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During 2014, 569 irregular immigrants were brought to Maltese shores, a decrease of 71.7 per cent over the preceding year.

## World Refugee Day: 20 June 2015

Of the 569 persons brought ashore during 2014, 67.5 per cent were of African origin while a further 32.3 per cent were of Asian origin. Almost a third of all African visitors were Somali nationals (30.7 per cent) while 20.8 per cent were Sudanese nationals. The majority of Asian nationals arriving by boat during 2014 were Syrian, with 72.8 per cent (Table 2).

In 2014, the Office of the Refugee Commissioner filed 1,352 applications for international protection, a decline of 39.8 per cent over the previous year (Table 3). More than half of these applicants were males aged between 18 and 34. The majority, 69.7 per cent, were Africans, of whom 44.6 per cent were Libyans and 13.6 per cent Somalis. Another 26.9 per cent originated from Asia, predominantly from Syria (84.3 per cent) (Table 5).

The Office of the Refugee Commissioner processed 1,735 applications in 2014; 72.6 per cent were granted a positive decision, while the remaining applications were rejected (Table 6). Two-thirds of the applicants who were granted asylum were of African origin (Table 7).

A decrease of 49.0 per cent was registered in the resident population of open centres and other institutional households. The majority of the persons residing in open centres and other institutional households were residing in Ħal Far (60.2 per cent) while more than a quarter were residing in Marsa (26.6 per cent) (Table 8). The majority of the residents were males and 22.1 per cent were Somalis (Table 10).

During 2014, 991 persons were found to be present illegally in Malta, a decrease of 59.3 per cent over the previous year. The largest share, or 61.3 per cent, were Africans, while a further 26.7 per cent were Asians (mainly of Syrian nationality). Moreover, 61.2 per cent of these migrants were aged between 18 and 34. Of those who were found to be illegally present in Malta, 173 persons were returned to a third country, of whom 69.9 per cent returned to African countries, predominantly Nigeria (Table 11).

Last year, the number of third-country nationals resettled in another country was recorded at 579, an increase of 151 persons over 2013. Another 75 persons benefited from assisted voluntary return programmes (Tables 12 and 13) ■

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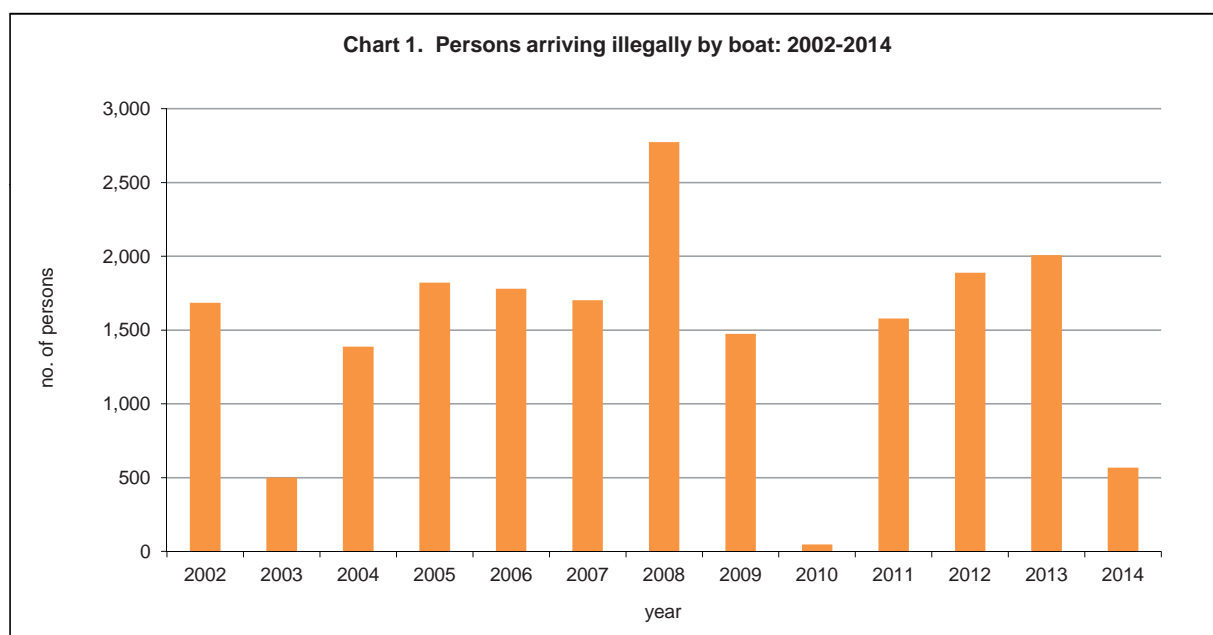
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**Table 1. Boats arriving in Malta with irregular immigrants: 2002-2014**

