

ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP BY NATURALISATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION - 1993

In 1993, the European Union had 11.6 million residents who did not possess the citizenship of any of the 15 Member States.

The number of naturalisations increased steeply between 1990 and 1993: a million people acquired the nationality of one or other of the 15 Member States by naturalisation. Most of them were of Moroccan, Turkish, and former-Yugoslav origin.

During those four years 140 500 people who were already citizens of one Member State acquired the citizenship of another Member State.

France was the Member State which naturalised the greatest number of people between 1990 and 1993 (233 000), followed by the United Kingdom (218 000), the Benelux countries (204 000), Germany (129 000) and Sweden (116 000).

The Netherlands and Sweden have the highest ratios of naturalisations to their resident non-national population.

Naturalisations doubled in number between 1981 and 1993

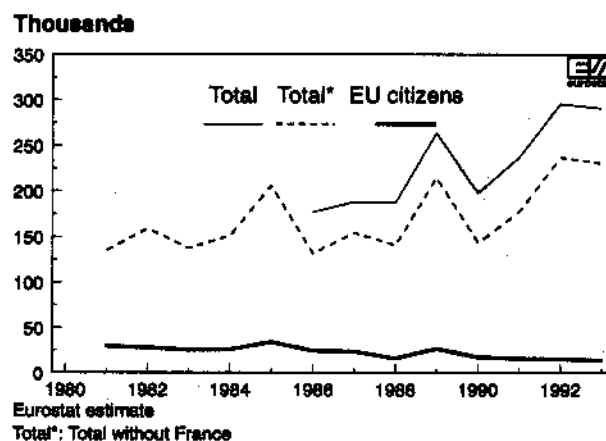
The number of naturalisations in the fifteen Member States of the European Union almost doubled between 1981 and 1993, exceeding 290 000 in both 1992 and 1993. This upward trend has not been a regular rise each year.

The increase in naturalisations recorded since the beginning of the 1990s (see Figure 1) has been due essentially to a doubling of their number in just three countries: Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands.

Two peaks in the number of naturalisations were observable in 1985 and 1989. These were the result mainly of changes in the law in Belgium and the United Kingdom respectively.

Overall there has been a decrease in the number of EU citizens acquiring the citizenship of another EU Member State, a fall of two-thirds since 1981. Moreover, whilst such naturalisations represented a quarter of the total in 1981, by 1993 they accounted for only 9%.

Figure 1:
Naturalisations in the EU, 1981 - 1993



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Table 1:
Naturalisations, 1980 - 1993



Year	EUR 15	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L
1980	:	8 586	3 772	14 969	340	5 623	:	149	288	645
1981	:	8 261	3 629	13 372	1 145	6 108	:	126	366	578
1982	:	8 034	3 027	13 064	5 332	5 761	:	212	320	655
1983	:	9 318	2 796	14 187	3 246	5 346	:	184	351	558
1984	:	8 491	2 739	14 513	1 811	4 467	:	153	788	767
1985	:	63 824	3 309	13 764	1 609	3 709	:	253	1 857	807
1986	176 745	8 477	3 622	13 878	1 204	5 132	45 624	271	3 619	770
1987	187 809	8 343	3 763	13 883	2 216	9 086	33 906	545	3 903	623
1988	186 788	8 366	3 744	16 521	1 571	8 143	46 351	333	1 243	917
1989	263 865	8 797	3 258	17 573	1 217	5 919	49 330	529	4 238	780
1990	197 610	8 657	3 028	20 078	1 090	7 033	54 381	383	5 256	893
1991	237 015	8 457	5 484	27 162	886	3 752	59 684	373	4 542	748
1992	295 665	46 368	5 104	36 906	1 204	5 226	59 252	347	4 408	739
1993	290 658	16 379	5 037	44 999	1 802	8 348	60 013	318	6 469	800

Irregular progress

The gradual increase in long-term immigration over the years has expanded the pool of people who may wish to seek naturalisation. Meanwhile, relaxation of certain countries' rules for acquisition of nationality has led to short but sharp rises in the number of naturalisations (See Table 1).

In the United Kingdom the effects of a law passed in 1981 became visible only in 1989. The British Nationality Act offered certain population groups the possibility of acquiring British citizenship, on condition that application was made before 31 December 1988. In consequence, some 300 000 extra applications were submitted in 1987 and 1988, resulting in an increase of 60 000 naturalisations in 1989 once the applications had been examined.

