Acquisition of citizenship in the EU

EU Member States granted citizenship to almost 1 million persons in 2013
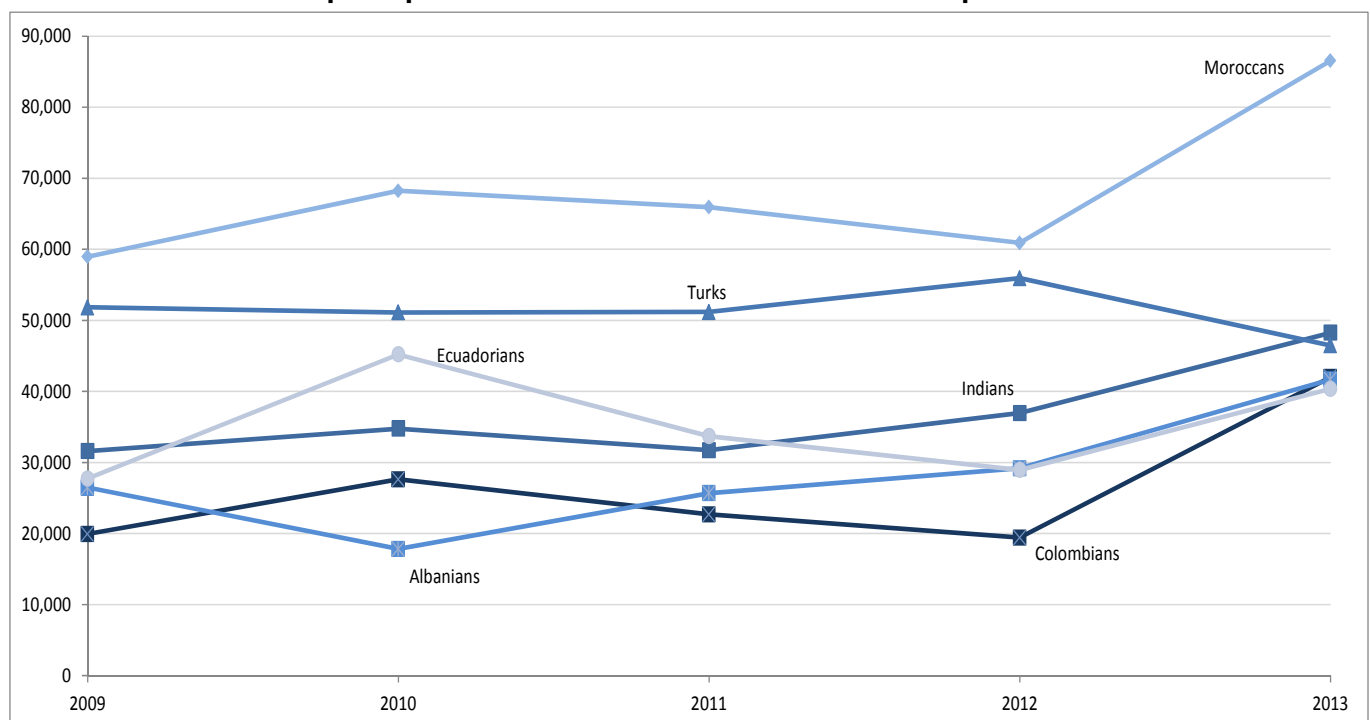
Moroccans continue to be main recipients

In 2013, around 985 000 persons acquired citizenship[1] of a Member State of the **European Union** (EU), up by 20% (or about 163 000 persons) compared with 2012. Of the total number of persons obtaining the citizenship of one of the EU Member States in 2013, 89% were citizens of non-EU countries.

The largest groups acquiring citizenship of an EU Member State in 2013 were citizens of **Morocco** (86 500 persons, of which 84% acquired citizenship of Spain, Italy or France), **India** (48 300, three-quarters acquired British citizenship), **Turkey** (46 500, 60% acquired German citizenship), **Colombia** (42 000, 93% acquired Spanish citizenship), **Albania** (41 700, 95% acquired citizenship of Greece or Italy) and **Ecuador** (40 400, 95% acquired Spanish citizenship). Moroccans, Indians, Turks, Colombians, Albanians and Ecuadorians represented together almost a third (31%) of the total number of persons who acquired EU citizenship in 2013. **Romanians** (23 000 persons) and **Poles** (18 000) were the two largest groups of EU citizens acquiring citizenship of another EU Member State.

