

Understanding the relation between visa and asylum using VIS hits

Immigration Office (Belgium) – Statistics Unit

21/06/2024

Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. Statistics Production Process
3. Statistical Reports
4. Case Studies
5. Conclusion
6. Q&A

1. Introduction

Why VIS hits and related statistics matter?

- Lack of monitoring (e.g. the share of asylum applicants in possession of a visa)
- Provide analytical tools to support operational efforts (identification of migration patterns, monitoring of administrative practices, fight against fraud)

Measurement focus

- People identified based on a VIS hit and not the number of computer exchanges
- Including both international protection and other contexts

Distinction between

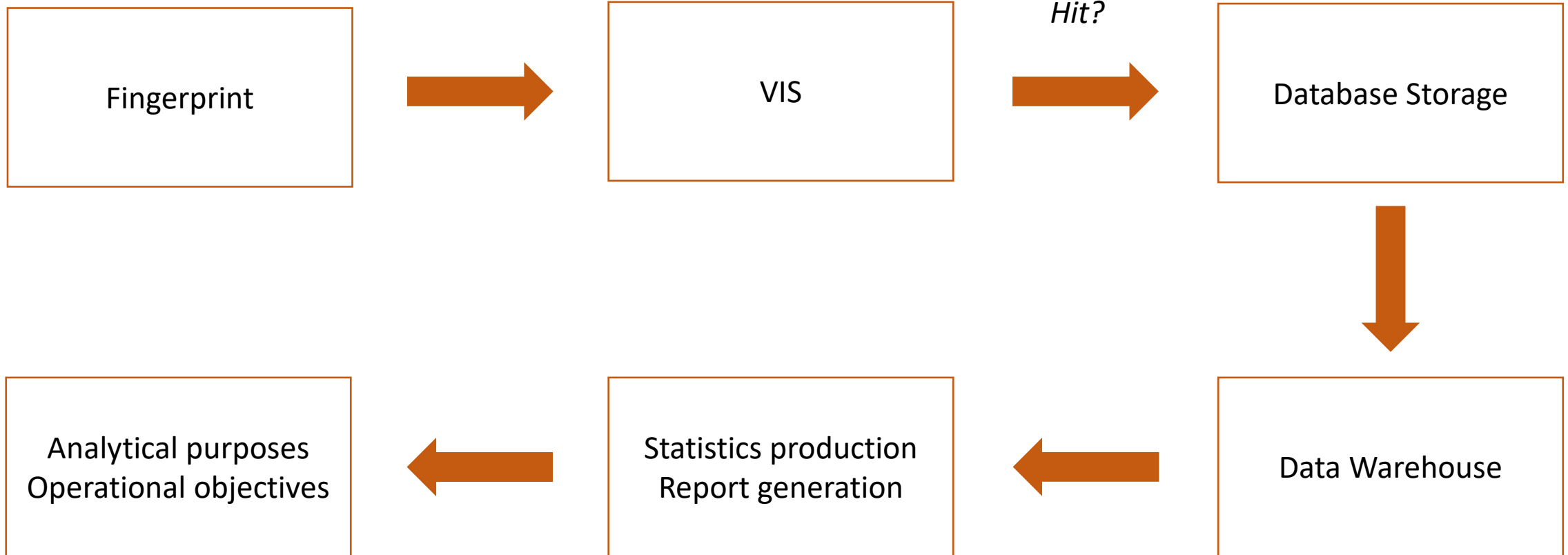
- Individuals who obtained a visa from BE
- Individuals who obtained a visa from another Member State

2. Statistics Production Process

Information derived from three fields:

1. Identity
 - Nationality, age, gender, etc.
2. Visa
 - Details about the visa itself (date, country of issuance, etc.)
3. Context
 - Identification on the territory
 - Examination of asylum applicants
 - Determination of the responsibility for asylum applicants

Detailed Production Workflow



Obstacles & Potential Improvements

Current complexity

- Multiple hits possible from a single search query
- Same fingerprints used across diverse contexts
- Requires varied statistical perspectives

What more can be done?

