



EMN Ad-Hoc Query on NO NCP Ad-Hoc Query on Iraqi Kurdish population in Europe

Requested by Eivind HOFFMANN on 29th January 2016

Integration

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom, Norway (22 in total)

Disclaimer:

The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.



Background information:

This ad hoc query is connected to the research project Possibilities and Realities of Return Migration (<https://www.prio.org/Projects/Project/?x=1483>), led by the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) and funded by The Research Council of Norway. The information requested is part of an effort to map the Iraqi Kurdish population in Europe today, to understand the historical dynamic of this migration, and to enable us to better predict the number of future migrants from Iraqi Kurdistan and where they will go in Europe.

Summary

The attached file includes a summary with the compilation of replies, which all are open.

Questions





1. 1. There are typically no precise estimates for the population of immigrants in Europe with a country background from Iraqi Kurdistan, as this group is often separately identified from other 'Iraqis'. Could the MS provide an approximate estimate, or alternatively, upper and lower range estimates, for the number of immigrants from Iraqi Kurdistan with permanent resident permits in EMN member states as indicated in the table attached? - **Please fill** the table in the attached word AHQ.




If you cannot identify Iraqis *with* Kurdish background from other Iraqis, provide information for *all* Iraqis. Please indicate if the figures are statistics based on reliable databases, or estimates

2. 2. Please provide a brief description of the source for the statistics provided in your reply to question 1.
3. 3. Have there been any significant changes in the asylum or return policies specifically concerning Iraqi Kurds, since 1990?
YES/NO

If yes, could you briefly describe and date the most important changes?



Responses




	Country	Wider Dissemination	Response
	Austria	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. This query cannot be answered, because the ethnical composition of Iraqis holding a residence title is statistically not covered. Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.2. N/A.3. N/A.
	Belgium	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Please see the attached document.2. Please see the attached document.3. Please see the attached document.
	Bulgaria	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Statistics based on reliable database2. Information database of the Ministry of Interior (MoI)3. NO
	Croatia	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Unfortunately we cannot provide a migration statistics for Iraqis with Kurdish background by the year. The number of permanent residences issued for Iraqi immigrants in Croatia as of February 2016 is 4 and number of temporary residences is 11.2. Sources are collected by the general national Registration System of Foreigners done by the Ministry of the Interior.




			3. No
	Czech Republic	Yes	<p>1. See the table attached.</p> <p>2. The data is drawn from the Alien Information System - CIS. CIS is a national register which is administered by the Police of the Czech Republic and which contains information about foreigners – its primary objective is their evidence and information about their residence permits/visas status.</p> <p>3. No. There have been no significant changes monitored since 1990s. Generally, the number of these Iraqis is very negligible. No special return programs apply to them.</p>
	Estonia	Yes	<p>1. Please see the attached document.</p> <p>2. The source for these numbers is the registry of residence and work permits which is administered by the Police and Border Guard Board.</p> <p>3. N/A. In Estonia there are no specific asylum or return policies concerning Iraqi Kurds. Every decision is made case by case taking into account individual and relevant circumstances.</p>
	Finland	Yes	<p>1. As of Dec. 31st Number of Iraqi Kurds with permanent residence permits Alternatively: Number of ALL Iraqis with permanent residence permits Give the source for the statistics or estimates. If estimate give upper and lower ranges if possible 1970 n/a n/i - 1980 n/a n/i - 1990 n/a 107* (5**) Statistics Finland 2000 n/a 3102 (514) Statistics Finland 2010 n/a 5024 (3425) Statistics Finland 2014 n/a 6795 (4914) Statistics Finland * The number indicates persons of Iraqi nationality residing in Finland ** The figure in brackets indicate the number of persons of Iraqi origin who have been granted Finnish citizenship</p> <p>2. Ethnic Kurds are in the same statistics as other Iraqis. As a rule of thumb , you might say that most Iraqi asylum seekers arriving to Finland were Kurds up until 2013. During 2014-2016 Arabs have become the major ethnic group among Iraqi asylum seekers in Finland. (Source: Peter Sandelin, Researcher at the Finnish Immigration Service) As asylum seekers Iraqi Kurds began arriving to</p>



Finland in more substantial numbers in February 1993, when 108 persons came to Finland on the same day, and 1997, when 150 Kurds, who were mostly Iraqis, arrived to Finland. Kurds also began arriving to Finland as quota refugees from 1993 onwards. (Source: Leitzinger, Antero 1999. Kurdistan. Directorate of Immigration Publications 1). An independent researcher (Östen Wahlbeck, University of Helsinki) has estimated the number of Iraqi Kurds in the mid 1990:es as 550 – 800 persons.



