

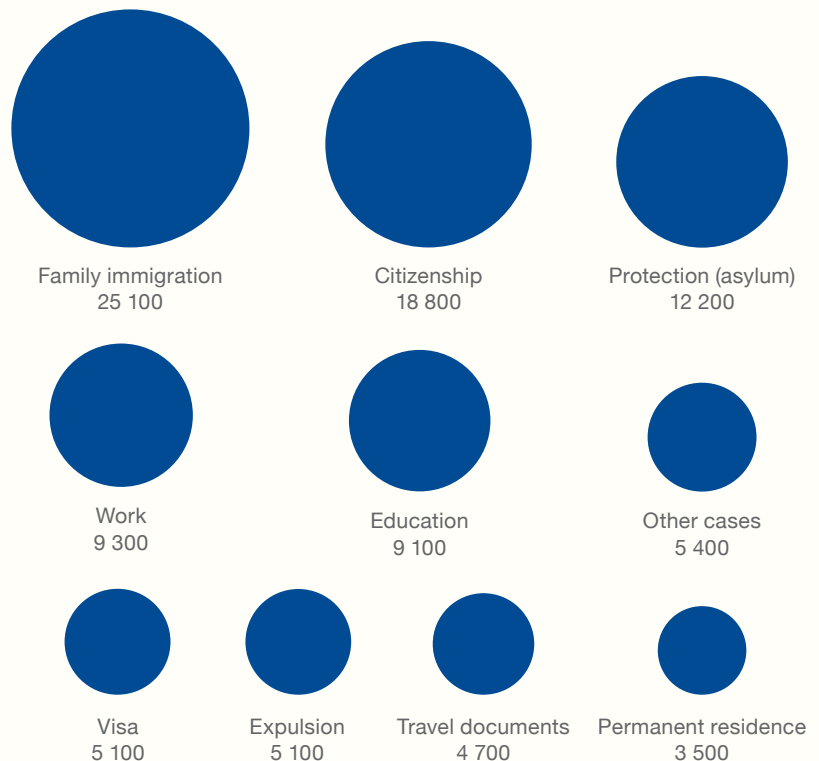
What did the UDI do in 2011?

The UDI shall facilitate desired and legal immigration and ensure that anyone meeting these conditions will be allowed entry into Norway. At the same time, we have a control function and must ensure that the system is not abused.

In 2011, we processed 98 100 applications.* The largest categories were family immigration and citizenship. We also administered 116 reception centres, with a total capacity of 18 400 places. We were strongly involved in voluntary return, and 1 800 former asylum seekers returned voluntarily to their country of origin with the help of Norwegian authorities after having their applications for asylum rejected. During the year, we responded to around a quarter of a million enquiries from users and welcomed 34 600 visitors to our Service Centre.

* The police and embassies and consulates abroad also processed many applications.

Applications processed by the UDI in 2011

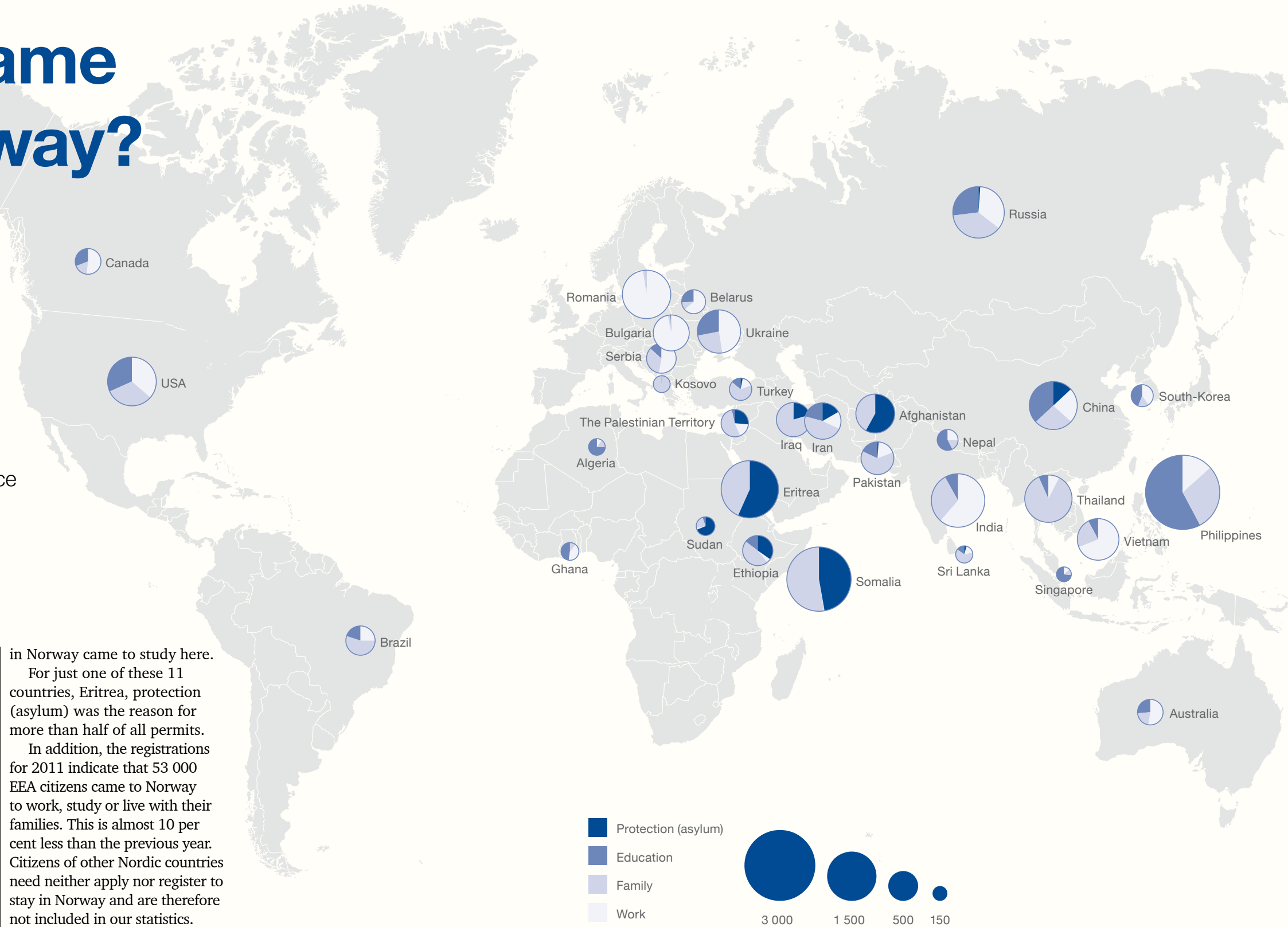


Who came to Norway?

The map shows which nationalities topped the statistics for granted residence permits in 2011. In total, 30 300 people received residence permits for more than a short stay in Norway.

11 countries accounted for over 1 000 persons granted a residence permit. Philippine citizens received the highest number of permits, more than half of these being au pair permits. For people from Somalia, Russia and Thailand, most of the permits issued were for family immigration, while work was the most common reason for immigration for those arriving from India, Romania, the USA, the Ukraine and Vietnam. Most Chinese citizens arriving

in Norway came to study here. For just one of these 11 countries, Eritrea, protection (asylum) was the reason for more than half of all permits. In addition, the registrations for 2011 indicate that 53 000 EEA citizens came to Norway to work, study or live with their families. This is almost 10 per cent less than the previous year. Citizens of other Nordic countries need neither apply nor register to stay in Norway and are therefore not included in our statistics.

