

Ethnologue: Languages of Bulgaria

Twenty-sixth edition data

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List of Abbreviations

A	Agent in constituent word order
<i>alt.</i>	alternate name for
<i>alt. dial.</i>	alternate dialect name for
AOV	Agent-Object-Verb
C	Consonant in canonical syllable patterns
CDE	Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960)
<i>Class</i>	Language classification
CPPDCE	Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)
CSICH	Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)
DBS	Deaf Bible Society
<i>dial.</i>	primary dialect name for
DOOR	Deaf Opportunity Outreach
EUD	European Union of the Deaf
FPCNM	Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (1998)
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
IMB	International Mission Board
km	kilometer(s)
L1 / L2	first language / second (or other additional) language
<i>Lg Dev</i>	Language development
<i>Lg Use</i>	Language use
m	meter(s)
P	Patient in constituent word order
PARADISEC	Pacific And Regional Archive for Digital Sources In Endangered Cultures
<i>pej.</i>	pejorative
pl.	plural
S	Subject in constituent word order
sg.	singular
SIL	SIL International
SVO	Subject-Verb-Object
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
V	Vowel in canonical syllable patterns

How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Bulgaria that is published in the 26th edition of *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* (see <http://www.ethnologue.com>), including some ways of presenting the information that are not available in the online version. The digest begins with a “Country Overview” (page 6) and “Statistical Summaries” (page 8) of languages and number of speakers by language size, by language status, and by language family.

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) provides detailed information on the 24 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Bulgaria. This includes languages that are indigenous to the country, languages that have developed well-established multigenerational speaker communities after immigrating in the past, and languages that have a significant presence in the country but are not established (that is, not being transmitted to the next generation within the country). A complete language entry has the following form and content:

Primary language name [ISO 639-3 code] (Alternate names). Autonym. *Users*: Country user population. Population stability comment. Population remarks. Monolingual population. Ethnic population. *Location*: Location. *Status*: EGIDS level. Special cases. Language function in country. *Class*: Linguistic classification. Macrolanguage membership. *Dialects*: Dialect names. Intelligibility and dialect relations. Lexical similarity. *Type*: Linguistic typology information. *Lg Use*: Remarks on use of the language. Domains of use. User age range. Language attitudes. Bilingualism remarks. Use as second language. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rates. Literacy remarks. Use in education. Publications and use in media. Revitalization efforts. Language development agencies. *DLS*: Digital support. *Writing*: Scripts used. *Other*: Non-indigenous. General remarks. Religion. *Map*: Map page. *Worldwide*: Total population in all countries. Other countries where used.

See <http://www.ethnologue.com/methodology/#languagePages> for a full description of these information elements. If the autonym contains the “?” character, this indicates a complex non-Roman character that the PDF-creating software we are using is not able to render. We regret the inconvenience.

The “Language Map” (page 19) shows the locations of the listed languages. If the location of a language is given on a map, the *Map* element of the language entry indicates the page number of the map. If the language is identified on a map by name, but that name differs from the primary name in the language entry, the name on the map is given in parentheses. If the language is represented on the map by an index number, rather than by its name, the index number is given following the page number (with a colon as separator).

Many ways of finding languages are provided. “Languages by Population” (page 20) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 23) lists the languages by their level of development or endangerment as measured on EGIDS, the Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). “Languages by

Province” (page 26) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Bulgaria and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 27) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 28) gives an alphabetical listing of all the three-letter codes from ISO 639-3 that are used in this digest to uniquely identify languages. “Language Name Index” (page 29) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 48 unique names are associated with the 24 languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 31). The published sources are cited using standard in-text citations enclosed in parentheses, consisting of the author’s or editor’s surname followed by the year of publication. Unpublished sources including personal communications and unpublished reports are also acknowledged when specific statements or facts are attributed to them. They are identified using in-text citations enclosed in parentheses in which the year of the communication is given first, followed by the source’s first initial and surname. In such a case, there is no corresponding entry in the bibliography.

This digest is designed for use in both digital and print formats. The cross-references are thus rendered as page numbers that are hyperlinks. When using the document in printed form, simply turn to the referenced page by number. When using it in digital form, click on the blue text to jump to the cross-referenced location.