After 1989, the number of naturalisations returned to its previous level.

In Belgium, the Netherlands and Denmark, the effects of changes in the respective law became visible in the number of naturalisations in the year in which the law took effect. Since 1992, moreover, it has been possible in the Netherlands for those acquiring Dutch nationality to retain their nationality of origin. This led to a rise in the number of naturalisations in 1992 and again in 1993.

In Spain in 1987 and 1988, an upsurge occurred in the number of naturalisations concerning mostly non-EU citizens.

In the countries with a low number of naturalisations, there has been no significant increase over the past decade.



Table 1:
Naturalisations, 1980 - 1993

NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	FL	N	EEA	CH	Year
19 233	:	49	633	20 833	33 398	47	84	2 680	:	:	1980
19 678	7 431	84	799	18 858	54 154	62	94	2 441	:	14 299	1981
19 722	7 157	75	1 037	18 303	76 278	100	101	3 095	:	12 723	1982
11 367	9 895	98	884	18 237	60 691	100	107	1 754	:	11 831	1983
13 169	7 791	24	776	21 844	73 349	106	100	2 798	:	11 850	1984
34 671	7 308	45	1 138	20 498	53 168	138	47	2 851	:	14 393	1985
18 758	8 060	28	1 111	20 695	45 496	132	25	2 486	179 388	14 416	1986
19 258	6 616	48	1 173	19 958	64 488	145	365	2 370	190 689	12 370	1987
9 114	7 314	34	1 063	17 966	64 108	102	120	3 364	190 374	11 356	1988
28 730	7 305	210	1 504	17 752	116 723	127	86	4 622	268 700	10 342	1989
12 794	8 980	97	899	16 770	57 271	105	82	4 757	202 554	8 658	1990
29 112	11 137	43	1 236	27 663	56 736	165	64	5 055	242 299	8 757	1991
36 237	11 656	117	876	29 389	57 836	155	55	5 132	301 007	11 133	1992
43 069	14 131	2	839	42 659	45 793	177	65	5 538	296 438	12 880	1993

Turks, Moroccans and former Yugoslavs account for most naturalisations

The nationalities which accounted for most EU naturalisations in 1993 were Turkish (43 000 naturalisations) and Moroccan (31 000).

Amongst EU citizens, the Portuguese were the most numerous 6 500 to seek another EU citizenship. Most of them, 80%, acquired French citizenship (See Table 2).

The nationalities acquired generally reflect the numbers of non-national population, e.g.

- Virtually all Europe's Surinamese are resident in the Netherlands. 99% of naturalised Surinamese acquired Dutch citizenship;
- Algerian, Tunisian and Portuguese migrants live mainly in France. French citizenship was acquired by 88% of the Algerians, 80% of the Portuguese and 68% of the Tunisians who were naturalised;
- Moroccans are present in significant numbers in several Member States, including France, the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. Their naturalisation rates do to some extent reflect their presence in those countries.

There are exceptions, however. Certain groups of citizens highly represented in certain countries do not habitually acquire citizenship (e.g. Filipinos in Italy, Iranians in Germany). The explanation seems to be simply that these are both recent waves of immigration, which have taken place within the past ten years. This is also the case for citizens of the former Yugoslavia, whose arrival is too recent yet to be reflected in naturalisation figures.

Of the Turkish citizens in the EU, almost three-quarters are resident in Germany. However, more have acquired Dutch citizenship (42%) than German (28%).

Although more than 400 000 United States citizens lived in Europe in 1993, very few had acquired the citizenship of any Member State. Vietnamese, on the other hand, had a high proportion of naturalisations in every country for which data are available.

