

OPEN Summary of EMN Ad-Hoc Query No. 2016.1100

Nepalese, Pakistani and Bangladeshi students

8 february 2017, prepared by NL NCP

1. KEY POINTS TO NOTE

- ★ In most (Member) States that provided data on the number of applications from Nepalese, Pakistani and Bangladeshi students, an increase of the number of applications took place between 2013 and 2016. Only in the **UK** a clear downwards trend is visible.
- ★ The increase was most pronounced for Bangladeshi and Pakistani students and to a lesser extent for Nepalese students.
- ★ The increase was the most significant in the **Sweden, the Netherlands** and **Finland** in absolute terms.
- ★ Three (Member) States, namely **Finland, Luxembourg** and **Germany**, stated that the increase in applications has given rise to concerns.
- ★ In the all (Member) States that provided data more applications had been granted than rejected so far in 2016.

2. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Several Dutch higher educational institutions notified the Dutch Immigration Services of an unexpected increase of admissible students from Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh in 2016. Some of these institutions pointed out that they had serious doubts about the reliability of the agents who presented these students (and had no affiliation whatsoever with these educational institutions) and whether these applicants were legitimate students or perhaps were coming for different purposes.

There has indeed been a substantial increase in the number of applications for study purposes from Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh in the Netherlands.

The Dutch Immigration Services would consequently like to know whether or not other (Member) States are confronted by a similar development in order to be able to better understand its backgrounds. To obtain this information the Dutch national contact point of the EMN launched an ad-hoc query on this topic on 21 October 2016.

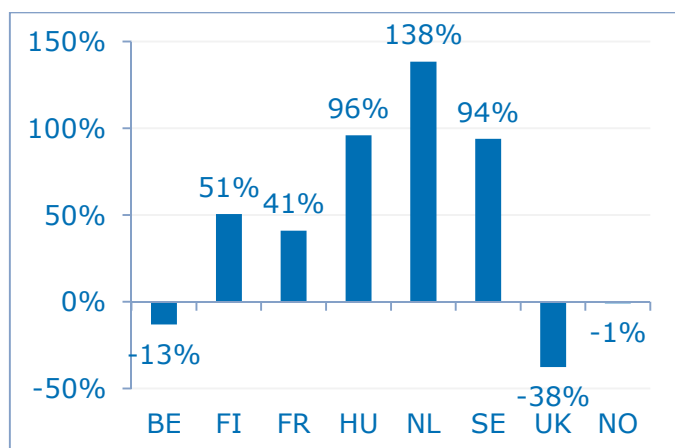
3. MAIN FINDINGS

Question 1. How many applications for residence permits for education at a higher education institution from nationals from Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh have been submitted from 2013 until now?

12 countries (**BE, CZ, EE, FI, FR, HU, LV, NL, PT, SE, UK, NO**) provided comparable data that is analysed in the following.

In most (Member) States that provided comparable data, an increase of the number of applications took place between 2013 and 2016. Of the countries with significant numbers of applications from Nepalese, Pakistani and Bangladeshi students (>150 applications in 2016), the relative increase between 2013 and 2016 was most pronounced in **the Netherlands, Hungary** and **Sweden**. In **the Netherlands** the number of applications increase by 138% (260 in 2013, 620 in 2016). In the **UK** the relative number of applications dropped by 38% between 2013 and 2016.

Figure 1. Relative change in the total number of applications from Nepalese, Pakistani and Bangladeshi Higher Education students between 2013 and 2016*



* Please note that in order not to distort the figure only the data of countries that recorded more than 150 applications in 2016 are shown in the figure.

*Please note this query was answered in October/November of 2016. Therefore the numbers provided do not cover the whole of 2016.

In absolute terms the increase was most pronounced in **Sweden** (increase of 477 applications between the years 2013 and 2016), **the Netherlands** (increase of 360) and **Finland** (increase of 235). The **UK** recorded a decrease in absolute terms of 2450 applications to study at Higher Education institutions between the years 2013 and 2016.

The increase was most pronounced for Bangladeshi and Pakistani students and to a lesser extent for Nepalese students. Of the 12 countries that provided comparable data, 8 recorded an increase in Bangladeshi students compared to 2013, 7 for Pakistani students and 5 for Nepalese students.