If you believe any of the information about a language in this digest is in error or if you are able to supply missing information, please send your proposed change to the editor using one of the means given below. Provide as much information as possible about the source of your information. Full bibliographic details of published sources are especially helpful.

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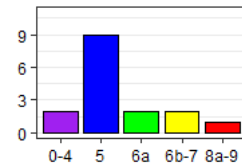
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Country Overview

Name of country	Bulgaria
Other names	Republic of Bulgaria
Population	6,520,000 (2021 census)
Principal language	Bulgarian
Literacy rate	98% (2015 World Factbook)
Deaf population	533,500
International conventions	CDE (1962), CPPDCE (2006), CSICH (2006), FCPNM (1999), ICCPR (1970), UNCRPD (2012), UNDRIP (2007)
General references	Campbell and King 2011, Comrie 1987

Language counts

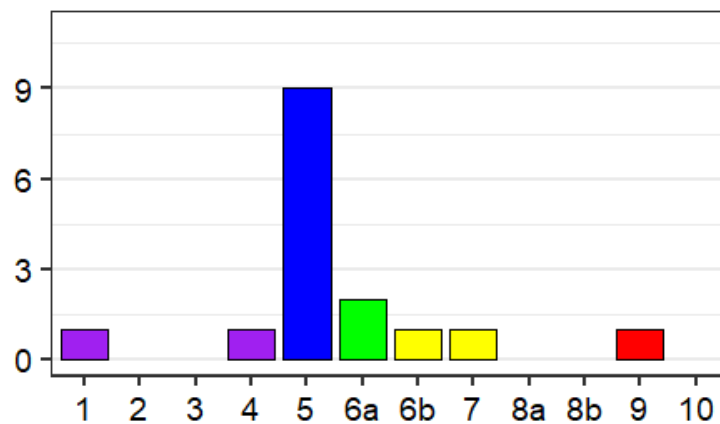
The number of established languages listed for Bulgaria is 16. All are living languages. Of these, 4 are indigenous and 12 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 2 are institutional, 9 are developing, 2 are vigorous, 2 are in trouble, and 1 is dying. Also listed are 8 unestablished languages.



See the next page for an explanation of the summary categories for language vitality used in the above counts and graph.

Language Status Profile

The following histogram gives a graphic profile of the established languages in Bulgaria with respect to their status of language development versus language endangerment. This includes all of the languages appearing in the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) that report an EGIDS level after *Status*; macrolanguages and unestablished languages are not included in the profile. The horizontal axis plots the estimated level of development or endangerment as measured on the EGIDS scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The height of each bar indicates the number of languages that are estimated to be at the given level. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 23) in order to see the specific languages for each level.



The color coding of the bars in the histogram above matches the color scheme used in the summary profile graph on the preceding page. In this scheme, the EGIDS levels are grouped as follows:

- Purple = Institutional (EGIDS 0–4) — The language has been developed to the point that it is used and sustained by institutions beyond the home and community.
- Blue = Developing (EGIDS 5) — The language is in vigorous use, with literature in a standardized form being used by some though this is not yet widespread or sustainable.
- Green = Vigorous (EGIDS 6a) — The language is in vigorous use among all generations and remains unstandardized.
- Yellow = In trouble (EGIDS 6b–7) — Intergenerational transmission is in the process of being broken, but the child-bearing generation can still use the language so it is possible that revitalization efforts could restore transmission of the language in the home.
- Red = Dying (EGIDS 8a–9) — The only fluent users (if any) are older than child-bearing age, so it is too late to restore natural intergenerational transmission through the home; a mechanism outside the home would need to be developed.
- Black = Extinct (EGIDS 10) — The language is no longer used and no one retains a sense of ethnic identity associated with the language.

Statistical Summaries

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) provides a detailed listing of all the languages of Bulgaria. This section steps back from the detail to offer a summary view of the language situation in the country. Specifically, it offers three numerical tabulations of the living established languages of Bulgaria and their users: by language size, by language status, and by language family.

Summary by language size

Table 1 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Bulgaria by number of L1 speakers. The *Population range* column categorizes the sizes of the languages by order of magnitude (in terms of the number of digits in the population of first-language speakers). Consult “Languages by Population” (page 20) for a listing of the specific languages in each range category.