These data[2] come from a <u>report</u>[3] issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Top recipients of an EU Member State citizenship in 2013

The EU aggregates for the period 2010-2012 include 2009 data for Romania.

Main recipients of an EU Member State citizenship in 2013

Main recipients of an EU citizenship	Total (in 1000)	Main EU Member State granting citizenships	%	Second main EU Member State granting citizenships	%	Third main EU Member State granting citizenships	%
Moroccans	86.5	Spain	35.1	Italy	29.4	France	19.3
Indians	48.3	United Kingdom	75.3	Italy	10.1	Ireland	6.2
Turks	46.5	Germany	60.2	France	12.6	United Kingdom	9.0
Colombians	42.0	Spain	92.6	United Kingdom	2.0	Italy	1.7
Albanians	41.7	Greece	62.0	Italy	32.8	United Kingdom	2.0
Ecuadorians	40.4	Spain	95.2	Italy	2.1	United Kingdom	0.8
Pakistanis	31.9	United Kingdom	67.8	Italy	11.1	Ireland	5.7
Iraqis	23.8	Sweden	60.2	Germany	13.2	United Kingdom	10.0
Romanians	23.0	Hungary	30.5	Italy	19.1	Germany	11.1
Peruvians	22.2	Spain	85.5	Italy	9.3	France	1.3
Nigerians	20.5	United Kingdom	45.2	Ireland	28.3	Spain	8.2
Bolivians	19.6	Spain	97.0	Sweden	0.8	Italy	0.6
Algerians	19.3	France	69.3	Spain	9.5	Italy	6.4
Russians	18.6	Germany	21.6	France	13.5	Finland	11.3
Poles	18.0	United Kingdom	33.6	Germany	30.5	Sweden	13.8
Ukrainians	18.0	Germany	26.2	Portugal	22.2	Italy	10.0
Filipinos	17.1	United Kingdom	60.6	Ireland	14.5	Spain	7.2
Dominicans	15.6	Spain	90.1	Italy	6.4	Germany	1.7
Brazilians	15.3	Portugal	33.3	Spain	29.0	Italy	11.7
Bangladeshis	14.3	United Kingdom	62.2	Italy	24.5	Spain	3.6
Chinese	14.0	United Kingdom	52.5	France	10.7	Germany	9.1
Tunisians	11.1	France	50.2	Italy	31.7	Germany	8.8
Somalis	10.8	United Kingdom	52.5	Sweden	23.0	Netherlands	9.5
Afghans	10.5	United Kingdom	34.6	Germany	29.1	Netherlands	15.5
Ghanaians	10.3	United Kingdom	45.3	Italy	27.6	Germany	7.4
Argentinians	9.7	Spain	89.0	Italy	3.7	Germany	1.9
Serbians	9.4	Germany	27.6	Italy	14.3	France	14.1
Iranians	9.3	Germany	27.5	United Kingdom	25.6	Sweden	14.2
Cubans	8.7	Spain	79.7	Italy	10.3	Germany	4.0
Nepalese	7.9	United Kingdom	93.6	Belgium	1.6	Germany	1.1

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Main recipients of citizenships granted by EU Member States, 2013

