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Action: EMN NCPs are invited to review this document for discussion at the 34th EMN NCP meeting of Thursday 4th June 2009.

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Disclaimer

This Report has been produced by the European Migration Network (EMN), and was completed by the European Commission, in co-operation with the 24 EMN National Contact Points participating in this study. This report does not necessarily reflect the opinions and views of the European Commission, or of the EMN National Contact Points, nor are they bound by its conclusions.

Explanatory Note

Twenty-four EMN National Contact Points (NCPs) contributed to producing the Annual Report on Asylum and Migration Statistics 2006. Of these, EMN NCPs from **Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden** and the **United Kingdom** produced accompanying National Reports, along with verification of their data as provided from the Commission's Eurostat. For the other Member States, namely **Belgium, Denmark** and **Malta**, a verification of their data was undertaken, but no National Report produced. Unfortunately, it was not possible for Cyprus, Luxembourg and Romania to participate in this activity, but they shall be involved for future reports.

The data for the Member States of the participating EMN NCPs presented in this report is as verified by the participating EMN NCPs. Therefore, in some cases, there may currently be differences from the Commission's Eurostat data. For the remaining Member States, plus Iceland and Norway, mainly data as provided from Eurostat were used. The Notes on the various Tables to be found in this Synthesis Report clearly indicate when data from other sources have been used.

The Member States mentioned above are given in **bold** when mentioned in the report and when reference to "Member States" is made, this is specifically for these Member States.

Executive Summary

This Synthesis Report summarises the main findings for the year 2006 of the analysis of asylum and migration statistics undertaken by 24 EMN NCPs (**Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom**).

For **Migration Flows** (to complete)

1. INTRODUCTION

One of the tasks of the European Migration Network (EMN), following Council Decision [2008/381/EC](#)¹ of 14 May 2008 establishing its legal base, is to produce the Annual Reports on Asylum and Migration Statistics. It is not, however, the purpose of the EMN to collect and collate the statistics, as this is done by the Commission's Eurostat working with the relevant official national data providers, who are often from the same entity as the EMN NCP. Instead, the purpose of the EMN's contribution is to analyse the statistical trends on asylum, migration, illegal entry and stay, and removals in their Member State, and thereby facilitate comparisons and interpretations pertaining to migratory trends on the European level, as well as in the international context.

This Synthesis Report summarises the main findings for the year 2006 and is the latest addition to a series of similar Annual Reports on Asylum and Migration Statistics from [2001](#), [2002](#), [2003](#) and [2004/2005](#).² For continuity, data from previous years are provided in some of the Tables presented in the following sections.

2. METHODOLOGY

The first step was for the participating [EMN NCPs](#)³ to ascertain that the data as provided by the European Commission's [Eurostat](#)⁴ were indeed consistent with their national data, and, in some cases, to add data. Afterwards, any necessary corrections, additions or modifications would be provided to Eurostat via the official national data providers in the participating Member States. The following migration and asylum data were provided for each Member State:

- Migration flows
- Population by main groups of nationality
- Residence Permits
- First time asylum applications, also broken down by main countries of nationality, and decisions made
- Refused migrants, including by main country of nationality
- Apprehension of illegally-resident migrants, including by main country of nationality
- Removed migrants, including by main country of nationality

¹ Available from <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ%3AL%3A2008%3A131%3ASOM%3AEN%3AHTML>.

² Available from http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/doc_centre/immigration/statistics/doc_immigration_statistics_en.htm.

³ EMN NCPs are often from the same (or have very close links with the) entity that acts as the source of the data eventually provided to EUROSTAT. Their details may be found in the respective National Report or from <http://emn.sarenet.es/Downloads/download.do?fileID=554>.

⁴ See EUROSTAT Population and Social Conditions section, at http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=0.1136184.0_45572595&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL.

Consequently, the data for the Member States of the participating EMN NCPs presented in this report is as verified by the participating EMN NCPs. Therefore, in some cases, there may currently be differences from Eurostat data. For the remaining Member States, plus Iceland and Norway, mainly data as provided from Eurostat were used. The Notes on the various Tables to be found in this Synthesis Report clearly indicate when data from other sources have been used.

Once the data had been verified, most of the EMN NCPs participating in this activity (i.e. **Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden** and the **United Kingdom**) each produced also a National Report according to common specifications and using their verified data, analysing in more detail each of the topics given above, placing them within national and international developments. For the other Member States, namely **Belgium, Denmark** and **Malta** a verification of the data was undertaken, but no National Report produced.

Each National Report provides a description of the methodology followed, the national sources and authorities used to verify and/or add data, clarification of definitions used and any caveats to apply to the data presented. In some cases, when there were too few data, data protection legislation prevented publication of, for example, number of asylum applications from a particular country, in order to protect the identity of the person(s) concerned.

The accession of two new EU Member States (**Bulgaria, Romania**), occurred immediately after the period covered by this report (on 1st January 2007). Therefore, and in order to reflect the practice of national statistical offices, nationals from these (now) EU-2 Member States were considered as *third country nationals* up to and including 2006 and then as *EU(-27) nationals* from 2007 onwards. Similarly, nationals of EU(-10) Member States who acceded on 1st May 2004 have been considered as *EU(-25) nationals* from 2004 onwards. The tables in the following sections have been constructed to reflect these different statuses, but give data, to the extent possible, of nationals from EU-10 and/or EU-2 either as a component of the total number of third-country nationals or, following their accession to the EU, as a component of the total number of EU nationals. Any differences from this approach are indicated in the footnotes to each table.

For each of the following sections, a general overview of the data and main trends observed is given first. This is then followed by a summary of the key findings in each Member State in order to place

their data in the context of national developments. More details on the situation in a particular Member State(s) are given in the available National Report(s), as well as the corresponding Tables of national data.

3. FIRST TIME ASYLUM APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS MADE

3.1 Asylum applications

Table 1 summarises the number of first-time asylum applications, including (when available) of unaccompanied minors, made in 2006 ordered by the ratio of asylum applicants per 1 000 habitants in each Member State (highest first). Where available, the breakdown by gender, and for adults and children, is also given.