Year	Number of boats arriving	Number of people on board*
2002	21	1,686
2003	12	502
2004	52	1,388
2005	48	1,822
2006	57	1,780
2007	68	1,702
2008	84	2,775
2009	17	1,475
2010	2	47
2011	9	1,579
2012	27	1,890
2013	24	2,008
2014	5	569

\* Figures regarding irregular immigrants arriving by boat also include airlifted persons who were found at sea  
 Source: Police General Headquarters - Immigration Section.



**Table 2. Irregular immigrants arriving by boat\* by nationality: 2014**

<b>Nationality</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Africa</b>	<b>384</b>
Chadian	6
Egyptian	15
Eritrean	38
Ethiopian	7
Gambian	40
Guinean	4
Malian	29
Nigerian	30
Senegalese	10
Somali	118
Sudanese	80
Other African nationalities	7
<b>Asia</b>	<b>184</b>
Iraqi	20
Palestinian	30
Syrian	134
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>569</b>

\* Figures regarding irregular immigrants arriving by boat also include airlifted persons who were found at sea  
Source: Police General Headquarters - Immigration Section.

**Table 3. Applications filed with the Office of the Refugee Commissioner: 2002-2014**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of applications</b>
2002	350
2003	455
2004	995
2005	1,165
2006	1,261
2007	1,386
2008	2,608
2009	2,387
2010	176
2011	1,891
2012	2,080
2013	2,246
2014	1,352

Source: Eurostat.

**Table 4. Applications filed with the Office of the Refugee Commissioner by sex and month: 2014**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>
January	54	22	76
February	43	8	51
March	63	10	73
April	118	17	135
May	46	18	64
June	179	25	204
July	107	20	127
August	73	27	100
September	150	36	186
October	105	30	135
November	56	25	81
December	89	31	120
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>1,352</b>

Source: Eurostat.

Table 5. Applications for asylum by sex, country of citizenship and age: 2014

Country of citizenship	Males	Females	Total
<b>Europe</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>44</b>
Ukraine	18	20	38
Other European countries	2	4	6
<b>Africa</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>942</b>
Chad	6	1	7
Comoros	9	-	9
Egypt	16	4	20
Eritrea	40	20	60
Ethiopia	19	9	28
Gambia	44	2	46
Ghana	3	1	4
Guinea	4	1	5
Ivory Coast	5	-	5
Libya	342	78	420
Mali	31	-	31
Morocco	3	5	8
Nigeria	43	15	58
Senegal	8	-	8
Somalia	109	19	128
Sudan	79	6	85
Tunisia	6	4	10
Other African countries	10	-	10
<b>America</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Other American countries	-	2	2
<b>Asia</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>364</b>
Iran, Islamic Republic of	9	2	11
Iraq	5	1	6
Pakistan	6	1	7
Palestinian Territory, Occupied	19	7	26
Syria	240	67	307
Other Asian countries	7	-	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>1,352</b>
Age	Males	Females	Total
0-17	203	111	314
18-34	693	100	793
35 or more	187	58	245
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>1,352</b>

