

# Asylum seekers in Albania

## Year 2022

**Tirana, on 04 July 2023:** Asylum seekers in Albania referred to the Directorate of Asylum, Foreigners, and Citizenship at the Ministry of Interior, result 125 people in 2022, suffering a significant reduction compared to the previous year.

Asylum seekers originating from Afghanistan occupy 28.8 % of the total number of asylum seekers in 2022 and result 36 people.

## Asylum seekers in Albania

Analyzing the country of origin of asylum seekers, in 2022 we understand that most cases are those of Afghanistan origin, with 36 asylum seekers following with 27 asylum seekers from Ukraine.

During 2022 there were 24 positive decisions for supplementary protection status to asylum seekers, of which 10 belong to citizens from Afghanistan, 6 citizens from Egypt, 5 citizens from Syria and 3 citizens from Tunisia.

## Acquisition and termination of Albanian citizenship

In 2022, there are 1,527 persons who have acquired Albanian citizenship, making an increase by 114.8 %, compared to 2021. If we analyze the data by sex, we notice that 931 persons who have acquired Albanian citizenship are men and 596 women. It is noticed a dominance of male with 61.0 %.

In 2022, there are 721 people who have lost Albanian citizenship, making a decrease by 0.4 %, compared to 2021. If we analyze the data by sex, we notice that 406 people who have lost Albanian citizenship are women and 315 males. It is noticed a dominance of women with 56.3 %.

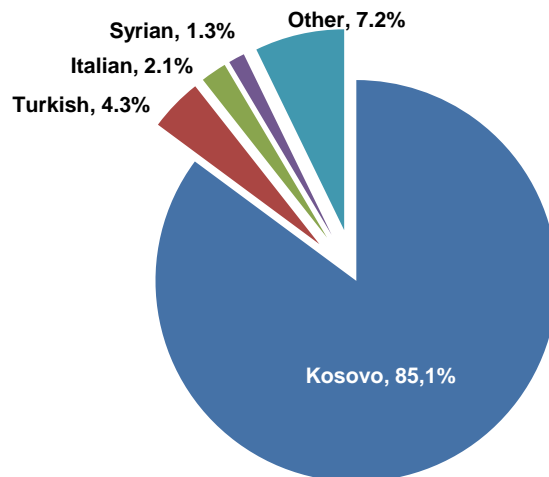
**Tab. 1 Acquisition, loss, Albanian citizenship**

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

Source: Directorate of 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 or 85.1 % are those from Kosovo, Turkey with 4.3 % and Italy with 2.1 %

**Fig. 1 Acquisition of Albanian citizenship by country of origin**

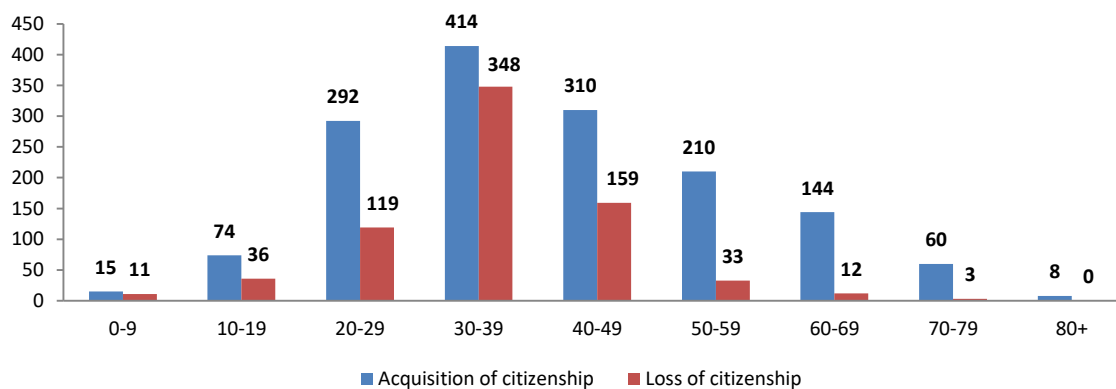


Source: Directorate of Asylum, Foreigners, and Citizenship at the Ministry of Interior

During 2022 the dominant age group is 30-39 years old with 27.1 % of persons who have acquired Albanian citizenship followed by the age group 40-49 years old and 20-29 years old with 20.3 % and 19.1 % respectively.

For persons who have lost Albanian citizenship, the dominant age group is 30-39 years old with 48.3 %, followed by the age group 40-49 years old and 20-29 years old with 22.1 % and 16.5 % respectively.

**Fig.2 Acquisition and loss of Albanian citizenship by group age**



Source: Directorate of 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 Directorate of 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.