Table 1: First-time asylum applications in 2006 ordered by ratio of asylum applicants per 1 000 habitants in each Member State (highest first)

	2006		Total (incl. children)	Asylum applicants per 1000 inhabitants	Unaccompanied Minors
	Male (incl.child)	Female (incl. child)			
MALTA	N/A	N/A	1 272	3.15	109
SWEDEN	15 632 (3 405)	8 153 (2 666)	23 785 (6 071)	2.63	820
AUSTRIA	8 780	4 569	13 349	1.61	488
IRELAND	2 875	1 439	4 314 (964)	1.03	131
GREECE	10 448 (444)	640 (55)	11 088 (499)	1.00	165
NETHERLANDS	8 968 (2 380)	5 482 (2 131)	14 465 (4 515)	0.89	410
FRANCE	11 493 (2 332)	19 255 (2 734)	30 748 (5 066)	0.49	571
UNITED KINGDOM	18 670 (5 420)	9 650 (2 970)	28 320 (8 385)	0.47	3 450
FINLAND	1 526 (324)	809 (302)	2 335 (626)	0.44	111
DENMARK	507 (300)	1 453 (166)	1 960 (466)	0.36	107
CZECH REPUBLIC	2 257 (230)	759 (178)	3 016 (408)	0.29	81
SLOVENIA	426	92	518	0.26	21
GERMANY	13 165 (5 259)	7 864 (4 322)	21 029 (9 581)	0.26	186
HUNGARY	N/A	N/A	2 117	0.21	None
ITALY	N/A	N/A	10 348	0.18	N/A
SPAIN	3 413	1 884	5 297 (799)	0.12	N/A
POLAND	N/A	N/A	3 813	0.10	Nil
LITHUANIA	N/A	N/A	147	0.04	3
PORTUGAL	N/A	N/A	129	0.01	3
ESTONIA	3 (0)	4 (0)	7 (0)	0.01	None
LATVIA	7 (2)	1 (0)	8 (2)	0.003	None
BELGIUM	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
CYPRUS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LUXEMBOURG	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Total (EU-10)				
	Total (EU-15)				
	TOTAL (EU-25)				
BULGARIA	N/A	N/A	639	N/A	73
ROMANIA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ICELAND					
NORWAY					

Notes:

1. Data for **Belgium, Czech Republic, Netherlands** includes first and repeated applications.
2. Data for **United Kingdom** includes dependants.

Asylum applications continued to fall sharply in **Austria** in 2006 for the fourth year in a row. In 2006, a total of 13 349 applications for asylum were filed, lower than in 2005 when it was 22 461. Almost two-thirds of all applications were made by men. The main countries of origin were similar to 2005, with, following the separation of Serbia and of Montenegro, applications from nationals of Serbia (2 515) representing the largest group, followed by nationals of Russia, primarily from Chechnya, (2 441), then Moldova (902), Afghanistan (699), Turkey (668) and Georgia (564). The number of applications from nationals of India dropped significantly from 1 530 in 2005 to 479 in 2006. An important legislative development occurred with the entry into force of the Aliens' Act Package 2005, with an amendment of the Asylum Act (Asylgesetz, AsylG), though mainly in terms of procedural changes, such as provisions for accelerating the asylum process, including the lifting of the suspension of appeals on certain grounds; the prerequisite that an asylum applicant must meet certain obligations of co-operation during the asylum procedure; granting the *Independent Federal Asylum Review Board* (Unabhängige Bundesasylsenat, UBAS) the power to set precedents in order to accelerate similar cases in the future; creating a country of origin documentation centre; and no longer allowing the dismissal of asylum applications as "obviously unfounded."⁵ However, it is too early to determine what effect these changes have had on the number of asylum applications.

The number of asylum applications in **Bulgaria** during 2006 was 639, continuing a decrease from a peak of 2 888 in 2002, although the rate of decrease was smaller than the previous year (985 in 2004; 698 in 2005). One of the reasons for the drop in the number of asylum applications was the measures for strengthening border control, which are implemented both by the Bulgarian Border Police and Turkish border services. Other reasons include an accelerated procedure for the implementation of the regulation regarding manifestly unfounded applications; implementation of effective legal measures preventing misuse of the asylum system; and the introduction of procedures for routinely taking fingerprints. Asylum applications were predominantly made by single men (xx% of total) and the main country of origin of all applications was Afghanistan (292 in 2006), followed by Iraq (71) and then Armenia (68). There was an expectation that the number from Armenia would decrease as a result of ?????, but this was not the case, and a new country of origin was China (10 applications in 2006).

The **Czech Republic** also saw a general decrease in the number of asylum applications, this time from a peak of 18 094 in 2001 to 3 016 in 2006, although an increase was observed in 2003 attributed to an influx of nationals of Russia from Chechnya. Again, men made up the majority of

⁵ Further details of these changes may be found in the Austria Annual Policy Report at <http://emn.sarenet.es/Downloads/prepareShowFiles.do?directoryID=104>.

applications made (75%), primarily aged 18 to 35 years. Nationals of Ukraine remained the main country of origin of asylum applicants (571 in 2006), although their share of the total is decreasing (29% in 2005 decreasing to 19% in 2006). Of particular note in 2006 was an influx of applications from nationals of Egypt (422 in 2006) and Kazakhstan (236 in 2006). However, and particularly in the case of nationals of Egypt, their motive for entering the Czech Republic was considered to be for economic reasons and to be misusing the asylum process. Following the introduction of airport visas, these numbers decreased. Other significant countries of origin were Belarus, Russia, Vietnam and China.

The number of asylum applications made in **Estonia** continued to be low (11 in 2005 and 7 in 2006), despite concerns that, following accession, a significant increase in applications would occur. Owing to its geographical proximity, most applications are from nationals of Russia. The low number is attributed to Estonia's strict asylum policy and limited social support provided. On 1st July 2006, the *Granting Aliens International Protection Act*⁶ entered into force, bringing Estonia's national legislation in line with EU asylum acquis. Among the changes this introduced, were the granting of asylum applicants access to the labour market after one year if a decision has not been made; and speeding up of the process for removal in cases when an application has been refused.

There was a total of 2 324 applications for asylum from 75 countries made in **Finland** during 2006, a two-thirds decline when compared to 2005 (3 574). The majority of applicants were men (65% of total) and were aged 18 to 35 years. As in 2005, the largest numbers of asylum applications were made by nationals of **Bulgaria** (463 in 2006, mainly from the Roma minority), followed by Serbia and Montenegro, almost all of them originating from the (then) province of Kosovo. The next largest groups were nationals of Iraq (225), Russia (176), Afghanistan and Belarus (97 from each). Nearly 70% (1 620) of all applications made came from the main top ten countries.