3. In guidelines of the Finnish Immigration Service, there have not been any significant changes regarding Iraqi Kurds. Iraqi Kurdistan has been considered to be fairly safe and more stable, than the rest of Iraq. (2007, 2009 and 2011). The latest security situation assessment states the following: Finnish Immigration Service 20th October 2015: Security situation in many regions of Iraq has eased: “Individual situation is decisive for Iraqi asylum claims, not the area of origin The Finnish Immigration Service has updated its guidelines concerning Iraq. On the basis of the assessment, the security situation in many areas in Iraq has eased, which influences the decision-making in asylum matters at the Finnish Immigration Service. The situation in Iraq is still difficult and the harsh living conditions pose an additional challenge in large parts of the country. Compared with the Finnish Immigration Service’s previous assessment, the security situation has eased especially in the Babylon Province and the City of Kirkuk. The security situation in Baghdad is still problematic, but all people who come from Baghdad cannot be considered to run a personal risk of falling victim to violence. The applications for international protection are examined individually and decided on the basis of the person’s statement concerning personal persecution after considering the facts obtained about the security situation in different regions of Iraq and the available information. The new assessment of the security situation in Iraq means that the applications are examined and decided individually having regard to the reasons cited by the applicants at their asylum interview and how they justify their need for asylum. A person cannot be granted asylum only because he or she comes from a particular area.” 15th September 2015: “Administrative Court confirmed: Asylum seekers from southern Iraq and Kurdistan are not granted protection The Finnish Immigration Service does not grant residence permits to asylum seekers from Iraqi Kurdistan or the provinces in southern Iraq (Karbala, Wasit, Najaf, Qadisiya, Maysan, Muthana, Dhi Qar and Basra) solely on the basis of the security situation in the region. The Administrative Court of Helsinki confirmed the guideline by rejecting appeals against negative decisions issued by the Finnish Immigration Service. Already in April and May, the Supreme Administrative Court supported the Finnish Immigration Service’s



			assessment of the security situation in Kurdistan and southern Iraq. On the basis of up-to-date country information, the Finnish Immigration Service and the Administrative Court consider these regions to be still safe for their residents on the whole. If asylum seekers do not have reliable documents on their domicile, they must be able to prove their knowledge of the home region when they are heard by the police and the Finnish Immigration Service. If there are considerable gaps in the knowledge of the region and the language analysis supports this impression, the asylum seeker is not issued with a residence permit on the basis of an allegedly unsafe domicile.”
	France	Yes	<p>1. There are no statistics readily available for Iraqi Kurds in France as their number has been combined with co-nationals. See attached statistics on the number of ALL Iraqis with residence permits (10 years or permanent residence permits), provided by the Department of Statistics, Studies and Documentation of the Directorate-General for Foreign Nationals in France of the ministry of the Interior.</p> <p>2. See question 1.</p> <p>3. Again it is not possible to say if there have been any significant changes in the asylum or return policies specifically concerning Iraqi Kurds as statistics relate to ALL Iraqis. Concerning the latter, French authorities carry out forced returns only towards Iraq (Bagdad) but not towards Iraqi Kurdistan (Erbil), even if in 2010 the French ministry for Immigration carried out a few removals towards this city. In view of the country’s political situation, forced returns to Iraq are suspended since March 2015, as Iraqi citizens are considered to be in need of international protection. France does not have a peculiar policy concerning asylum seekers from Iraqi Kurdistan: the granting of the refugee status or of the subsidiary protection pursuant to Art. 15 (c) of the Qualification Directive depends on the applicant’s profile. However, this may change in the future in view of the current political situation.</p>
	Germany	Yes	<p>1. In 2014 we had 33.085 Iraqis with permanent residence Permit.</p> <p>2. Source: Central Register of Foreigners (AZR). No evaluation before 2011 possible.</p>

