

# Asylum seekers in Albania

## Year 2023

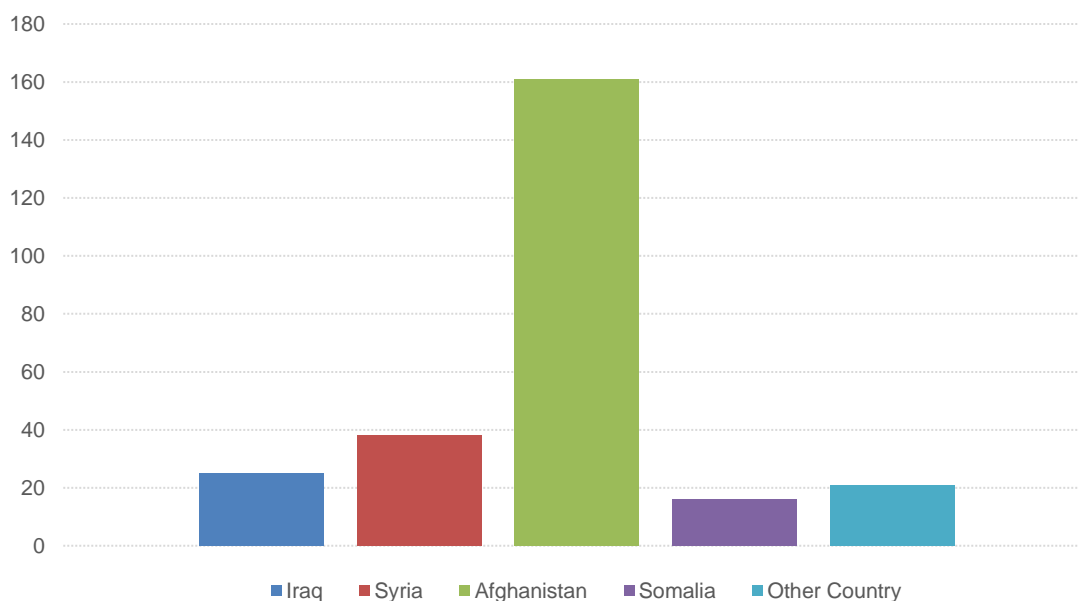
**Tirana, on 04 July 2024:** Asylum seekers in Albania, referred to the Department for Border and Migration, at the General Directorate of State Police, in 2023, result 261 people, marking an increase compared to the previous year, where we had 125 asylum seekers. Asylum seekers originating from Afghanistan occupy 61.7 % of the total number of asylum seekers and result 161 people.

## Asylum seekers in Albania

Analyzing the country of origin of asylum seekers, it is observed that the highest number of asylum seekers originate from Afghanistan with 161 asylum seekers, followed by 38 asylum seekers from Syria and 25 asylum seekers from Iraq.

During 2023 there were 14 positive decisions for supplementary protection status to asylum seekers, of which 5 belong to citizens from Iraq, 4 to citizens from Afghanistan and the remainder part belong to citizens from Syria and Palestine.

**Fig. 1: Asylum seekers by main countries of origin, 2023**



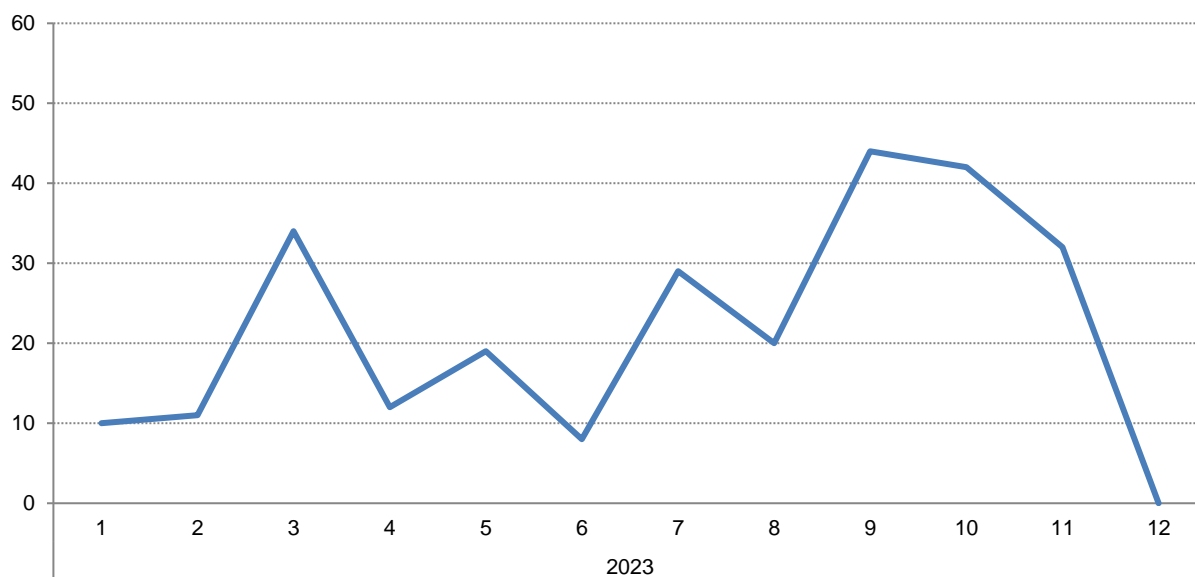
**Source:** Department for Border and Migration at the General Directorate of State Police

