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MIGRATION POLICY CENTRE



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# Migration Facts Moldova

On the web: [www.migrationpolicycentre.eu](http://www.migrationpolicycentre.eu)

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**Introduction.** External migration was largely not allowed during the Soviet period. Migration flows from and to Republic of Moldova were limited to the territory of the USSR. The break-up of the Soviet Union and the military conflict in Transnistria in 1992 prompted a wave of ethnic migration towards Russia and Ukraine. After the 1998 financial-economic crisis in Russia, Moldova is a country of mass emigration. Migration is a response to the extreme poverty. Remittances account for 36% of the national GDP. The main recent trends: 1) short-term labour migration to the Russian Federation and other CIS countries; 2) increasing long-term migration to the EU (mainly Italy and Poland). Russia remains an attractive destination for labour migrants due to its large labour market and reduced transportation costs. Israel and CIS countries are the main source countries.

Demographic-Economic	
Outward Migration	Inward Migration
<b>STOCK</b>	
<b>Moldovan emigration stocks - year 2011 (a)</b>	<b>Immigration stocks in Moldova - year 2004 (b)</b>
<b>Total emigrants:</b> 399,732	<b>Total immigrants:</b> 19,458 (0.2% of the total resident population)
<b>Five top countries of residence:</b> Italy: 132,083 Russia: 72,233 Romania: 44,564 United States: 35,325 Spain: 16,701	<b>Five top countries of nationality (c):</b> Ukraine: 2,000 Russia: 1,600 Romania: 1,100 Italy: 300 Israel: 200 (c) Irregular migrants are not included
<b>Sex:</b> Males: 40.0% Females: 60.0%	<b>Sex:</b> Males: 47.5% Females: 52.5%
<b>Age group:</b> Less than 15: 8.3% 15-64: 88.7% 65+: 3.0%	<b>Age group:</b> Less than 17: 21.7% 15-64: 87.3% 65+: 12.6%
<b>Level of education (year 2006):</b> primary or below (15.0%); secondary (31.9%); tertiary (53.2%)	
<b>Occupation (year 2006):</b> professionals (17.6%); service workers and shop and market sales workers (17.4%); craft and related trades workers (15.2%)	
<b>Notes:</b> (a) Moldovan emigrants are defined according to the country of birth (best option) or country of nationality criterion according to countries of residence. In the post-Soviet zone, the country of nationality is used <b>Source:</b> destination countries' sources (population census/population register/household survey)	<b>Notes:</b> (b) Immigrants are defined according to the country of birth criterion <b>Source:</b> Moldovan population census – 2004
<b>FLOWS</b>	
<b>Outflows of Moldovan nationals to selected countries of destination – year 2011</b>	<b>Inflows of foreign nationals in Moldova – year 2010</b>
<b>Total outflows:</b> 31,750	<b>Total inflows:</b> 2,512
<b>Five top countries of destination:</b> Italy: 16,186 Poland: 6,623 Romania: 2,764 Russia: 1,826 Ukraine: 1,325	<b>Five top countries of nationality:</b> Israel: 482 Ukraine: 375 Romania: 309 Russian Federation: 294 Turkey: 287
<b>Source:</b> flow data are proxied by granted first residence permits (EU MS + Norway), issued visas (US + Australia) and the number of registrations to a place of permanent residence (post-Soviet zone)	<b>Source:</b> flow data are proxied by the number of registrations to a place of permanent residence in Moldova (Bureau of Migration and Asylum - Moldova)

## Legal and political framework governing migration and mobility

### General legal references

2011 Law on Integration of Foreigners in the Republic of Moldova  
 2011 National Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Strategy in the Domain of Migration and Asylum (2011-2015)  
 2011 National Strategy in the Domain of Migration and Asylum (2011-2020)  
 2010 Government Decision regarding the Commission for Coordination of Certain Activities Relating to Migration  
 2008 Law on the Regime of Foreigners in the Republic of Moldova  
 2008 Law on Labour Migration  
 2008 Law on Asylum in the Republic of Moldova  
 1994 Law on the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens and Stateless Persons  
 1994 Law on exit from and entry into the Republic of Moldova