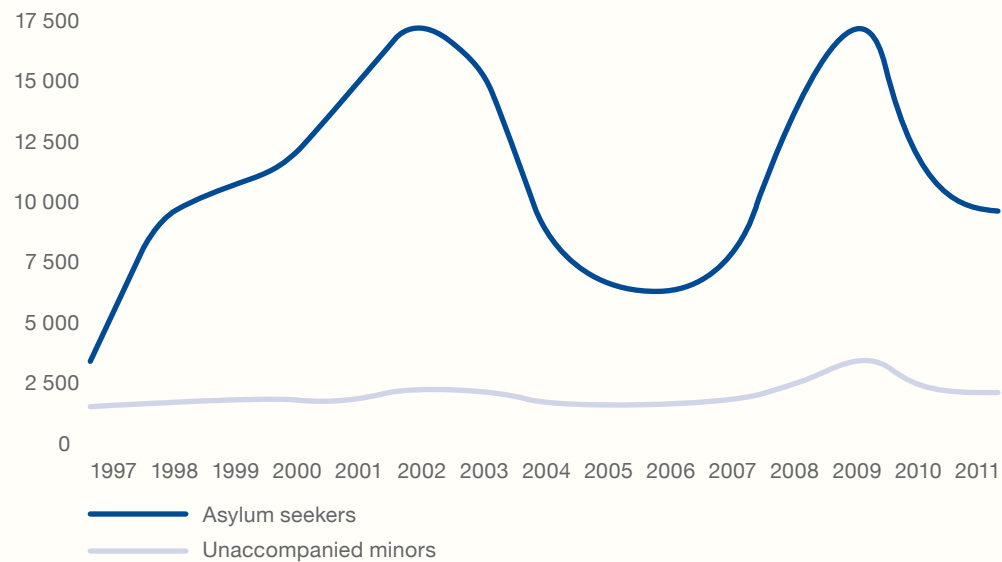


How many people applied for asylum?

There are large variations in the numbers of people seeking asylum in Norway. In 2011, there were 9 100 asylum seekers. This was 1 000 fewer than the year before and just over half as many as in 2009.

It is difficult to predict how many asylum seekers will come to Norway in the future. Developments would seem to indicate continued high numbers of asylum seekers coming to Europe. There is still major uncertainty about developments in certain countries in North Africa and the Middle East, conditions in the Horn of Africa are difficult, and the situation is still uncertain in Afghanistan and Pakistan. However, there are no indications that the number of asylum seekers arriving in Norway will alter significantly in 2012.

No. of asylum seekers to Norway, 1997–2011

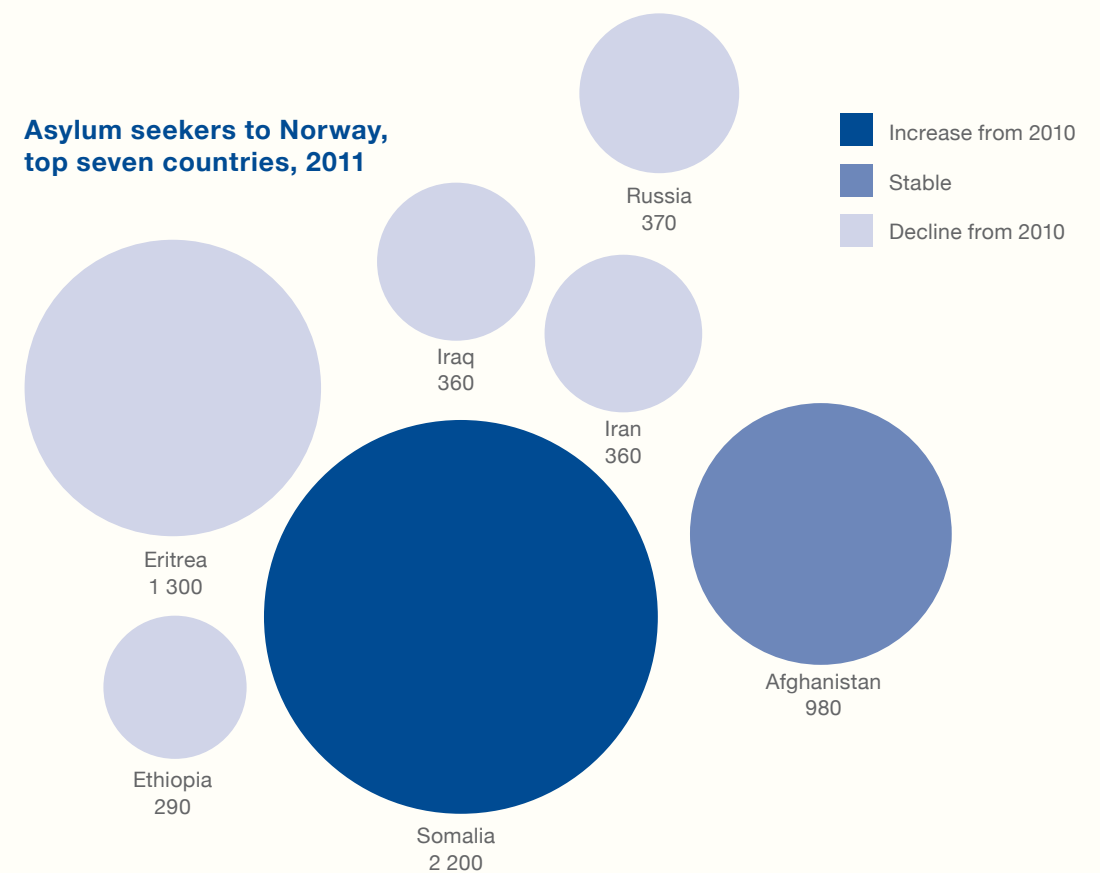


Where did the asylum seekers come from?

Asylum seekers came from 115 different countries, but more than six out of ten came from one of the seven top countries of origin: Somalia, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Russia, Iraq, Iran and Ethiopia.

The largest decline in the number of applications (in absolute numbers) was from Eritrea, but we also received fewer applications from Russia, Ethiopia, the Palestinian Territories, Nigeria, Serbia and Iraq. There were a few countries which had an increase in the number of asylum seekers compared to the previous year. The greatest increase was from Somalia.

Asylum seekers to Norway, top seven countries, 2011



Did the Arab spring come to Norway?

Routes

Historically, there have been three common routes into Europe. Effective border controls have made it difficult to follow the western route from Morocco to the Canary Islands or the south coast of Spain. The "central route" from Tunisia was open for a few months in 2011 until the Tunisian authorities regained control of the coastline. When the unrest in Libya began, it was also possible to reach Lampedusa and Malta. Following the fall of Gaddafi, Libya has not prioritised control of its coastline facing Europe. In recent years we have seen a shift towards more people using the eastern overland route via Turkey, even though this passes through very unstable parts of the Middle East.



Photo: Joel Saget/AFP/Scanpix

Choucha

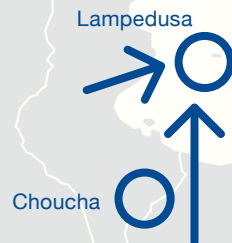
Many people crossed the border to the refugee camp in the town of Choucha in Tunisia, eight kilometres from the border with Libya. The UDI took 470 resettlement refugees from this camp.