- Identifying niches and blind spots
- Achieving statistical success operationally
- Opportunities for enhancing data utility

3. Statistical Reports

Mois	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
01	449	1.180	1.443	475	855	1.152
02	869	939	1.148	502	689	947
03	1.092	1.105	670	547	895	920
04	1.163	912	118	381	788	852
05	998	1.052	353	416	920	886
06	896	596	485	512	899	1.001
07	1.158	1.184	670	551	786	950
08	1.073	1.052	793	546	1.227	1.090
09	1.164	1.138	661	728	1.145	842
10	1.004	1.421	662	636	1.198	1.107
11	915	1.256	548	712	1.061	962
12	602	1.251	607	796	889	899
Total	11.383	13.086	8.158	6.802	11.352	11.608

Table

Number of VIS hits across all contexts (2018-2023)

Relative statistical value without specific focus

- In distribution by research context;
- In distribution by citizenship/Member State
- In cross-referencing the data with other data source

How can it be improved?

Statistical Reports

Table 1

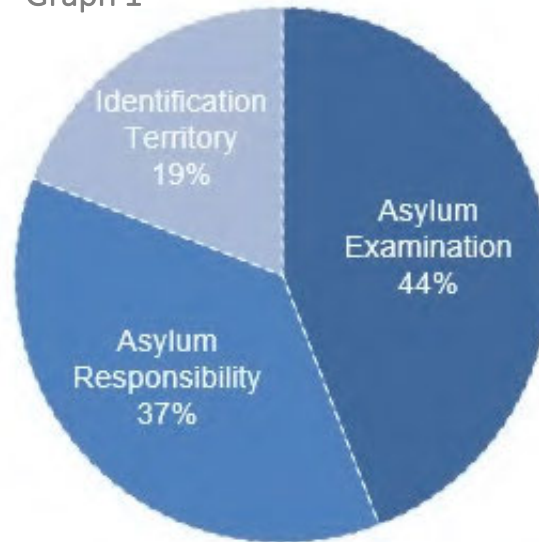
Number of VIS hits per search context (2018-2023)

Research context	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Asylum Examination	3.499	3.422	2.597	2.418	5.013	5.121
Asylum Responsibility	2.836	2.887	2.208	1.886	4.085	4.269
Identification Territory	5.048	6.777	3.353	2.498	2.254	2.218
Total	11.383	13.086	8.158	6.802	11.352	11.608

Graph 1

Number of VIS hits per search context (2023)

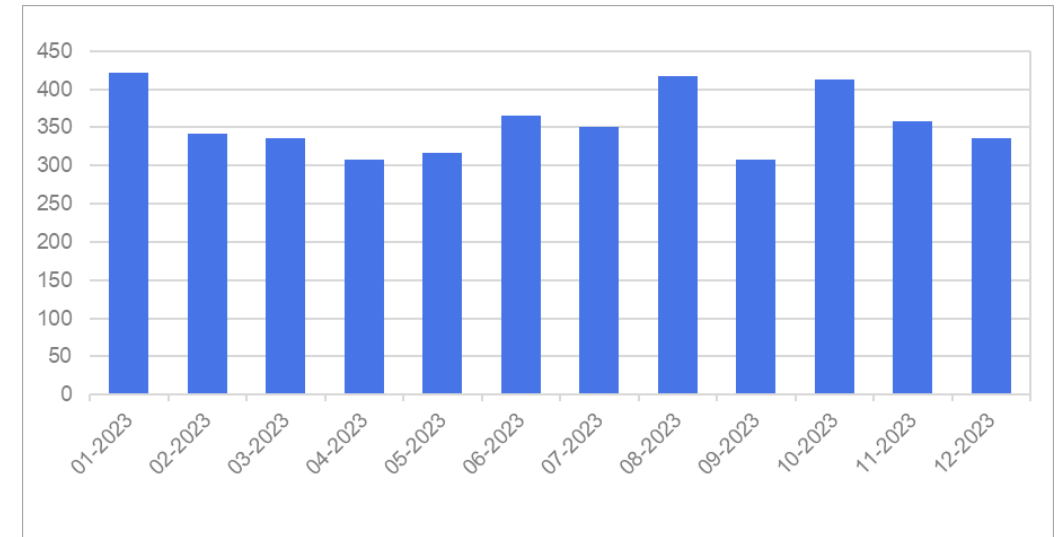
Graph 1



Graph 2

Number of VIS hits per search in the context of asylum responsibility (2023)

Graph 2



Statistical value increases but...

