European Commission - EUROSTAT

Residence permits for non-EU citizens - New high in first residence permits issued in the EU Member States in 2016 - Main beneficiaries from Ukraine, Syria and the United States

Brussels, 16 November 2017

In 2016, about 3.4 million first residence permits were issued in the **European Union** (EU) to non-EU citizens, a record number since comparable data are available (2008) and up by 28% (or nearly 735 000 residence permits) compared with 2015. This increase was mainly due to the larger number of first permits issued for 'other reasons' (+64%) as well as for employment reasons (+21%). Employment reasons accounted for a quarter (25.4%) of all first residence permits issued in the **EU** in 2016, family for 23.2% and education for 20.7%, while other reasons, including international protection and humanitarian status (about 14% of all first permits issued in 2016), represented 30.7%.

Full text available on EUROSTAT website

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