Photo: Filippo Monteforte/AFP/Scanpix

Lampedusa

Over a period of two months, 20 000 migrants arrived at this small Italian island halfway between Malta and the coast of Tunisia. Most of them came from Tunisia and moved on to mainland Italy, France or Switzerland.



Tunisia

There has long been considerable emigration to Europe from Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. An especially large number of people fled following the uprisings in Tunisia. 75 Tunisian asylum seekers arrived in Norway, compared to 40 the year before.

Libya

Libya has long been an immigrant nation with large numbers of migrant workers from all over the world; it has also been an important transit country for people from Sub-Saharan Africa wishing to go to Europe. The conflict placed many of these migrants in a difficult situation. Norway received 140 asylum applications from Libyans, compared to 35 in 2010. However, most of the people fleeing from Libya came from other African countries.

Egypt

Egypt has traditionally been an emigration country, but this has primarily involved emigration to other Arab countries. Few Egyptians have sought asylum in Europe, even after the uprisings. 25 Egyptian asylum seekers arrived in Norway in 2011, compared with 20 the year before.

Syria

Syrian citizens have been fleeing from the regime of Bashar al-Assad for some time, but their number increased following the rebellion in the spring of 2011. Most of them headed for Germany. 200 sought asylum in Norway, compared to 120 in 2010.

The year 2011 saw dramatic events in North Africa and the Middle East. How many people fled from this region, what routes did they use, and how many of them came to Norway?

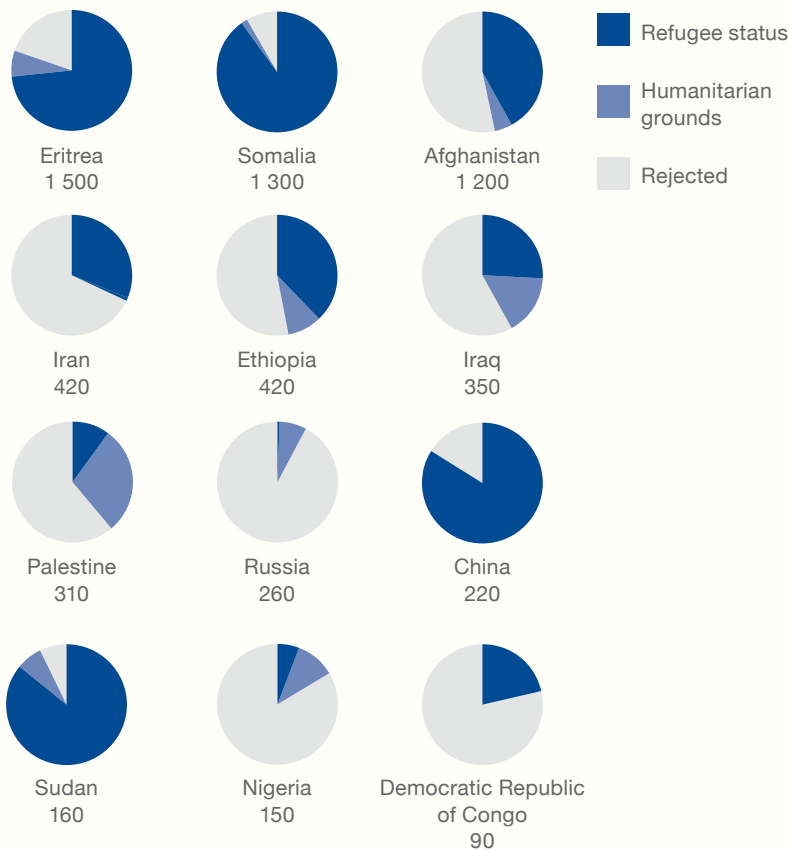
Which asylum seekers were allowed to stay?

52 per cent of all asylum applications judged on their merits were granted by the UDI in 2011. In total, 4 000 people were allowed to stay after having applied for protection (asylum).

In 18 per cent of the asylum cases we reviewed, it turned out that the applicants were already registered in or had been granted visas for another country covered by the Dublin Regulation. These persons must have their applications processed in the country in which they first registered.

Seven out of ten of those allowed to stay in Norway came from Somalia, Eritrea or Afghanistan. Among the 12 nationalities from which we received the most applications, there was considerable variation in the percentage of successful applications. 92 per cent of Somalis were granted leave to remain, compared with just 8 per cent of Russians and 17 per cent of Nigerians.

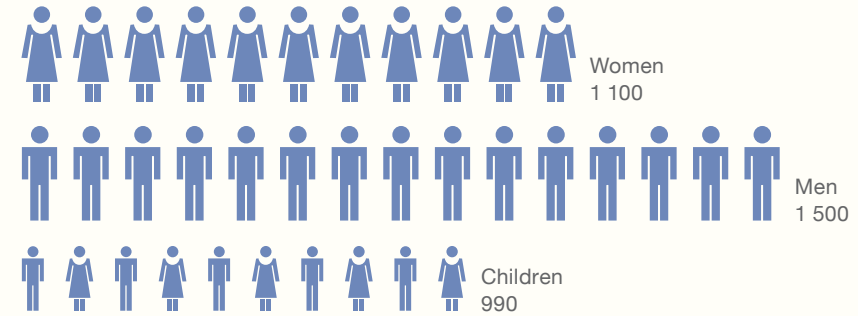
Outcome in asylum cases, 12 biggest countries



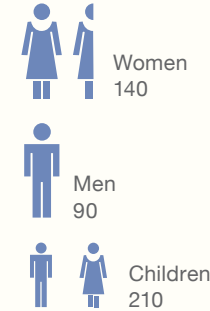
Asylum decisions by outcome, sex and age

Each figure represents approx. 100 people.

