



Moldova: country of mass labor outmigration

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Demographic Profile



Total population of Moldova, according to official figures, totaled about 4.06 million (2014), which corresponds to 74.2% of the population of Slovakia and 8.7% of the population of Poland.

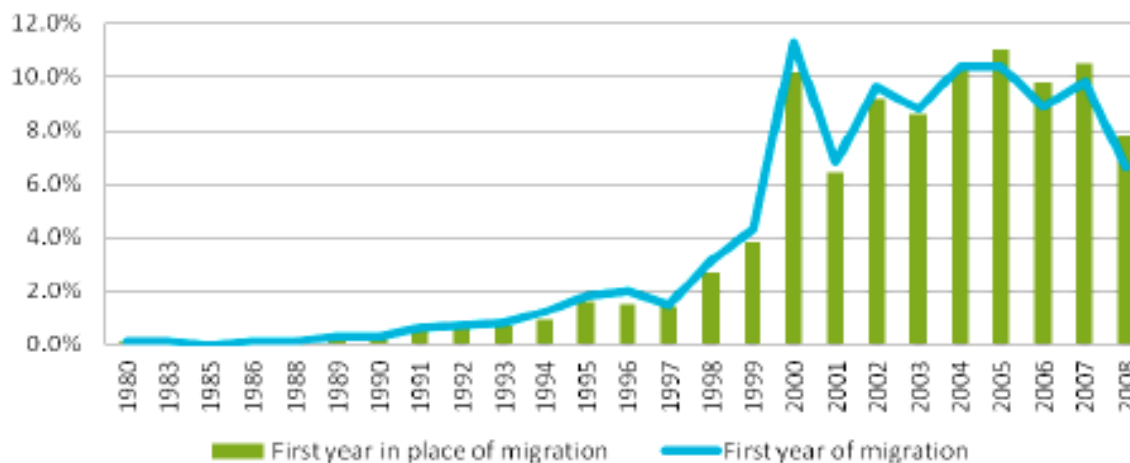
Meanwhile, the number of actual population indwelling in the country may be much smaller in a more complete account of migration flows.

The role of migration

Moldovan migration has been characterized by high intensity since 1998...

Dynamics of migration, (%)

Source: LASCI/CIVIS 2010

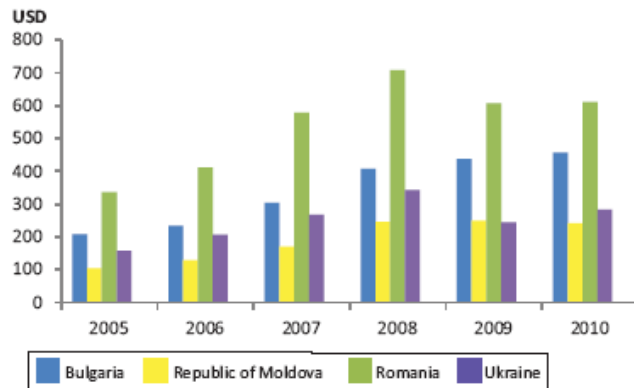


Migration loss is the main cause of the decline of the population of modern Moldova.

- degradation of the human potential of the country;
- brain drain and brain waste;
- population decline and population aging;
- serious obstacle to the further progressive development of the national economy and business expansion initiatives.

Push/pull factors of migration

Gross monthly salary, by country, 2005–2010 (USD)

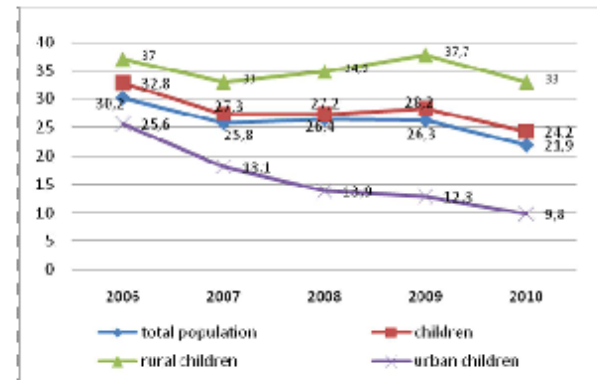


Source: ILO, KILMnet, IOM

Push factors:

- lack of adequate employment opportunities;
- low wages;
- reduction of jobs in the real economy
- the erosion of social infrastructure (education, health care, and housing).