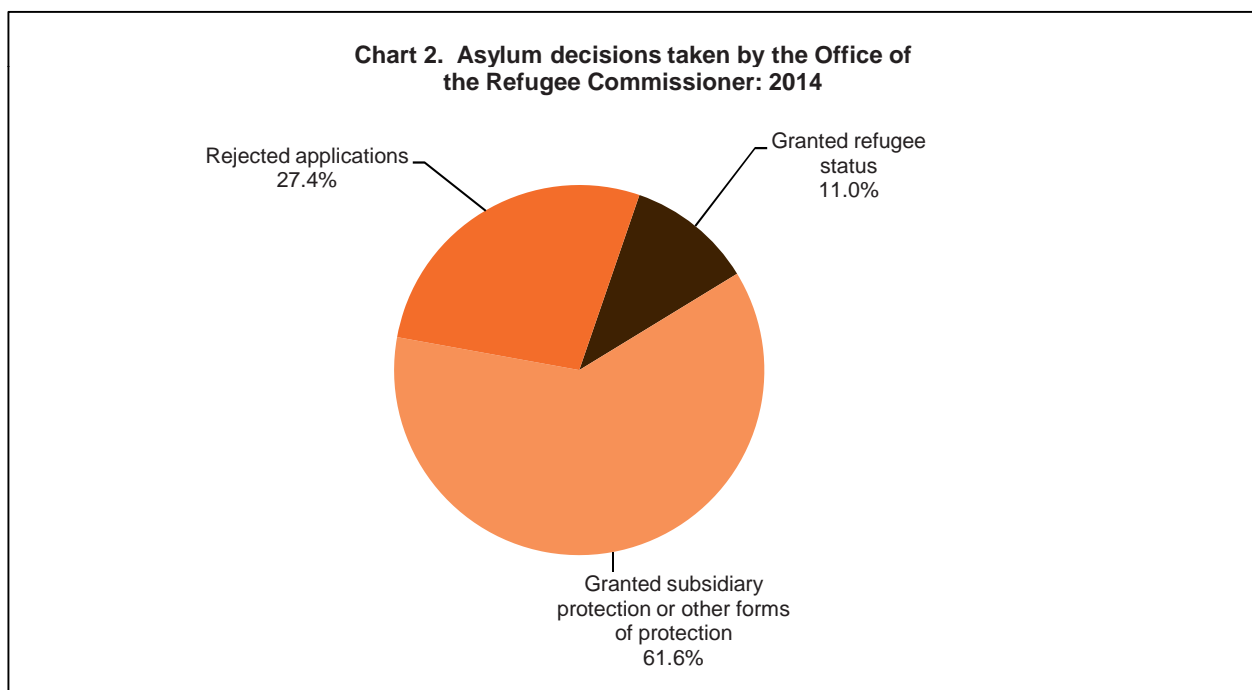
Source: Eurostat.

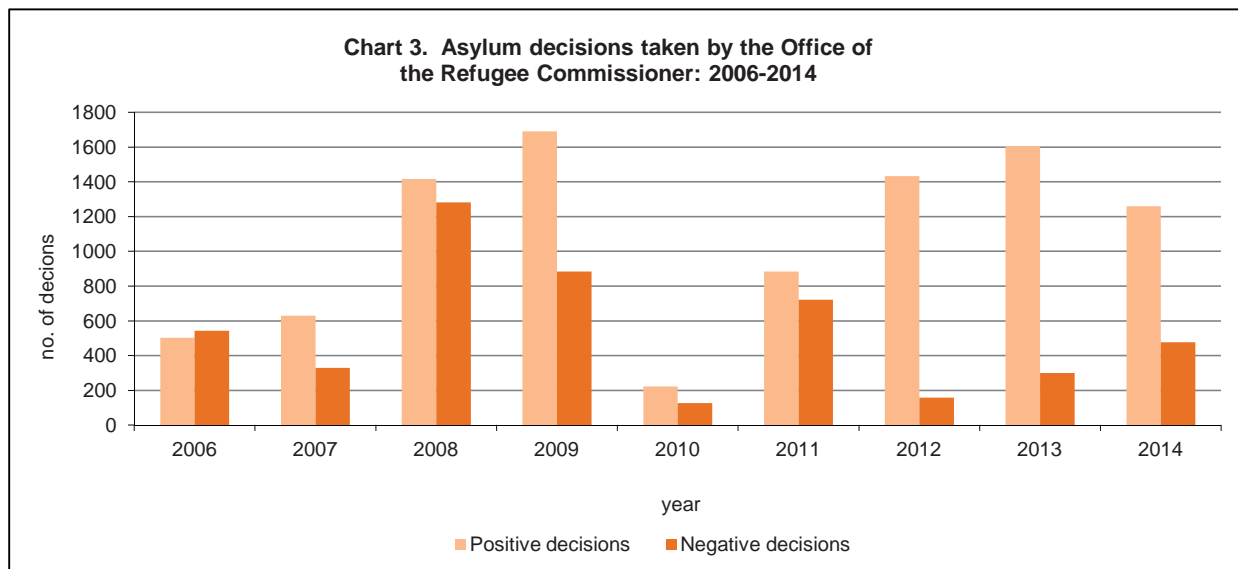
**Table 6. Asylum first instance decisions taken by the Office of the Refugee Commissioner: 2002-2014**