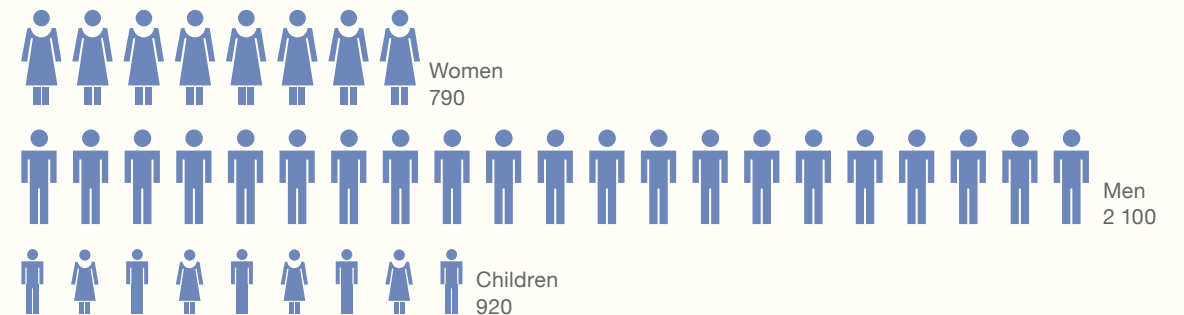
Refugee status



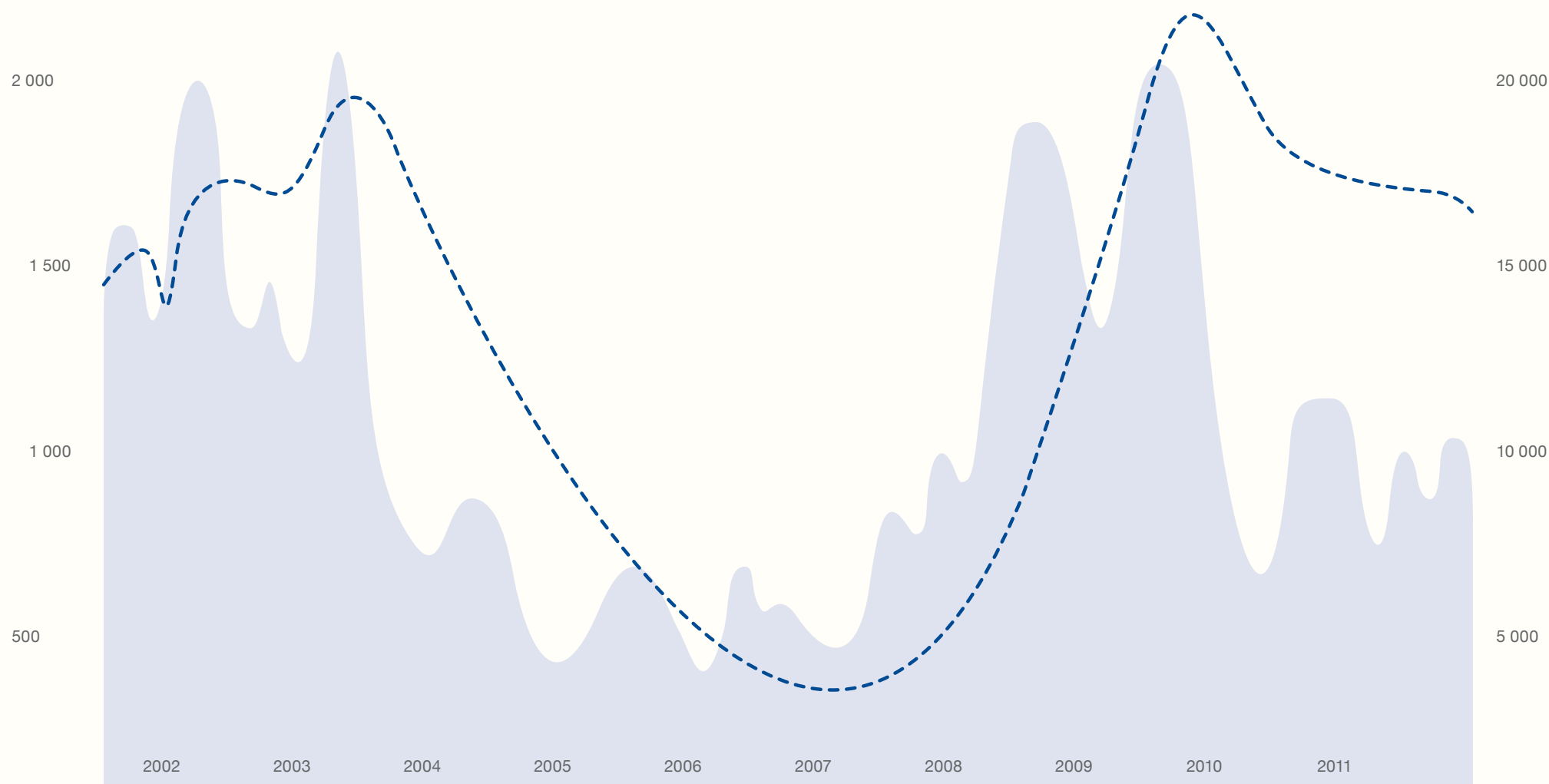
Residence permit on humanitarian grounds



Rejected



Why are there more people living in reception centres than there are asylum seekers?



The figure shows the link between new asylum seekers every month (shaded area, left axis) and residents in reception centres every month (curve, right axis).

Why are there 15 700 people in reception centres when only 9 100 asylum seekers arrived in 2011?

Many of the people living in reception centres arrived here before 2011. Some of them are still waiting to have their applications processed, and some have been granted temporary residence. In addition, all previous asylum seekers are entitled to stay at reception centres while waiting to be given accommodation, to have their appeals heard or to return to their country of origin, either voluntarily or by force. As not all countries will accept forced return, some of those who refuse to return voluntarily may remain at reception centres for many years.

Why are there more places than residents in reception centres?

The UDI must at all times utilise about 85 per cent of its reception capacity. We must not have too many vacancies, but at the same time we need a buffer to enable the reception system to handle fluctuations in numbers of asylum seekers.

Why are costs not reduced when fewer asylum seekers come to Norway?

All reception centres are run by contractors, and these have notice periods of three to six months. So it may take up to six months from notice of contract termination until costs are reduced. This is why we are making efforts to improve our asylum forecasts so that we can stay one step ahead.

Who was deported and what happened to them?



Everyone who has had an application rejected or has a permit that has expired is obliged to leave Norway. Some are also expelled, which means that they are not allowed to return. The diagram shows who was deported in 2011, why they were deported and what happened to them afterwards. Persons with outstanding appeals to the Immigration Appeals Board are not included. Also not included is a small number of persons deported for other reasons.

Myth: "There are 30 000 undocumented immigrants in Norway, and many are criminals."

It is easy to get the impression that Norway, especially Oslo, is flooded with criminals that the authorities don't know the identity of. But what are the facts about so-called irregular immigrants?

30 000 – where does this figure come from?

We do not know exactly how many people are in Norway illegally. Statistics Norway has estimated that there were about 18 000 illegal immigrants in 2006, and that the true figure was probably between 10 000 and 32 000. So 30 000 is possible, but the figure is quite unlikely to be so high. Two out of three were probably former asylum seekers.

In 2012, the UDI will receive the results of new calculations for the period 2007–2010.

"Irregulars", what do we mean by this?

The term "irregulars" is not an official concept with clearly defined content, but when used by the me-

dia, two types of document are often confused: : identity documents and residence permits.

Identity documents

"We do not know who the asylum seekers are, hardly anyone presents travel documents when seeking asylum."

There are many reasons why few of them present their identity documents.

It is true that only 9 per cent present travel documents when seeking asylum. There are several reasons for this. Many of them have never held passports, e.g. people from Somalia. Many people are told by smugglers and helpers to throw away or hide their passports. They have often had bad experiences with the police and other authorities and are very reserved early on in the asylum process.

However, a much greater number present their ID documents or substantiate their identities in some other way while their case is being processed.

Residence permit

"Lots of people disappear from the reception centres, and we have no idea where they are."

That is true, but we do know where many of them are.

At the end of the year, 4 900 people obliged to leave Norway were living in reception centres. 1 200 of these were children.

In 2011, almost 400 people left the reception centres every month without providing a new address. On average, 180 of them soon returned to the reception centres or another known address, or they were settled in a local community by the authorities. Many people also left Norway without informing the authorities.

"People without official residence have no rights and live in unworthy conditions."

Some people are in a difficult situation, but they do have rights.

It is very true that many people have put their lives on hold, but those without official residence status are obliged to leave the country. We therefore wish to give these people the possibility of a dignified return. While they remain here, they have some rights:

- the option of staying at asylum centres
- the right to immediate health assistance and help which cannot wait, including necessary health assistance before and after birth
- the right to basic education (children)

To what extent are they criminals?

1 400 people were expelled for criminal offences in 2011. Of these, 25 per cent were former asylum seekers.

In 2011, Statistics Norway published a report showing that certain nationalities predominate in the crime statistics. Many asylum seekers have come from some of these nations. But asylum seekers also tend to be young men, who are generally more likely to commit crimes than the average population. If we adjust the figures to take into ac-

count this demographic imbalance, the overrepresentation is reduced.