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Continues

Seeing at asylum request by months, we understand that the peak of applications was during the months March, September and October, which occupy 46.0 % of the total number of asylum seekers.

**Fig. 2: Requests for asylum by months, 2023**



**Source:** Department for Border and Migration at the General Directorate of State Police

### Acquisition and termination of Albanian citizenship

In 2023, there are 1,382 persons who have acquired Albanian citizenship, marking a decrease by 9.5 %, compared to 2022. If we analyze the data by sex, we notice that 796 persons are men and 586 women.

In 2023 there are 870 people who have lost Albanian citizenship, marking an increase by 20.7 %, compared to 2022. From this data we note a dominance of women with 53.2 % versus 46.8 % of men who have lost Albanian citizenship.

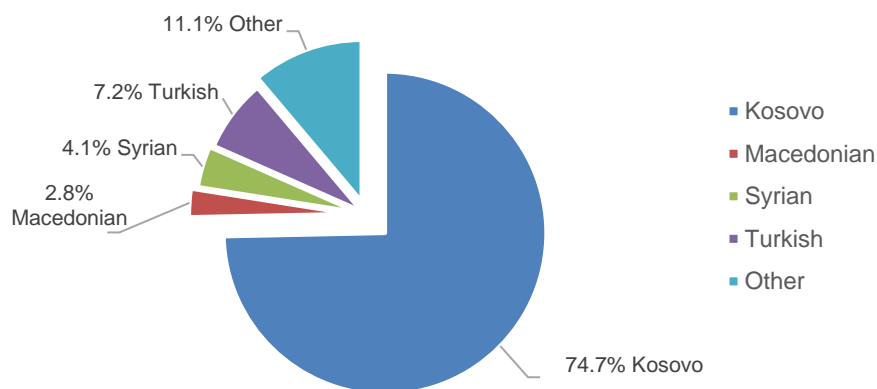
**Tab. 1: Acquisition and loss of Albanian citizenship**

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Acquisition of citizenship	316	345	485	423	711	1,527	1,382
Loss of citizenship	651	640	741	513	724	721	870

**Source:** Directorate of Policies for Asylum, Foreigners and Citizenship at the Ministry of Interior

Analyzing the country of origin of persons who have acquired Albanian citizenship, we understand that most of the cases are those from Kosovo with 74.7 %, Turkey with 7.2 % and Syria with 4.1 %.