Year	Positive decisions			Rejections	Total
	Granted refugee status	Subsidiary protection or other forms of protection*	Total		
2002	22	111	133	286	419
2003	53	328	381	187	568
2004	49	560	609	259	868
2005	36	510	546	556	1,102
2006	22	481	503	542	1,045
2007	7	623	630	329	959
2008	19	1,397	1,416	1,281	2,697
2009	20	1,671	1,691	884	2,575
2010	43	179	222	126	348
2011	70	814	884	722	1,606
2012	35	1,398	1,433	157	1,590
2013	43	1,563	1,606	299	1,905
2014	191	1,068	1,259	476	1,735

Source: Eurostat.

\* Up to 2006, asylum decisions were taken in respect of 'temporary humanitarian status' in place of 'subsidiary protection status'.





**Table 7. Positive decisions (Refugee status, subsidiary status or equivalent decisions) made by the Office of the Refugee Commissioner by sex and country of citizenship: 2014**

Country of citizenship	Males	Females	Total
<b>Europe</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>
Ukraine	7	12	19
Other European countries	1	1	2
<b>Africa</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>836</b>
Chad	3	1	4
Egypt	6	4	10
Eritrea	126	11	137
Ethiopia	10	4	14
Gambia	3	1	4
Libya	235	58	293
Morocco	2	3	5
Nigeria	4	-	4
Somalia	232	55	287
Sudan	67	1	68
Other African countries	9	1	10
<b>Asia</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>402</b>
Iran, Islamic Republic of	6	2	8
Pakistan	3	1	4
Palestinian Territory, Occupied	19	5	24
Syria	281	77	358
Other Asian countries	6	2	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,020</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>1,259</b>
<b>Age</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>
0-17	170	93	263
18-34	686	100	786
35 or more	164	46	210
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,020</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>1,259</b>

Source: Eurostat.

**Table 8. Migrants residing in open centres and other institutional households by locality as at end of year: 2012-2014**

Locality	2012	2013	2014
<b>Open centres</b>	<b>1,453</b>	<b>1,255</b>	<b>685</b>
Birkirkara	24	20	12
Fgura	50	20	7
Floriana	26	15	3
Hal Far	1,091	905	460
Marsa	262	295	203
<b>Other institutional households</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,748</b>	<b>1,499</b>	<b>764</b>

Source: The Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers.

**Table 9. Migrants residing in open centres and other institutional households by sex: 2012-2014**

Year	Males	Females	Total
2012	1,291	457	1,748
2013	1,156	343	1,499
2014	649	115	764

Source: The Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers.