France also saw a decrease in the number of applications compared to previous years, with 26 269 applications filed in 2006 (42 578 in 2005) plus an additional 4 479 applications from children. Reductions occurred in most of the main countries of origin, with a slight increase (+5.2%) from Sri Lanka and Armenia (+0.7%). Substantial decreases in applications from nationals of declared Safe Countries of Origin (Benin, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cap Verde, Croatia, Georgia, Ghana, India, Mali, Mauritius, Mongolia, Senegal, Ukraine plus Albania, FYROM (Macedonia), Madagascar, Niger, Tanzania) also occurred, accounting for 3.4% of total applications in 2006 compared with 11.4% in

⁶ Available in EN from <http://soderkoping.org.ua/page11357.html>.

2005. Some 35.8% of all applications were made by women, an increasing proportion compared to previous years, which is attributed to the growing importance placed by the *Office Français de Protection des Réfugiés et Apatrides (OFPRA)*⁷ on issues related to subsidiary protection, particularly domestic violence and prostitution. Other measures implemented were a crackdown on illegal Chinese immigration networks; a targeted response by the Département of Guadeloupe to the explosion of applications by nationals of Haiti; and the introduction of a single asylum-granting body, abolition of the territorial asylum procedure and improved application processing times for applications' from Algeria.

The lowest level of asylum applications (21 029 compared to 28 914 in 2005) since 1983 were made in **Germany** during 2006. Of these, 62.6% were males and most applicants were under 30 years of age. For those aged under 18 years, 55% were female. With regard to nationality, most came from nationals of Serbia and Montenegro⁸ (3 237 in 2006), followed by Iraq (2 117) and Turkey (1 949). As also observed in 2004 and 2005, the composition of the countries of origin has undergone considerable change over time. Whilst countries of origin such as **Bulgaria** and Romania were predominant at the beginning of the nineties, their position has now been taken up by Serbia and Montenegro, as well as by Iraq. Also the share of “other countries” (i.e. all countries other than the main top ten) has risen considerably in recent years, being 44.7% in 2006.

Conversely to the situation in many other Member States, the increase in the number of asylum applications in **Greece** in recent years continued, with 12 267 applications in 2006 (9 050 in 2005). A remarkable increase in the number of children (up to the age of 17 years) from 319 in 2005 to 499 in 2006 was also observed. It is not clear that these increases, observed since 2003, can be attributed to legislative or administrative changes and may be attributed more to external factors. Almost one in three applications were made by nationals of Bangladesh (????), representing an almost seven-fold increase from 2005, followed by Pakistan (?????), one in five), double that in 2005. Significant increases continued to be observed for applications from nationals of Iraq (1 415 in 2006 and 971 in 2005) and Afghanistan (1 087 in 2006 and ??? in 2005), representing 70% of all applications made in 2006. It is considered that an increasing number of illegally-staying migrants use the asylum procedure to acquire short-term legal status.

Similarly, **Hungary** had an increase in the number of asylum applications, with 2 117 in 2006 and 1 609 in 2005, although this is still less than the peak of 6 000 in 2002. The main countries of origin

⁷ See <http://www.ofpra.gouv.fr/>.

are Vietnam (406 in 2006), Serbia and Montenegro (3840, China (275), Georgia (175) and Nigeria (109). Of particular note are the number of asylum applications from nationals of China and Vietnam. The current legislative framework, which includes asylum appeals being litigious and that during an appeal an asylum applicant has the right to residence, is considered to have created a pull effect for nationals from these two countries in particular. They are also considered to be economic migrants rather than genuine asylum applicants and thus abusing the asylum process, using the appeals procedure as a means to gain long-term residence.

The number of asylum applications submitted in **Ireland** in 2006 (4 314) was similar to 2005 (4 323), and at the lowest level since 1997. Two-thirds of the asylum applicants were male (2 875), and the majority of applicants (2 658) were in the '18-35' age group (2 658 applications), with applications by minors (aged '0-17' years, both accompanied and unaccompanied) comprising the second largest grouping (964). Main countries of origin were similar to 2005 being predominantly Nigeria (4 314 in 2006), then Sudan (1 038), Romania (308), Iraq (289), Iran (215) and Georgia (171). Other than for Iran and Georgia, there were decreases in the absolute number compared to 2005. In addition, 65 Refugees from Iran were resettled in Ireland under the United Nation's Refugee Resettlement Programme. This group was the first of a total group of 180 who are due to be resettled in Ireland.

There were 10 348 applications for asylum in **Italy** in 2006, an increase of 10.4% from 2005. It is estimated that at least 60% of all applications made were submitted by migrants arriving from Africa along the coastlines of Apulia, Calabria, Sicily and, in particular, Lampedusa. In fact, by far the largest number of applications were from nationals of Eritrea (2 151), followed by Nigeria (830), Togo (584), Serbia-Montenegro (581), Ghana (530), Cote d'Ivoire (508), Ethiopia (453), Morocco (354), Sudan (308) and Bangladesh (283). In terms of applications from nationals of Iraq, there were 100 made in 2006, a slight decrease from 2005.

The number of asylum applicants in **Latvia** (like for **Estonia**) is relatively small, being 8 in 2006 and lower than in 2005 when it was 20. The main reasons for this are considered to be that the economic situation in Latvia, as well as the geographical location of the country, the small allowance and the lack of diaspora discourages applications to be made there. It is also believed that Latvia was not the original destination of the asylum applicants. Of the applications made, seven were men and most came from the Commonwealth of Independent States (Russia, Belarus, Georgia

⁸ Serbia and Montenegro have been two independent states since June 2006. They are however still kept together in the national statistics for 2006.

and Kyrgyzstan). The availability of the Russian language and visual likeness to the national population are considered to be the main reasons for this tendency.

By contrast, the neighbouring **Lithuania** received 147 applications for asylum in 2006, an increase from 2005 when there were 118, but lower than in 2004 when there were 167. The majority of applications are made by nationals of Chechnya. The reason for the difference from Estonia and Latvia might be owing to the greater historical link of the Chechnya diaspora to Lithuania.

