

Acquisition of citizenship in the European Union

The act of acquisition of citizenship is often viewed as a key indicator of successful integration in the receiving country, as it usually implies a good knowledge of the country's language, culture and society, as well as some level of contribution to economic activity in general. The acquisition of citizenship is to be considered as an important step of the migratory process. In many Member States the citizenship of a child is determined by its parents' citizenship, rather than its place of birth, therefore the acquisition of citizenship concerns not only migrants but also their descendents.

This issue presents the latest available figures on the acquisition of citizenship of the Member States of the EU-27 (including Bulgaria and Romania, which joined the EU on 1 January 2007), disaggregated by country of previous citizenship of the person concerned.

Highlights

The number of persons who acquired the citizenship of one of the EU-27 Member States¹ continued to increase during the first years of the current decade, but the rate of increase is lower than that recorded in the previous decade. During 2006 a total of approximately 735,000 new citizenships were granted by the countries of the EU-27.

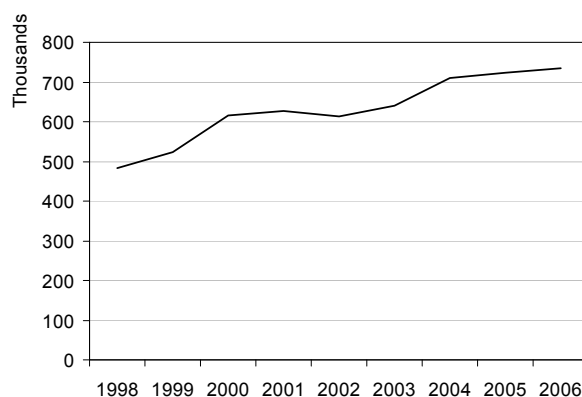
France, Germany and the United Kingdom granted more than 60% of the total number of citizenships acquired in the Member States of the EU-27 for the period 2002-2006.

Regarding the origin of the new citizens, the majority were previous citizens of European countries outside the EU and of African countries, with Turkey and Morocco being, in absolute terms, the main countries of previous citizenship.

The acquisitions of citizenship by persons with previous citizenship of Iraq, Somalia and Iran are relatively high compared to the foreign population from those three countries resident in the EU-27.

Acquisitions of citizenship in the EU still increasing, but at a slower pace

Figure 1: Acquisitions of citizenship, EU-27



Source: Eurostat, Migration Statistics

Over the period 2004-2006, the annual number of grants of citizenship by the countries in the European Union has continued to increase, following the clear trend that characterised the previous decade. During 2006 approximately 735,000 persons acquired the citizenship of a country of the EU-27.

During the 1990s acquisitions of citizenship in the EU-15 doubled and almost tripled². In comparison to that, the magnitude of the increase in the EU-27 during the first half of the current decade is relatively smaller. The 735,000 new acquisitions recorded in 2006 represent an increase of roughly 2.5% compared to 2004. On average every year almost 725,000 persons have received the citizenship of one of the 27 Member States in 2004-2006 and over these three years a total of almost 2.2 million citizenships have been granted.

¹ This analysis is based on EU as currently constituted

² "Acquisition of citizenship", Eurostat, SiF, [Population and social conditions](#), 23-01-2004, KS-NK-04-003

Table 1: Total acquisitions of citizenship

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Belgium	31860	31512	34754	33709	46417	62160	:	24196	34000
Bulgaria	6738	5882	5783	4389	3544	:	:	:	:
Czech Republic	2346	2626	5020	2199	3261	:	:	7309	:
Denmark	7961	10197	14976	6583	17300	11902	18811	12416	10262
Germany*	124566	117241	127153	140731	154547	180349	186688	:	:
Estonia	4781	7072	6543	3706	4091	3090	3425	4534	9969
Ireland	5763	4079	3784	3993	:	2817	1143	1433	1474
Greece	1962	1711	1425	1896	:	:	:	:	807
Spain	62375	42860	38220	26517	21805	16743	16743	16384	12550
France	147868	154827	168826	139938	92552	:	:	94002	81449
Italy	35266	28659	19140	13406	:	:	:	:	:
Cyprus	2917	3952	4534	247	126	:	296	97	:
Latvia	18964	20106	17178	9951	9421	9947	13482	12914	:
Lithuania*	467	435	610	471	504	507	490	567	562
Luxembourg	1128	954	841	785	754	496	684	549	631
Hungary	6101	9870	5432	5261	3369	8430	5393	6066	6203
Malta**	474	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Netherlands*	29089	28488	26171	28799	45321	46667	49968	62090	59173
Austria*	25746	34876	41645	44694	36011	31731	24320	:	17786
Poland	989	2866	1937	1653	1182	1070	:	:	:
Portugal	3627	1655	1346	2479	255	1419	1143	584	519
Romania*	29	767	282	139	242	363	:	247	:
Slovenia*	3204	2684	3333	3306	2808	1346	2102	2337	3321
Slovakia*	1125	1393	4016	3492	3484	2886	:	:	:
Finland	4433	5683	6880	4526	3049	2720	2977	4730	4017
Sweden	51239	39573	28893	33222	37792	36399	43474	37777	46520
United Kingdom	154015	161755	148275	130535	120125	90295	82210	54902	53934