The *Count* column gives the number of living established languages within the specified population range. The *Percent* column gives the share of the count for that population range as a percentage of the total number of languages given at the bottom of the Count column. The *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sum of the percentage of languages going from top to bottom in the column.

The *Total* column gives the total L1 population of all the languages in the given range category. The second *Percent* column gives the percentage of the total country population as estimated at the bottom of the Total column. Note that if the table has a row for Unknown, representing languages for which the *Ethnologue* does not have a population estimate, the calculation of population percentage is not able to take those languages into account. The final *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sums of the population percentages going from top to bottom in the column.

Table 1: Distribution of languages by number of first-language speakers

Population range	Living languages			Number of speakers		
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative
1,000,000 to 9,999,999	1	6.2	6.2%	5,000,000	84.01497	84.01497%
100,000 to 999,999	2	12.5	18.8%	887,000	14.90426	98.91923%
10,000 to 99,999	2	12.5	31.2%	36,800	0.61835	99.53758%
1,000 to 9,999	7	43.8	75.0%	27,520	0.46242	100.00000%
0	1	6.2	81.2%		0.00000	100.00000%
Unknown	3	18.8	100.0%			
<i>Totals</i>	16	100.0		5,951,320	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Bulgaria by their status in terms of language development or language endangerment. The *EGIDS* column categorizes the languages by their level on the EGIDS scale. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 23) for a listing of the specific languages that have been assigned to each level. Note that the EGIDS level reported here is for the status of the language in Bulgaria. Languages that are also used in other countries may be assigned to a different EGIDS level in those countries.

The next six columns are as in Table 1. In addition, the *Mean* column gives the average L1 population of all the languages with the given EGIDS level and the *Median* column gives the median L1 population for the languages at that level, that is, half of the languages at that level have a higher population and half have a lower population. If there are any languages with an unknown population, these are ignored in the calculation of the mean and the median.

Table 2: Distribution of languages by vitality status

EGIDS	Living languages			Number of speakers			Mean	Median
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative		
1	1	6.2	6.2%	5,000,000	84.0150	84.0150%	5,000,000	5,000,000
4	1	6.2	12.5%	2,500	0.0420	84.0570%	2,500	2,500
5	9	56.2	68.8%	656,620	11.0332	95.0902%	72,958	5,620
6a	2	12.5	81.2%	290,800	4.8863	99.9765%	145,400	145,400
6b	1	6.2	87.5%	1,400	0.0235	100.0000%	1,400	1,400
7	1	6.2	93.8%	Unknown				
9	1	6.2	100.0%		0.0000	100.0000%		
<i>Totals</i>	16	100.0		5,951,320	100.0000			

Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) name 3 different top-level groups. Table 3 summarizes the distribution of living established languages and their L1 populations within these families. The columns are as for table 2, with the exception that *Cumulative* is excluded since there is no inherent ordering of the families.

Table 3: Distribution of languages by language family

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
Indo-European	11	68.8	5,317,950	89.4	483,450	5,620
Sign language	1	6.2	21,000	0.4	21,000	21,000
Turkic	4	25.0	612,370	10.3	153,092	5,000
<i>Totals</i>	16	100.0	5,951,320	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Albanian, Gheg [aln]. Autonym: Gegnisht. *Users*: 1,000 in Bulgaria (2016 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Albanian, Gheg. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); definite article affix; case-marking (4 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; 29 consonant and 7 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1869–1990. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 4,239,280. Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia. Also established in: Romania, Turkey. Unestablished in: Australia, Austria, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States.

Armenian, Western [hyw]. *Users*: 5,620 in Bulgaria (2011 census). *Location*: Major cities. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Indo-European, Armenian. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Writing*: Armenian script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,582,290 (as L1: 1,576,490; as L2: 5,800). Indigenous in: Armenia, Georgia, Turkey. Also established in 20 other countries and unestablished in 14 more.