Poland received 3 813 (including 1 457 from minors) applications in 2006, a substantial decrease from 2005 when it was 5 240. Prior to 2005 and accession of Poland to the EU, the number of asylum applications had been increasing, reaching a peak of 7 924 in 2004. Some 3 279 repeat applications were also made during 2006. The main country of origin has remained stable over recent years being Russia (3 363 in 2006 or 88% of the total), of which 2 992 declared they were nationals of Chechnya. Other significantly lower applications came from nationals of Belarus (55), Ukraine (45), Pakistan (39), Iraq (33), and Armenia (32). For the latter three plus nationals of Vietnam, it is observed that, prior to submitting their application in Poland, they would have tried to enter another Member State illegally. The significant proportion of applications from nationals of Russia and Chechnya is attributed to geographic proximity, to being an EU Member State, the political situation in Chechnya, the social protection offered, and the visa regime introduced in 2003 for nationals of eastern-neighbouring states (Russian Federation, Ukraine and Belarus).

In **Portugal**, there were 129 applications for asylum in 2006, a slight increase from 2005 when there were 113, with a more than double increase in the number of nationals from the Democratic Republic of the Congo applying for asylum (16 in 2006 from 7 in 2005) and a significant increase also in the number of applications originating from Israel (9 in 2006 from less than 3 in 2005). Similar to **Germany**, there was an increase in the range of nationalities applying for asylum. Conversely, there was a significant decrease in number of applicants by nationals of Colombia (6 in 2006 and 26 in 2005).

From a peak of 11 395 in 2004, the number of asylum applications in the **Slovak Republic** has dropped dramatically to 3 549 in 2005 and then 2 871 in 2006. Over the period 2004 to 2006, most applications were made by males (80-85%) and 40-45% of all applicants were aged between 18 and 25 years. Most asylum applicants are primarily from Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Iraq, Pakistan plus China), constituting 50-60% of all applications in the period 2003 to 2006, plus former Soviet Union countries (principally Russia, Moldova, Georgia), constituting 40-50% of all

applications in the same period but increasing at a higher rate than for Asia. The development of asylum applicants since 2000 is considered to mirror that of illegal immigration. Following an amendment to the Asylum Act, it became possible for an illegally-resident migrant detained by the police to request asylum. The considered view was that, for a majority of asylum applicants, the possibility to then stay in the Slovak Republic whilst asylum proceedings progressed, gave them, on the one hand, the security of not being removed, and, on the other hand, enabled the preparation and realisation of the intention to continue to an originally planned destination elsewhere in Europe. Following accession to the EU, however, there were more severe controls and increased pressure upon human traffickers, as well as the application of the Dublin Regulation. These actions are considered to be the main cause for the significant decrease in the number of applications.

Slovenia too has seen a significant decrease in the number of asylum applications (from 1 597 in 2005 to 518 in 2006), which also is primarily attributed to the transposition into national legislation of EU asylum acquis. Specifically the reasons for the decrease are attributed to strict implementation of the Dublin System, and 11 applicants were transferred to another Member State in 2006; a more efficient border control; and smoother and more efficient asylum procedures. Most applications came from nationals of Serbia and Montenegro, primarily from the Albanian ethnic group (240, which is a significant reduction from 2005 when there were 518 and is attributed to the relative political stability in the Western Balkans), followed by Turkey (62), Bosnia and Herzegovina (44) and Albania (32).

There was a small increase in the number of applications in **Spain** to 5 297 in 2006 from 5 257 in 2005. From a peak of 9 490 in 2001, the number of applications has levelled off in the last three years. In 2006, approximately 64% of the applicants were males, with the proportion of women continuing to increase since 2004, and 66% of all applicants were between 18 to 35 years of age, although this proportion has been decreasing since 2004. In terms of nationalities, most applications were from nationals of Colombia (2 239), Nigeria (632) and Morocco (281).

Sweden experienced a 40% increase in the number of applications in 2006 (????) compared to 2005 (????). Particularly in the second half of 2006 there was a 75% increase compared to the same period the previous year. Most applications were from nationals of Iraq. This increase is, at least partly, attributed to the introduction of a pardon (temporary law) which was effective from 15th November 2005 to 30th March 2006 and considered to act as a major pull-factor for nationals of Iraq in particular. The temporary law allowed the Swedish Migration Board, upon request or on its own initiative, to re-process applications for asylum/residence permits that had previously been rejected.

The main target groups were families with small children who had been waiting for a decision from the Migration Board and had established themselves in Sweden for a certain period of time, and persons subject to legally binding decisions of removal, but for whom there were impediments to enforcement. After this period, a new Aliens Act entered into force which established a new system for appeals and procedures.

Asylum applications in the **United Kingdom** during 2006 (28 320) were 8% fewer than in 2005 (30 840), continuing a downward trend since 2002 when over 100 000 applications were made. Approximately two-thirds of all the applicants in 2006 were male, similar to 2005, and 54% of the total number of applicants were aged between 18 and 35 years. The highest number of applications came from nationals of Eritrea (2 735) followed by Iran (2 685), Afghanistan (2 660, a 50% increase from 2005), Somalia (2 175), Zimbabwe (2 145, also a 54% increase from 2005) and China (2 030).

3.2 Asylum Applications by Unaccompanied Minors

Whilst data on asylum applications made by unaccompanied minors are more limited, some Member States reported on developments. The total number of unaccompanied minors in **Austria** decreased by -45%: 881 applications were registered in 2005, decreasing to 488 in 2006. Of these, fifty-three (or 11%) were aged under 14 years. For the **Czech Republic**, the number has remained relatively stable over recent years, being 81 in 2006, the majority (73%) aged 16 years or more with then 20% aged 13 years or less. The number in **Finland** declined by half compared to 2005, with 112 unaccompanied minors seeking asylum, compared to 220 in 2005. The majority of these unaccompanied minors were 16-17 years old boys. Of the 186 unaccompanied minors (in this case meaning those who have not yet reached the age of 16 years) recorded in **Germany** in 2006, more than half of them (54.3%) were male. For **Greece**, there was a slight increase in applications compared to 2005 (165 in 2006 and 158 in 2005), whilst for **Hungary** it changed little, being 43 in 2006 and 42 in 2005. There was an increase in **Ireland** from 96 in 2005 to 131 in 2006, which might be a result of either changed migratory flows or a change to administrative procedures concerning the automatic placement of unaccompanied minors within the asylum system as a means of regularising their status. Similarly, an increase has been observed in **Italy** recently with 102 in 2004, 144 in 2005 and 251 in 2006. For the latter year, 88% were aged 16 and 17 years, and 167 of the unaccompanied minors came from Afghanistan, followed by from the Horn of Africa. The **Slovak Republic** has also experienced a significant growth of the number of unaccompanied minors. In the period 2002-2004, there were more than 2 000 applications from unaccompanied minors, although more recently this has dropped, being 147 in 2006. The majority of the

unaccompanied minors come from Bangladesh, India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, Vietnam, Moldova, Russia, Georgia plus Somalia. For the **United Kingdom**, there were 3 450 asylum applications made by unaccompanied minors in 2006, 16% more than in 2005 (2 965). Of the 3 450 unaccompanied minors, 75% (2 585) were male, a similar proportion to 2005, with most (53%, 1 840) aged 16 and 17 years.