Table 2: Naturalisations by previous citizenship - 1993



	EUR 15 ¹	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L ¹	NL
Previous citizenship											
TOTAL	290658	16379	5037	44999	1802	8348	60013	318	6469	800	43069
EUR 15	25830	2793	499	3269	:	1208	8298	:	454	600*	1441
Belgium	600		4 ²	70	:	21	244	:	15	63	120
Denmark	400	1		16	:	9	3	:	4	:	2
Germany	1600	52	134		:	47	108	:	42	68	329
Greece	1400	170	9	264	:	8	96	:	114	:	88
Spain	2000	196	10	175	:		1385	:	55	:	48
France	1400	532	13	237	:	148		:	48	89	62
Ireland	200	2	3	6	:	7	22	:	6	:	12
Italy	3900	1431	8	893	:	54	937	:		151	104
Luxembourg	30	11	:	6	:	-	3	:	2		2
Netherlands	1000	222	11	506	:	8	39	:	5	22	
Austria	900	8	4	679	:	9	23	:	33	:	36
Portugal	6500	85	5	117	:	726	5233	:	41	:	134
Finland	3200	3	25	17	:	18	6	:	4	:	8
Sweden	900	1	188	19	:	16	9	:	9	:	3
United Kingdom	1600	79	85	264	:	137	190	:	76	:	493
OTHER EEA	650	:	183	16	:	4	13	:	2	:	2
Iceland	70	:	19	8	:	-	2	:	-	:	-
Liechtenstein	10	:	-	1	:	-	-	:	1	:	-
Norway	575	:	164	7	:	4	11	:	1	:	2
OTHER EUROPE	88000	4089	989	22680	:	131	5443	:	2240	:	20908
of which:											
Switzerland	1000	:	:	14	:	6	693	:	468	:	32
Turkey	43200	3305	560	12071	:	13	1515	:	94	:	18001
Ex-Yugoslavia	25800	:	138	3946	:	23	1652	:	337	:	2300
AFRICA	70000	7292	343	5605	:	1304	33739	:	1082	:	10206
of which:											
Algeria	9200	543	:	262	:	39	7909	:	58	:	61
Morocco	30800	5500	168	2068	:	983	13132	:	236	:	7747
Tunisia	7900	416	:	1435	:	9	5370	:	106	:	220
AMERICA	28700	368	142	892	:	4443	2665	:	1633	:	6007
of which:											
Argentina	2500	:	:	74	:	1532	143	:	571	:	38
United States	2100	54 ⁴	35	143	:	68	323	:	84	:	137
Surinam	5100	:	:	:	:	-	27	:	-	:	4986
ASIA	61900	904	2256	10386	:	1176	9748	:	1035	:	4273
of which:											
India	7200	:	62	538	:	155	202	:	41	:	342
Iran	10200	:	710	446	:	126	485	:	94	:	542
Pakistan	6700	:	192	648	:	38	398	:	15	:	437
Philippines	4400	:	68	1186	:	381	98	:	223	:	224
Unknown / Not specified	15600	933	625	2151*	:	82	107	:	23	200*	232

¹ No breakdown by previous nationality is available for the 288 minor children who acquired Luxembourg nationality at the same time as their parents.

² Belgium and Luxembourg.

³ Surinam, Caribbean, Guyanese, Paraguayan.

⁴ United States and Canada.

The countries presented in this table were selected for each country on the basis of the relative numbers of naturalisations according to previous citizenship.

Table 2: Naturalisations by previous citizenship - 1993

A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	FL	N	EEA *	CH	
										Previous citizenship
14131	2	839	42659	45793	177	65	5538	296438	12880	TOTAL
613	-	135	4351	1364	56	40	579	26500	6046	EUR 15
7	-	:	:	28	1	-	2	600	40	Belgium
3	-	:	283	17	23	-	119	500	8	Denmark
398	-	11	154	248	7	10	56	1700	883	Germany
27	-	:	463	171	-	-	7	1400	197	Greece
9	-	:	34	92	-	1	6	2000	319	Spain
10	-	:	32	247	-	-	16	1500	858	France
1	-	:	:	142	3	-	1	200	13	Ireland
80	-	:	60	193	5	9	14	4000	2766	Italy
2	-	:	-	-	-	-	-	30	5	Luxembourg
23	-	:	31	55	1	-	30	1000	76	Netherlands
	-	:	46	45	1	20	9	900	412	Austria
6	-	:	77	76	1	-	14	6600	89	Portugal
9	-	:	3070	21	3	-	46	3200	10	Finland
7	-	109		29	2	-	153	1000	23	Sweden
31	-	15	101		9	-	106	1700	347	United Kingdom
5	-	:	322	77	2	-	19	675	17	OTHER EEA
-	-	:	31	6	-	-	19	90	-	Iceland
5	-	:	:	-	-	-	-	10	12	Liechtenstein
-	-	:	291	71	2	-	-	575	5	Norway
10446	-	:	17711	2807	18	24	1008	89000	3429	OTHER EUROPE
										of which:
28	-	:	9	200	-	23	3	1000		Switzerland
2686	-	:	4201	710	2	-	393	43600	820	Turkey
5780	-	:	10940	486	11	-	275	26100	1454	Ex-Yugoslavia
703	2	:	1810	7784	14	1	642	70700	876	AFRICA
										of which:
18	-	:	:	150	2	-	38	9200	139	Algeria
24	-	:	235	653	5	-	275	31100	135	Morocco
64	-	:	192	73	-	1	30	7900	225	Tunisia
209	-	:	2717	9282	40	-	542	29300	879	AMERICA
										of which:
7	-	:	67	51	-	-	8	2500	79	Argentina
24	-	:	37	1127	27	-	67	2200	147	United States
37 ³	-	:	:	1	-	-	-	5100	1	Surinam
2006	-	:	11365	17951	44	-	2722	64600	1614	ASIA
										of which:
293	-	:	328	4868	3	-	242	7400	157	India
320	-	:	5119	1882	-	-	317	10500	134	Iran
13	-	:	157	4615	-	-	664	7400	56	Pakistan
518	-	:	365	1245	19	-	213	4700	42	Philippines
149	-	:	4383	6528 *	3	-	26	15600	19	Unknown / Not specified