In 2011, there were 970 arrests of a total of 530 people in the public drug scenes in Oslo. Most of them were foreigners without residence permits, and they were generally people who had either not sought asylum or who had received final rejections. Some of these disappear into illegal residence in Norway. The UDI prioritised the processing of asylum applications for 90 of the people arrested.

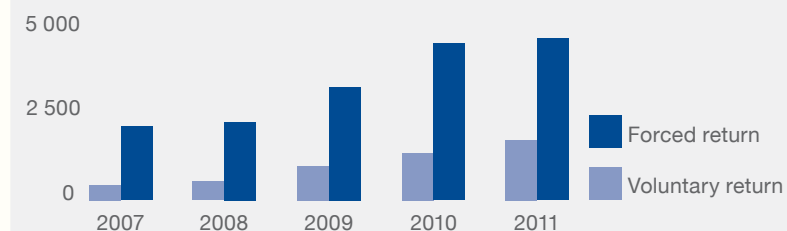
"Nobody is doing anything to make them leave the country."

As many as possible should return voluntarily.

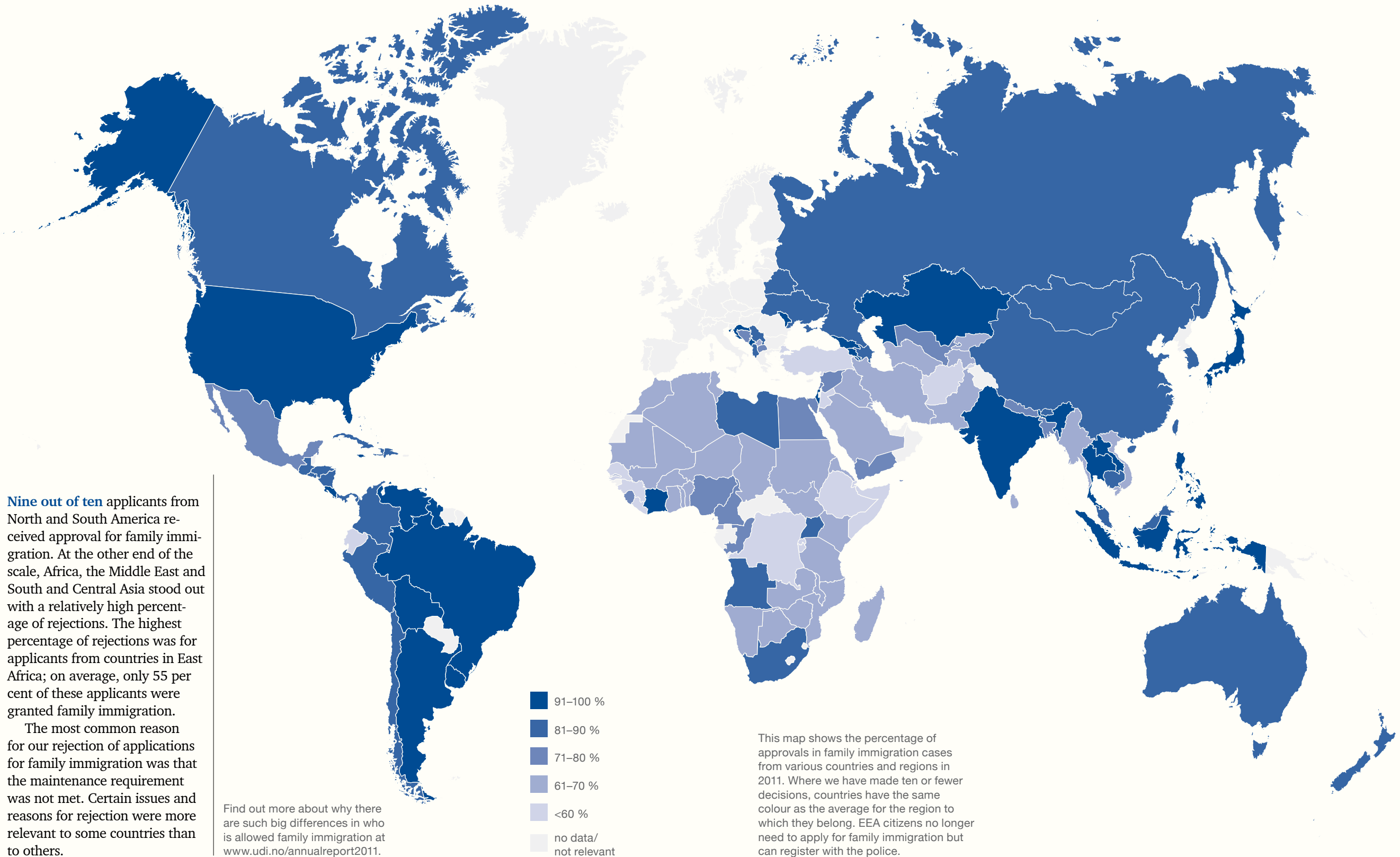
People who are obliged to leave the country must return to their countries of origin quickly, ideally voluntarily, but they will be returned by force if necessary. The UDI is responsible for voluntary return, while the police are responsible for forced return. The number of people returning has increased in recent years. The UDI has worked intensively on providing information and encouraging people to return voluntarily by means of various return programmes.

Those who return must be able to cope when they arrive, and education is an important aspect in the work with returns. The police give priority to deporting persons convicted of crimes.

We have return agreements with a number of important countries, but some returns are still difficult due to doubt about the identities of those concerned or potential risks to the in-flight safety.



Who came to join their families in Norway?



Migration trends in the Nordic countries

The Nordic countries often adapt to each other's regulations. Even so, there are major differences in the numbers of persons seeking asylum or residence and the countries from which applicants come.

Most asylum seekers to Sweden

For several decades Sweden has been the Nordic country with the most asylum seekers. This was also the case in 2011: Even with a decrease of 7 per cent, Sweden still received 30 000 applications for asylum, which was more than all the other Nordic countries put together. A total of 9 100 were granted protection (asylum). This represents 38 per cent of applications processed.

Afghans were by far the biggest group of asylum seekers, but many people came from the Baltic countries as well. Unlike Norway, Sweden has not introduced a fast-track procedure for processing asylum applications that are presumed to be unfounded. This may go some way towards explaining why they received almost 6 200 applications from people in the Balkans, while Norway received just a few hundred. This is also the main reason why the percentage of applications approved in Sweden is lower than in Norway.

Somalis formed the third biggest group. Sweden has a large Somali population and has

long been the most popular Nordic destination for Somali asylum seekers.

In total, more than 32 000 people were granted permits to move to Sweden in order to live with a family member; this is almost 3 000 more than in 2010. A new requirement for valid identification documents led to a massive decline in the number of family immigration permits issued to people from Somalia.

Tighter Finnish regulations

Finland has traditionally had few asylum seekers, but the number increased in 2008 and 2009. This gave rise to debate, and so during 2009–2011 the regulations for both asylum and family immigration were tightened. For example, the government decided to cut the right to financial assistance for asylum seekers and to limit their possibilities to take employment.

Finland had 3 100 asylum applications in 2011. This is 23 per cent lower than the previous year. Most asylum seekers came from Iraq,



Somalia, Russia and Afghanistan. 3 600 asylum decisions were made, of which 1 300 were positive, giving a 36 per cent approval rate. In addition, around 11 700 family immigration permits were issued.