Aromanian [rup] (Armani, Armina, Armini, Arumanian, Macedo, Macedo-Rumanian, Romanian). Autonym: Armani. *Users*: 9,800 in Bulgaria (2016 J. Leclerc). *Location*: Blagoevgrad and Kyustendil provinces; Pazardzhit province: Peshtera, Rakitovo, and Velingrad municipalities. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). De facto language of provincial identity in Blagoevgrad, Kyustendil, Pazardzhik, Plovdiv, Sofia, Sofia Capital, Stanamaka, Stara Zagora, Veliko Tarnovo and Vidin provinces. *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Eastern. *Dialects*: Many linguists consider Aromanian to be a dialect of Romanian [ron] (2020 O. Ciobanu). *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Bible portions: 1889–2014. *Writing*: Greek script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Refers to those whose relatives emigrated from Macedonia (North Macedonia) and northern Greece between 1850 and 1914. Romanian Cultural Institute was closed in 1948. *Map*: 19:1. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 210,000. Global EGIDS level: 4 (Educational). Indigenous in: Albania, Greece, North Macedonia. Also established in: Romania, Serbia.

Balkan Gagauz Turkish [bgx]. Autonym: Rumeli Türkçesi. *Location*: Silistra province: Dulova municipality, near Ispirih town. Deli Orman area (Gajal dialect). *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Turkic, Southern, Turkish. *Dialect*: Gajal. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Bulgarian [bul]. *Lg Dev*: Texts. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Map*: 19:2. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 464,000. Indigenous in: Turkey. Also established in: North Macedonia.

Bulgarian [bul]. *Users*: 6,200,000 in Bulgaria, all users. L1 users: 5,000,000 in Bulgaria (2021). L2 users: 1,200,000 (2011). *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (1991, Constitution, Article 3). *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, South, Eastern. *Dialect*: Palityan (Bogomil, Palitiani). Palityan dialect is functionally intelligible with standard

Bulgarian. The Pomak dialect spoken in Greece is reportedly similar to Serbian [srp] and Bulgarian; geographical dialect variation toward each. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); vestiges of dual number; definite article affix; verb affixes mark person, number; tense and aspect; comparatives; 35 consonants, 6 vowels, 2 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress. *Lg Use*: The Sopa are of Petecheneg origin and speak Bulgarian. Some also use English [eng] (European Commission 2006). Some also use Standard German [deu] (European Commission 2006). *Lg Dev*: Taught in all primary and secondary schools. Taught in tertiary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1864–1923. *DLS*: Thriving (0.84). *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, primary usage. Cyrillic script, Old Church Slavonic variant, 19th century, experimental usage. *Other*: Christian. *Map*: 19:4. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 7,745,340 (as L1: 6,541,540; as L2: 1,203,800). Also indigenous in: Greece, Serbia, Turkey. Also established in: Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Ukraine. Unestablished in: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Kazakhstan, Libya, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States.

Bulgarian Sign Language [bqn] (Balgarski žestomimičen ezik, BŽE). *Users*: 21,000 (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). Estimated 14,000–28,000, assuming 0.2%–0.4% of the total population. Other estimates: 37,000 (2014 IMB), 50,000 (2019 EUD). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Sign language, Deaf community sign language. *Dialects*: None known. Different sign languages are used in school and by adults outside. *Type*: One-handed fingerspelling (Cyrillic script). *Lg Use*: Since 1920. Primary schools for deaf people since 1898. Allowed in school since 1945. Interpreters are required in court; some available for college students. Used by all. *Lg Dev*: TV. Videos. Dictionary. Agency: Union of the Deaf in Bulgaria (UDB). *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Other*: 46 working sign language interpreters (2019 EUD). Instruction for parents of deaf children available. Christian.

Chinese, Mandarin [cmn]. *Users*: 1,900 in Bulgaria (2016 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Chinese. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; 6 full (concrete meaning) word classes; no articles; passives; 24 consonants, 8 vowels, 6 diphthongs; tonal (4 phonemic tones). *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1874–1983. *Writing*: Bopomofo script, used since 1913, revised in 1920 and 1932, mainly used in Taiwan. Braille script. Han script, Simplified variant, used since 1956, official in Mainland China (1956) and Singapore (1969), also used elsewhere. Han script, Traditional variant, used since mid-19th century, official in Taiwan, also used elsewhere. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,138,222,350 (as L1: 939,237,350; as L2: 198,985,000). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: China. Also established in 17 other countries and unestablished in 60 more.