			3. See supporting document.
	Hungary	Yes	<p>1. Table filled according to the attached word AHQ and sent by e-mail.</p> <p>2. Hungary does not have relevant data for this period of time concerning decisions in Iraqi asylum seekers' cases, nor do we run statistics of nationalities within asylum cases from Iraq.</p> <p>3. At the moment there is no general policy applied to the Iraqi applications. We investigate all the individual circumstances and country information in every single case. In Iraqi Kurds' cases Hungary considers the Kurdish Region applicable as internal protection alternative. There have not been any significant changes in return policies concerning Iraqi citizens in the last 15 years. The return operations were fulfilled and handled according to the effective national law of that period. During the period 2001-2015, 16 Iraqi citizens were returned to Iraq forcibly with assistance till the Hungarian border or to Iraq. During this period 9 Iraqi citizens returned voluntarily in the IOM AVR projects.</p>
	Ireland	Yes	<p>1. Please see response provided in attached table.</p> <p>2. Please see response provided in attached table.</p> <p>3. Please see response provided in attached table.</p>
	Italy	Yes	<p>1. See attached file</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> At present, there are no available statistics on Iraqi Kurds alone. <input type="checkbox"/> The data in the Table refers to all types of residence permit issued to Iraqi nationals in Italy. <input type="checkbox"/> ISTAT (Italian National Statistical Institute) provides disaggregated data on the types of residence permit starting from 2011. <input type="checkbox"/> Number of Iraqis who are long-term residents: in 2011, 367; in 2012, 409; in 2013, 454; in 2014, 473; and in 2015, 507.</p>

			3. No significant changes.
	Latvia	Yes	<p>1. Answer to this question provided in a table format in the attached Word file.</p> <p>2. Register of Populations contains data on all persons who are citizens of Latvia, non-citizens of Latvia or who have been issued residence permit in Latvia.</p> <p>3. The number of asylum seekers from Iraq in Latvia was very small (from 1998 to 2014 -38; Kurds are not divided separately in statistics) and only few of them were from Kurdistan region. In the 2nd part of 2015 the number of Iraqi asylum seekers started to increase (2015 - 86) and part of them - from the areas bordering Kurdistan or from Kurdistan. Each case is considered on its individual merits and there is no particular asylum policy towards Iraqi Kurds. There are no separate regulations adopted in the Republic of Latvia defining the asylum procedures or return procedures regarding specifically Iraqi Kurds.</p>
	Lithuania	Yes	<p>1. See table in the attached document.</p> <p>2. The Register of Aliens is the state register.</p> <p>3. No.</p>
	Luxembourg	Yes	<p>1. As of Dec. 31st Number of Iraqi Kurds with permanent residence permits Alternatively: Number of ALL Iraqis with permanent residence permits Give the source for the statistics or estimates. If estimate give upper and lower ranges if possible 1970 n.i.a. n.i.a. 1981 n.i.a. 4 Statec, Census 1981 1991 n.i.a. 6 Statec, Census 1991 2001 n.i.a. 14 Statec, Census 2001 2011 n.i.a. 194 Statec, Census 2011 2012 n.i.a. 210 Statec, 2013 2013 n.i.a. 225 Statec, 2014 2014 n.i.a. 248 Statec, 2015 2015 n.i.a. 261 Statec, 2016</p> <p>2. The numbers provided above were provided by the National Institute of statistics and economic studies of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (STATEC) on all Iraqi nationals residing in Luxembourg based on the census of the population and on the 31 December of each year mentioned, based on the</p>

			<p>annual migration flows (declarations of arrival and declarations of departure in the municipality) and the annual natural balance. The data does however not provide information on the type of residence permit.</p> <p>3. NO.</p>
	Netherlands	Yes	<p>1. Please see the attached document. This table provides all people with Iraqi nationality living in the Netherlands, not taking into account the type of residence permit. We cannot provide any information on the ethnic background of the Iraqi nationals.</p> <p>2. Please see the attached document.</p> <p>3. The Netherlands does not have specific guidelines concerning the return of Iraqi Kurds. Specific guidelines regarding (postponement of) return of ex asylumseekers to Central and Southern Iraq were issued in 2002 and 2007. Current guidelines are that Iraqis from certain provinces (Bagdad, Anbar, Ninewa, Salaheddin, Ta'mim, Diyala en Babil) who applied for asylum will not be returned to Iraq. Return to the Iraqi region under control of the Kurdish Regional Government is possible for Iraqis originating from that region.</p>
	Poland	Yes	<p>1. See: file attached</p> <p>2. Data presented above are aggregated and generated by the Office for Foreigners (source: Pobył system administered by the Office). They are available online: http://udsc.gov.pl/en/statystyki/raporty-okresowe/zestawienia-roczne/.</p> <p>3. In general, between the beginning of 1990 until 2014, Iraqi Kurdistan was considered to be safe region. Consequently persons who had a permanent place of residence in that area were refused to be granted an international protection. Currently, in the view of security situation and increased probability of violation of human rights in the whole country, Kurds can be granted international protection in Poland. As for the return policy, Polish experience in this respect is rather limited. Also, no detailed information on Iraqis with Kurdish background is available. In general, due to the internal</p>