Fewer asylum seekers to Denmark

Denmark has had relatively few asylum seekers for many years. 3 800 asylum seekers arrived in the country in 2011. This is a decrease of about 25 per cent. Most of these came from Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Russia and Serbia. These countries accounted for around 60 per cent of all asylum seekers. 2 100 people were granted protection (asylum), about the same number as in 2010.

There was a reduction of 42 per cent in the number of people applying for family immigration in Denmark compared to the previous year. One reason for this may be the introduction of a points system which means that family immigration can depend on the education, work experience and language skills of the spouse.

The largest groups of applicants in 2011 were from Turkey, Thailand and the Philippines. Even though far fewer people applied for family immigration in Denmark, the percentage of applications granted remained more or less the same.

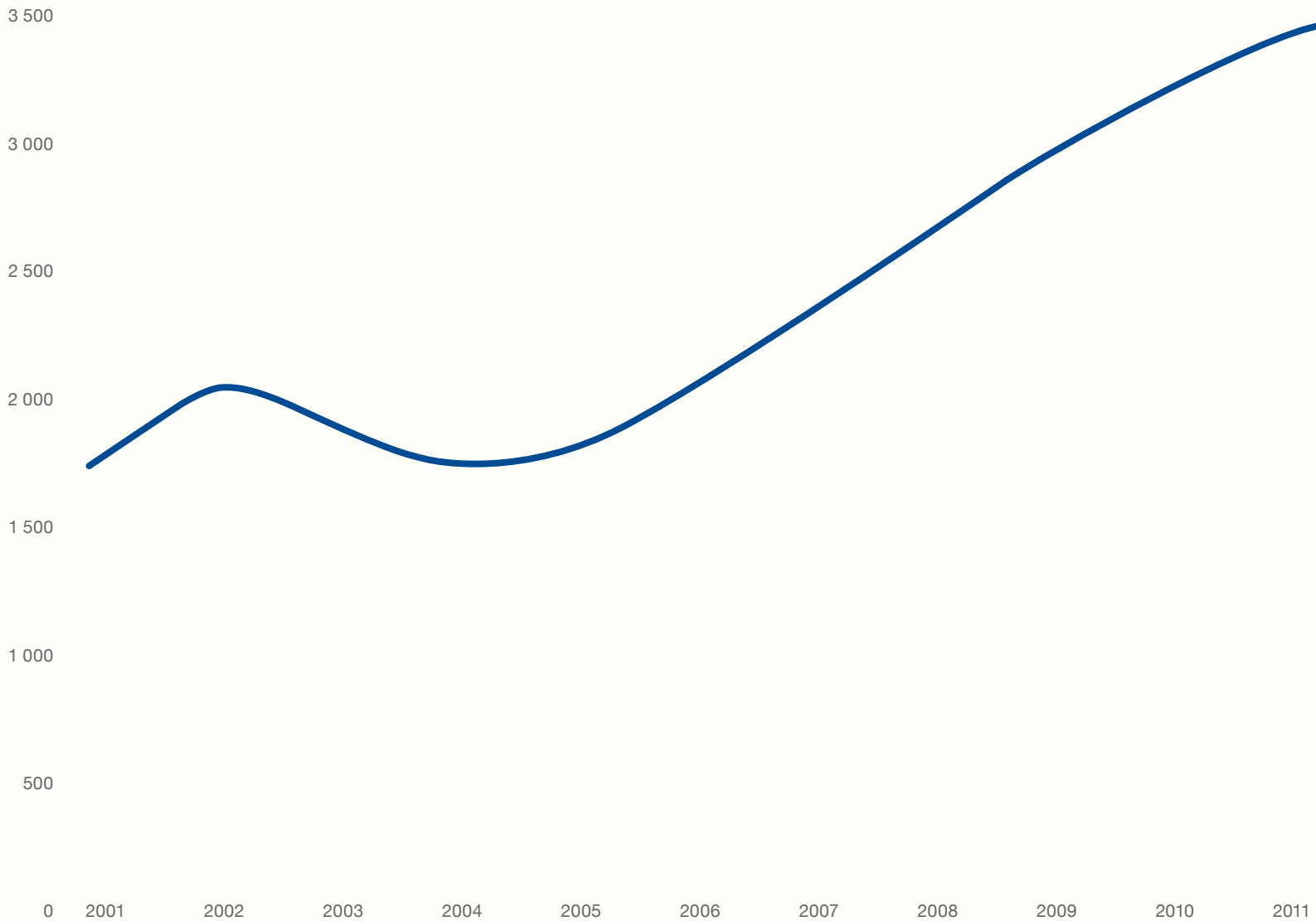
Iceland, the "odd country out"

Iceland stands out clearly among the Nordic countries with regard to the number of asylum seekers. Iceland received 75 asylum applications in 2011, which means that on average Sweden received more asylum seekers in one day than Iceland received over the entire year. One reason for the low number of asylum applications may well be that it is far easier to control the borders of Iceland than for countries in mainland Europe.

Iceland has a relatively high number of immigrants even though few asylum seekers arrive there. This is because of immigrant workers and family members joining them. In 2011, 1 800 people were granted family immigration with a parent or partner living in Iceland.

How many people came here to study?

Study permits granted to people from countries outside the EU/EEA, 2001-2011



In 2011, 3 400 students from countries outside the EEA were granted first time permits to study in Norway. This is 6 per cent more than in the previous year. For the tenth consecutive year, most students came from China, Russia and the USA.

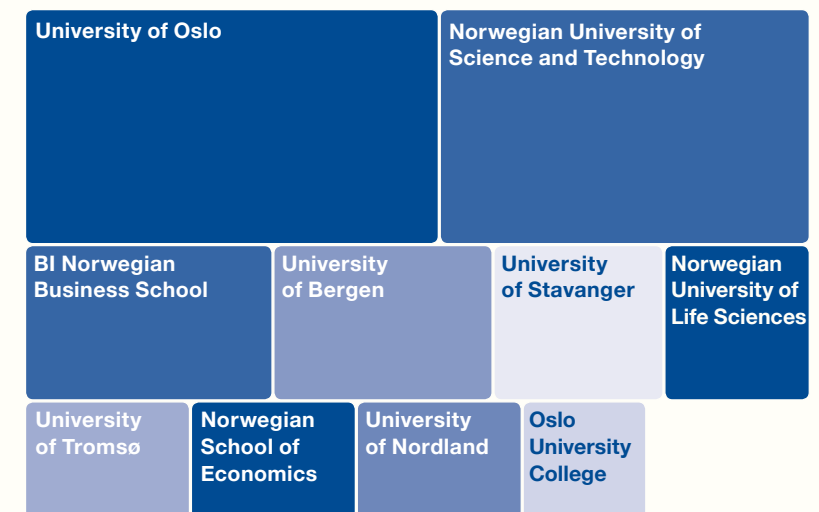
Over the last two years there has been a 50 percent increase in the number of people wanting to come to Norway to study. One reason for this may be that several of our neighbouring countries have introduced tuition fees in recent years. The Norwegian authorities have also held recruitment drives to encourage foreign students to come here.

EEA citizens do not need to apply for residence permits to study here, but they register as students with the police. In 2011, 4 100 EEA citizens chose to register, a similar number to the previous year. The vast majority of students came from Germany, but many came from France and Spain as well.

Most students came to Norway to study at colleges and universities. The University of Oslo, the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and BI Norwegian Business School received the highest numbers of foreign students in 2011.