* For certain countries only acquisitions by naturalisation are available (see methodological notes); ** Estimate

Source: Eurostat, Migration Statistics

In absolute terms, grants of citizenship by France, United Kingdom and Germany during this period amount to 60% of all acquisitions, with these three countries sharing roughly 20% each. The analysis shows that in each year after 2002 those countries occupy the first three places with relatively high percentages. The remaining 40% is distributed among the rest of the EU-27 countries. Spain and Sweden are the countries that follow the top three, with 6.6% and 5.5% respectively of the total number of new citizenships in 2004-2006.

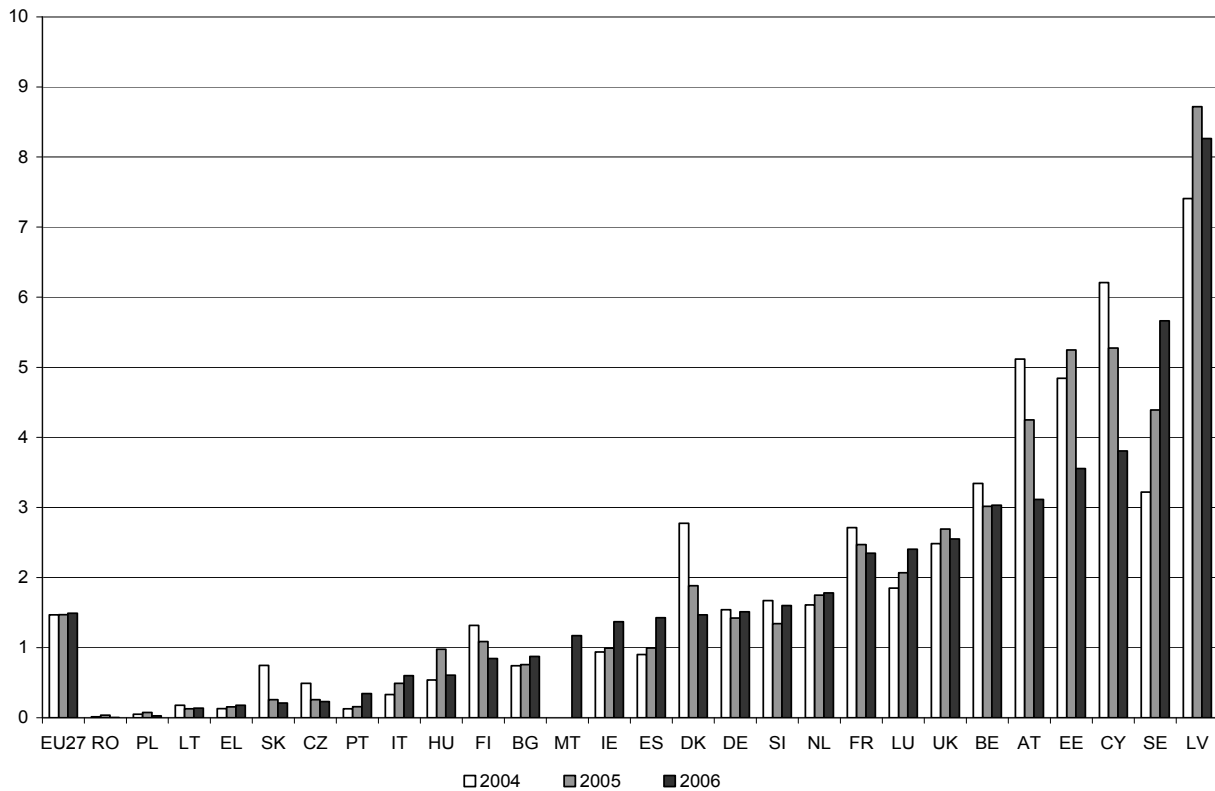
The countries which recorded the highest increase during those three years in comparison to the average for 1998-2000 are Spain and Ireland, for which the annual average numbers tripled.