Table 3:
Percentage of non-national population obtaining citizenship by naturalisation (%)
Mean of naturalisations (1991 - 1993) in relation to the total number of non-national residents at 1 January 1993



	EUR 15*	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L
TOTAL	2	3	3	1	1	1	2	0	1	1
EUR 15	1	2	1	0	:	0	1	:	0	:
OTHER EUROPE	1	1	2	0	:	1	2	:	1	:
Turkey	1	:	1	0	:	3	1	:	2	:
Ex-Yugoslavia	1	:	1	0	:	3	3	:	0	:
Poland	2	:	5	1	:	1	2	:	1	:
Romania	1	:	2	0	:	2	6	:	2	:
Ex-USSR	2	:	:	1	:	1	5	:	1	:
AFRICA	2	0	4	1	:	1	2	:	0	:
Morocco	2	3	6	1	:	1	2	:	0	:
Tunisia	2	6	0	3	:	2	2	:	0	:
AMERICA	3	2	2	1	:	3	4	:	1	:
Brazil	1	:	:	0	:	1	3	:	1	:
USA	0	1	1	0	:	0	1	:	0	:
ASIA	3	14	6	2	:	2	4	:	1	:
India	4	:	7	1	:	2	7	:	0	:
Iraq	5	:	5	4	:	6	3	:	1	:
Iran	4	:	11	0	:	4	3	:	1	:
Lebanon	4	:	3	1	:	4	7	:	1	:
Pakistan	4	:	5	2	:	2	5	:	0	:
Philippines	3	:	5	4	:	4	4	:	0	:
Sri Lanka	3	:	4	0	:	4	6	:	0	:
Vietnam	5	10	7	2	:	:	6	:	5	:
Stateless and unknown	6	1	3	3	:	5	:	:	1	:

Sweden: 7% of the non-national resident population naturalised in 1993

In 1993 it was Sweden and the Netherlands which naturalised the largest part of their non-national resident population, with 7% and 5% respectively. Naturalisations, like births, add to the total of citizens. In the Netherlands naturalisations represented a fifth of the total of births, and in Sweden, more than a third (see Table 3).

This significant trend towards naturalisation is perceptible in all groups of residents in each of these two countries, regardless of nationality of origin. It is also apparent, though to a lesser degree, in Denmark, United Kingdom and Norway.

In France and Germany, traditionally countries of destination for migrant workers, the rates of naturalisation for the most numerous groups (Algerian, Moroccan and Portuguese in France, Turkish in Germany) remain low.

Table 3:
Percentage of non-national population obtaining citizenship by naturalisation (%)
Mean of naturalisations (1991 - 1993) in relation to the total number of non-national residents at 1 January 1993



NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	FL	N	EEA*	CH	
5	2	0	2	7	3	3	1	3	2	1	TOTAL
1	1	:	:	3	0	:	:	1	1	1	EUR 15
6	:	:	:	8	2	:	:	4	1	0	OTHER EUROPE
6	2	:	:	9	2	:	:	7	1	1	Turkey
6	2	:	:	15	1	:	:	3	1	0	Ex-Yugoslavia
6	:	:	:	8	4	:	:	8	2	3	Poland
5	:	:	:	11	:	:	:	4	1	7	Romania
-	:	:	:	6	1	:	:	1	2	0	Ex-USSR
5	:	:	:	6	4	:	:	5	2	3	AFRICA
5	:	:	:	15	8	:	:	14	2	4	Morocco
10	:	:	:	14	:	:	:	8	2	4	Tunisia
11	:	:	:	6	4	:	:	3	3	2	AMERICA
6	:	:	:	10	4	:	:	10	2	4	Brazil
1	:	:	:	1	1	:	:	1	0	1	USA
8	:	:	:	11	4	:	:	6	3	3	ASIA
10	:	:	:	17	4	:	:	6	5	3	India
1	:	:	:	3	25	:	:	1	4	4	Iraq
7	:	:	:	36	8	:	:	2	5	5	Iran
8	:	:	:	12	21	:	:	3	4	4	Lebanon
10	:	:	:	15	5	:	:	8	5	3	Pakistan
10	:	:	:	16	8	:	:	11	4	2	Philippines
18	:	:	:	4	5	:	:	1	3	1	Sri Lanka
19	:	:	:	15	16	:	:	13	6	6	Vietnam
6	:	:	:	11	:	:	:	2	6	:	Stateless and unknown

Naturalisations of other EU citizens: downward trend

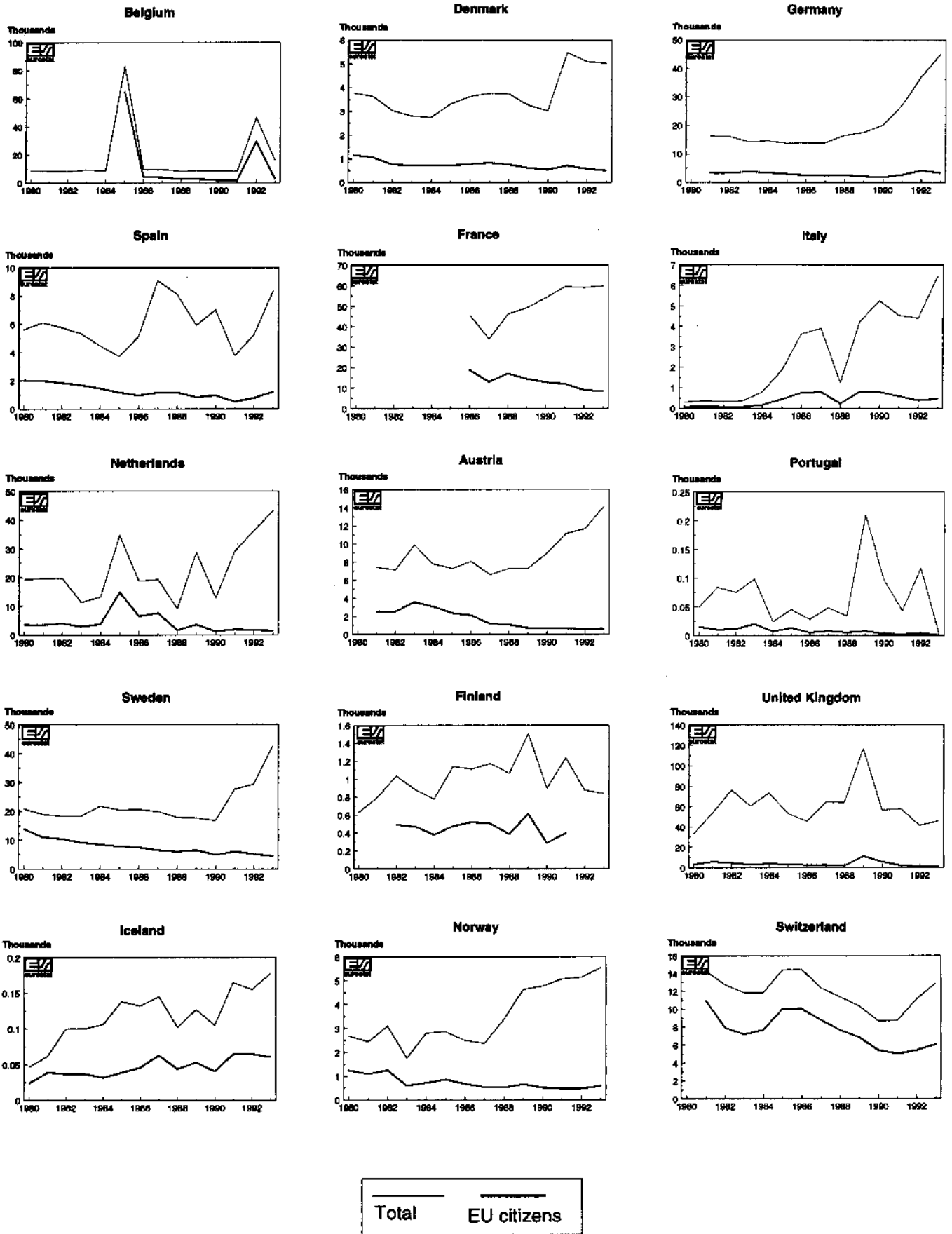
There has been a steady fall since 1981 in the number of citizens of one EU Member State obtaining the nationality of another by naturalisation (see Figure 2).