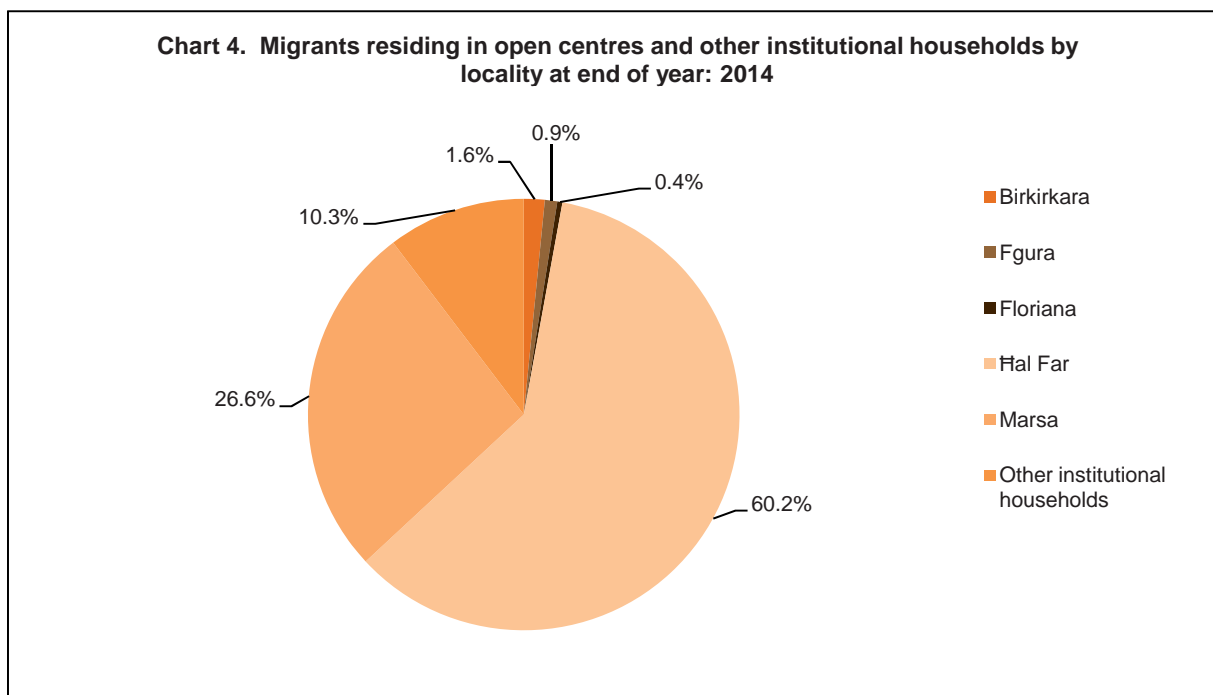




Table 10. Migrants residing in open centres and other institutional households by sex and country of origin: 2014

Country of origin	Males	Females	Total
<b>Europe</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>
Other European countries	1	-	1
<b>Africa</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>698</b>
Chad	12	3	15
Egypt	8	1	9
Eritrea	49	22	71
Ethiopia	35	13	48
Gambia	55	3	58
Ghana	7	-	7
Guinea	7	-	7
Guinea-Bissau	6	-	6
Ivory Coast	15	-	15
Libya	55	8	63
Mali	54	-	54
Niger	7	-	7
Nigeria	36	20	56
Senegal	38	-	38
Somalia	137	32	169
Sudan	59	-	59
Togo	4	-	4
Other African countries	11	1	12
<b>Asia</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>65</b>
Iraq	3	1	4
Palestinian Territory, Occupied	17	-	17
Syria	27	10	37
Other Asian countries	6	1	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>764</b>

Source: The Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers.

**Table 11. Third-country nationals found to be illegally present and subject to an obligation to leave by age and country of citizenship: 2014**

Country of citizenship	Subject to an obligation to leave					Returned to a third country
	0-13	14-17	18-34	35 or more	Total	
<b>Europe</b>	-	-	<b>60</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>33</b>
Albania	-	-	8	-	8	8
Russia	-	-	10	2	12	4
Serbia	-	-	23	10	33	7
Macedonia	-	-	9	3	12	6
Turkey	-	-	5	3	8	5
Ukraine	-	-	2	4	6	3
Other European countries	-	-	3	1	4	-
<b>Africa</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>121</b>
Algeria	-	-	5	1	6	3
Chad	2	-	3	1	6	-
Egypt	-	11	9	3	23	14
Eritrea	2	4	28	7	41	-
Ethiopia	-	-	7	-	7	-
Gambia	-	6	35	-	41	4
Guinea	-	-	4	-	4	-
Libya	-	1	119	63	183	24
Mali	-	1	28	-	29	5
Morocco	-	-	5	1	6	-
Nigeria	1	3	24	3	31	41
Senegal	-	-	8	2	10	-
Somalia	1	77	40	1	119	3
Sudan	-	4	74	3	81	-
Other African countries	-	2	14	4	20	27
<b>America</b>	-	-	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>4</b>
Brazil	-	-	7	-	7	1
Chile	-	-	2	2	4	-
United States	-	-	9	8	17	2
Other American countries	-	-	3	3	6	1
<b>Asia</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>15</b>
China (including Hong Kong)	-	-	8	8	16	2
Georgia	-	-	4	4	8	2
India	-	-	4	2	6	4
Iran, Islamic Republic of	-	-	2	3	5	3
Iraq	5	4	3	8	20	-
Palestinian Territory, Occupied	5	11	12	2	30	-
Philippines	-	-	-	5	5	1
Republic of Korea	-	-	3	6	9	-
Syria	22	28	71	23	144	-
Uzbekistan	-	-	5	3	8	-
Other Asian countries	-	-	10	4	14	3
<b>Oceania</b>	-	-	-	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	-
Other Oceanic countries	-	-	-	2	2	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>173</b>