Figure 2. Absolute change in the number of applications from Higher Education Nepalese , Pakistani and Bangladeshi students between 2013 and 2016*

	Nepalese	Pakistani	Bangladeshi
BE	-13	-6	-4
CZ	13	-14	67
EE	-2	-9	33
FI	-44	95	184
FR	119	-10	38
HU	3	174	11
LV	-10	28	5
NL	70	130	160
PT	0	5	-6

SE	6	178	293
UK	-378	-1547	-525
NO	-18	38	-23

* Please note that data for 2016 for Portugal and Latvia was not yet available. Hence, the change calculated refers to the years 2013 and 2015.

*Please note this query was answered in October/November of 2016. Therefore the numbers provided do not cover the whole of 2016.

Question 2. Did this give rise to any concerns and if so, which concerns?

All countries, except **Finland**, **Luxembourg** and **Germany**, stated that the number of applications from Nepalese, Pakistani and Bangladeshi students did not give rise to any concerns. **Finland** noted that the number of Pakistani and Bangladeshi students is currently growing. This can be explained by the upcoming introduction of tuition fees for third country nationals in 2017. More generally, they noted that they pay specific attention to applications from the three mentioned countries, since they noted reoccurring aspects that often lead to negative decisions.

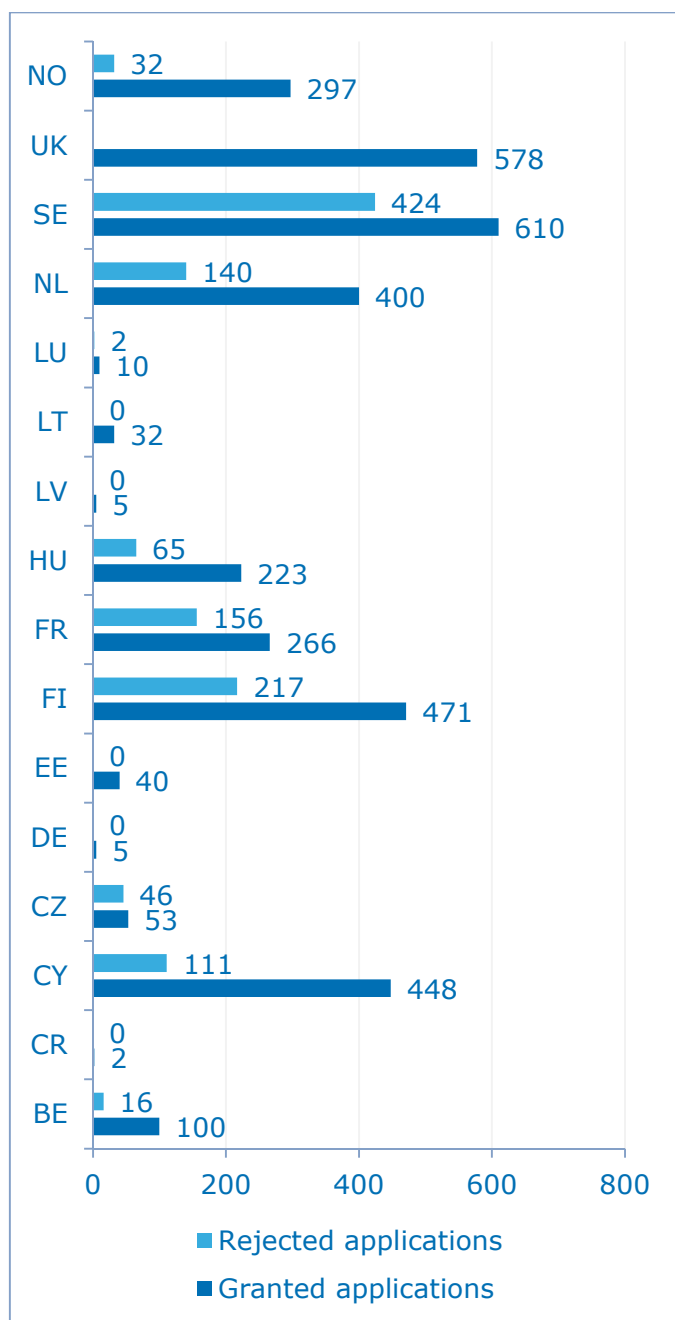
Luxembourg noted that they are aware that there were several cases, where especially Nepalese citizens have received authorization to stay as a student, but never arrived at the higher education institution in **Luxembourg**. Both **Finland** and **Luxembourg** noted that often, students from Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh do not meet the income requirements.