In relative terms, considering the number of acquisitions as a share of the total population in the country, Latvia recorded the highest ratio with more than 8 acquisitions of citizenships in 2006 per thousand inhabitants, followed by Sweden and Cyprus, as shown by Figure 2. It should be noticed that Latvia's high ratio is due to a significant group known as Latvian non-citizens (a particular category of recognized non-citizens, see methodological notes) who are responsible for the high number of applications and decisions for

Latvian citizenship. On the other hand the lowest ratios were recorded in Romania, Poland, Lithuania, Greece, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Portugal. The countries which are closest to the EU average, approximately 1.5 acquisitions per thousand inhabitants, are Ireland, Spain, Denmark, Germany and Slovenia.

Figure 2 presents as well the development in time of the ratio of the acquisitions of citizenship to the total population for the years 2004-2006. A group of countries, including Sweden, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain, Ireland, Bulgaria, Italy, Portugal and Greece, exhibits an increasing trend over the last three years. A second group, including Cyprus, Austria, France, Denmark, Finland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, shows a decreasing trend while a third group includes Member States with no clear tendency. Bulgaria is the only country with increasing citizenship grants per total population, for which the total population has been decreasing. Germany and the United Kingdom are among the countries for which the relation between acquisitions and total population has remained fairly stable in the period considered.

Figure 2: Acquisitions of citizenship per thousand inhabitants, 2004-2006



	EU27	RO	PL	LT	EL	SK	CZ	PT	IT	HU	FI	BG	MT	IE	ES	DK	DE	SI	NL	FR	LU	UK	BE	AT	EE	CY	SE	LV
2004	1.5	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.5	1.3	0.7	0.9	0.9	2.8	1.5	1.7	1.6	2.7	1.8	2.5	3.3	5.1	4.8	6.2	3.2	7.4	
2005	1.5	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.5	1.0	1.1	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.9	1.4	1.3	1.7	2.5	2.1	2.7	3.0	4.2	5.2	5.3	4.4	8.7	
2006	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.8	2.3	2.4	2.5	3.0	3.1	3.6	3.8	5.7	8.3

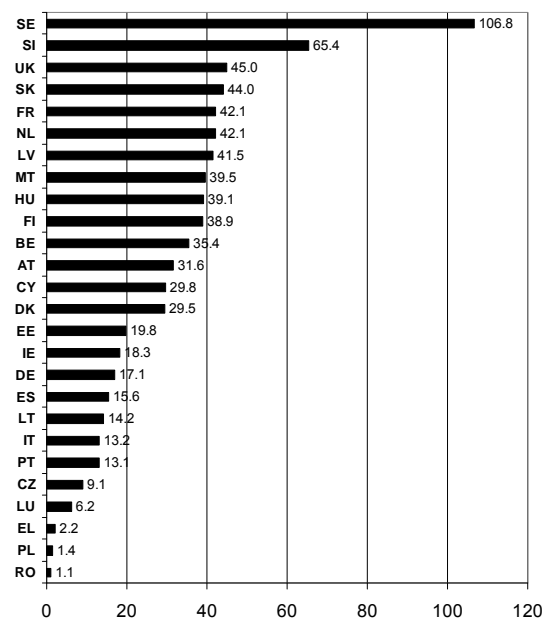
Source: Eurostat, Migration Statistics

Another view of the tendencies in the different Member States can be obtained by looking at the ratio of the acquisitions of citizenships in 2006 to the number of foreigners who are resident in the different countries (Figure 3). In this case, Sweden has the highest ratio with almost 107 grants of citizenship per thousand non-nationals registered in the country, well above Slovenia, the country in second position.

A significant ratio, above 40 grants per thousand foreigners, was also recorded for the United Kingdom, Slovakia, France, the Netherlands and Latvia while the lowest ratios were observed for Romania, Poland and Greece. For the vast majority of the countries, however, the ratio varies between 10 and 45 acquisitions per thousand non-nationals.