Visual Data Representation

Table

Searches resulting in a VIS hit:

- in the context of asylum responsibility
- by country of visa issue
- by country of nationality of the applicant
- by year

Statistical representation by volume

Country of issuance	Nationality	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Belgium	Congo (DR)	74	74	80	44	130	187
	Burundi	182	147	61	69	173	140
	Rwanda	67	80	67	85	131	123
	Burkina Faso	22	6	9	2	28	99
	Iran	62	57	16	19	64	64
	Cameroon	18	23	15	8	31	43
	Egypt	15	7	7	2	18	14
	Ethiopia	4	3	2	13	14	14
	Syria	6	6	6	9	9	14
	Turkey	19	18	11	5	20	13
	Cote d'Ivoire	1	4	2	1	2	12
	Cuba	2	7	3	4	11	12
	Iraq	13	6	8	1	5	12
	Unknown	19	5	8	6	16	12
	Others	137	93	69	65	128	149
Total	641	536	364	333	780	908	
Others	Palestina	258	221	110	109	302	335
	Armenia	81	55	55	89	206	287
	Iran	114	142	92	51	296	215
	Turkey	127	146	180	100	265	197
	Russia	98	104	93	87	259	169
	Congo (DR)	119	84	89	52	103	161
	Syria	49	113	73	54	126	154
	Niger	60	41	32	29	152	141
	Cameroon	45	67	80	39	75	128
	Guinea	114	92	75	56	93	107
	Others	1.347	1.492	1.158	1.075	1.819	1.734
	Total	2.412	2.557	2.037	1.741	3.696	3.628

Visual Data Representation

Table

Searches resulting in a VIS hit:

- in the context of asylum responsibility
- by country of visa issue
- by country of nationality of the applicant
- by year
- As a percentage of asylum applicants

Double interest

Highlighting anomalies

Ensuring no irregularities

Country of issuance	Nationality	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Belgium	Burkina Faso	31%	8%	30%	10%	31%	54%	
	Rwanda	32%	30%	34%	40%	38%	45%	
	Cuba	33%	39%	38%	57%	46%	28%	
	Burundi	44%	23%	18%	14%	6%	18%	
	Congo (DR)	14%	12%	19%	12%	15%	15%	
	Egypt	17%	7%	13%	3%	19%	12%	
	Iran	11%	7%	6%	6%	7%	10%	
	Ethiopia	5%	4%	5%	8%	5%	4%	
	Cameroon	4%	5%	4%	2%	4%	4%	
	Cote d'Ivoire	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	3%	
	Iraq	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	2%	
	Turkey	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	
	Syria	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
	Unknown	3%	1%	3%	1%	3%	3%	
	Others	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	
	Total	3%	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%	
Others	Niger	63%	45%	52%	57%	79%	79%	
	Armenia	51%	32%	51%	47%	53%	58%	
	Iran	20%	18%	36%	15%	33%	33%	
	Russia	17%	19%	28%	28%	36%	18%	
	Congo (DR)	23%	14%	21%	14%	12%	13%	
	Cameroon	11%	15%	23%	8%	10%	11%	
	Palestine	10%	9%	14%	7%	11%	10%	
	Guinea	10%	9%	11%	8%	10%	8%	
	Turkey	15%	14%	27%	15%	15%	8%	
	Syria	1%	4%	4%	2%	4%	4%	
	Others	10%	9%	10%	6%	8%	9%	
		Total	10%	9%	12%	7%	10%	10%

4. Specific Case Studies

Table : Annex of searches resulting in a VIS hit in the context of asylum responsibility by country of visa issue (Belgium or other Member States)

