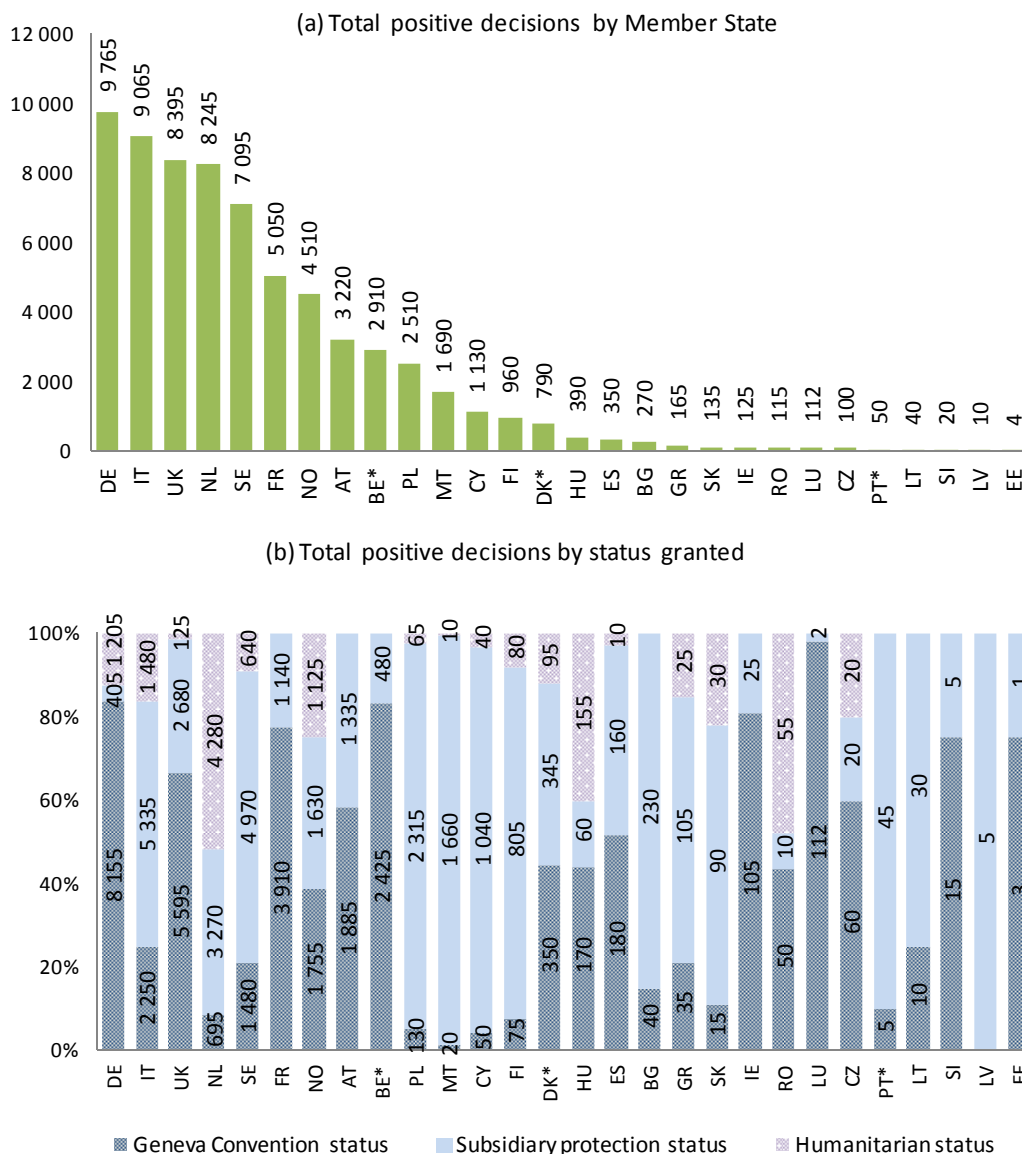
In 2009, some 14 740 asylum applications were lodged by unaccompanied minors - a 26% increase compared to 2008. The five Member States receiving the most applicants from unaccompanied minors (**Austria** 1 040, **Germany** 1 305, **Netherlands** 1 040, **Sweden** 2 250, and **United Kingdom** 2 990) together recorded 59% of the total number of unaccompanied minors. **Norway** recorded 2 500 unaccompanied minors, the second highest number. As in 2008, the **United Kingdom** received the highest number of unaccompanied minors applying for international protection. Changes in trends concerning unaccompanied minors are difficult to interpret. Yearly fluctuations may reflect either changed migratory flows or may be a reflection of changes to administrative procedures concerning the automatic placement of unaccompanied minors within the asylum system, as a means of regularising status.

