

# EUROPE RESETTLEMENT



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This Syrian family fled Damascus in March 2013 to Domis Camp in northern Iraq where they stayed for three years before eventually being resettled in Edinburgh, Scotland in April 2016.

## Overview

In 2016, 18,175 refugees were resettled<sup>1</sup> to 20 countries in Europe<sup>2</sup>, a 63% increase compared to 2015.

Between 2000 and 2016, Europe's proportion of resettlement globally has increased from approximately 5% to more than 10%. However, in Europe as a whole in 2016, only 25 refugees were resettled per million inhabitants.<sup>3</sup> In contrast, the United States of America, Canada and Australia combined resettled 445 refugees per million inhabitants, 18 times higher than Europe (these three countries also accounted for 90% of resettlement globally in 2016).

The vast majority of refugees resettled in Europe in 2016 are from Syria (14,705 or 81%), followed by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Eritrea and Somalia (850 or 5%, 485 or 3%, 405 or 2%, 390 or 2% respectively). In total, 93% of refugees resettled in Europe in 2016 originate from one of these five countries. Contrary to the protracted refugee situations noted above, the resettlement of Syrians only commenced in 2013, increasing significantly in scale in 2016.

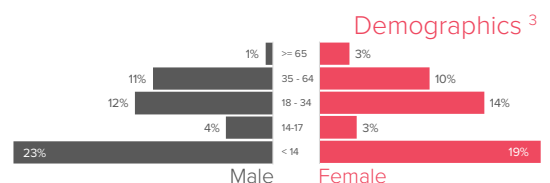
The countries in Europe admitting the most refugees via resettlement in 2016 were the UK, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, Italy and Finland (5,180 or 29%, 3,290 or 18%, 1,890 or 10%, 1,420 or 8%, 1,240 or 7%, 1,045 or 6% and 945 or 5% respectively) and in total comprise 83% of the resettlement admissions to Europe.

Half of those individuals resettled in Europe in 2016 were children,<sup>4</sup> with the remainder predominately young adults (less than 35 years old). Just over half (51%) of those resettled are male.<sup>4</sup> The demographics of all commonly resettled nationalities remain very similar, with two exceptions: a slightly greater percentage of adult Eritreans (62%), and a slightly greater percentage of female Afghans (60%), were resettled.

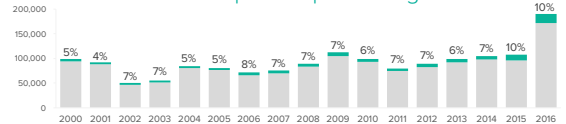
Resettlement to Europe

**18,175**  
resettled in 2016<sup>3</sup>

**11,175**  
resettled in 2015<sup>3</sup>



Resettlement to Europe compared to global trends<sup>3</sup>

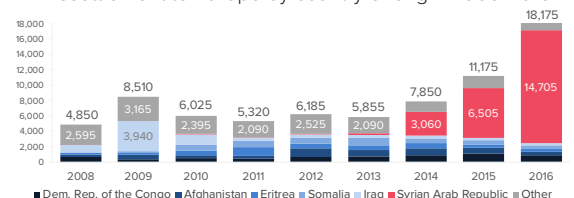


Resettlement per million inhabitants<sup>3</sup>

**445**  
USA, Canada and Australia

**25**  
Europe

Resettlement to Europe by country of origin 2008-2016<sup>3</sup>



<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.unhcr.org/resettlement.html> for more information on the background to resettlement.

<sup>2</sup> Europe comprises 50 countries, including the EU, Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein, the Balkans (inc. Kosovo (S/RES/1244(1999))), Turkey and Eastern Europe (exc. Kazakhstan).

<sup>3</sup> Sources: Resettlement data from Eurostat for the EU and Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein and [rsq.unhcr.org](http://rsq.unhcr.org) for Eastern Europe and the Balkans; Country populations based on UN data.

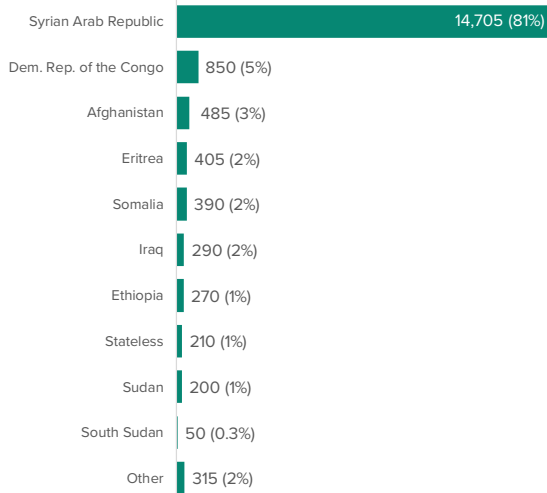
<sup>4</sup> For reference, just 32% of new asylum applications in Europe are from children and 68% of all new applicants applying for asylum in Europe in 2016 were male (Source: Eurostat).