Crimean Tatar [crh] (Crimean, Crimean Turkish, Qırım Türkçesi, Qırım, Qirimtatar). *Users*: 1,370 in Bulgaria (2011 census). *Location*: Dobrich province: Krushari municipality. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Turkic, Southern. *Dialects*: Northern Crimean (Crimean Nogai, Steppe Crimean), Central Crimean, Southern Crimean. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 2016. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used until 1928.

Cyrillic script, primary usage. Latin script, official usage since 1997. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Muslim. *Map*: 19:5. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 581,340. Indigenous in: Ukraine. Also established in: Romania, Turkey, Uzbekistan. Unestablished in: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Turkmenistan.

Czech [ces]. Autonym: Český jazyk, Čeština. *Users*: 9,000 in Bulgaria (2016 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, West, Czech-Slovak. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense and aspect; comparatives; 26 consonant and 9 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on first syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1380–1980. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 12,257,160 (as L1: 9,568,660; as L2: 2,688,500). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Czechia. Also established in: Austria, Croatia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, United States. Unestablished in: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

English [eng]. Autonym: English. *Users*: 1,742,500 in Bulgaria, all users. L1 users: 2,500 in Bulgaria (2016 J. Leclerc). L2 users: 1,740,000 (2020). *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, English. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives after noun heads; articles, adjectives, numerals before noun heads; question word initial; word order distinguishes subject, object, indirect objects, given and new information, topic and comment; active and passive; causative; comparative; consonant and vowel clusters; 24 consonants, 13 vowels, 8 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress; phrasal verbs. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Bulgarian [bul]. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in secondary schools. Fully developed. *Bible*: 1382–2002. *Writing*: Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage until 1877. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. Shavian (Shaw) script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1,076,766,120). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Ireland, United Kingdom. Also established in 167 other countries and unestablished in 16 more.

French [fra]. Autonym: français. *Users*: 157,000 in Bulgaria (Marcoux et al 2022), L2 users. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Gallo-Romance, Gallo-Rhaetian, Oïl, French. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final for common adjectives, numbers, possessives, but most attributive adjectives come after the noun; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 20 consonant and 14 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; syllable-timed stress. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in secondary schools. Fully developed. *Bible*: 1530–2000. *Writing*: Braille script. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Andorra, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Monaco, Switzerland. Also established in 95 other countries and unestablished in 24 more.

Gagauz [gag] (Gagauz dili, Gagauzi, Gagauzça). Autonym: Gagauz dili, Gagauzça. *Users*: 5,000 in Bulgaria (Salminen 2007). *Location*: Dobrich province: Dobrich and Krusheri municipalities; Silistra province: Atafar and Kaybardzha municipalities; Varna province: Aksakovo municipality. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Turkic, Southern, Turkish. *Dialects*: Bulgar Gagauz, Maritime Gagauz. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2006. *Writing*: Cyrillic script, used between 1957–1991. Greek script, used until 1957. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Christian. *Map*: 19:6. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 146,690. Indigenous in: Moldova. Also established in: Romania, Ukraine. Unestablished in: Russian Federation.

German, Standard [deu] (Deutsch). Autonym: Deutsch. *Users*: 557,000 in Bulgaria (2020), L2 users. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, High German, German, Middle German, East Middle German. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); definite and indefinite articles; case-marking (4 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 22 consonants, 22 vowels, 3 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on first syllable of the root. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Bulgarian [bul]. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1466–2016. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. Latin script, Fraktur variant, used until 1940. Runic script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 133,245,880 (as L1: 75,282,080; as L2: 57,963,800). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Italy. Also established in 39 other countries and unestablished in 23 more.

Greek [ell]. *Users*: 3,220 in Bulgaria (2011 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Greek, Attic. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); definite and indefinite articles; case-marking (3 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives (active, medio-passive, passive); tense and aspect; comparatives; 18 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; free stress. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1840–1994. *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Ukraine. Greek script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 13,088,220 (as L1: 12,992,220; as L2: 96,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Albania, Greece. Also established in: Australia, Cyprus, Egypt, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine. Unestablished in: Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Finland, Germany, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Macedonian [mkd]. *Users*: 1,400 in Bulgaria (2011 census). *Location*: Blagoevgrad province: Blagoevgrad, Simitli, and Strumjani municipalities. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, South, Eastern. *Type*: SVO; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); definite article suffix; verb affixes mark person, number; passives (active, middle, passive); 26 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on antepenultimate syllable.