	Main recipients		Second main recipients		Third main recipients	
	Citizens of	**%**	**Citizens of**	**%**	**Citizens of**	**%**
EU	**Morocco**	**8.8**	**India**	**4.9**	**Turkey**	**4.7**
Belgium	Morocco	17.0	Turkey	5.3	Italy	5.3
Bulgaria	Ukraine	16.6	Moldova	16.3	Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	15.9
Czech Republic	Ukraine	41.7	Russia	7.8	Poland	7.5
Denmark	Iraq	20.3	Turkey	9.5	Afghanistan	8.6
Germany	Turkey	24.3	Poland	4.8	Ukraine	4.1
Estonia	Recognised non-citizen[4]	84.9	Russia	12.7	Ukraine	1.4
Ireland	Nigeria	23.9	India	12.4	Philippines	10.2
Greece	Albania	87.7	Russia	1.3	Georgia	1.2
Spain	Colombia	17.2	Ecuador	17.0	Morocco	13.4
France	Morocco	17.1	Algeria	13.8	Turkey	6.0
Croatia	Bosnia & Herzegovina	42.2	Serbia	16.6	Kosovo*	11.8
Italy	Morocco	25.2	Albania	13.6	India	4.8
Cyprus	Greece	23.2	United Kingdom	18.7	Russia	14.0
Latvia	Recognised non-citizen[4]	91.6	Russia	2.3	Ukraine	1.7
Lithuania	Stateless**	40.0	Russia	15.7	Ukraine	14.1
Luxembourg	Portugal	38.3	Italy	12.0	France	9.9
Hungary	Romania	76.3	Ukraine	9.7	Serbia	7.0
Malta	Australia	33.5	United Kingdom	15.1	United States	7.7
Netherlands	Morocco	15.0	Turkey	11.2	Iraq	6.3
Austria	Turkey	15.0	Bosnia & Herzegovina	14.1	Serbia	11.2
Poland	Ukraine	30.0	Belarus	13.1	Vietnam	9.3
Portugal	Brazil	20.8	Ukraine	16.4	Cape Verde	15.6
Romania	Moldova	46.0	Turkey	1.5	Iraq	1.4
Slovenia	Bosnia & Herzegovina	37.1	Italy	12.7	Serbia	12.5
Slovakia	Ukraine	30.4	Czech Republic	11.6	Russia	9.6
Finland	Russia	23.5	Somalia	9.1	Iraq	5.8
Sweden	Iraq	28.6	Somalia	5.0	Poland	4.9
United Kingdom	India	17.5	Pakistan	10.4	Philippines	5.0
Iceland	Poland	14.9	Philippines	14.9	Vietnam	6.5
Liechtenstein	Switzerland	25.4	Turkey	19.3	Austria	18.4
Norway	Somalia	12.5	Iraq	12.3	Afghanistan	7.4
Switzerland	Italy	12.9	Germany	11.2	Kosovo*	7.8

* Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244.
** A stateless person is someone who is not recognized as a citizen of any State.

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9 out of 10 persons granted an EU citizenship in 2013 were non-EU citizens

In twelve EU Member States, at least 9 persons out of every 10 who obtained citizenship in 2013 were citizens of a non-EU country: **Estonia** (100%), **Latvia** and **Romania** (both 99%), **Greece** and **Lithuania** (both 97%), **Spain** and **Portugal** (both 96%), **Bulgaria** (94%), **Ireland** and **Italy** (both 93%), the **United Kingdom** (91%) and **Croatia** (90%). In contrast, **Luxembourg** (81%) and **Hungary** (80%) were the only Member States where the majority of persons acquiring citizenship in 2013 were citizens of another EU Member State. At **EU** level, 89% (or 871 300 new citizens) of those granted citizenship were citizens of a non-EU country, and 10% (98 500) of another EU Member State.