Absolute poverty trends, %



Source: (MLSPF, 2011)

Pull factors:

- higher standards of living abroad;
- broader opportunities for personal development;
- visa-free regime with the CIS, the EU visa liberalization (from April 2014);
- social networks created abroad by relatives and close friends.

Labor migration

Labour force Main-d'oeuvre

Number of economically active population *Nombre de la population économiquement active*

thousand persons	<i>milliers personnes</i>			
	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total population (average per year) <i>Total de la population (en moyenne par an)</i>	3566	3562	3560	3560
Economically active population ¹ <i>Population économiquement active¹</i>	1265	1235	1258	1215
of which, females / <i>dont, des femmes</i>	617	605	615	596
Employment / <i>Emploi</i>	1184	1143	1173	1147
of which, females / <i>dont, les femmes</i>	586	570	581	571
Population occupied in non-agricultural activities <i>Population occupée dans les activités non-agricoles</i>	851	829	850	844
of which, females / <i>dont, des femmes</i>	441	431	441	438
ILO unemployment / <i>Chômeurs BIT</i>	81	92	84	68
of which, females / <i>dont, des femmes</i>	30	35	34	26

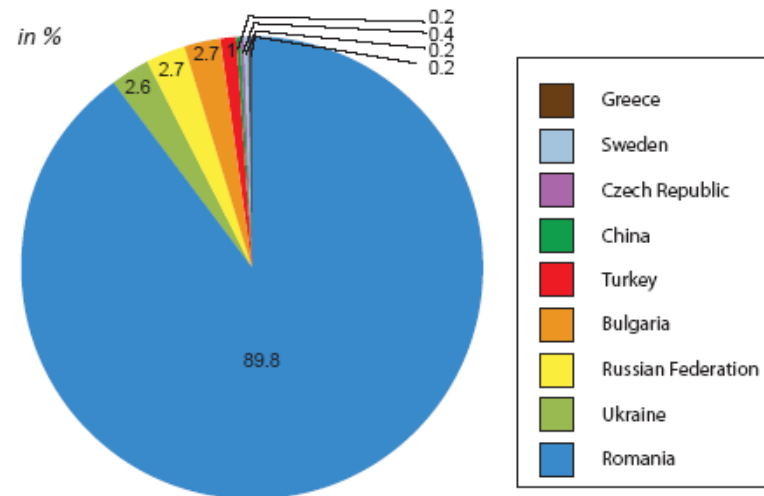
¹ According to the Labour Force Survey data
Selon les données de l'enquête sur la main-d'oeuvre

- Labor emigration started to grow in the second half of the 1990s and especially after the financial crisis of 1998.
- This wave of mass migration was a response to extreme poverty and is a response to the opportunities offered by the foreign labor market.
- The phenomenon of labor migration is an epic for the country.

Educational (student) migration

- Since the late 1990s, a growing number of young Moldovan citizens have been leaving the country to continue their education abroad. Many of them at the end of their studies do not return to their home country.
- Experts recognize that educational migration is turning into a channel of going to another country for permanent residence. Often students are motivated to go to study abroad not by the desire to enrich their knowledge with the experience and achievements of other countries but by the desire to leave their country, where there are difficulties with jobs, other economic problems, social disorder.

Distribution of Moldovan citizens studying abroad, by country of destination, 2010



Source: MEd.

