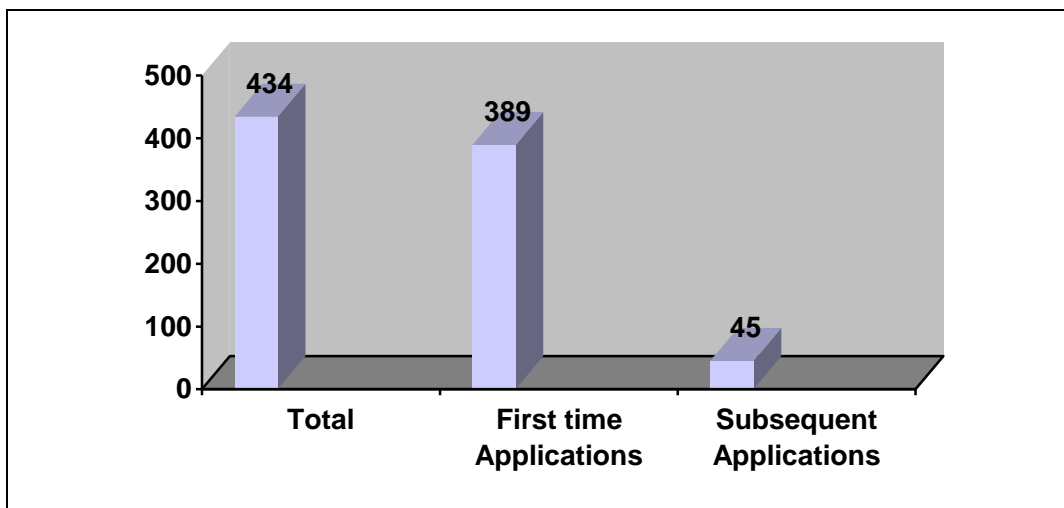




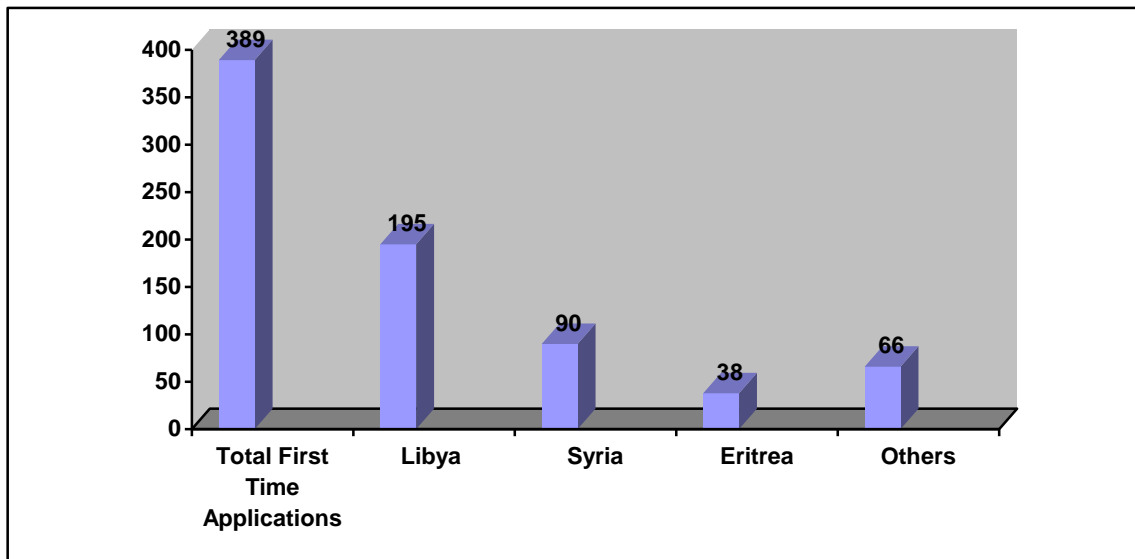
The Office of the Refugee Commissioner Statistical Overview

From 01st January to 31st March 2016, the Office of the Refugee Commissioner received 434 applications for international protection. Of these 389 were first time applications and 45 were subsequent applications¹. The Office also reviewed 45 cases following monitoring of certain countries of origin where the security situation remains unstable and volatile.

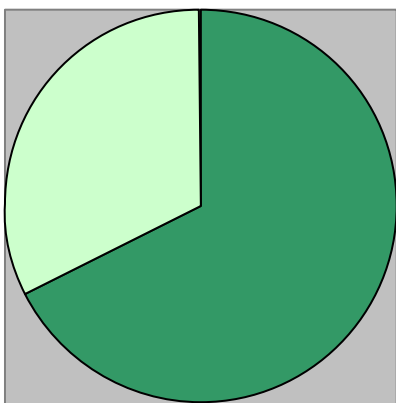


The top nationalities were Libya, Syria and Eritrea respectively. The number of applications for international protection received by Libyan nationals mark 44.9% of the total applications received so far this year (till end of March). Also the applications received by Syrian nationals mark 23.1% and those received by Eritrean nationals mark 8.7% of the total applications received so far this year.

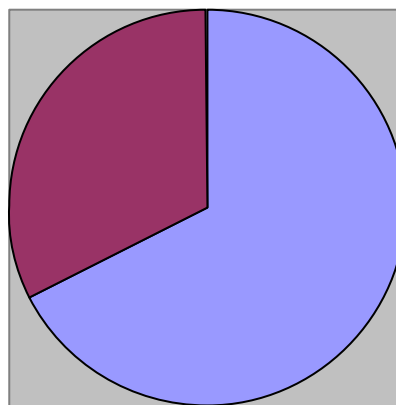
¹ Article 7(A)(1) of the Refugees Act, Chapter 420 of the Laws of Malta states ‘a person who has applied for international protection may make a subsequent application after a final decision to the Commissioner for Refugees: Provided that such application shall only be considered on the presentation 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’.



Of these applications 263 were lodged by male applicants (194 adults and 69 minors) and 126 by female applicants (69 adults and 57 minors).



Male Female



Adults Minors

The absolute majority of the applications for international protection lodged so far this year (till end of March) were made by persons who were already living in the community. On average,



forty (40) persons a week, approach the Office of the Refugee Commissioner and express their desire to make an application for international protection. This is in line with Article 6 of the Directive 2013/32/EU on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection. Such persons are registered by the Office as asylum-seekers/applicants and are issued with an Asylum-Seekers Document.

Applicants 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 their rights and obligations as asylum-seekers in Malta.

During the months under review, the Office continued to conclude cases within six months. From 01st January till the end of March 2016, the Office concluded 607 cases. Of these 387 were granted subsidiary protection status, 59 were recognised as refugees and 28 were rejected. 28 were granted local temporary humanitarian protection, 26 were withdrawn and 40 were inadmissible.