For the purpose of this analysis, Bulgaria has not been included because the available figures on the stock of foreign population are not entirely comparable.

Figure 3: Acquisitions of citizenship per thousand non-nationals, 2006

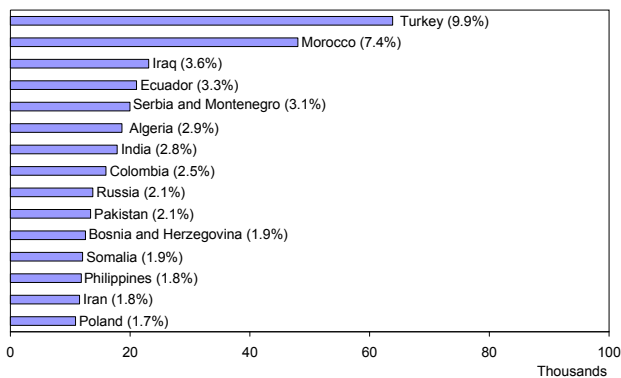


Source: Eurostat, Migration Statistics

Turkey and Morocco are the main origins of those who acquired citizenship of an EU Member State in 2006

The data on acquisitions of citizenship disaggregated by country of previous citizenship are available for 24 EU Member States for 2006. According to these data, citizens of Turkey and Morocco were the most common to acquire the citizenship of an EU country during that period. Grants given to the citizens of those two countries account for 17% of the total citizenship grants in the Member States in 2006 (see Figure 4). Citizens of Iraq, Ecuador, Serbia and Montenegro and Algeria are also among the most numerous of those who have acquired the citizenship of an EU country.

Figure 4: Main previous citizenships of persons acquiring citizenship of an EU-27 Member State, 2006



Source: Eurostat, Migration Statistics

The highest proportion of previous Turkish citizens (52%) obtained German citizenship, while the highest proportion of previous Moroccan citizens (46%) acquired French citizenship. In 2006 previous Turkish citizens had a sizeable presence in citizenship acquisitions in Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Austria and Sweden whereas Moroccans were among the five most numerous groups of new citizens in Belgium, Spain, France, Italy and the Netherlands (see Table 3).

In general, for almost every previous citizenship, one particular Member State is largely predominant in terms of the proportion of new citizenship grants (see Table 2). Germany granted its citizenship to the largest share of applicants from Israel, Poland, Turkey and Ukraine. Similarly France was the country of new citizenship for the largest part of applicants from Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco and the United Kingdom for applicants from South Africa, India, Pakistan and Nigeria.

Historical connections often explain the links between the countries of previous and new citizenship. For example ancestors of people with Jewish origin who left Germany prior to the Second World War have the right to return and receive German citizenship. Former colonial territories of France and the UK are predominant in terms of citizenship acquisitions in those two Member States. Language is an important related factor, which may explain the relatively high share of those from Latin America to Portugal and Spain. Another important group are those people seeking asylum from war and political instability. Many of those will eventually seek citizenship of the new country of residence. This may be reflected in the relatively large number of Somali and Iraqi citizens who have acquired the citizenship of an EU Member State. For more detailed information refer to Tables 2 and 3.

Table 2: Principle previous citizenships of persons acquiring the citizenship of an EU-27 Member State, 2006

Rank	Previous citizenship	EU Member State *	%**
1	Turkey	→ Germany	52%
2	Morocco	→ France	46%
3	Iraq	→ Sweden	56%
4	Ecuador	→ Spain	92%
5	Serbia and Montenegro	→ United Kingdom	38%
6	Algeria	→ France	85%
7	India	→ United Kingdom	85%
8	Colombia	→ Spain	80%
9	Russia	→ Germany	34%
10	Pakistan	→ United Kingdom	77%
11	Bosnia and Herzegovina	→ Austria	37%
12	Somalia	→ United Kingdom	75%
13	Philippines	→ United Kingdom	75%
14	Iran	→ Germany	32%
15	Poland	→ Germany	64%
16	Romania	→ Hungary	41%
17	Sri Lanka	→ United Kingdom	59%
18	Afganistan	→ United Kingdom	37%
19	Ukraine	→ Germany	50%
20	Tunisia	→ France	76%
21	South Africa	→ United Kingdom	89%
22	Nigeria	→ United Kingdom	75%
23	China	→ United Kingdom	37%
24	Congo, Democratic Republic	→ France	37%
25	Croatia	→ Austria	39%
26	United States	→ United Kingdom	47%
27	Peru	→ Spain	76%
28	Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	→ Bulgaria	51%
29	Israel	→ Germany	79%
30	Italy	→ Belgium	45%