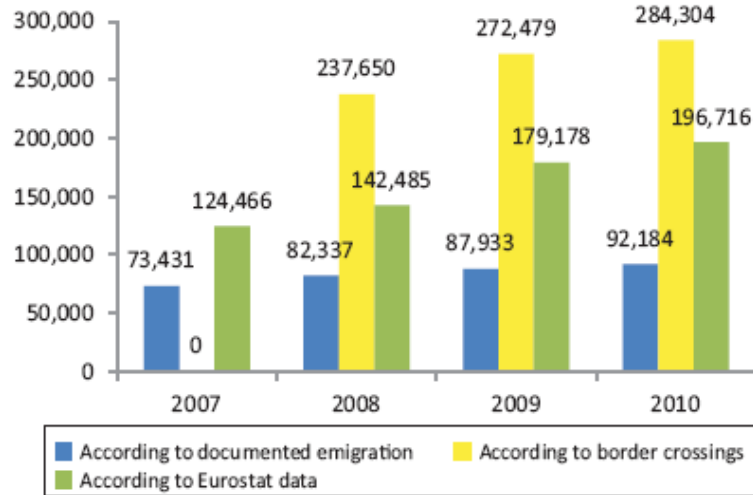
The information base of migration processes in Moldova

Several ministries and institutions of Moldova are possessing information that is related to international migration or is relevant to migration policies:

1. National Bureau of Statistics – central statistical authority that manages and organizes the statistical activity in Moldova.
2. Ministry of Information Technology and Communications, SE “SIRC “Registru” - is responsible for providing statistical data that are part of the SIIAMA. SE “SIRC “Registru” is also the owner State Register of Population.
3. Border Guard Service - provider of information on state border crossing (entry/exit RM)
4. Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family - Prevention of Violence and Insurance of Gender Equality Policy Department, Protection of Family and Children s Rights Department, Migration Policy Section, National Coordination Unit of the National Referral System for Assistance and Protection of Victims and Potential Victims of Trafficking (NRS), National Employment Agency
5. Ministry of Internal Affairs - Bureau for Migration and Asylum in charge of the SIIAMA and the Centre for Combating Trafficking of Persons

Assessing the scale of migration

Number of Moldovan citizens living abroad, 2007–2010

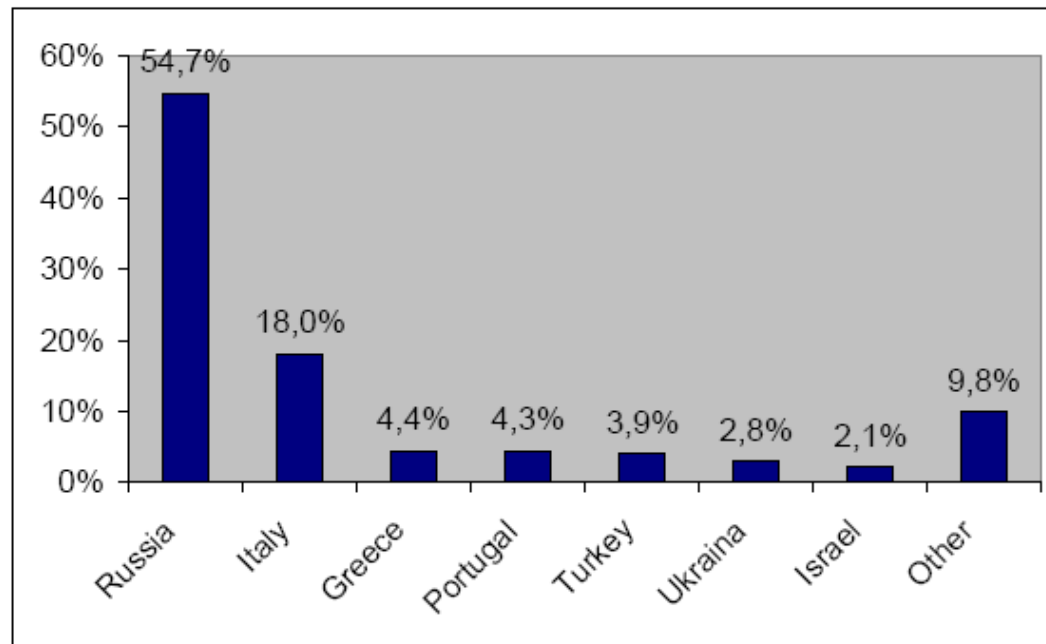


Source: MITC SE CSIR "Registru", BGS, Eurostat database.