Acquisition of citizenship in the EU Member States, 2013

	Total number	of which (share of, %)		Citizenships acquired per:	
		Citizens of another EU Member State	Non-EU citizens*	1 000 resident population	100 resident foreigners
EU	**984 800**	**10%**	**89%**	**1.9**	**2.9**
Belgium	34 801	23%	76%	3.1	2.8
Bulgaria	808	2%	94%	0.1	1.8
Czech Republic	2 243	18%	81%	0.2	0.5
Denmark	1 750	13%	86%	0.3	0.5
Germany	115 118	21%	79%	1.4	1.5
Estonia	1 330	0%	100%	1.0	0.7
Ireland	24 263	7%	93%	5.3	4.5
Greece	29 462	3%	97%	2.7	3.3
Spain	225 793	1%	96%	4.8	4.5
France	97 276	10%	88%	1.5	2.4
Croatia	960	8%	91%	0.2	3.4
Italy	100 712	7%	93%	1.7	2.3
Cyprus	1 580	44%	56%	1.8	0.9
Latvia	3 083	1%	99%	1.5	1.0
Lithuania	185	3%	97%	0.1	0.8
Luxembourg	2 564	81%	19%	4.7	1.1
Hungary	9 178	80%	20%	0.9	6.5
Malta	1 019	27%	71%	2.4	4.5
Netherlands	25 882	7%	89%	1.5	3.6
Austria	7 354	14%	86%	0.9	0.7
Poland	3 933	14%	86%	0.1	4.2
Portugal	24 476	4%	96%	2.3	5.9
Romania	2 791	1%	99%	0.1	3.9
Slovenia	1 470	21%	79%	0.7	1.6
Slovakia	207	27%	73%	0.0	0.3
Finland	8 930	10%	88%	1.6	4.6
Sweden	50 167	19%	79%	5.2	7.6
United Kingdom	207 496	8%	92%	3.2	4.2
Iceland	597	28%	72%	1.8	2.8
Liechtenstein	114	38%	62%	3.1	0.9
Norway	13 480	11%	89%	2.7	2.9
Switzerland	34 061	48%	52%	4.2	1.8

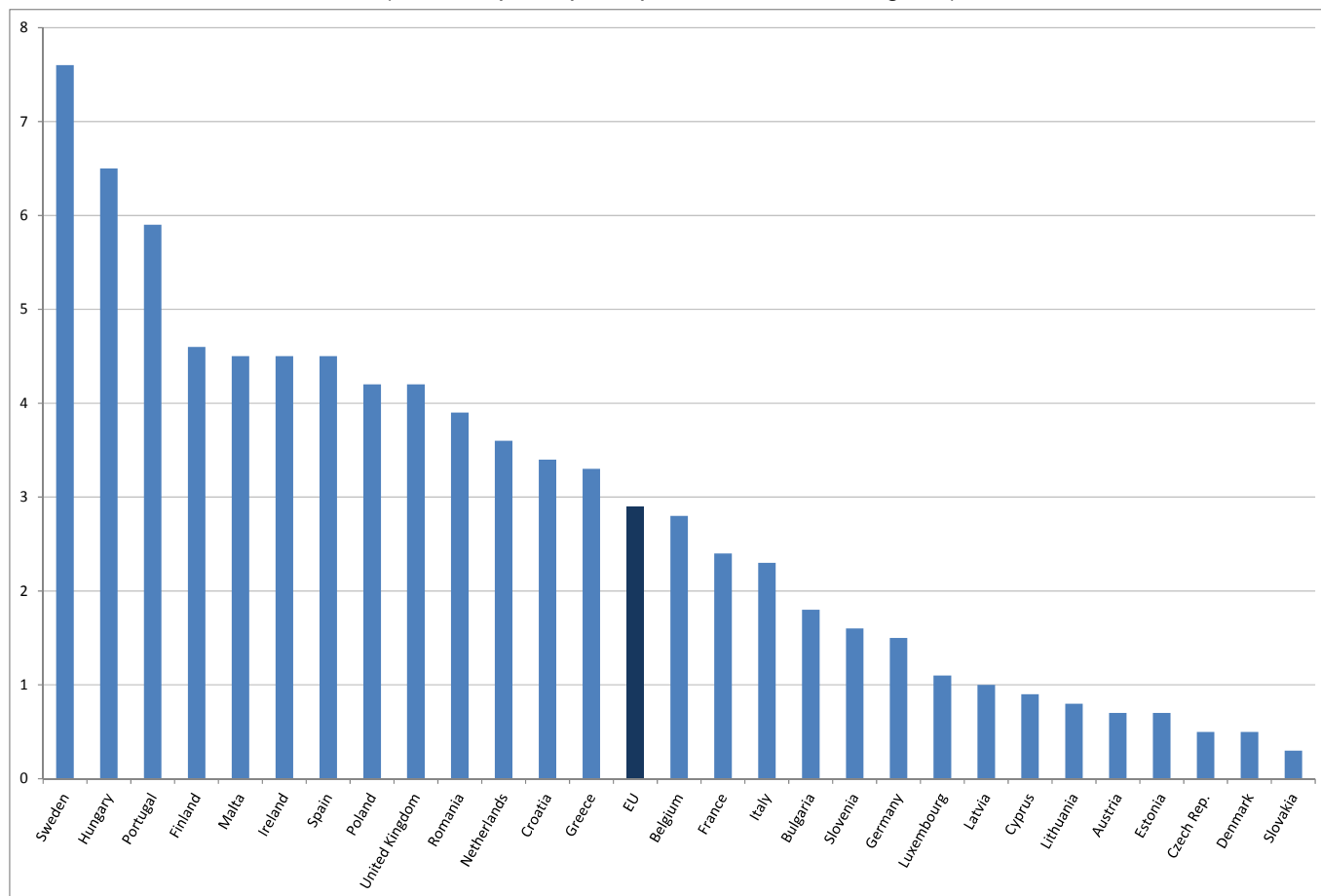Figures may not add up due to unknown.
* Non-EU citizens are defined are those not having the citizenship of any of the 28 EU Member States. This category also includes stateless.