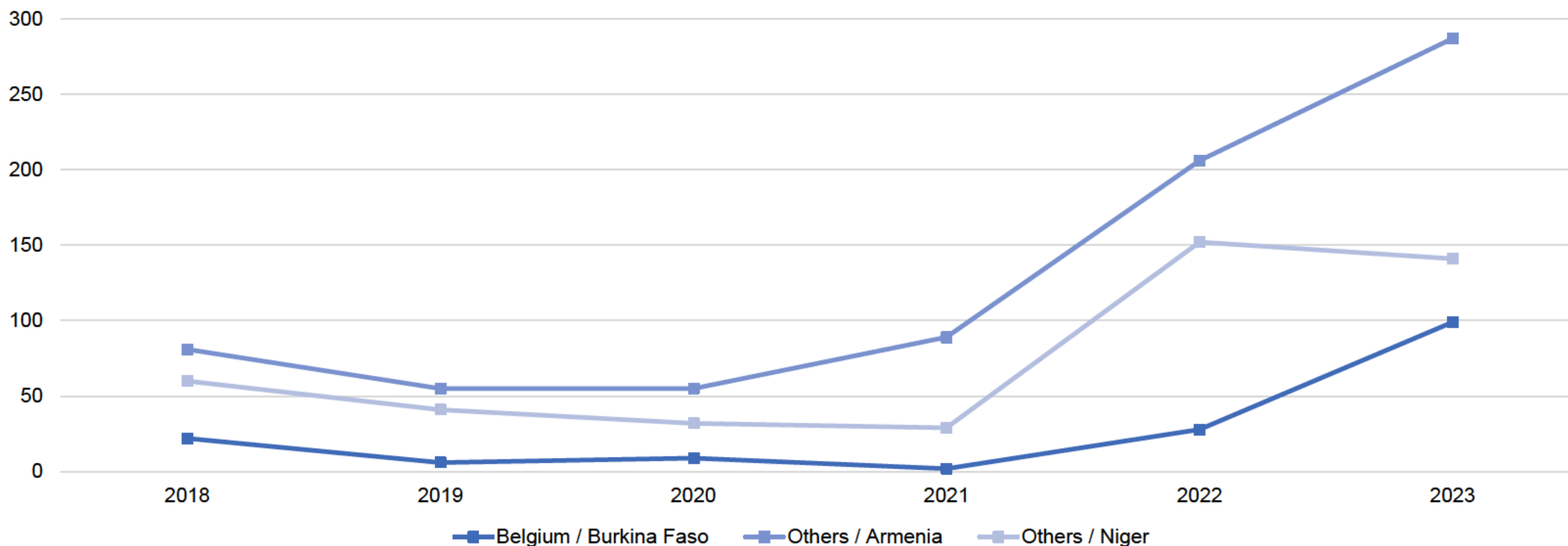
Country of issuance	ISO Code	Nationality	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Belgium	BF	Burkina Faso	22	6	9	2	28	99
Others	AM	Armenia	81	55	55	89	206	287
Others	NE	Niger	60	41	32	29	152	141

Table : Annex of searches resulting in a VIS hit in the context of asylum responsibility by country of visa issue (all Member States)

Country of issuance	ISO Code	Nationality	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Greece	AM	Armenia	23	16	16	30	108	188
Spain	NE	Niger	33	8	8	4	16	56
France	NE	Niger	27	33	24	25	135	85

Evolutionary Graphs of the Data Presented

Graph : Annex of searches resulting in a VIS hit in the context of asylum responsibility by country of visa issue (Belgium or other Member States)