- The report of the International Organization for Migration contains data provided by the Border Police Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, according to which approximately 720 thousand people were abroad as of December 31, 2010.
- World Bank experts estimate the number of Moldovan emigrants at 770.3 thousand, representing 21.5% of the population in 2011.

Spatial features of Moldovan emigration

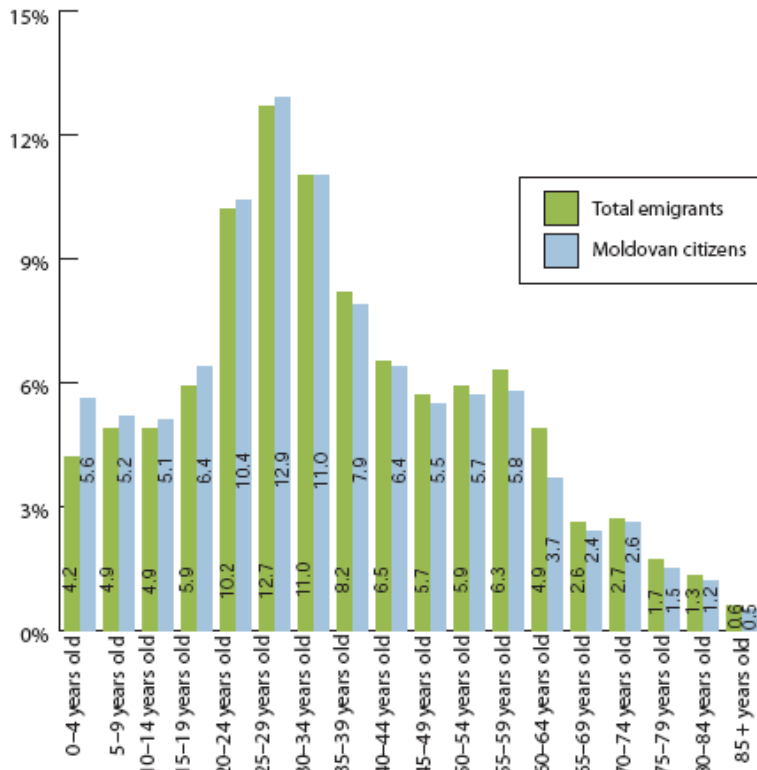
Main destinations for Moldovan migrants



Source: Ghencea and Gudumac, 2004

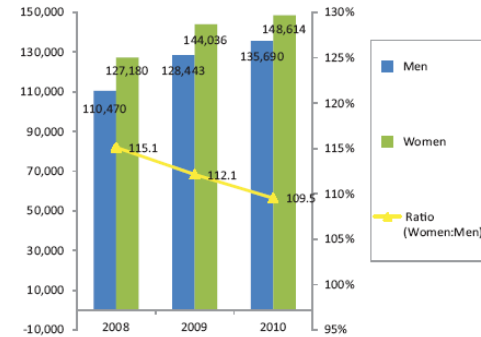
Characteristics of emigrants

Comparative structure of international emigration flow, by age, 2010

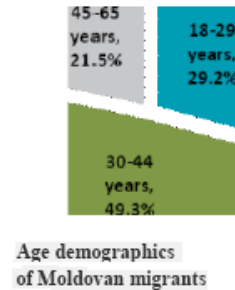


Source: NBS, MITC (SE CSIR "Registru").

Number of Moldovan citizens registered at the border as having left for one year and longer, by sex, and sex ratio (percentage), 2008-2010

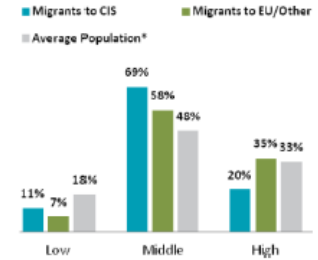


Source: BGS.



