

Moldova

Ethnicity in Moldova

Power relations

The Moldovans are the majority; since 2002 they have the status of a senior partner, before they were dominant. In 2011, they, again, became the dominant majority.

The Russians and Ukrainians are the two largest minorities; they are categorized as "Russian speakers". The Russian speakers came to the position of a junior partner after the Communist Party (CP) regained huge majority power in the 2001 elections. Moldova is the only country of the Former Soviet Union, where the Communist Party regained power. The CP favors Russian speakers in the Soviet tradition and also fostered the direct influence of Russia in Moldova (²⁰⁴⁷). The situation remains the same until 2010, although the CP lost some voters and does not enjoy a clear majority anymore. The communist party lost all three elections in 2009 and 2010 and was excluded from the governing coalitions, which since consists of members of the Alliance for European Integration (pro-European, 'liberal' parties). As an overwhelming majority of 73% of self-identified ethnic Russians voted for the CP in July's election of 2009, as well as in the other elections in 2010 (exit poll, data from ²⁰⁴⁸), the Russian Speakers are coded as being powerless for the years 2011 - 2013.

²⁰⁴⁷ [Roper, 2008]

²⁰⁴⁸ [Omar Mahmood et al., 2013]

The Gagauz Christian Turkic minority has local autonomy in Gagauzia in the southern part of the country (²⁰⁴⁹). In a unilateral move, Gagauzia was first declared an independent republic on 19.8.1990, with elections following in October 1990. The central government lost control over the region and negotiated - influenced by the experiences in Transnistria - a settlement during the following years (²⁰⁵⁰). An agreement was reached only in 1994 (²⁰⁵¹), and included regional autonomy for Gagauzia as well as the ex officio membership of the Gagauzian governor in the national government. Therefore, the Gagauz have regional autonomy and are self-excluded from 1991 to 1994, which is followed by a period without central political power (status = powerless; they Gagauz representative in the national executive is a "token member") and regional autonomy from 1995 to 2013.

²⁰⁴⁹ [Avram, 2010]

²⁰⁵⁰ [Chinn Roper, 1998]

²⁰⁵¹ [Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, 1994]

The Bulgarian minority is coded as powerless, because they do not seem to hold any political power. The Bulgarians in Moldova are sometimes called Bessarabian Bulgarians. From the late 1980s, Moldovan Bulgarians established links to Bulgaria, and the Bulgar-

ian minority in Moldova has been the subject of bilateral cooperation between Bulgaria and Moldova (²⁰⁵²), what should be seen as a sign of their political relevance.

²⁰⁵² [Minority Rights Group International, 2008]

The part of Moldova east of the Dnjepr river, Transnistria, is engaged in a secessionist struggle. The Moldovan government has no authority in Transnistria (²⁰⁵³). However, Transnistria's separatism is not based on ethnicity. The population of Transnistria consists of approximately 60 percent Russian speakers and 30 percent Moldovans. But the majority of Russian speakers actually live in the rest of Moldova. Therefore, Transnistria's separatism is not reflected in this coding of Moldova's ethnic groups and their access to state power.

²⁰⁵³ [Vahl Emerson, 2004]

Group sizes stem from the census data of 2004 (referring to the entire territory of Moldova).

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Political status of ethnic groups in Moldova

From 1991 until 1994

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Moldovans	0.7	DOMINANT
Russian speakers	0.21	POWERLESS
Gagauz	0.038	SELF-EXCLUSION
Bulgarians	0.02	POWERLESS

From 1995 until 2001

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Moldovans	0.7	DOMINANT
Russian speakers	0.21	POWERLESS
Gagauz	0.038	POWERLESS
Bulgarians	0.02	POWERLESS

From 2002 until 2010

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Moldovans	0.7	SENIOR PARTNER
Russian speakers	0.21	JUNIOR PARTNER
Gagauz	0.038	POWERLESS
Bulgarians	0.02	POWERLESS

From 2011 until 2013

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Moldovans	0.7	DOMINANT
Russian speakers	0.21	POWERLESS
Gagauz	0.038	POWERLESS
Bulgarians	0.02	POWERLESS



Figure 499: Political status of ethnic groups in Moldova during 1991-1994.



Figure 500: Political status of ethnic groups in Moldova during 1995-2001.



Figure 501: Political status of ethnic groups in Moldova during 2002-2010.



Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Moldova

From 1991 until 2013

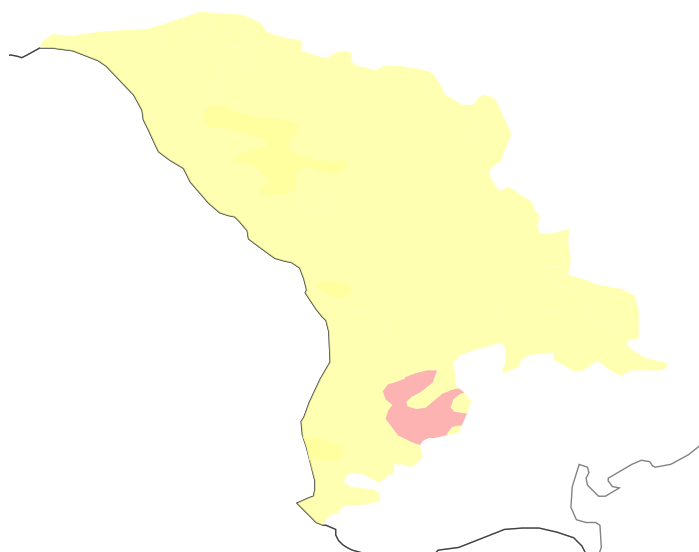


Figure 503: Map of ethnic groups in Moldova during 2011-2013.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ Moldovans	28 883	Regional & urban
■ Russian speakers	4797	Regional & urban
■ Gagauz	982	Regionally based
Bulgarians		Dispersed

Table 150: List of ethnic groups in Moldova during 1991-2013.

Conflicts in Moldova

Starting on 1991-12-13

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Moldova	PMR		1991-12-13			