3.3 Decisions

Table 2 provides an overview of the number of decisions made in the period 2004 to 2006 inclusive, including, where available, first instance data. Note that the data presented is *calendar-based*, i.e. a particular year represents mainly decisions from applications made in previous years, as well as the current year for which data are given. A *cohort-based* analysis, which follows an asylum applicant in time through the asylum decision process, requires more analysis and, because some asylum procedures take a long time, it is not always possible to give definitive data on positive decisions this way.

Table 2: Overview of decisions made in period 2004 to 2006 inclusive, including first instance

	2004				2005				2006			
	Positive (First instance)	Negative (First instance)	Other non-status (First instance)	Total (First instance)	Positive (First instance)	Negative (First instance)	Other non-status (First instance)	Total (First instance)	Positive (First instance)	Negative (First instance)	Other non-status (First instance)	Total (First instance)
BELGIUM	2 374 (2 275)	14 841 (13 037)	1 319 (1 175)	18 534 (16 487)	3 730 (3 059)	15 334 (13 732)	4 204 (3 301)	23 268 (20 092)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
CZECH REPUBLIC	184 (176)	4 654 (4 635)	3 089 (3 065)	7 927 (7 876)	330 (330)	2 636 (2 636)	1 410 (1 410)	4 376 (4 376)	327	2 195	499	3 021
DENMARK	210	1 945	None	2 155	229	1 098	None	1 327	308 (170)	1 234 (755)	Nil	1 542 (925)
GERMANY	3 031	38 599	20 331	61 961	3 121	27 452	17 529	48 102	1 951	17 781	11 027	30 759
ESTONIA	None	8	None	8	1	13	None	14	Nil	4	0	4
IRELAND	430	6 468	None	6 898	455	4 787	None	5 242	648 (397)	5 546 (3 847)	Nil (540)	6 194 (4 244)
GREECE	33	3 722	None	3 755	88	4 585	5 712	10 421	91	10 451	2 624	13 166
SPAIN	N/A (161)	N/A (6 301)	N/A (163)	N/A (6 625)	N/A (202)	N/A (4 531)	N/A (124)	N/A (4 857)	212 (168)	7 567 (3 892)	619 (188)	8 398 (4 248)
FRANCE	6 358	61 760	None	68 118	4 184	47 088	None	51 272	2 929 (2 929)	34 786 (34786)	271 (271)	37 986 (37 986)
ITALY	3 132	2 942	2 627	8 701	5 266	5 583	3 802	14 651	878	8 019	363	9 260
CYPRUS	74	2 734	2 525	5 333	162	3 126	2 508	5 796	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LATVIA	None	6 (6)	5 (5)	11 (11)	None	12 (12)	None	12 (12)	10 (3)	10 (2)	3 (3)	23 (8)
LITHUANIA	420	51	91	562	343	30	11	384	397	29	18	444
LUXEMBOURG	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	671	554	257	1 482	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HUNGARY	326	931	527	1 784	192	853	609	1 654	198	1 217	603	2 018
MALTA	533	223	None	756	534	548	None	1 082	550 (55)	637 (637)	Nil	1 187 (1 187)
NETHERLANDS	5 463 (4 537)	10 657 (8 178)	4 237 (2 939)	20 357 (15 654)	9 959 (8 818)	10 051 (8 084)	6 058 (2 848)	26 068 (19 750)	6 389 (4 344)	8 844 (7 519)	4 042 (2 318)	19 275 (14 181)
AUSTRIA	5 136 (2 808)	5 069 (3 137)	15 219	25 424 (5 945)	4 528	5 427	8 630	18 585	4 063 (2 314)	5 867 (3 216)	5 558 (Nil)	15 488 (5 530)
POLAND	1 131	2 002	2 763	5 896	2 144	2 284	4 413	8 841	2 471	939	3 875	7 285
PORTUGAL	9	62	2	73	16	73	None	89	30	74	Nil	104
SLOVENIA	39	317	769	1 125	26	661	1 161	1 848	9	561	331	901
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	15	1 595	11 778	13 388	25	827	2 934	3 786	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
FINLAND	791 (665)	3 395 (3 345)	542 (537)	4 728 (4 547)	570 (450)	2 514 (2 420)	370 (368)	3 454 (3 194)	618	1 481	287	2 386
SWEDEN	4 407 (3 396)	42 556 (27 870)	5 159 (3 993)	52 122 (35 259)	6 974 (5 358)	34 316 (15 923)	3 919 (2 638)	45 212 (23 922)	22 728	12 503	10 737	45 968
UNITED KINGDOM	N/A (6 355)	N/A (49 040)	N/A (4 195)	N/A (58 915)	N/A (5 425)	N/A (27 780)	N/A (2 955)	N/A (36 650)	5 045 (5 045)	20 430 (20 430)	2 410 (2 410)	25 475 (25 475)
BULGARIA	270	334	361	965	86	380	478	944	95	215	284	594
ROMANIA	88	406	63	557	54	417	None	471	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ICELAND	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	None	55	28	83				
NORWAY	3 480	8 346	695	12 521	2 480	4 270	694	7 444				

Notes:

1. For **Belgium**, the figures are for Adults only (dependent minor children are not included). *Positive first instance* relates to the recognition of refugee status made by the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS); *Positive first appeal* relates to the recognition of refugee status by the Permanent Appeals Commission (PCA); *Negative first instance* comprises (a) negative decisions (on the admissibility) made by the Immigration Office (IO) and for which the person did not lodge an urgent appeal at the CGRS, (b) (final) negative decisions on the admissibility by the CGRS, plus (c) final negative decisions on the merit of the request made by the CGRS. Other *non-status decisions (First instance)* comprises the number of files/persons who have been cancelled or declared "without object" (devenu sans objet) as a result of (a) people who desisted voluntarily from their asylum application (at the CGRA); or (b) people who desisted voluntarily from their asylum application, deceases, naturalizations, people who left the country, etc. (at the PCA).