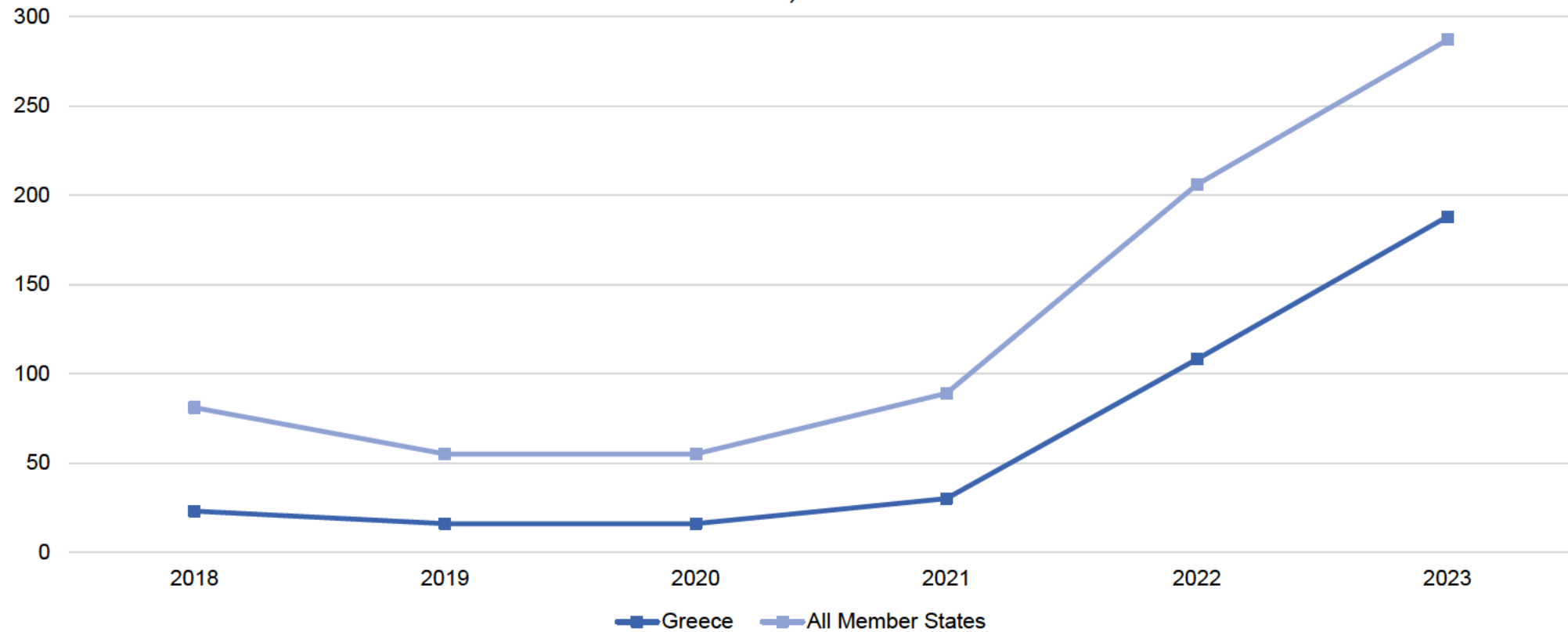


Evolutionary Graphs of the Data Presented

Graph : Searches resulting in a VIS hit in the context of asylum responsibility

Country of visa issue : Greece / All Member States

Nationality : Armenia

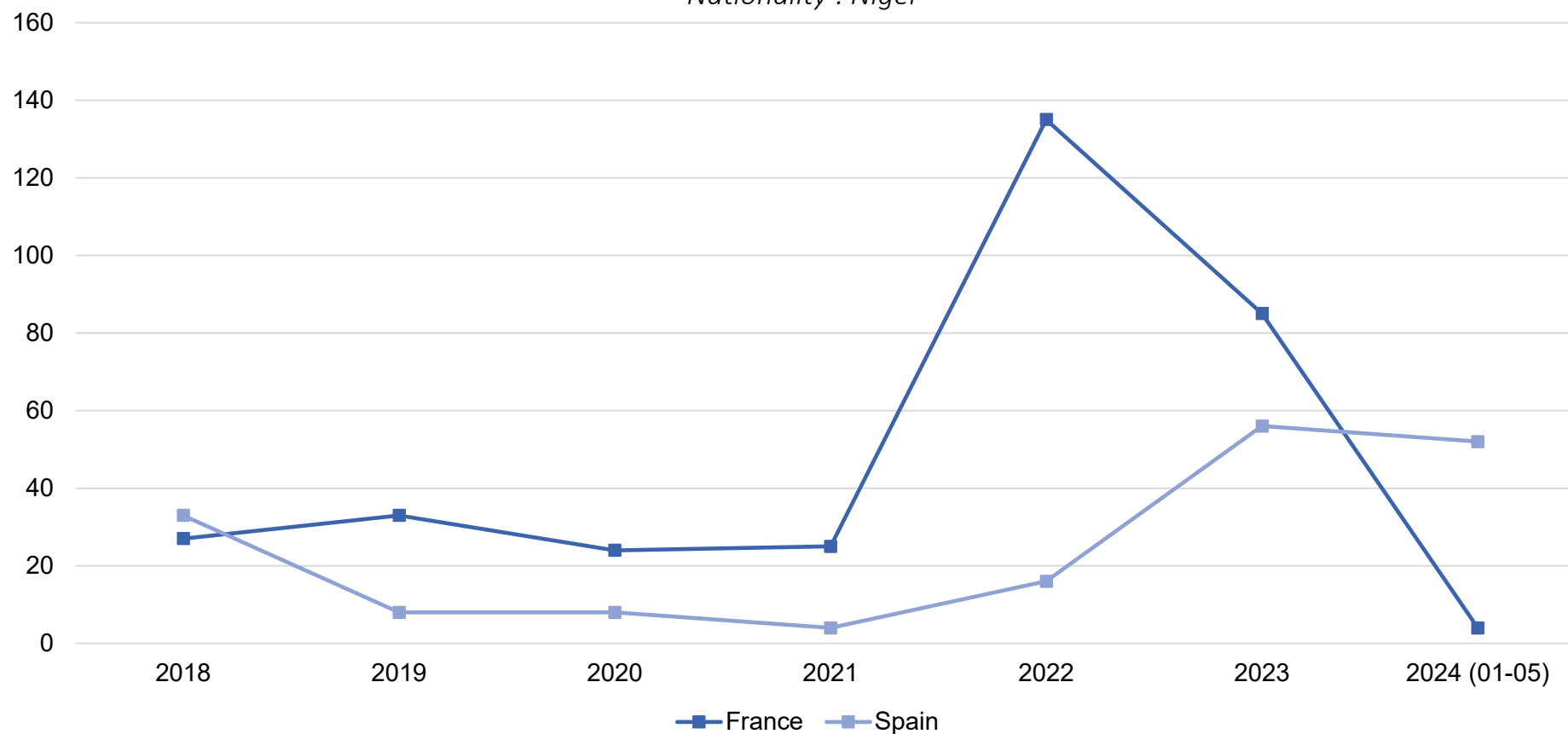


Evolutionary Graphs of the Data Presented

Graph : Searches resulting in a VIS hit in the context of asylum responsibility

Country of visa issue : France / Spain

Nationality : Niger



Detailed Case Studies

- Belgium and Burkina Faso

Observed phenomenon → Significant increase in asylum seekers holding Belgian visas in 2023

Operational impact → Necessary regularization of visa issuance methods at the diplomatic post in Ouagadougou

Visa issuance post	2022	2023	2024
Ouagadougou	29	109	5

- Armenia and Greece

Observed phenomenon → Increase in asylum seekers holding Greek visas in 2023

Contextual insight → Illustrates migratory patterns in the context of the Nagorno-Karabakh geopolitical situation and the Eastern Mediterranean migration route

Armenia	2020	2021	2022	2023
Asylum applications	108	189	390	499
Holding a greek visa	16	30	108	188

- Niger, France and Spain

Observed phenomenon → Analysis of 2024 data

Contextual insight → Reflects current diplomatic developments, including the situation/activity of the French diplomatic post in Niger and the subsequent shift of visa application to Spain in 2024

Country of issuance	Nationality	2022	2023	2024
France	Niger	134	85	4
Spain	Niger	16	56	52

Conclusion : Operational Control and Networking

Next steps (?)

- Emphasis on the operational team(s) role
- Further steps: operational improvements and networking
- Ensuring data-driven decision-making

Statistical success enable us to provide information that can serve a genuine operational purpose

Thank you for your attention!

Q&A?