Age demographics of Moldovan migrants

Source: LASCI/CIVIS 2010

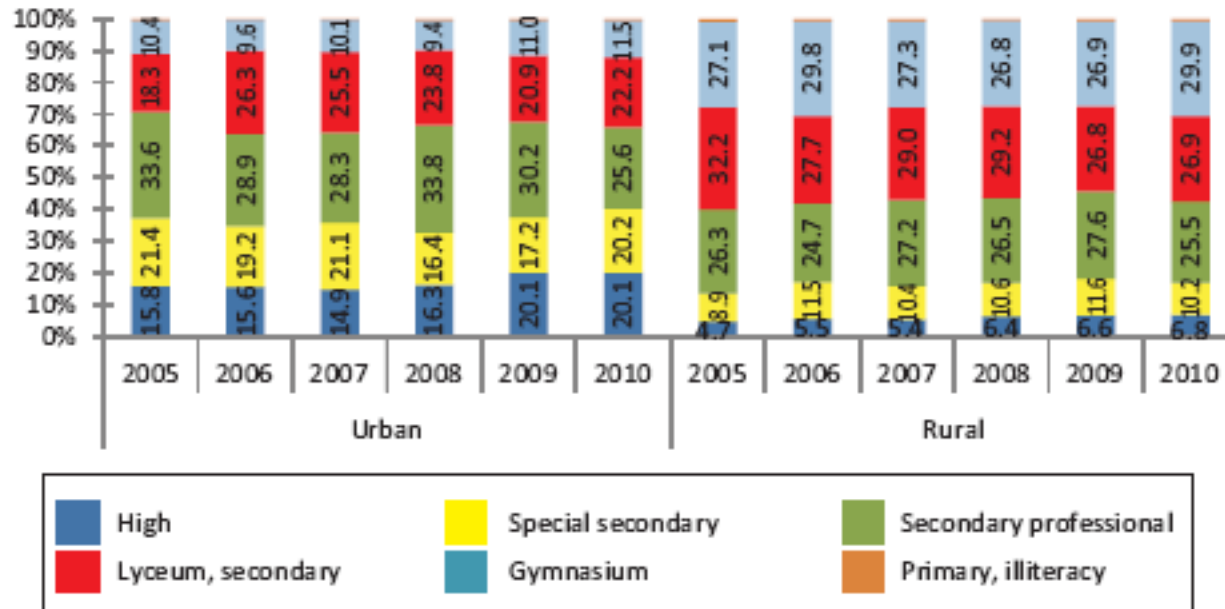


Education levels of migrants prior to migration

Source: LASCI/CIVIS 2010

Characteristics of emigrants

Distribution of migrants by areas of residence and education level, 2005–2010



Source: NBS, IOM

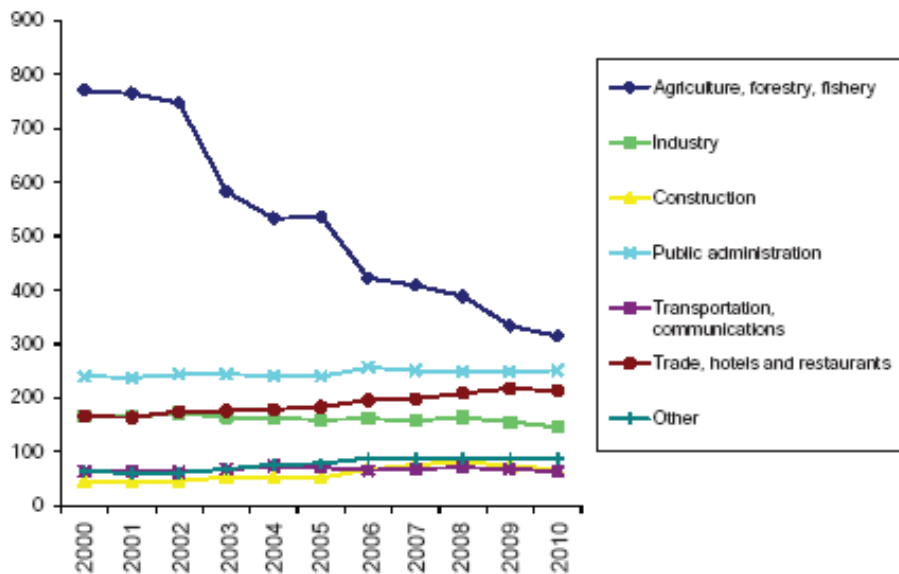
General portrait of Moldovan migrants



- Young people. Most of the migrants (79%) are between 18 and 44 years old;
- Family people. They constitute 71%, although the degree of family reunification in the destination of migration remains relatively low (21%);
- More educated people. 28% of all migrants are university graduates, 63% have secondary education or vocational (technical) secondary education