2. For **Czech Republic**, the Total number of decisions refers to the numbers of decisions of the first and second instance. Appeals to the regional court and cessations are not included in the total number of decisions as they are decisions on legality, not decisions on asylum.

3. Data for **United Kingdom** includes dependants and the First instance Total includes also withdrawn applications (3 520 in 2004 and 3 440 in 2005).

Austria issued 15 488 decisions (first instance and appeal) in 2006, of which 4 063 were positive, 5 867 were negative and 5 558 non-status (as a result of, for example, cessation of asylum proceedings, absence of asylum applicant). This number of decisions continued a decrease from 2005, prior to which, and since 1997, the number of decisions made had been increasing. Disaggregated by instance, 2 314 positive and 3 216 negative final decisions were taken by the first instance *Federal Asylum Office* (Bundesasylamt, BAA), whilst 1 749 positive and 2 651 negative decisions were taken by the first appeal instance of the *Independent Federal Asylum Review Board* (Unabhängiger Bundesasylsenat, UBAS), which indicates that more than 43% of all positive decisions were made at the second instance. With regard to the nationalities to which a positive

decision was given, by far the largest was for nationals of Russia and predominantly applicants from Chechnya, with 2 090 (or 51%), followed by nationals of Afghanistan (475), Serbia (318), Iran (211) and Turkey (113). This breakdown is similar to that in 2005, although the recognition rate, based on positive and negative decisions (first and appeal instance), for nationals of Russia was lower in 2006 at 71% compared to 91% the previous year. For nationals of Afghanistan the recognition rate was 64% (79% in 2005), for Iraq 35%, Serbia 12% (29% for nationals of Serbia-Montenegro in 2005) and Turkey 14%. Similar to previous years, the recognition rates of nationals of Georgia (4%), Nigeria (2%) and Moldova (1%) remained very low.

Of the 594 decisions taken in **Bulgaria** in 2006, 95 were positive, mainly for nationals of Afghanistan (38) and Iraq (28). This was an increase, not only in the absolute number of positive decisions, but also in the proportion compared to 2005 when of the 952 decisions taken, 86 were positive. Other positive decisions in 2006 were given to nationals of Iran (9), Armenia (7) and Somalia (4). The 10 nationals of China who sought protection in 2006 had their applications refused.

In the **Czech Republic**, decisions were made in 3 021 cases in 2006, of which 364 were positive including 268 granting asylum. This represented an 11% increase in positive decisions compared to 2005 (330 positive decisions). The majority of positive decisions were given to nationals of former Soviet States (Belarus 115, Russia 54, Kazakhstan 31 and Ukraine 31). In previous years most positive decisions were given to nationals of Russia (2004 46; 2005 119).

The total number of asylum decisions in **Finland** decreased by 30% in 2006 compared to the previous year. Of the 2 386 decisions made in 2006 (3 439 in 2005), there were 618 positive decisions (597 in 2005), 1 481 negative decisions (2 472 in 2005) and 287 other non-status decisions (370 in 2005). One reason for the larger number of negative decisions in 2005 and 2006 was the relatively high number of asylum applicants from **Bulgaria**, none of which received positive decisions. In 2006, the highest number of positive decisions were given to nationals of Somalia (184), Afghanistan (132), Iraq (113), Serbia and Montenegro (310, Russia and Iran (each 25).

France made 37 715 decisions in 2006, of which 2 929 were positive decisions. Most positive decisions were awarded to nationals of Russia (370), followed by Haiti (295), the Democratic Republic of Congo (239), Turkey (208) and Sri Lanka (143). However, this was a significant decline from the previous two years (6 358 positive decisions were made in 2004 and 4 076 in

2005), although it should be noted that an exceptionally high number of decisions were taken within the framework of processing outstanding appeals in these two years. The decrease affected a wide range of geographic origins, and for some severely so. For example, the number of nationals of Sri Lanka and Turkey obtaining asylum in 2006 was halved compared with 2005 (485 and 498 in 2006 compared with 1022 and 972 in 2005 respectively). Only a very limited number of countries saw higher numbers of their nationals being granted asylum in 2006, including Iraq, Egypt, Haiti and Sudan. These changes did not, however, radically change the composition of countries of origin, essentially from Africa (38.1%), and mostly from the Democratic Republic of Congo (490 new refugees), Mauritania (224), Côte d'Ivoire (216) and Congo (172). Next are nationals from the Commonwealth of Independent States (20.3%, mostly from Russia), Asia (14.8%, primarily from Sri Lanka), and Turkey (6.8%).

The share of positive decisions made in **Germany** in 2006 amounted to 6.3% or **?????** of the total number of decisions made **(?? ???)**. This is comparable to previous years from 2002 onwards. Negative decisions at first instance constituted 57.8% (or **?? ???**), whilst almost one-third of cases were concluded by other means. Most positive decisions made are recognition of refugee status according to the Geneva convention and the highest rates of positive decisions are given to nationals of Russia (29.4% of decisions made for these nationals were positive and 173 Geneva Convention statuses were given), Iraq (28.2%; 161) and Turkey (25.7%; **??**), with that for Serbia and Montenegro (15.5%; 90) also being above the average. The proportion of positive decisions for Russia and Turkey had increased from the previous year when they were 18.2% and 8.1% respectively.

Of the 13 166 decisions made in **Greece** in 2006, 91 were positive, which is less than in 2005 when of the 10 421 decisions made, 124 were positive. Whilst the proportion of Geneva Convention positive decisions increased to 64 from 39 in 2005, there was a drastic decline in positive decisions for Humanitarian Status to 27 from 85 in 2005. Geneva Convention positive decisions were given mainly to nationals of Afghanistan (10; 3 in 2005), Democratic Republic of Congo (10; 4 in 2005), Iran (8; 3 in 2005), Somalia (7) and Libya (6). The decline in the number of positive decisions for humanitarian status is attributed to a decline in the number of positive decisions issued to nationals of Iraq, Afghanistan and Sudan.