* EU-27 Member State granting the citizenship

** People who received citizenship in the Member State relative to the people with the same previous citizenship who received citizenship in any EU-27 Member State, 2006

Source: Eurostat, Migration Statistics

Table 3: Main previous citizenships of persons acquiring citizenship of an EU-27 Member State, 2006

Belgium		Bulgaria		Czech Republic		Denmark					
Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%				
Morocco	7753	24.3	Form.Yug.Rep.of Macedonia	2933	43.5	Slovakia	786	33.5	Turkey	1125	14.1
Turkey	3204	10.1	Moldova	2612	38.8	Ukraine	425	18.1	Iraq	1113	14.0
Italy	2360	7.4	Ukraine	262	3.9	Romania	131	5.6	Somalia	923	11.6
Congo, Dem. Rep.	1569	4.9	Russia	244	3.6	Kazakhstan	129	5.5	Yugoslavia***	594	7.5
France	820	2.6	Serbia	240	3.6	Russia	107	4.6	Bosnia and Herzegovina	519	6.5
Germany*		Estonia		Ireland		Spain					
Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%				
Turkey	33388	26.8	Rec. non-citizens**	4395	91.9	United States	1518	26.3	Ecuador	19477	31.2
Poland	6907	5.5	Russia	355	7.4	United Kingdom	406	7.0	Colombia	12722	20.4
Russia	4679	3.8	Ukraine	15	0.3	Australia	389	6.8	Morocco	5692	9.1
Ukraine	4536	3.6	Belarus	5	0.1	South Africa	363	6.3	Peru	4713	7.6
Israel	4313	3.5	Latvia	3	0.1	Pakistan	239	4.1	Argentina	3540	5.7
France*		Italy (2003)		Latvia		Lithuania*					
Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%				
Morocco	21922	24.9	Morocco	1132	8.4	Rec. non-citizens**	18715	98.7	Rec. non-citizens**	238	51.0
Algeria	15869	18.1	Romania	977	7.3	Russia	177	0.9	Russia	151	32.3
Tunisia	6567	7.5	Albania	830	6.2	Ukraine	19	0.1	Ukraine	30	6.4
Turkey	6274	7.1	Brazil	726	5.4	Belarus	13	0.1	Belarus	28	6.0
Portugal	2760	3.1	Poland	677	5.0	Lithuania	10	0.1	Kazakhstan	6	1.3
Luxembourg		Hungary		Netherlands*		Austria*					
Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%				
Portugal	338	30.0	Romania	4326	70.9	Morocco	6896	23.7	Turkey	7542	29.3
Italy	161	14.3	Ukraine	541	8.9	Turkey	3407	11.7	Serbia	4819	18.7
Belgium	87	7.7	Serbia	457	7.5	Suriname	1636	5.6	Bosnia and Herzegovina	4596	17.9
Germany	74	6.6	Slovakia	206	3.4	China	799	2.7	Croatia	2494	9.7
France	74	6.6	Russia	108	1.8	Afganistan	562	1.9	Romania	981	3.8
Poland		Portugal		Romania*		Slovenia*					
Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%				
Ukraine	417	42.2	Cape Verde	1047	28.9	Syria	6	20.7	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1687	52.7
Russia	129	13.0	Guinea-Bissau	873	24.1	Russia	3	10.3	Serbia	547	17.1
Belarus	101	10.2	Brazil	491	13.5	Italy	2	6.9	Croatia	335	10.5
Turkey	36	3.6	Angola	336	9.3	Turkey	2	6.9	Italy	186	5.8
Vietnam	29	2.9	Venezuela	212	5.8	Iran	2	6.9	Form.Yug.Rep.of Macedonia	159	5.0
Slovakia*		Finland		Sweden		United Kingdom					
Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%	Previous citizens of	%				
Ukraine	377	33.5	Russia	1399	31.6	Iraq	12895	25.2	India	15125	9.8
Romania	147	13.1	Somalia	445	10.0	Finland	2975	5.8	Pakistan	10260	6.7
Czech Republic	121	10.8	Iraq	405	9.1	Turkey	2921	5.7	Somalia	9050	5.9
United States	113	10.0	Serbia and Montenegro	248	5.6	Iran	2796	5.5	Philippines	8840	5.7
Serbia	73	6.5	Iran	213	4.8	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2627	5.1	South Africa	7670	5.0