The impact of migration on the labor market

Employment by sectors, 2000–2010 (thousands)



Source: NBS, IOM

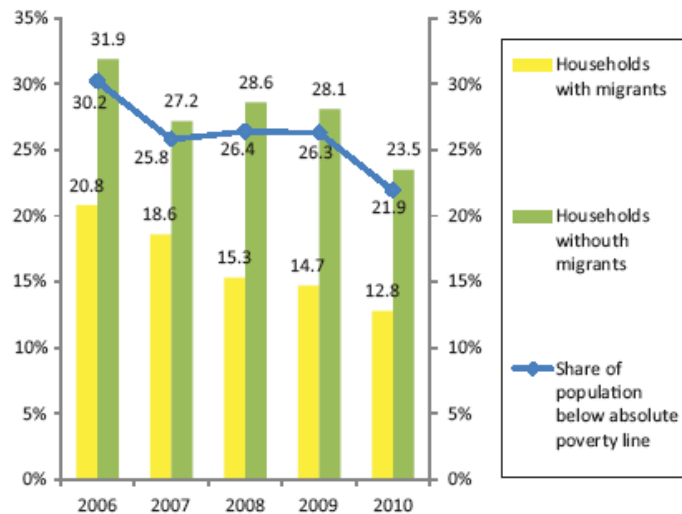
Thus, over the last twenty years, the health care industry has lost more than 40% of trained health workers, many of whom have left the country for good. Moldova suffers from a severe shortage of health workers in rural areas.

The education system in Moldova for many years has been experiencing an acute shortage of teachers, mainly in primary and secondary schools. Many young teachers prefer to go abroad in search of work, as in their home country they are offered low wages, while in other countries they can earn much more.

Demographic imbalances.