<sup>6</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence. All subsequent mentions of Kosovo are also understood to be within the context of this statement.

A total of 175 398 asylum applications were under consideration in the 25 Member States from which data are available. Of these Member States, **Austria, Belgium, France and Germany** had the highest number of applications being processed, all exceeding 20 000 cases. In total, 20 710 asylum applications were withdrawn in the Member States in 2009 - a 42% increase compared to 2008. Of these, most were withdrawn in **Austria (4 075), United Kingdom (3 720)** and **Sweden (2 915)**.

In 44% of the positive first instance decisions on applications for international protection, Geneva Convention refugee status was granted; subsidiary protection was granted in 42% of positive decisions; and humanitarian status in 13%.

**Figure 5: Positive First Instance Decisions on Asylum Applications, by status granted and by Member State, ordered by number of decisions, 2009**



Source: EMN NCP National Statistical Tables. \* Eurostat data used. \*\*Data on humanitarian status are provided by some Member States to Eurostat under art. 6 of Reg. 862/2007, i.e. residence permits. Note: No Member State has reported having granted the temporary protection status. Data do not add up due to rounding.

A total of 93 575 final decisions, i.e. appeals of cases rejected in the first instance, were made in the Member States. Of these, 21% were positive. Regarding the proportion of positive/negative first instance decisions the lowest proportion of positive decisions were made in Greece (0.01%)

followed by **Ireland** (4%) and **Spain** (8%). At the other end of the scale were **Malta** (66%), **Portugal** (63%) and **Slovak Republic** (48%). Most positive decisions on applications for international protection were granted to citizens of Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Russian Federation and Zimbabwe. The number of positive decisions granted to citizens of Somalia and Zimbabwe increased significantly.

In relation to resettled persons, **Germany** (2 070), **Sweden** (1 890) and **Norway** (1 390) accepted the highest number of refugees, followed by **United Kingdom** (945), **Finland** (725), **France** (493), **Denmark** (450), **Netherlands** (370), **Ireland** (190), **Italy** (160), **Belgium** (45) and **Luxembourg** (30). **Austria**, **Czech Republic**, **Estonia**, **Latvia**, **Hungary**, **Malta**, **Portugal**, **Romania**, **Slovenia** and **Slovak Republic** did not resettle any persons in 2009.

#### 4. Dublin Transfers

Member States made a total of 39 133 requests to other Member States, to either take back or take charge of an asylum applicant in accordance with Council Regulation 343/2003 (the Dublin Regulation) - an increase of 34% compared to 2008. Of these, 69% (27 026) were requests to take back an applicant and 31% (12 107) to take charge.

	Incoming requests			Outgoing requests		
	Total number of taking back requests	Total number of taking charge requests	Total number of pending requests at the end of reference period	Total number of taking back requests	Total number of taking charge requests	Total number of pending requests at the end of reference period
BE*	:	:	:	2 398	891	891
BG	141	55	15	31	42	19
CZ	343	238	15	259	39	10
DK*	:	:	75	:	:	68
DE	2 658	1 275	43	6 215	2 480	413
EE	5	33	2	7	3	1
IE	164	24	8	276	221	21
GR	2 351	7 155	0	7	25	5
ES	705	696	0	70	137	0
FR*	1 895	753	15	4 297	1 052	220
IT	4 849	2 581	2 915	844	316	88
CY	53	7	1	7	5	1
LV	11	52	3	11	3	2
LT	143	137	32	27	17	2
LU	129	4	0	119	68	19
HU	2 235	365	54	220	386	34
MT	1 007	118	0	0	6	0
NL	721	221	76	2 381	1 349	363
AT	2 178	258	51	3 915	1 549	125
PL	1 941	427	83	78	36	23
PT*	17	58	0	16	0	0
RO	270	208	23	57	45	2
SI	140	146	0	47	23	0
SK	608	90	36	109	23	15
FI	166	63	:	1 244	617	:
SE	2 485	139	61	2 669	1 832	382
UK	845	217	39	1 722	942	111
NO**	:	:	:	:	:	:

Source: EMN NCP National Statistical Tables. \* Eurostat data used. \*\* Eurostat data not available.

Reading note: Data includes requests with Iceland, **Norway** and Switzerland as partner countries

#### 5. Further Information

Should you have specific questions or require further details, please contact the EMN via [HOME-EMN@ec.europa.eu](mailto:HOME-EMN@ec.europa.eu).

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