			situation in Iraq , Poland in 2014 (29th April) suspended forced returns to this country. In 2013, 8 Iraqi citizens were subject to forced returns, one Iraqi returned under the Assisted Voluntary Return Programme. In 2014, 6 Iraqis decided to voluntarily return to Iraq and in 2015 - 4.
	Slovak Republic	Yes	<p>1. It is not possible to provide these estimates. Please see the attached table with the number of all Iraqis.</p> <p>2. The statistical data provided in the table are collected based on the information system “Register of foreigners with valid residence permits in the territory of the Slovak Republic” (IS ECU). IS ECU represents a common administrative source for the preparation of European, national and other statistical data. IS ECU collects, keeps and provides information about foreigners who were granted residence permit in the territory of the Slovak Republic or their residence permit was renewed or extended, information about the procedure for granting residence permit to foreigners and their personal data.</p> <p>3. No.</p>
	Slovenia	Yes	<p>1. Q.1. We do not have statistics available for Iraqis with Kurdish background only. We can provide: a.) number of residents issued for Iraqi immigrants; b.) number of recognized international protection status for Iraqi;</p> <p>2. Sources are collected by the general national Registration System of Foreigners done by the Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p>3. N/A</p>
	Sweden	Yes	<p>1. 1970 n/a n/a 1980 n/a n/a 1990 n/a n/a 2000 n/a n/a 2010 n/a 50200 National statistics 2014 n/a 19100 National statistics</p> <p>2. Those within the population registration as present.</p>

			3. We have no sources for ethnicity.
	United Kingdom	Yes	<p>1. See attached table.</p> <p>2. See attached table.</p> <p>3. See attached table.</p>
	Norway	Yes	<p>1. Numbers There are no statistics readily available for Iraqi Kurds in Norway. As with Kurds from Turkey, Syria and Iran, their number has been combined with co-nationals. In general, Norway does not have statistics on ethnic identity. The number of resident Iraqi immigrants 1970 -2014 is given here: As of Dec. 31st Number of Iraqi Kurd immigrants resident Alternatively: Number of ALL Iraqi immigrants resident Give the source for the statistics or estimates. If estimate give upper and lower ranges if possible 1970 Not available 24 Statistics Norway from Central Population register 1980 na 38 idem 1990 na 738 idem 2000 na 6941 idem 2010 na 20604 idem 2014 na 22149 idem Not included are asylum seekers waiting for a decision and former asylum with a negative decision who have not yet left</p> <p>2. All persons residing legally in Norway for 6 months or more are to be registered with the Central Population Register (CPR). All those leaving the country for 6 months or more should report this to the CPR, which also may de-register persons who are discovered to have failed to report their absence. (There are certain exceptions to this de-registration rule, mainly linked to continued tax obligations and because of family relationships.) Statistics Norway base their statistics on the resident population according to citizenship, country of birth and demographic variables on teh CPR registrations.</p> <p>3. Policy shifts • Registration of fingerprints, 1999 and check against Eurodac • Restrictions in asylum policy, 1999 as response to a significant increase in the number of asylum seekers from Iraq. The new policy was to offer one year residence and work permits with no right to seek family reunification (MUF). However, many stayed for an extended period. Many received first a series of temporary residence permits, until they got final residence permits in 2006. • Fast-tracking of asylum</p>

			<p>applications, 2008 A fast-track processing of Iraqi asylum seekers was operative from October 2008 until June 2009. • Assisted Return, 2008 A country-specific return and reintegration programme, IRRINI, was established in 2008 for Iraqi The overwhelming majority of those who returned through IRRINI until the programme was ended in 2015 were rejected asylum seekers with an Iraqi Kurdish background. • Readmission agreement, 2009 Authorising Norway to forcibly return Iraqis with a negative decision on their asylum application. During the period 2002-2013, 300 were returned to Iraq forcibly or with assistance.</p>
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