Source: Police General Headquarters - Immigration Section.

**Table 12. Total persons resettled: 2010-2014**

<b>Year of resettlement</b>	<b>Number of persons resettled</b>
2010	465
2011	344
2012	420
2013	428
2014	579

Source: Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security.

**Table 13. Total persons benefiting from assisted voluntary return programmes: 2010-2014**

<b>Year of return</b>	<b>Number of persons returned</b>
2010	42
2011	31
2012	39
2013	55
2014	75

Source: Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security.

## Methodological Notes

1. This news release makes reference to various sources available to the NSO, including:

- **Office of the Refugee Commissioner:** the main source of the numerical data related to applications for asylum and asylum decisions in Malta.
- **Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS):** provides all the numerical information on open centres.
- **Police General Headquarters - Immigration Section:** the main source of statistics on illegal boat arrivals and on forced returns involving third-country nationals.
- **Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security:** the main source of statistics on resettlements and assisted voluntary returns.

## 2. Definitions

- **Asylum seeker:** A person who has requested asylum in a country and is awaiting a decision on the application under relevant national and international instruments (mostly under Article 1 of the Geneva Convention related to the Status of Refugees of 28th July 1951). This definition generally refers to all who apply for protection on an individual basis, irrespective of whether they lodge their application on arrival at an airport or land border, or from inside the country, and irrespective of whether they entered the territory legally (e.g. as a tourist) or illegally. *(Source: Medstat-Euro-Mediterranean statistical cooperation).*
- **Asylum applicant:** A person having submitted an application for international protection.
- **Application for asylum:** The application made by a third-country national or a stateless person which can be understood as a request for international protection from a Member State, under the Geneva Convention. Any application for international protection is presumed to be an application for asylum (including requests for refugee status or for subsidiary protection status) unless a third-country national or a stateless person explicitly requests another kind of protection that can be applied for separately. An application for asylum is deemed to have been lodged once a form is submitted by the applicant for asylum or a report prepared by the authorities has reached the competent authorities.
- **Geneva Convention status:** Refugee status granted within the meaning of Article 1 of the Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 28th July 1951 to a person "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it". *(Source: Medstat-Euro-Mediterranean statistical cooperation).*
- **Person granted authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons:** A person covered by a decision granting authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons under national law concerning international protection. It includes persons who are not eligible for international protection but are nonetheless protected against removal.
- **Person granted subsidiary protection status:** A person who is eligible for subsidiary protection is a third-country national or a stateless person who does not qualify as a refugee but in respect of whom substantial grounds have been shown for believing that the person concerned, if returned to his/her country of origin, or in the case of a stateless person, to his/her country of former habitual residence, would face a real risk of suffering serious harm and is unable, or, owing to such risk, unwilling to avail him/herself of the protection of that country (Art.2(e), Directive 2004/83/EC).
- **Refugee:** A third-country national who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group, is outside the country of nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail him/herself of the protection of that country, or a stateless person, who, being outside of the country of former habitual residence for the same reason as mentioned above, is unable or, owing to such fear, unwilling to return to it (Art.2(d), Directive 2004/83/EC).
- **Rejected applicant:** A person covered by a decision rejecting an application for international protection under consideration by the responsible national authority.
- **Third-country national:** Any person who is not a citizen of the European Union.