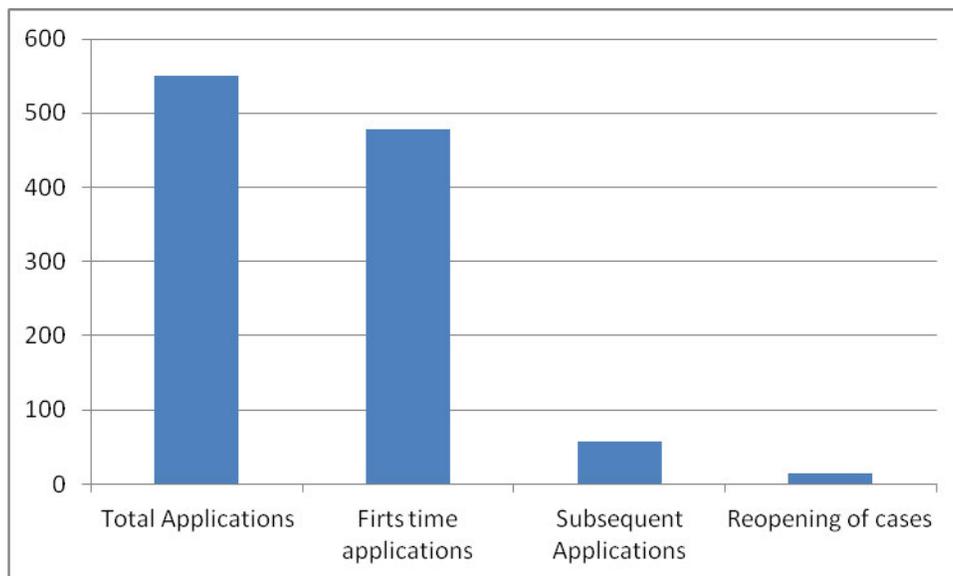


## The Office of the Refugee Commissioner Statistical Overview

From 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016, the Office of the Refugee Commissioner received 550 applications for international protection. Of these 478 were first time applications, 57 were subsequent applications<sup>1</sup> and 15 reopened of cases.

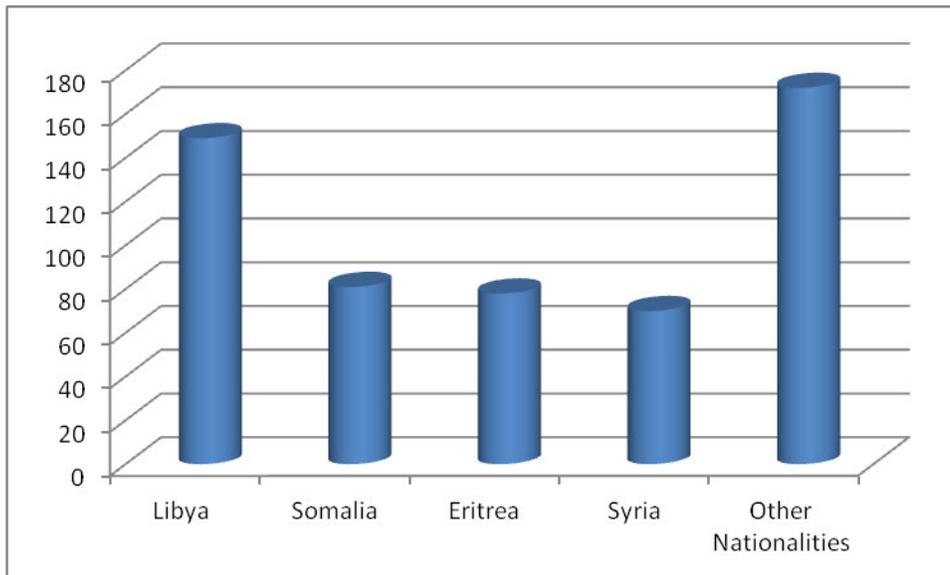
It must be noted that 30 of the first time applications were made by asylum seekers who were relocated from Italy (20) and Greece (10), following the EU Council Decision to relocate a number of asylum applicants from Greece and Italy. The Office of the Refugee Commissioner is also participating actively in such a project by sending national experts to assist in such project as was also decided by the EU Council Decision, further detail below.