In France, the Netherlands, Sweden, Austria and Italy the share of EU nationals in the total of naturalisations has declined, due not only to the rising number of naturalisations of non-EU nationals, but also to the decline in the naturalisation of EU nationals. The only exception is Germany, where there has been no fall in the number of naturalisations of EU citizens.

In 1992 there was a wave of Italian applications for Belgian nationality, the result of a change in the law on the treatment of the second and third generations, for whom the acquisition of Belgian citizenship became little more than a formality.

The proportion of EU citizens acquiring Swiss citizenship remained high: in 1993 half of those naturalised Swiss were previously nationals of one or another EU Member State. Year in, year out, Italians account for at least a third of those.

**Figure 2:
Naturalisations by country**



Slow changes in the naturalisation of Asians

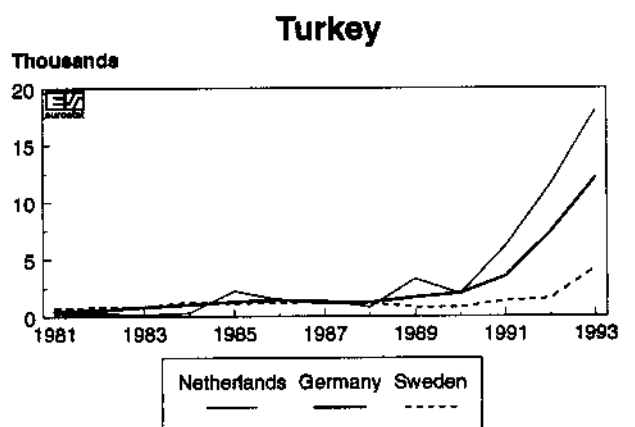
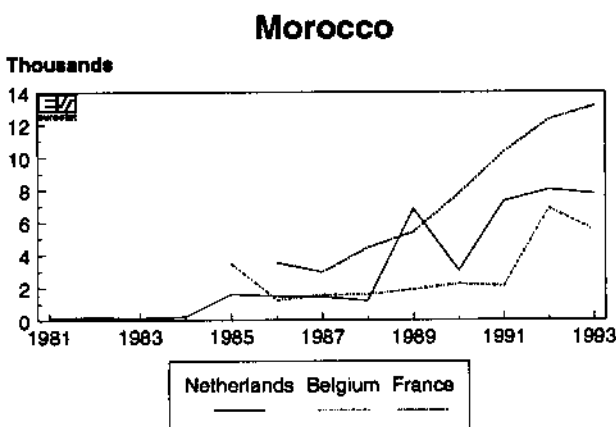
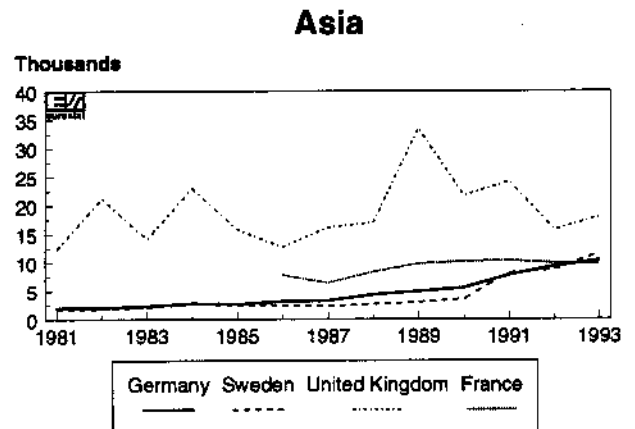
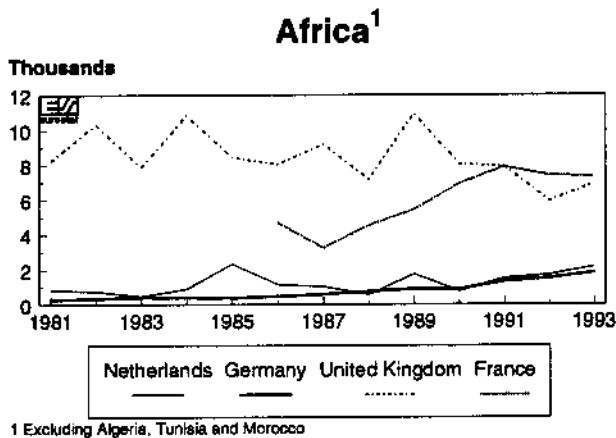
Most naturalisations of Asians and Africans (other than from the Maghreb) in 1993 occurred in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands (see Figure 3).