# Country of origin

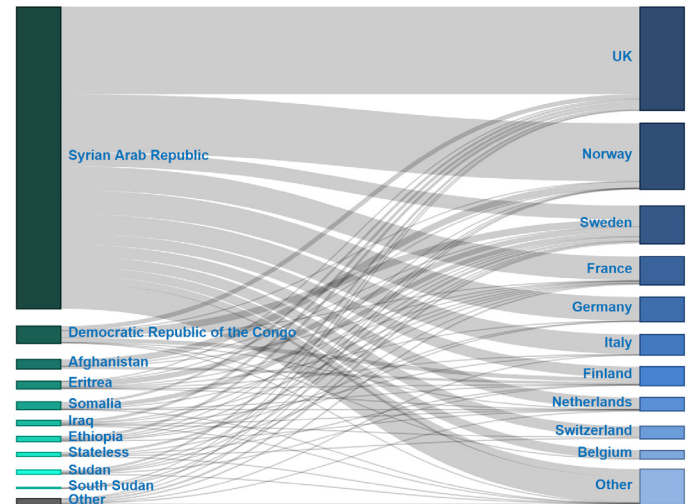
Most countries in Europe with active resettlement programmes, resettled Syrians (16 of these 20 countries in Europe, admitted at least 90% Syrians for resettlement). Only Sweden, Denmark, France, UK and Switzerland have resettled significant numbers of other nationalities of refugees including from Afghanistan, the

Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea and Somalia. Refugees resettled in Europe were most commonly initially registered in the following countries,<sup>5</sup> Syrians: Turkey, Lebanon or Jordan; Afghans: in Iran, Pakistan or Turkey; Congolese (DRC): Burundi and Uganda; and Somalis and Eritreans: Egypt.

Number of refugees resettled by country of origin in 2016



Flow of refugees from country of origin to country of resettlement

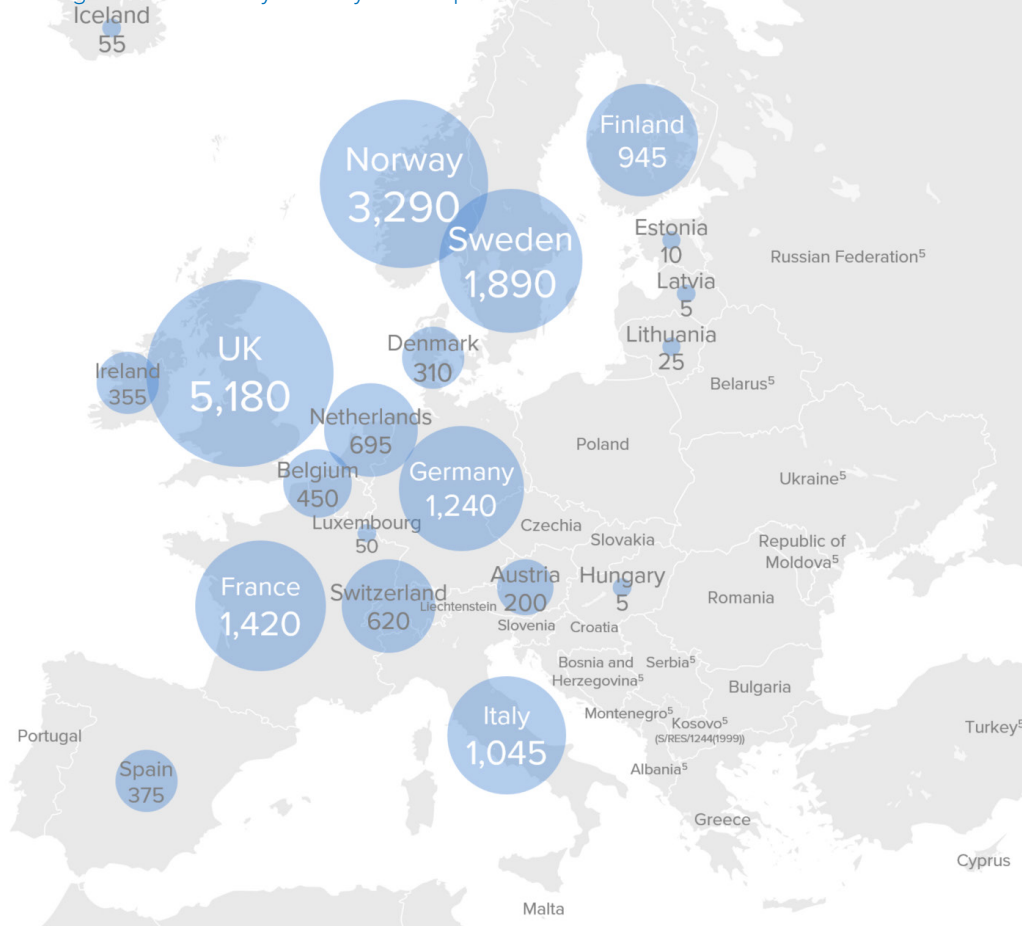


# Country of resettlement

When comparing resettlement with the number of inhabitants, all Nordic countries as well as Luxembourg, UK, Ireland and Switzerland have relatively high resettlement admissions (all have admitted for resettlement more than 50 individuals per million inhabitants). Norway has resettled more refugees per million

inhabitants than the United States (624 versus 299 refugees resettled per million inhabitants respectively). After Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland have the next highest resettlement admissions when compared with the number of inhabitants in each country.

Number of refugees resettled by country in Europe



Number of individuals resettled in 2016 per million inhabitants<sup>3</sup>

Canada	1,287
Australia	1,135
United States	299
Norway	624
Sweden	192
Finland	171
Iceland	166
Luxembourg	87
United Kingdom	80
Ireland	75
Switzerland	74
Denmark	54
Netherlands	41
Belgium	40
Austria	23
France	22
Italy	17
Germany	15
Lithuania	9
Spain	8
Estonia	8
Latvia	3
Hungary	1

Notes  
 Resettlement globally in 2016 totalled **189,300**,<sup>2</sup> including the 18,175 (10%) admitted to Europe.  
 Countries without numbers have admitted no refugees via resettlement.<sup>3</sup>  
 Includes Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999)).  
 The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.