**Fig. 3: Acquisition of Albanian citizenship by country of origin**

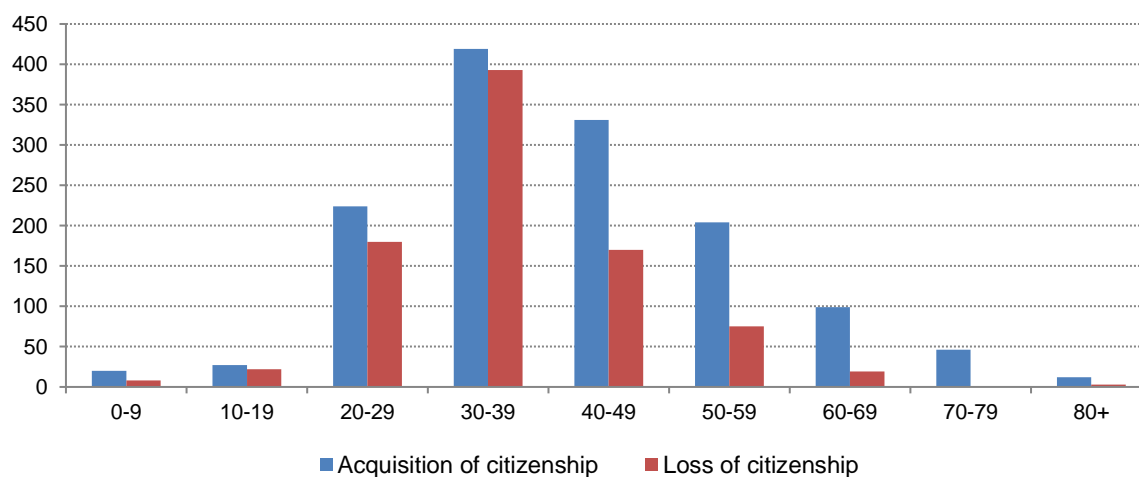


**Source:** Directorate of Policies for Asylum, Foreigners and Citizenship at the Ministry of Interior

During 2023, the dominant age group of persons who have acquired Albanian citizenship is 30-39 years old with 30.3 %, followed by the age group 40-49 years old and 20-29 years old, with 24.0 % and 16.2 % respectively.

For persons who have lost Albanian citizenship, the dominant age group is 30-39 years old, with 45.2 %, followed by the age group 20-29 years old and 40-49 years old, with 20.7 % and 19.5 % respectively.

**Fig. 4: Acquisition and loss of Albanian citizenship by group age**



**Source:** Directorate of Policies for Asylum, Foreigners and Citizenship at the Ministry of Interior

# Methodology

The purpose of the yearly publication for asylum seekers in Albania is to present the results and indicators by sex, month of application, countries of origin, as well as the annual number of persons that acquired or lost the Albanian Citizenship.

Data on Asylum Seekers and the acquisition or loss of citizenship in Albania are provided by the Department for Border and Migration at the General Directorate of State Police, Directorate of Policies for Asylum, Foreigners and Citizenship at the Ministry of Interior.

## Definitions:

**Asylum** is the form of international protection that the Republic of Albania grants to refugees and persons under subsidiary protection.

**Asylum seeker** is any foreigner or stateless person that expresses in any way that he or she does not wish to return to his or her country, as well as any foreigner or stateless person who has applied for asylum in the Republic of Albania for whom no final decision has been made yet.

**Asylum application** is the official request of a foreigner or stateless person to the responsible authority for asylum and refugees, which is considered as a request for international protection under the UN Geneva Convention on Refugee Status. Any application for international protection is considered as an application for asylum, unless the foreigner clearly requires another type of protection, which applies separately.

**Request for asylum** is any statement by a foreigner or stateless person, expressed in any way and at any time before the competent authorities at the border crossing points or within the territory of the Republic of Albania, which requires international protection under international conventions and Albanian legislation.

**Albanian citizenship** is acquired, regained, lost or terminated of in accordance with the provisions of the law, which respects the recognized norms and principles of international law in the field of citizenship accepted by the Republic of Albania.

**Albanian citizenship is acquired by:** a) birth; b) naturalization; c) adoption

**Acquisition of citizenship** is taken by a foreigner who has applied for Albanian citizenship, and acquires it if he meets the conditions set forth in the law.

**Loss of Albanian citizenship** means that the acquisition of Albanian citizenship ends upon the request of the person when he meets the conditions laid down in the law.

**Foreign national** means a person who is not a national of the Republic of Albania and holds a foreign nationality.

**Stateless person** means a person who is not a national of any state due to the lack of a durable legal connection between him and a state.

**Refugee** means a person who, owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group, is outside the country of nationality or outside of the country of former habitual residence and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country or to return to it as a result of such circumstances, in accordance with the requirements of Article 1(A) of the Geneva Convention.

**State or country of origin** means the applicant's state of nationality, or, for stateless persons, the country of their former habitual residence;

**Subsidiary protection status** means the recognition by the Republic of Albania of a foreign person or a stateless person as eligible for subsidiary protection

**Refugee status** means the recognition by the Republic of Albania of a foreign national or a stateless person as a refugee.