Except in the case of Africans naturalised in France, naturalisations of members of these two major groups changed little between 1981 and 1993. The figure for naturalisation of Asians in the United Kingdom has always been high, and has oscillated between 12 000 and 35 000 during these 13 years, but over the long term the rate is stable. The corresponding figures for Africans (other than from the Maghreb) ranged from 6 000 to 11 000.

There has been a sharp rise in the number of Asians naturalised in Sweden, most of them having arrived as refugees. This development has not been observed elsewhere.

Naturalisations of Moroccans and Turks have increased substantially in certain countries during the period under review. This rise is not new in the case of Moroccans and is visible in the countries most concerned, but naturalisations of Turkish citizens was limited until 1990 and then climbed steeply, principally in the Netherlands and Germany, and to a lesser extent in Belgium and Sweden.

Figure 3:
Naturalisations of major groups



Principal conditions governing acquisition of the nationality of the Member States of the European Union

Belgium

Constitution (Articles 810, 64, 69, 74, 97, 104 and 191) and the Belgian Citizenship Code established by the Law of 28 June 1984, most recently amended by the Law of 6 August 1993

- Facilitated access to Belgian citizenship for foreigners of the second generation (virtually automatic) and third generation (automatic);
- Possibility of acquiring citizenship after five years' residence;
- Minimum three years of marriage required before the foreign spouse of a Belgian may acquire Belgian nationality.

Denmark

Consolidated Law No 457 of 17 June 1991 on the acquisition of Danish citizenship

- Danish citizenship is acquired by birth, by adoption (under certain conditions), by declaration (under certain conditions) and by naturalisation in accordance with the Constitution, normally after seven years' residence;
- Danish citizenship is not acquired by marriage. The equality of the sexes is rejected in the rules for naturalisation.

Germany

Law on Citizenship of 22 July 1913, and Law of 29 July 1990 amending the law on aliens

- German citizenship is acquired by descent, and aliens can only therefore acquire German citizenship by naturalisation. Specific provisions in the law exist for younger aliens (age, eight years' continuous residence, schooling) and other non-Germans (formal application, loss or renunciation of former citizenship, minimum of 15 years' *de jure* residence).

Greece

Law No 1438/84, as amended by Law No 2130/93; Decree-Law 3370/55, which constitute the Hellenic Citizenship Code; Constitution of 1975/1986, Article 4.13 and 166.1)

- Equality of citizens before the law, and of men and women;
- Combined application of *jus sanguinis* and *jus soli*;
- Hellenic citizenship may be acquired by declaration on fulfilling certain conditions (formal declaration, minimum eight years' residence).

Spain

Constitution of 1978 (Article 11); Civil Code Title 1 (Articles 1726); Law No 15 of 23 December 1993 and Law No 18 of 17 December 1990

- A combination of *jus sanguinis* and *jus soli*: in addition to the children of a Spanish father or mother, children born on Spanish territory are deemed to be Spanish if either parent was born in Spain or if their descent is unclear;
- Spanish citizenship is acquired by marriage under certain conditions;
- Citizenship may be granted under certain conditions: 10 years' residence (excluding certain cases), honourability, and adaptation to Spanish society.

France

Civil Code (Articles 1733.2) and Decree 93/1362 of 30 December 1993

- Combined application of *jus sanguinis* and *jus soli*;
- No distinction between the sexes in application of the laws on nationality;
- French citizenship may be acquired by declaration (and cannot be refused if the conditions in law for an application, e.g. birth on French territory, or marriage to a French national, are met), or by official decision (under stated conditions, including age, a minimum of five years' residence, assimilation into the French community, and a clean criminal record).