Negative social consequences of migration

Poverty rate in households with migrants versus those without migrants

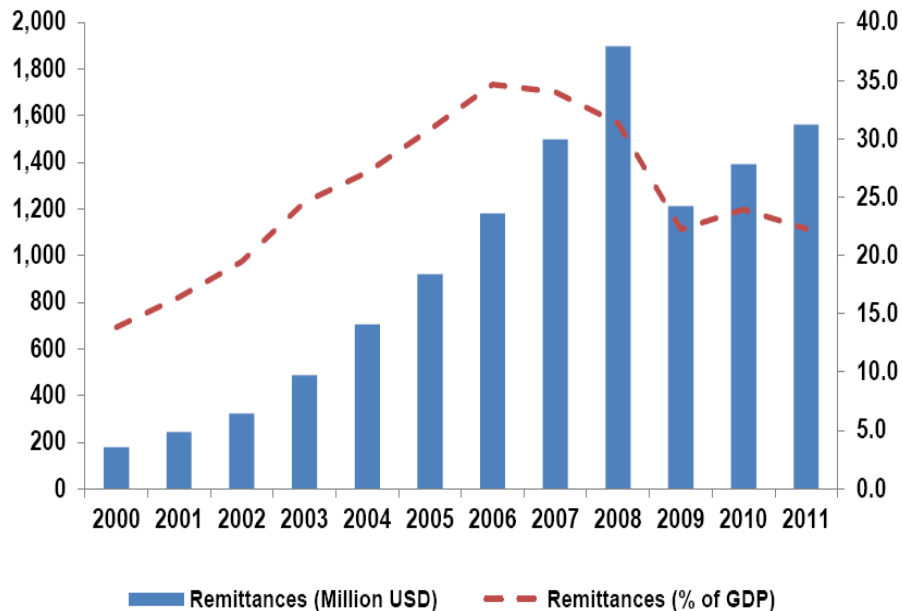


Source: NBS, IOM

Experts, citing the National Bureau of Statistics, report that in 2011 18% of the total number of Moldovan households consisted only of the elderly, i.e., adults 65 years and older, and have a poverty rate of 30%. 36% of the households are formed by retirees (the current retirement age in Moldova is 57 years for women and 62 years for men). Their poverty rate is estimated at 28%. About 75% of poor households with elderly people are in rural areas

Remittances

Figure 3 - Remittances by expatriates to Moldova, absolute values (Mil-USD) and as a % of GDP, 2000-2010



Source: World Bank

According to the National Bank of Moldova, the volume of remittances sent to the country by migrant workers in 2012 exceeded \$1.5 billion (more than 65% came from Russia), approaching its maximum of more than \$ 1.6 billion achieved in the pre-crisis year 2008.

Since 2005, the ratio of incoming remittances to GDP has been more than 30% (in 2006 - more than 38 %). The World Bank data show that in 2010 Moldova was second in the world only to Tajikistan, ranking with such countries as Nepal, Tonga, and Lesotho, which are dependent on remittances

Diversity of citizenship of the Moldovan population



At the end of 2012 more than 210 thousand citizens of the **Russian Federation** were registered, of whom about 170 thousand lived in Transnistria.



About 90,000 **Ukrainian** citizens permanently residing in the Republic of Moldova, mostly in Transnistria, were registered in 2008.



226.5 thousand Moldovan citizens received **Romanian** citizenship in the period from 1991 to August 15, 2011.



The total number of Moldovan citizens who have been granted **Bulgarian** citizenship is estimated at more than 20 thousand persons.

Visa liberalization for Moldova



COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION



Brussels, 14 March 2014
7645/14
(OR. en)
PRESSE 146

Visa liberalisation for Moldova

Citizens of the Republic of Moldova possessing biometric passports will be able to travel to and throughout the Schengen area without a visa. That is the result of the amendments to the regulation No 539/2001 which the Council approved today ([PE-CONS 36/14](#)).

The European Parliament gave its green light to the amendments on 27 February 2014.

The visa free regime concerns stays of up to 90 days. The regime should enter into force, in accordance with Article 2 of the adopted text, on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union. Since the regulation is likely to be published during April, the visa liberalisation should be effective in early May 2014

- Some increase in the number of Moldovan migrants;
- Strengthening the circular nature of Moldovan migrants in the EU;
- Gradual reorientation of flows of Moldovan migrants from the east (Russia, Ukraine) to the west (the EU).

Political and economic crisis in Ukraine as a new migration factor for Moldova



- Reduction in the attractiveness of Ukraine for labor migrants from Moldova;
- Restriction to enter Ukraine for foreigners (including transit migrants from Moldova);
- Expected increased competition between Ukrainian and Moldovan migrants in the labor markets of Russia and the EU.

Types of international migration in Moldova

Three types of international migration in Moldova:

- short-term international migration, mainly to the CIS countries;
- long-term international migration, mainly to the countries of the European Union;

legitimate long-term international migration to the United States and Canada.

Most recently, the following trends have been identified in the general structure of Moldovan migration. They are from the CIS to the EU, from short-term seasonal migration to long-term migration.

Visa liberalization with the EU and recent events in Ukraine will also contribute to these trends.

Thank you

for your attention!

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