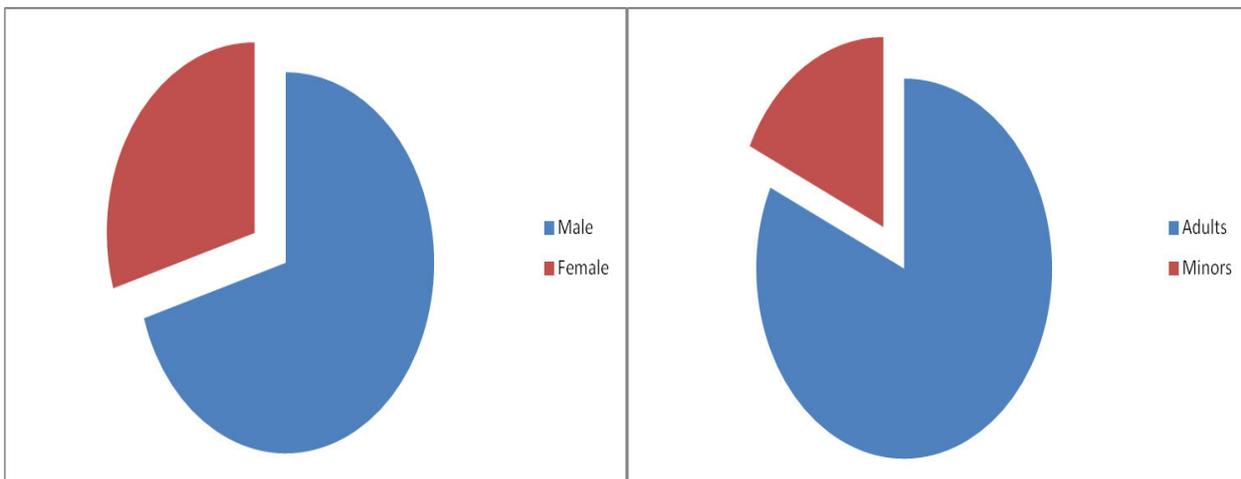
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<sup>1</sup> Article 7(A)(1) of the Refugees Act, Chapter 420 of the Laws of Malta states 'a person who has applied for international protection may make a subsequent application after a final decision to the Commissioner for Refugees: Provided that such application shall only be considered on the presentation of new elements or findings, relating to the examination of whether the person making the subsequent application qualifies as a beneficiary of international protection, and of which the applicant could not have been aware or which he could not have submitted'.

The top nationalities were Libya, Somalia, Eritrea, and Syria respectively. The number of applications for international protection received by Libyan nationals mark 27% of the total applications received for the last quarterly covering the period October till December 2016. Also the applications received by Somalis are 15%, Eritrea 14%, and Syrian nationals mark 13% of the total applications received in the last three months.



From the total of first time applications which total to 478, 336 were lodged by male applicants (293 adults and 43 minors) and by 142 female applicants (99 adults and 43 minors).



The absolute majority of the applications for international protection lodged in the last quarterly were made by persons who approached the Office personally to seek international protection. As mentioned earlier, thirty applicants were sent to Malta to lodge such application from Italy and Greece following the relocation program from such countries to other Member States. Taken from a period of ten weeks the average number of applicants that approached the Office of the Refugee Commissioner and express their desire to make an application for international protection was of twenty six (26). Such persons are registered by the Office as asylum-seekers/applicants and are issued with an Asylum-Seekers Document in accordance with Article 6 of the EU Council Directive 2013/33/EU.

All persons who expressed their desire to make an application for international protection in Malta were provided with information by the Office of the Refugee Commissioner. Such persons were provided with information about the asylum procedure and about their rights and obligations as asylum-seekers in Malta.

During the months under review, the Office continued to conclude cases within six months. From 01<sup>st</sup> October till the end of December 2016, the Office concluded 232 cases. Of these 133 were granted subsidiary protection status, 36 were recognised as refugees and 24 were rejected. 5 were granted local temporary humanitarian protection, 10 were withdrawn (5 Implicitly, 5 Explicitly), 10 were inadmissible, 13 were Dublin Closure, 1 Exclusion clause was applied.