Italy

Law No 91 of 5 February 1992, plus Decree No 572 of 12 October 1993

- *Jus sanguinis*, combined with the principle of equality of men and women;
- Italian citizenship may be acquired by descent, by birth on Italian territory, or voluntarily by declaration, by marriage, (after six months' *de jure* residence or after three years' marriage) or by naturalisation, as a rule after a minimum 10 years' *de jure* residence.

Luxembourg

Constitution (Articles 9 and 10); Law on Luxembourg citizenship of 22 February 1968, most recently amended on 11 December 1986

- *Jus sanguinis* applies, *jus soli* applying only incidentally;
- Equal treatment of men and women;
- Previous citizenship must be forfeit if Luxembourg nationality is acquired.

Netherlands

Law of 19 December 1984, as amended by the Law of 12 December 1992

- *Jus sanguinis*, plus *jus soli* for the third generation;
- Equal treatment of men and women;
- Right to naturalisation provided certain conditions are met, including minimum five years' residence.

Austria

Law on Citizenship of 1985 (BGB1. 311/1985)

- Citizenship by descent, with the principle of equality of men and women. Austrian nationality may be acquired from either parent, from an unmarried mother, or by legitimation if the father is Austrian;
- Personal independence of spouses, in particular by the right in law to acquire Austrian nationality by marriage, and also less strict conditions for naturalisation;
- Austrian citizenship may be acquired by birth, by legitimation or by naturalisation, as a rule after 10 years' residence.

Portugal

Law No 37 of 3 October 1981, amended by Law No 25 of 19 August 1994 and Decree-Law No 253 of 20 October 1994

- *Jus sanguinis*, with a statement of intent in the case of children born abroad, plus *jus soli* for children born in Portugal of Portuguese parents and foreign parents if they have been habitually resident for not less than six and ten years respectively;
- Citizenship is not acquired automatically on marriage.

Finland

Constitution (94/19: Articles 4 and 31); Law No 401/88 on Citizenship as amended by Law No 584/84; Decree No 699/85 on Citizenship

- *Jus sanguinis* takes precedence over *jus soli*;
- Finnish citizenship may be acquired by marriage, by declaration or on application after five years' residence;
- Finnish citizenship may be accorded to an alien on application, as a rule on condition that the alien nationality is renounced within a stated time-limit.

Sweden

Law SFS 1984/682 of 10 July 1984 amending Law 1950/382 on nationality

- Single governing principle for citizenship: an individual wishing to obtain Swedish citizenship by naturalisation must, after a minimum five years' residence, provide documentary proof of loss of the previous nationality.

United Kingdom

British Citizenship Act, 1981 and subsequent minor amendments

- A combination of *jus sanguinis* and *jus soli*: a child born in the United Kingdom is deemed British if either parent is British or resident in the United Kingdom;
- Equal treatment of men and women;
- Independence of spouses: citizenship is neither acquired nor lost automatically on marriage, but the spouse of a British subject may be naturalised under simplified conditions;
- British citizenship may be acquired by naturalisation under certain conditions five years' regular prior residence, intention to adopt domicile or permanent residence in the United Kingdom.

The data

Eurostat collects annual data on naturalisations according to previous citizenship. The series cover the years 1980 - 1993 and 19 countries: the 15 Member States of the European Union, the other countries of the EEA, and Switzerland.

Abbreviations and symbols

EU or EUR15: the 15 Member States of the European Union, comprising: Belgium (B), Denmark (DK), Germany (D), Greece (GR), Spain (E), France (F), Ireland (IRL), Italy (I), Luxembourg (L), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (A), Portugal (P), Finland (FIN), Sweden (S) and United Kingdom (UK).

EEA: the European Economic Area, comprising EUR15 plus Iceland (IS), Liechtenstein (FL) and Norway (N).

* Eurostat estimate

: Data not available

- Zero

0 Less than half of the unit used

Further reading

EUROSTAT, Statistics in focus "Population and social conditions":

1994-7: *"Non-Nationals form over four percent of total population in the European Union"*

1995-3: *"International migration in the EU Member States - 1992"*

EUROSTAT, Migration statistics 1994 (the 1995 edition will be forthcoming)

EUROSTAT, Demographic statistics 1995

EUROPEAN COMMISSION - DG V, the EC Member States and immigration in 1993 - Synthesis report 1993: *Closed borders, stringent attitudes.*

OECD, Trends in international migration - Annual report 1994

Council of Europe - DIR/JUR (95) 1 European Bulletin on the Nationality

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