Highest naturalisation rate in Sweden, Hungary and Portugal

The naturalisation rate[5] is the ratio of the number of persons who acquired the citizenship of a country during a year over the stock of foreign residents in the same country at the beginning of the year. In 2013, the highest naturalisation rates were registered in **Sweden** (7.6 citizenships granted per 100 resident foreigners), **Hungary** (6.5) and **Portugal** (5.9), and the lowest in **Slovakia** (0.3), the **Czech Republic** and **Denmark** (both 0.5). On average, 2.9 citizenships were granted per 100 resident foreigners in the **EU**.

Of the five EU Member States that granted the most citizenships in 2013, the naturalisation rate was above the EU average in **Spain** (4.5) and the **United Kingdom** (4.2), while below the EU average in **France** (2.4), **Italy** (2.3) and **Germany** (1.5).

Naturalisation rates[5] in the EU Member States, 2013
(citizenships acquired per 100 resident foreigners)

Highest number of citizenships granted per 1000 inhabitants in Ireland and Sweden

Almost half of all persons who acquired an EU citizenship in 2013 became citizens of either **Spain** (225 800 persons, or 23% of all citizenships granted in the EU in 2013) or the **United Kingdom** (207 500 or 21%).

When compared with the total population of each Member State, the highest rates of citizenship granted were recorded in **Ireland** (5.3 citizenships granted per 1 000 resident population), **Sweden** (5.2), **Spain** (4.8) and **Luxembourg** (4.7). On average, 1.9 citizenships were granted per 1 000 inhabitants in the **EU**.

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1. **Citizenship** is the legal bond between an individual and a state, acquired by birth, naturalisation or other means according to national legislation. **Naturalisation** is the process by which a state grants its citizenship through a formal act on the application of the individual concerned. **Other ways** of granting citizenship may include spouses of nationals, minors adopted by nationals and descendants of nationals born abroad returning to the country of origin of their ancestors. Regulation 862/2007 Art 3.1(d) asks Member States to provide data on "persons having their usual residence in the territory of the Member State and having acquired during the reference year the citizenship of the Member State and having formerly held the citizenship of another Member State or a third country or having formerly been stateless, disaggregated by age and sex, and by the former citizenship of the persons concerned and by whether the person was formerly stateless".

2. The acquisitions of citizenship data are provided at t+12 months to Eurostat by the National Statistical Institutes of the EU Member States in accordance with Regulation 862/2007.

3. **Eurostat**, Statistics Explained article **"Acquisition of citizenship statistics"** available on the Eurostat website: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Acquisition_of_citizenship_statistics

4. A **recognised non-citizen** is a person who is neither a citizen of the reporting country nor of any other country, and who has established links to the reporting country which include some but not all rights and obligations of full citizenship. A majority of these persons were citizens of the former Soviet Union

5. The **naturalisation rate** is the ratio of the number of persons who acquired the citizenship of a country during a calendar year over the stock of foreign residents in the same country at the beginning of the year. The 'naturalisation rate' should be used with caution because the numerator includes all modes of acquisitions and not just naturalisations of eligible residing foreigners and the denominator includes all foreigners and not the relevant population, i.e. those foreigners who are eligible for naturalisation.

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