Hungary made 2 016 decisions in 2006, of which 198 were first positive decisions (99 Geneva Convention). This number of positive decisions was comparable to the previous year, being 192 out of 1 654 decisions made, but less than in 2004, when 326 positive decisions were made out of a total

of 1 784. Nationals of Somalia (29) and Iraq (15) constituted the bulk of Geneva Convention statuses granted, whilst for other forms of protection, the largest was for ethnic minorities (ethnic Albanian, Hungarian, Serbian, Roma, Bosnian) from Serbia and Montenegro (26).

The overall number of asylum decisions in **Ireland** increased to 6 194 in 2006 compared to 5 242 in 2005. The proportion of positive decisions to total decisions also increased slightly from 8.6% in 2005 to 10.4% in 2006. Of the 648 positive decisions in 2006, over 60% were granted at first instance. Whilst there are limited data available on the nationality of those accorded positive decisions and no data available for those accorded negative decisions, the estimation is that the continuing trend for a higher proportion of positive determinations is partly a result of changed migration flows to Ireland.

Following the introduction in **Italy** of new procedures for the recognition of refugee status from April 2005, including the examination of applications by a *National Commission for Asylum right – Special Supernumerary Division*, there was an increase in the number of decisions made from 8 332 (of which 3 134 were positive) in 2004 to 10 911 (4 384 positive) in 2005 to 9 260 (878 positive) in 2006. Whilst there was a significant decrease in the number of positive decisions recognising refugee status in 2006, this was, to a certain extent, offset by an increase in the granting of Humanitarian Protection (4 338 in 2006). One aspect observed following the introduction of the new procedure, was that the rate of untraceable cases (36.7% of cases with the old procedure, that is 4 258 out of 11 589) decreased to 2.8% (262 cases) indicating that applicants have more confidence in receiving an answer within a reasonable time.

For **Latvia**, there were 10 positive decisions out of the 23 decisions in 2006, including 8 decisions made on 20 applications submitted in 2005. Of these 10, refugee status was granted to one national from Russia and one from Belarus and alternative status was granted to seven nationals from Somalia and one from Russia.

Poland issued 2 471 positive decisions (423 granting refugee status mostly to nationals of Russia and 2 048 granting "tolerated stay" status) out of the 7 285 decisions made in 2006. This was the highest number of positive decisions since 1994 and also represented a 35% increase compared to 2005 when of the 8 841 decisions made, 2 144 were positive.

The number of positive decisions granted by **Portugal** increased to 30, out of 104 decisions made, in 2006 from 16, out of 89 decisions in 2005. The boost in positive decisions is explained by the

fact that 17 refugees were accepted in 2006 as part of the UNHCR Resettlement Programme. There was also a change in the composition of nationalities receiving a positive decision. In 2005, the majority of positive decisions were for nationals of Colombia and Turkey, whilst in 2006 it was nationals of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (6), Cote d'Ivoire (5), Russia (4) and Eritrea (4).

There were a total of 4 248 first instance decisions in **Spain** in 2006, of which 356 were positive. Of the positive decisions made, 168 were for granting Refugee Status pursuant to the Geneva Convention (34 fewer than in 2005), mainly to nationals of Colombia (40, which is 41 less than in 2005), Venezuela (16, with essentially none in 2005) and Russia (14, which is 9 less than in 2005). Colombia continues to be, since 2002, the country of origin of asylum applicants with the greatest number of positive decisions, although the proportion has decreased from 40.1% in 2005 (a year with a significant increase) to 23.81% in 2006. There has also been a steady decline in the proportion of positive decisions granted to nationals of Russia and an increase in the number to nationals of Iraqi, doubling from 6 in 2005 to 12 in 2006. The remaining 188 positive decisions were for the granting of some type of Subsidiary Protection. Of these, 37% (69) were for nationals of the Ivory Coast, 22 to nationals of Iraq and 13 to nationals of Russia.

The number of positive decisions in **Sweden** in 2006 amounted to 22 728 or 49% of the total number of decisions made (45 968). This was a significant increase compared to 2005 when 22% of the decisions taken were positive (5 357 out of 23 922) and is attributed to the aforementioned temporary law and a high recognition rate in first instance, especially for nationals of Iraq. Most of the positive decisions made (20 753) were either under the temporary law based on humanitarian considerations and for nationals of Iraq, Somalia and some other countries because they were considered in need of protection according to the rules in the Aliens Act on subsidiary protection.

A total of 25 475 initial decisions were made on asylum applications in the **United Kingdom** in 2006, a decrease from 2005 when it was 33 210, of which 20% were positive (5 045 – a 7% decrease from 2005). Of these 5 045 positive decisions, 2 630 were for the granting of asylum, primarily to nationals of Somali (940, 19% of positive decisions granting asylum), Eritrea (895, 18%), Afghanistan (835, 17%), Iran (380, 7%) and Zimbabwe (235, 5%). The remaining 2 415 positive decisions were for the granting of Humanitarian Protection (HP) or Discretionary Leave (DL).

4. MIGRATION FLOWS

Table 3 provides an overview of Migration Flows (emigration, immigration and net migration⁹) for each Member State and for the years 2003 to 2006 inclusive. Note that these data include both migration from/to third countries, as well as intra-EU movements.

⁹ Calculated as Immigration minus Emigration. When positive, this indicates net immigration and when negative, net emigration.