* % of total citizenships granted in 2006 by the Member State. The citizenships correspond to those recorded at the time of the registration

** Data by previous citizenship available only for naturalisations, for France the naturalisations were 87878 out of 147868 total acquisitions

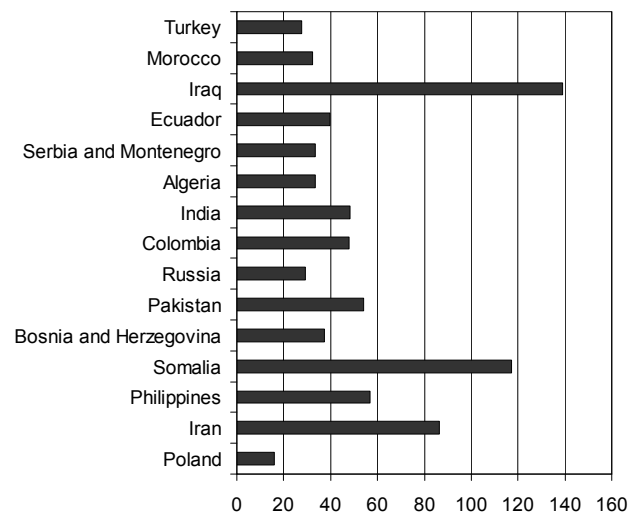
*** See methodological notes for full definition; *** People who held the citizenship of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as constituted until 1992

Source: Eurostat, Migration Statistics

The total number of acquisitions of citizenship from a particular previous citizenship depends to a large extent on the size of the foreign population of that group which is resident in the Member States. In order to consider this factor, it is possible to compute the ratio between the number of acquisitions and the stock of resident population in the EU-27 Member States, for each of the main groups of citizenship included in Figure 4.

As shown by Figure 5, based on Eurostat estimates, acquisitions of citizenship by persons with the previous citizenship of Iraq, Somalia and Iran are relatively high compared to the total population of those countries resident in the EU. This result is clearly linked to the flow of refugees and persons seeking asylum from those countries, who may have a stronger incentive to acquire the citizenship of their new county of residence.

Figure 5: Acquisitions of citizenship per thousand foreign population by previous citizenship in the EU-27, 2006



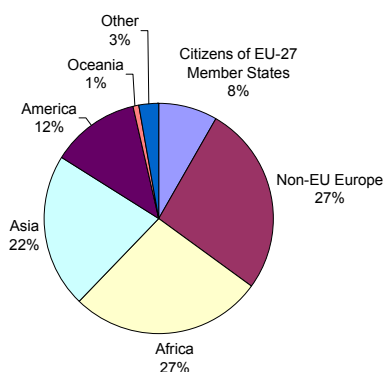
Source: Eurostat, Migration Statistics

More than one third of those who received citizenship of an EU Member State are of European origin

When looking at the distribution of the new citizens by continent of origin, Europe has the biggest contribution. More than one third (35%) of the people who received the citizenship of an EU Member State in 2006 are of European origin. About 8% are citizens of an EU country receiving citizenship in another EU country. Approximately one quarter of this group is represented by previous citizens of Bulgaria and Romania. The remaining 27% are people from European countries outside the EU. Equally common (27%) are former citizens of an African country while Asia was the continent of origin of 22% of the new citizens in 2006.

In terms of the distribution by continent there are large differences from country to country. Almost all of the people who received Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Hungarian, Bulgarian or Slovenian, citizenship are of European origin. The majority of the new citizens of Austria, Luxembourg, Slovakia, Poland, the Czech Republic, Germany and Finland are also from a country of Europe (Table 5). 82% of the people who acquired Spanish citizenship are from a country of the American continents, and a relatively large part of the new citizens of Ireland, Italy and Portugal also come from there. Two thirds of the French and Portuguese grants have been given to former citizens of an African country. People with Asian and African origin account for 70% of the new citizens of the United Kingdom and 11% of the people who became Irish in 2006 are from Oceania.