The ten educational institutions with the highest numbers of students from countries outside the EU/EEA, 2011

■ = approx. 10 people





Prima ballerina

Japanese ballet dancer Maiko Nishimo is one of many people who have come to Norway as skilled workers over the past few years. In 2011, 21 people were granted permits to work at the National Norwegian Opera & Ballet, many of them from Japan.

Many opportunities and rights in Norway

Maiko started dancing at the age of ten, and early on moved to London to go to ballet school. When she completed her education, she wanted to remain in Europe and work, since it is not possible in Japan to work as a dancer without financial assistance from the parents.

"Scandinavia was not really an option for me, but a fellow student from Norway gave me the tip to take a closer look at



what the Norwegian National Ballet had to offer. And then I discovered they had everything I dreamed of! They have the best repertoire in the world, and dancers can work with both classical and modern ballet. What's more, they take really good care of us here, with regard to both our health and our families. And now Scandinavia is popular and "in" with dancers, partly due to the design and architecture here," says Maiko.

Maiko has worked at the Opera for a number of years. She was granted a permanent residence permit and has settled in Norway. She has danced many prominent roles at the Opera in Oslo and is one of our most popular ballet dancers.

"I think the most important reason for my success is that I know when I am communicating with the audience: when they are just as happy as I am. And when they give me a standing ovation – those are beautiful moments."

45 nationalities in the Opera

The Opera in Bjørvika is home to about 45 different nationalities. In 2011, people from eight different countries were granted their first residence permits in order to work there, either on stage, backstage or in the orchestra pit. Most of them

were from Japan: seven in 2011 and 25 since the Opera moved to Bjørvika. The USA, Cuba and Montenegro are other countries that are well represented. 12 new employees from the USA have been granted residence permits over the past two years, along with eight from Cuba and six from Montenegro.

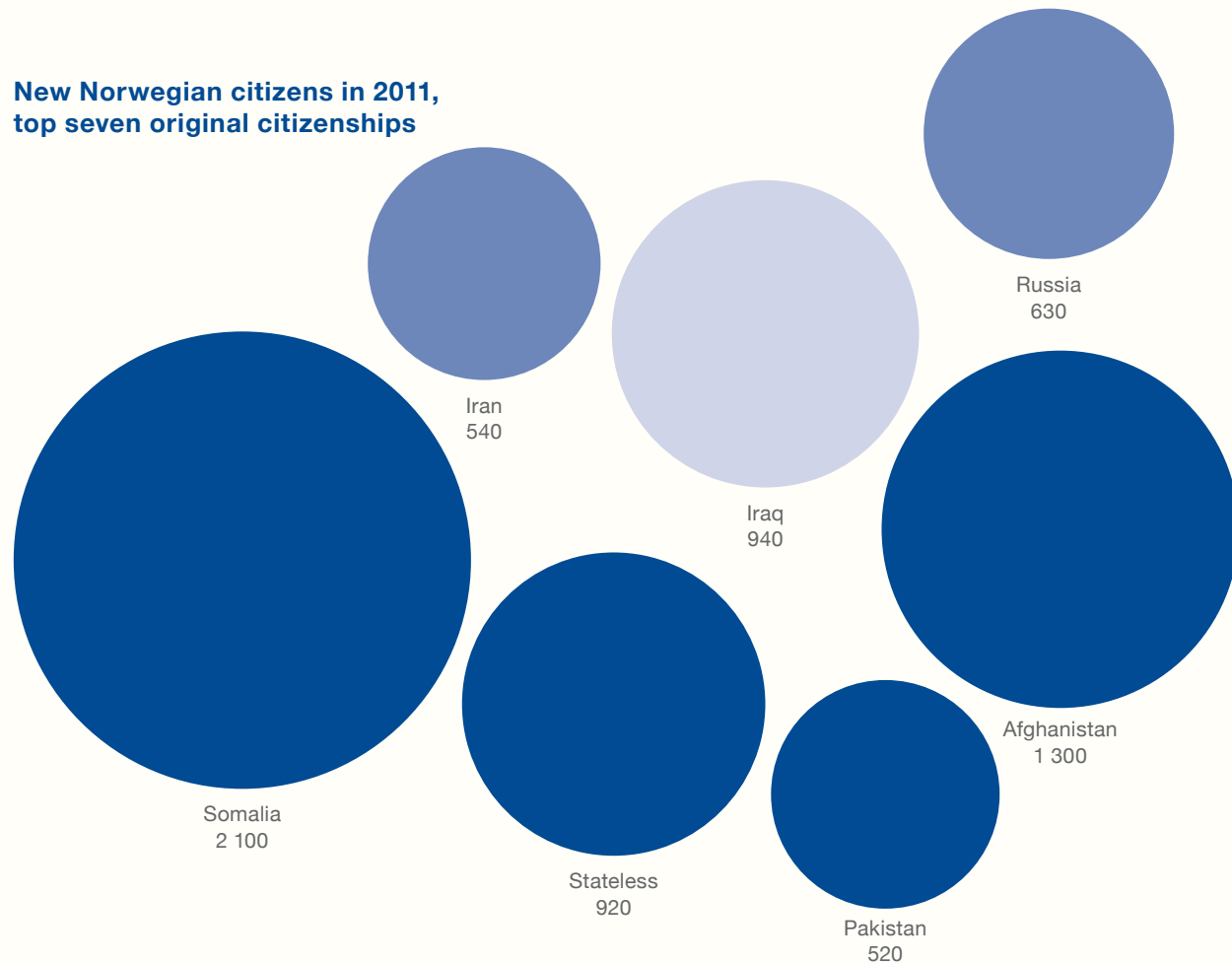
Ballet Director Espen Giljane believes that a broad spectrum of nationalities represented in the ensemble lends strength to the Norwegian National Ballet.

"Norway does not train enough ballet dancers at the level expected at the Norwegian National Ballet, but as dance is an international art form not dependent on language, recruiting dancers from other countries is easy. We have so many dancers from Japan because we choose the best, no matter where they come from. Japanese dancers have been very prominent in recent years. They work in a very focused and disciplined way, which is what you need to succeed as a ballet dancer. There is also a lot of interest in ballet in Japan, and there are lots of ballet schools there," explains Giljane.

"Having people with different backgrounds inspires and strengthens the company and makes our performances more exciting for audiences."

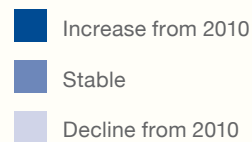
Who are the new citizens?

New Norwegian citizens in 2011, top seven original citizenships



Among the 14 000 immigrants granted Norwegian citizenship in 2011, Somalis formed the largest group, followed by Afghans and Iraqis. Over the past few years, far more Asians and Africans applied for Norwegian citizenship than people from the rest of the world.

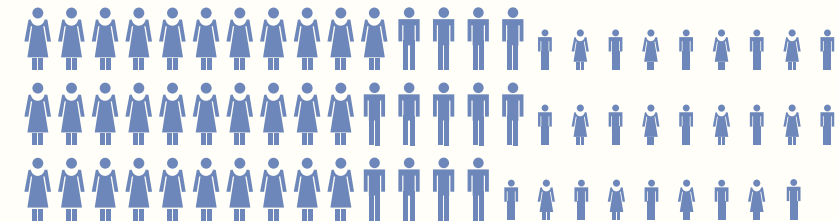
Half of our new citizens originally came here on a family immigration permit, while more than one-third originally arrived here as asylum seekers or refugees. Two-thirds of our new citizens were adults, and there were more women than men.