Outward Migration and Mobility	Inward Migration and Mobility
<b>Visa</b>	<b>Visa</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2007 EC-MD Visa Facilitation Agreement amended in 2012.</li> <li>- MD citizens are exempted from the visa requirements in the CIS countries and Georgia</li> <li>- 2009 visa-free local border traffic agreement with Romania</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 types of visa: "A" - airport transit visa; "B" - transit visa; "C" - visas for one or more stays not exceeding 90 days within 6-months from the date of first entrance into the country; and "D" - long-term up to one year visa.</li> <li>- CIS, EEA, US, Canadian, Israeli and Japanese citizens are exempted from the visa requirement.</li> </ul>
<b>Labour</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2011 Agreement on labour migration with IT</li> <li>- MD citizens temporarily employed abroad, have to receive an employment contract, register it both at the National Employment Agency and at the National House for Social Security, and pay the social insurance contributions.</li> </ul>	<p>MD approximates its immigration policy with the EU standards. Labour immigration is possible only when the vacancies cannot be filled from domestic human resources. The right to work is conferred by the decision of the National Employment Agency, based on which the Bureau of Migration and Asylum grants the temporary residence right for the purpose of work and issues the temporary residence permit.</p>
<b>Rights</b>	<b>Rights</b>
<p>Acc. to the constitution, MD citizens enjoy the protection of their State both at home and abroad, as well as the right to freedom of movement. MD concluded agreements in the field of social security and social protection with BEL, RO, PT, LU, ET, CZ, BG, AT, RF, UA, BY, AZ</p>	<p>Aliens have the same rights as the MD citizens, with some exceptions for the most part relating to political rights. The right to temporary residence is granted up to five years. The right to permanent residence can be granted, as a rule, after 5 years of temporary residence.</p>
<b>Readmission Agreements</b>	<b>Irregular Migration</b>
<p>Readmission agreements are in place with the EU, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Macedonia, Montenegro, Norway, Switzerland, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine. The agreement with the EU provides for the obligation of MD to readmit not only illegally staying MD citizens but also aliens who hold either MD entry visa or illegally entered the territory of contracting parties from Moldova.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In relation to illegally staying aliens, a decision on return is taken by the Bureau of Migration and Asylum. Under certain circumstances, such as the impossibility to return in a fixed term, aliens can be placed into the Temporary Placement Centre for Foreigners.</li> <li>- Illegal crossing of the state border and the organisation of illegal migration are crimes while the violations of the rules of stay and residence as well as illegal employment of aliens are administrative infringements.</li> </ul>
<b>Diaspora</b>	<b>International Protection</b>
<p>MD has been actively pursuing diaspora policy, focusing on return (temporary or permanent) of its nationals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coordination Council of Persons Originating from the Republic of Moldova and Residing Abroad;</li> <li>- Scientific Diaspora of the RM in the structure of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova;</li> <li>- Bureau for Diaspora Relations in the structure of the State chancellery (created in 2012).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accession to the Geneva Refugee Convention in 2001</li> <li>- Forms of protection granted in Moldova are: refugee status, humanitarian protection, temporary protection, political asylum.</li> <li>- The president grants political asylum. The Bureau of Migration and Asylum grants refugee status and the humanitarian protection. The Government grants temporary protection but it has never been applied in practice thus far.</li> </ul>
<b>Multiple Citizenship</b>	<b>Citizenship</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MD citizens who are at the same time the citizens of other states are recognized in relation to the MD only as its citizens.</li> <li>- An MD citizen who has a dual or multiple citizenships is only subject to military service in the Republic of Moldova, if that person resides lawfully and habitually in its territory.</li> </ul>	<p>Preconditions for the naturalization are: 10 years of lawful and habitual residence (8 years for refugees and stateless persons, 3 years for persons married to MD citizens); knowledge and observance of the constitution, knowledge of the state language; having legal sources of subsistence; loss or renunciation to another citizenship, if it is possible.</p>