Figure 6: Acquisition of citizenship by group of previous citizenship, 2006



Source: Eurostat, Migration Statistics

Acquisition of citizenship is often considered as a key indicator of successful integration as it usually implies a good knowledge of the country's language and culture. On an individual basis, the decision to apply for citizenship is the result of weighting the resulting advantages and disadvantages. Acquiring the

citizenship of a Member State allows an individual the right to move freely within the borders of the European Union. On the other hand, in doing so one could be obliged to give up his/her previous citizenship, unless both countries of previous and new citizenship allow dual citizenship. This can often be the case for people coming from countries outside the European Union. If one is already a citizen of an EU Member State, the change of citizenship might not bring a significant additional value. The outcome of each application for a new citizenship will depend on the country's legislation and individual circumstances.

Table 4: Acquisitions of citizenship by group of previous citizenship, 2006

Country	Total	Citizens of EU-27 Member States		Non EU-27 Member States citizens	
Belgium	31860	6406	20.1%	25454	79.9%
Bulgaria	6738	100	1.5%	6638	98.5%
Czech Republic	2346	1083	46.2%	1263	53.8%
Denmark	7961	501	6.3%	7460	93.7%
Germany*	124566	15493	12.4%	109073	87.6%
Estonia	4781	6	0.1%	4775	99.9%
Ireland	5763	706	12.3%	5057	87.7%
Greece	1962	:	:	:	:
Spain	62375	1037	1.7%	61338	98.3%
France	147868	:	:	:	:
Italy (2003)	13406	2505	18.7%	10901	81.3%
Cyprus	2917	472	16.2%	2445	83.8%
Latvia	18964	10	0.1%	18954	99.9%
Lithuania*	467	1	0.2%	466	99.8%
Luxembourg	1128	794	70.4%	334	29.6%
Hungary	6101	4653	76.3%	1448	23.7%
Malta**	474	:	:	:	:
Netherlands*	29089	2184	7.5%	26905	92.5%
Austria*	25746	1939	7.5%	23807	92.5%
Poland	989	49	5.0%	940	95.0%
Portugal	3627	113	3.1%	3514	96.9%
Romania*	29	2	6.9%	27	93.1%
Slovenia*	3204	276	8.6%	2928	91.4%
Slovakia*	1125	359	31.9%	766	68.1%
Finland	4433	499	11.3%	3934	88.7%
Sweden	51239	6991	13.6%	44248	86.4%
United Kingdom	154015	4855	3.2%	149160	96.8%

* Acquisition of citizenship by naturalisation only; ** Estimate

Source: Eurostat, Migration Statistics

As expected, the majority of the new acquisitions in 2006 concerned people with an origin outside the EU-27. Based on the available data, Hungary and Luxembourg are the only Member States which have granted citizenships predominantly to citizens of the EU Member States (Table 4). However it should be noticed that a large part of Hungarian citizenships issued in 2006 were granted to Romanian citizens, which at the time were not yet officially part of the EU.