Citizenship by original reason for immigration, 2011

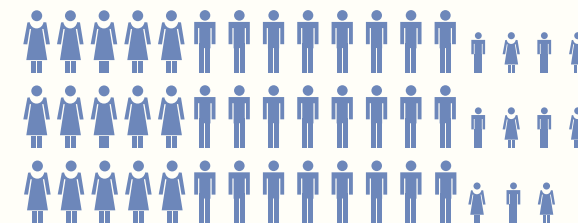
Each figure represents approx. 100 people.

Family



Women: 3 100
Men: 1 300
Children: 2 700

Refuge (asylum)



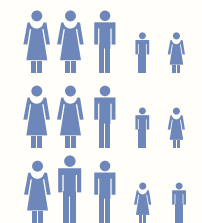
Women: 1 500
Men: 2 400
Children: 1 100

Work



Women: 140
Men: 150

Other reasons

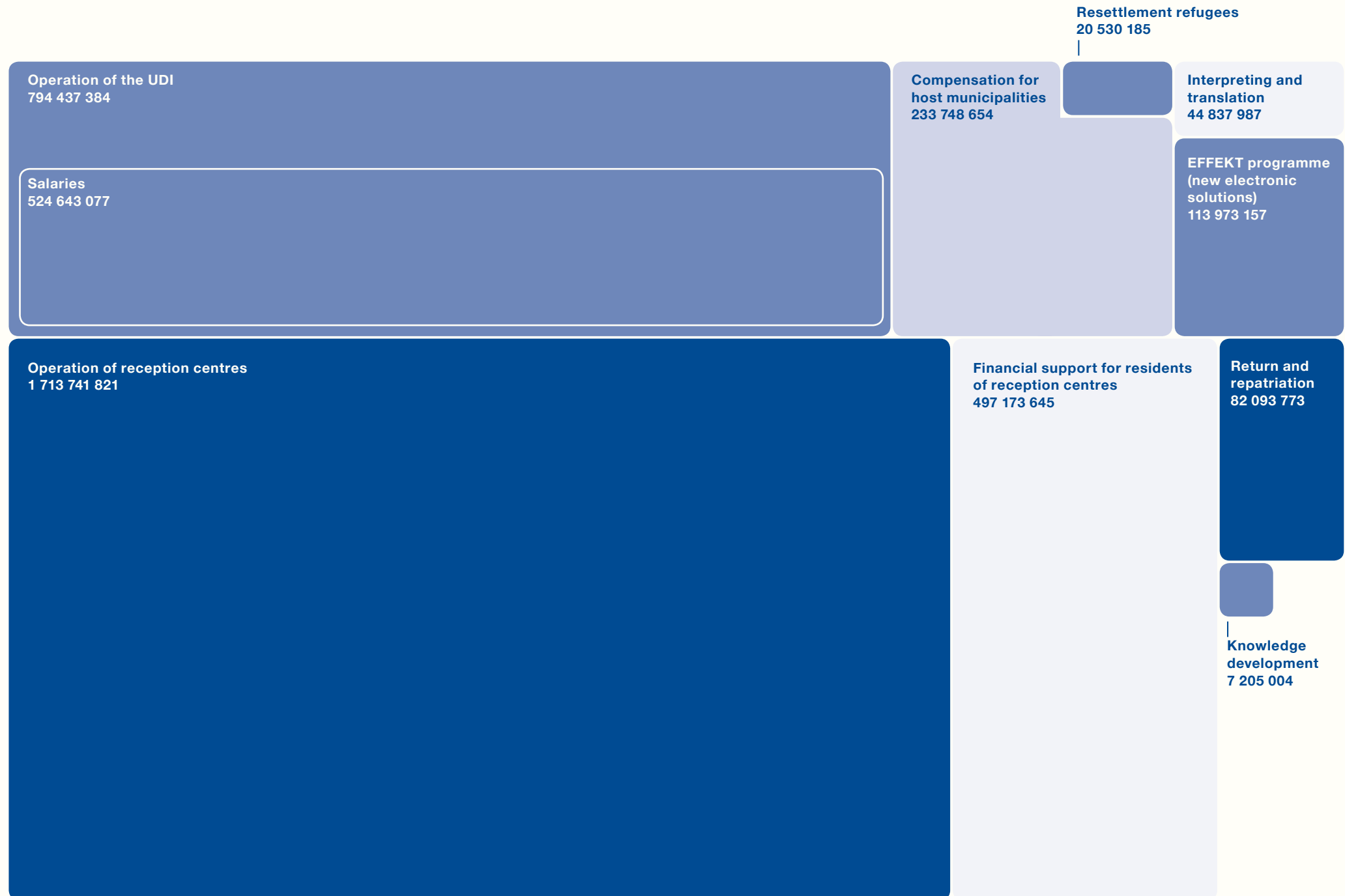


Women: 510
Men: 740
Children: 740

How much money did we spend – and on what?

Asylum reception centres were by far our largest expense. Of the total budget of NOK 3.6 billion, we spent almost half on running our reception centres. Other expenses were compensation for local authorities hosting reception centres, financial support for the residents, return and repatriation measures, interpreters and other costs associated with asylum seekers and resettlement refugees. In total, these expenses accounted for over 70 per cent of our resources.

Technological development is also costly. We spent almost NOK 114 million on developing modern electronic solutions to improve user experiences and streamline the processing of cases.



 = approx. 10 million

How long did the applicants have to wait?

In 2011 we reduced case processing times and the number of cases waiting to be processed.

Processing times for asylum cases were reduced to 98 days, i.e. more than 50 per cent lower than the previous year. One-third of all asylum applications were processed within 60 days. Cases involving applications from asylum seekers who were unaccompanied minors also took 98 days to process, compared to 273 days in 2010.

Processing times for family immigration cases were reduced from 186 days in 2010 to 117 days in 2011. For applications received after 1 January 2011, the processing time was 58 days; and for applications for family immigration with an employee in Norway, the time was 40 days.

In cases of work permits, it took 31 days from submission of the application to the decision, which was 20 days less than in the previous year. Almost all applications for study permits were processed well before the start of the academic year.

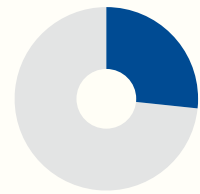
Applicants for citizenship have to wait quite some time for a response. Even though we managed to reduce the case processing time by 19 per cent compared with the previous year, applicants still had to wait 294 days.

We also managed to reduce the number of unprocessed applications. We processed 4 700 more residence cases than we received, and by the end of the year we had 26 300 cases waiting to be processed. We also reduced the number of unprocessed asylum cases by 15 per cent to 4 200.

How do we measure case processing times?

These figures show the amount of time from when the immigration administration received the application until the first decision was made. The time we have spent on processing appeals against rejection decisions has not been included. Processing times for asylum cases are calculated by compiling all decisions, including Dublin Regulation decisions and fast-track cases.

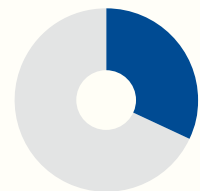
Case processing times are indicated in median values. A median value means that half of the cases were processed in less time than this value, while the other half took longer.



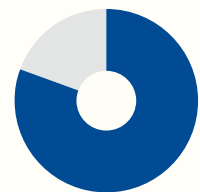
Protection (asylum)
98 days



Work
31 days



Family immigration
117 days



Citizenship
294 days

An entire circle is equivalent to 365 days