Table 3: Migration Flows 2003 to 2006

	2003			2004			2005			2006		
	Immigration	Emigration	Net Migration	Immigration	Emigration	Net Migration	Immigration	Emigration	Net Migration	Immigration	Emigration	Net Migration
BELGIUM	86 784	54 123	32 661	91 683	58 342	33 341	105 353	59 892	45 461	137 699	88 163	49 536
CZECH REPUBLIC	60 015	34 226	25 789	53 453	34 818	18 635	60 294	24 065	36 229	68 183	33 463	34 720
DENMARK	49 754	43 466	6 288	49 860	45 017	4 843	52 458	45 869	6 589	56 750	46 786	9 964
GERMANY	768 975	626 330	142 645	780 175	697 632	82 543	707 352	628 399	78 953	661 855	639 064	22 791
ESTONIA	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A
IRELAND	50 100	18 500	31 600	70 000	16 600	53 400	86 900	17 000	69 900	109 500	42 200	67 300
GREECE	45 500	10 118	35 382	50 101	8 713	41 388	42 015	2 041	39 974	83 789	N/A	N/A
SPAIN	672 266	64 298	607 968	684 561	55 092	629 469	719 284	68 011	651 273	840 844	142 296	698 548
FRANCE	190 825	N/A		191 850	N/A	105 000	187 134	N/A	92 000	183 261	N/A	N/A
ITALY	440 301	48 706	391 595	414 880	49 910	364 970	325 673	65 029	260 644	297 640	75 230	222 410
CYPRUS	16 779	4 437	12 342	22 003	6 279	15 724	24 419	10 003	14 416	N/A	N/A	N/A
LATVIA	1 364	2 210	-846	1 665	2 744	-1 079	1 886	2 450	-564	2 801	5 252	-2 451
LITHUANIA	4 728	11 032	-6 304	5 553	15 165	-9 612	6 789	15 571	-8 782	7 745	12 602	-4 857
LUXEMBOURG	12 613	10 540	2 073	12 495	10 911	1 584	13 512	10 841	2 671	N/A	N/A	N/A
HUNGARY	19 365	2 553	16 812	22 164	3 466	18 698	25 582	3 320	22 262	23 569	3 965	19 604
MALTA	1 239	N/A		N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A
NETHERLANDS	104 514	104 831	-317	94 019	110 235	-16 216	92 297	119 725	-27 428	101 150	132 470	-31 320
AUSTRIA	113 554	77 257	36 297	127 399	76 817	50 582	117 822	68 650	49 172	100 972	73 495	27 477
POLAND	7 048	20 813	-13 765	9 495	18 877	-9 382	9 364	22 242	-12 878	10 802	46 936	-36 134
PORTUGAL	79 300	9 300	70 000	72 400	8 900	63 500	57 920	10 680	47 240	49 200	10 800	38 400
SLOVENIA	9 279	5 867	3 412	10 171	8 269	1 902	15 041	8 605	6 436	20 016	13 749	6 267
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	6 551	4 777	1 774	10 390	6 525	3 865	9 410	2 784	6 626	12 611	3 084	9 527
FINLAND	17 838	12 083	5 755	20 333	13 656	6 677	21 355	12 369	8 986	22 451	12 107	10 344
SWEDEN	63 795	35 023	28 772	62 028	36 586	25 442	65 229	38 118	27 111	95 750	44 908	50 842
UNITED KINGDOM	508 000	361 000	147 000	586 000	342 000	244 000	563 000	359 000	204 000	591 000	400 000	191 000
Total (EU-10)												
Total (EU-15)												
Total (EU-27)												
BULGARIA	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	
ROMANIA	3 267	10 673	-7 406	2 987	13 082	-10 095	3 704	N/A		N/A	N/A	
ICELAND	3 704	3 837	-133	5 350	4 820	530	7 773	3 913	3 860			
NORWAY	35 957	24 672	11 285	36 482	23 271	13 211	40 148	21 709	18 439			

Notes:

1. Unless otherwise stated below, the data from those Member States indicated in *italics* are as provided by EUROSTAT and have not been verified by their respective EMN NCP.
2. N/A means that these data are "Not Available."
3. These data include **both** intra-EU mobility and migration to/from third countries.
4. For **Greece**, immigration data are based on initial residence permits issued, whilst emigration is estimated based on recoded immigration and natural population movement (births-deaths).
5. For **France**, Immigration data excludes FR nationals, EU/EEA and Swiss nationals and minors. Emigration data are not available, but the Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques (INSEE) is able to provide an estimation of the Net Migration.
6. Emigration data used for the **Netherlands** are including administrative corrections. This increases the total number of emigrants and causes the emigration surplus. EUROSTAT emigration statistics do not include administrative corrections and therefore show an immigration surplus in 2004 and 2005.
7. For **Austria**, immigration data also includes asylum applicants (since 2004).
8. Since in **Portugal** there is no population register or recorded migration flows, data on international migration flows are estimates based on several statistical sources, such as long term visas, resident permits, stay permits, estimates on Portuguese return.
9. The data for the **United Kingdom** are rounded to the nearest thousand. Note also that they are not the same as in their Country Study report, as they have been subsequently updated. Their Table of data has, however, been updated.
10. For **Hungary**, only foreign (i.e. non-hungarian nationals) are counted.
11. For **Malta**, data comes from 2003 Annual Report on Asylum and Migration Statistics and refers to persons who intend to reside in Malta and are therefore entitled to tax reductions.
12. For **Poland**, 2003 data comes from 2003 Annual Report on Asylum and Migration Statistics.
13. For **Romania**, data for 2003 comes from 2003 Annual Report on Asylum and Migration Statistics.

5. POPULATION BY CITIZENSHIP

[Table X](#) presents an overview of the composition of each Member State's population, in terms of its nationals, other EU nationals and third country nationals (and, unless otherwise stated, excluding asylum applicants).

Table X: Population by (non) EU Nationality (on 1st January)

6. RESIDENCE PERMITS

Table Y summarises the issuing of residence permits, including, where available, which category of entry.

Table 3: Overview of Residence Permits issued in 2006

7. REFUSALS, APPREHENSIONS AND REMOVALS

The data presented in this Section needs to be treated with utmost caution, since they might, for example, reflect more Member State priorities in law enforcement and administrative procedures. Also the very nature of illegal entry and illegal residence in a Member State by definition avoids any recording, to a sufficient level of reliability, of data and it is not possible to establish accurately what the proportion of the data recorded is to the overall total. The sometimes short-term nature of illegal immigration (e.g. seasonal workers) and the wide diversity of the motivations for and reasons for illegality (e.g. asylum applicants who have gone into hiding, the illegal reunification of families) also contribute to reduced reliability of the data. Given these caveats, the data available can at least give an indication of any trends or marked changes in illegal immigration.

Table Z gives an overview of the number of refusals, of apprehensions of illegally-resident migrants and of removed migrants in 2006 ordered for each category, and in decreasing order, by the total for both years for both EU-15 and then EU-10 Member States.

Table Z: Overview of number of Refusals, of Apprehensions of illegally-resident migrants and of Removals in 2006

7.1 Refusals

7.2 Apprehension of illegally-resident migrants

7.3 Removals¹⁰

7.4 Relationship between refusals, apprehensions and removals

¹⁰ A comprehensive overview on this topic is given in the EMN study on *Return Migration*.