Table 5: Acquisitions of citizenship by group of previous citizenship, 2006

Country	Total	Europe		Asia		Africa		America		Oceania		Other	
Belgium	31860	12898	40.5%	3593	11.3%	13616	42.7%	1164	3.7%	27	0.1%	562	1.8%
Bulgaria	6738	6491	96.3%	184	2.7%	5	0.1%	13	0.2%	2	0.0%	43	0.6%
Czech Republic	2346	1757	74.9%	286	12.2%	56	2.4%	14	0.6%	0	0.0%	233	9.9%
Denmark	7961	3191	40.1%	2941	36.9%	1465	18.4%	172	2.2%	14	0.2%	178	2.2%
Germany*	124566	76937	61.8%	31032	24.9%	10549	8.5%	3841	3.1%	61	0.0%	2146	1.7%
Estonia	4781	4776	99.9%	3	0.1%	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Ireland	5763	1210	21.0%	919	15.9%	1088	18.9%	1928	33.5%	618	10.7%	0	0.0%
Greece	1962	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Spain	62375	1683	2.7%	2079	3.3%	7620	12.2%	50954	81.7%	15	0.0%	24	0.0%
France	147868	27913	18.9%	16440	11.1%	93573	63.3%	6669	4.5%	126	0.1%	3147	2.1%
Italy (2003)	13406	5490	41.0%	1144	8.5%	2564	19.1%	4180	31.2%	14	0.1%	14	0.1%
Cyprus	2917	750	25.7%	211	7.2%	119	4.1%	56	1.9%	53	1.8%	1728	59.2%
Latvia	18964	18936	99.9%	9	0.0%	1	0.0%	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	17	0.1%
Lithuania*	467	453	97.0%	13	2.8%	0	0.0%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Luxembourg	1128	953	84.5%	61	5.4%	85	7.5%	21	1.9%	0	0.0%	8	0.7%
Hungary	6101	5905	96.8%	138	2.3%	38	0.6%	19	0.3%	1	0.0%	0	0.0%
Malta**	474	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Netherlands*	29089	7077	24.3%	3681	12.7%	8979	30.9%	2831	9.7%	57	0.2%	6464	22.2%
Austria*	25746	22649	88.0%	1678	6.5%	1092	4.2%	263	1.0%	8	0.0%	56	0.2%
Poland	989	761	76.9%	146	14.8%	48	4.9%	32	3.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Portugal	3627	168	4.6%	87	2.4%	2535	69.9%	830	22.9%	6	0.2%	1	0.0%
Romania*	29	11	37.9%	15	51.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	10.3%
Slovenia*	3204	3066	95.7%	30	0.9%	15	0.5%	86	2.7%	5	0.2%	2	0.1%
Slovakia*	1125	889	79.0%	86	7.6%	12	1.1%	129	11.5%	4	0.4%	5	0.4%
Finland	4433	2553	57.6%	1021	23.0%	658	14.8%	102	2.3%	15	0.3%	84	1.9%
Sweden	51239	19190	37.5%	23542	45.9%	3776	7.4%	2790	5.4%	134	0.3%	1807	3.5%
United Kingdom	154015	23335	15.2%	64275	41.7%	46280	30.0%	12015	7.8%	4980	3.2%	3130	2.0%

* Acquisition of citizenship by naturalisation only; ** Estimate

Source: Eurostat, Migration Statistics

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Data are predominantly provided by the National Statistical Offices of the 27 Member states as part of the annual Joint Questionnaire on International Migration Statistics conducted by Eurostat in cooperation with UNSD, UNECE and ILO. The coverage of the data may vary from year to year and between Member States.

For the purpose of this publication EU means EU-27 including Bulgaria and Romania, which joined the EU on 1 January 2007.

EU-27 Member States: Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE) and United Kingdom (UK).

The data on acquisition of citizenship are disaggregated by previous citizenship of the persons concerned. Until 2003 only total acquisitions have been collected, whereas from 2004 onwards a further disaggregation by type of acquisition (naturalisation or other) has been introduced.

Citizenship - The particular legal bond between an individual and his or her State, acquired by birth or naturalisation, whether by declaration, choice, marriage or other means according to the national legislation.

Naturalisation - Process by which a State grants its citizenship to an alien through a formal act on the application of the individual concerned, usually based on a minimum period of legal residence and a certain degree of integration. International law does not provide detailed rules for naturalisation, but it recognizes the competence of every State to naturalise those who are not its citizens and who apply to become such. The share of naturalisations

among total acquisitions of citizenship varies considerably across Member States according to the national legislation.

Other - Other ways of granting a citizenship different from naturalisation. International law does not provide detailed rules, but it recognizes the competence of every State. Examples: spouses of nationals, minors adopted by nationals, descendants of nationals born abroad returning to the country of origin of their ancestors, etc.

Recognised non-citizen - Person who is not a citizen of the reporting country nor of any other country, but who has established links to that country which includes some but not all rights and obligations of full citizenship. This category is particularly relevant in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Countries that provided data by naturalisation only: DE, LT, NL, AT, RO, SI, SK.

For the period 2002-2006:

Data not available: EL2002, IE2002, IT2002, MT.

Data not available by citizenship: EL, IE2002-2004, IT2005-2006, PT2005, UK2002.

For the period 2004-2006:

Data not available by type of acquisition: BE, DK, EL, ES2004, IE2004, LV2004-2005, HU, PL, FI, SE.

Data by citizenship reported for naturalisations only: FR2006, IT2004, CY2004-2005.

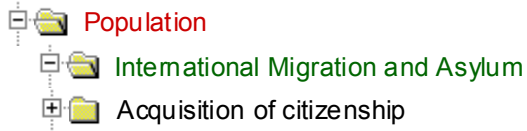
Further information

Data: [Eurostat Website: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat)

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Data: [Eurostat Web site/ Population and social conditions](#)

Population and social conditions



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