Germany pays special attention to marriages of convenience by means of which a long-term residence permit can be granted to a third-country national. This has happened in the past.

Question 3 and 4. How many applications for Nepalese, Pakistani and Bangladeshi students have been rejected and accepted in 2016 so far?

When analyzing the granted and rejected applications across countries no clear pattern is evident. In some countries (e.g. **Czech Republic**, **Sweden** and **France**) the rejection rates appear to be higher than others, as the number of rejections are not much lower than the numbers of granted applications in 2016 so far. In other countries, such as **Norway** and **Belgium**, there have been almost 10 times as much applications granted in 2016 than rejected.

Figure 3. Total amount of applications from Nepalese, Pakistani and Bangladeshi students granted and rejected in 2016



EMN NCPs participating: Responses from Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom, Norway (20 in total).

Responses from Austria and Slovenia are not for wider dissemination, and are therefore not included in this summary.

For more detailed information, please see **Annex 3**.

In the case of the **UK** the data for refusals by nationality is not available.

*Please note this query was answered in October/November of 2016. Therefore the numbers provided do not cover the whole of 2016.

ANNEX 1:

Total amount of applications for residence permits for education at a higher education institution from nationals from Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh that have been submitted from 2013 onwards:

	Nepalese				Pakistani				Bangladeshi			
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016
AT*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BE	32	31	28	19	77	85	75	71	68	61	68	64
CR	-	0	0	-	-	10	6	-	-	1	6	-
CY	521 Nepalese in total				2059 Pakistani in total				4151 Bangladeshi in total			
CZ	17	29	62	30	40	25	41	26	12	11	38	79
DE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EE	3	16	11	1	10	14	26	1	8	18	63	41
FI	234	222	291	190	161	207	219	256	70	102	171	254
FR	67	78	119	186	232	193	300	222	59	82	113	97
HU	19	31	16	22	161	207	211	335	16	19	27	27
LV	17	7	7	-	9	8	37	-	0	2	5	-
LT	Total amount of students in 2013: 34, 2014: 37, 2015: 28 and 2016: 32.											
LU	Total amount of students in 2013: 2, 2014: 13, 2015: 34 and 2016: 16.											
NL	80	90	110	150	100	100	160	230	80	50	130	240
PT	5	2	5	-	9	8	14	-	11	3	5	-
SK	1 Nepalese in total				0 Pakistani in total				1 Bangladeshi in total			
SI*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SE	15	19	15	21	384	461	708	562	109	216	288	402
UK	599	331	261	221	4389	4130	3667	2842	1525	1867	1355	1000
NO	186	196	186	168	92	102	120	130	52	58	49	29

* Responses from Austria and Slovenia are not for wider dissemination, and are therefore not included in this summary.

ANNEX 2:

Total amount of applications for residence permits for education at a higher education institution rejected in 2016:

	Nepalese	Pakistani	Bangladeshi
AT*	-	-	-
BE	3	8	5
CR	0	0	0
CY	3	13	95
CZ	19	3	24
DE	-	-	-
EE	0	0	0
FI	58	87	72
FR	71	52	33
HU	0	63	2
LV	-	-	-
LT	0	0	0
LU	Total of 2 students refused		
NL	50	40	50
PT	-	-	-
SK	-	-	-
SI*	-	-	-
SE	0	257	167
UK	-	-	-
NO	Total of 32 students refused		

* Responses from Austria and Slovenia are not for wider dissemination, and are therefore not included in this summary.

ANNEX 3:

Total amount of applications for residence permits for education at a higher education institution granted in 2016:

	Nepalese	Pakistani	Bangladeshi
AT*	-	-	-
BE	11	40	49
CR	0	1	1
CY	63	257	128
CZ	11	17	25
DE	2	1	2
EE	1	1	38
FI	127	167	177
FR	96	126	44
HU	13	189	21
LV	2		3
LT	Total of 32 students accepted		
LU	Total of 10 students accepted		
NL	100	140	160
PT	-	-	-
SK	-	-	-
SI*	-	-	-
SE	19	370	221
UK	20	446	112
NO	Total of 297 students accepted		

* Responses from Austria and Slovenia are not for wider dissemination, and are therefore not included in this summary.