Lg Dev: Newspapers. Radio. Grammar. Bible: 1990–2006. *Writing*: Cyrillic script, used since 1944. *Other*: Some in Pirin Region claim Macedonian as L1 (1998 W. Brown). *Map*: 19:7. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,738,250 (as L1: 1,732,750; as L2: 5,500). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Also indigenous in: Greece (Slavic), North Macedonia. Also established in: Albania, Romania. Unestablished in: Australia, Austria, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey, United States.

Romani, Balkan [rmn] (Gypsy). Autonym: Romani, Romani čhib. *Users*: 481,000 in Bulgaria, all users. L1 users: 281,000 in Bulgaria (2011 census). 100,000 Arlija, 20,000 Dzambazi, 10,000 Tinsmiths, 10,000 East Bulgarian. L2 users: 200,000 (Gunnemark and Kenrick 1985). *Location*: Scattered near urban areas; Burgas, Gabrovo, Grad Sofiya, Sliven, and Sofiya provinces; Stara Zagora province: Kazanlak municipality. From Sofia to the Black Sea (Central dialect); central and northwest Bulgaria (Tinsmiths' dialect); Sofia region (Arlija dialect); Sliven and Varna provinces (Drindari dialect). *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Romani, Balkan. *Dialects*: Arli (Erli, Sofia Erli), Tinnens Romani, Greek Romani, Dzambazi, East Bulgarian Romani, Paspatian, Ironworker Romani, Drindari (Chalgijis, Kitajis), Pazardžik Kalajdži, Khorakhani. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 2015. *Writing*: Cyrillic script, used in Bulgaria. Greek script, used in Greece. Latin script, used in Serbia. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Ethnic groups: Jerlides (western Bulgaria), Drindári (central Bulgaria). Muslim. *Map*: 19:3. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 803,740 (as L1: 603,740; as L2: 200,000). Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Serbia. Also established in: Greece, Iran, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine. Unestablished in: France, Germany, Italy, Sweden.

Romani, Vlax [rmy] (Rom). Autonym: Romani. *Users*: 1,830 in Bulgaria (2011 census). *Location*: Sofiya province: Ihtiman. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Romani, Vlax. *Dialect*: Ihtiman. *Lg Use*: Also use Bulgarian [bul]. *Lg Dev*: Printed or pre-recorded Romani language materials may not be understandable outside the country (or context of surrounding languages) in which they were produced. Grammar. Bible: 2008. *Writing*: Cyrillic script, used by Kalderash dialect. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Christian. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 551,000. Global EGIDS level: 4 (Educational). Indigenous in: Romania. Also established in 17 other countries and unestablished in 10 more.

Romanian [ron]. *Users*: 5,520 in Bulgaria (2011 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Eastern. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial; gender (masculine/feminine/ambigeneric); indefinite article and definite article suffix; case-marking (2 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; 22 consonants, 7 vowels, 2 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1688–1989. *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, official usage in Moldova until 1991. Cyrillic script, Old Church Slavonic variant, 1688, experimental usage. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 24,478,820 (as L1: 24,461,820; as L2:

17,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Moldova, Romania, Ukraine. Also established in: Hungary, Israel, Serbia. Unestablished in: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan.

Russian [rus]. *Users*: 1,675,800 in Bulgaria, all users. L1 users: 15,800 in Bulgaria (2011 census). L2 users: 1,660,000 (European Commission 2012). *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, East. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives after noun heads; adjectives, numerals before noun heads; question word initial; 1 prefix on a word; recursive addition of suffixes allowed; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking (6 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense and aspect; comparatives; 32 consonants, 5 vowels, 4 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1876–2011. *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 254,997,130 (as L1: 146,954,150; as L2: 107,987,980). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Ukraine. Also established in 16 other countries and unestablished in 30 more.

Spanish [spa]. Autonym: Castellano, Español. *Users*: 127,000 in Bulgaria (2022), L2 users. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Castilian. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives, relatives after noun heads; articles, numerals before noun heads; adjectives before or after noun heads depending on whether it is evaluative or descriptive; question word initial; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark number, person; passives; tense; comparatives; 20 consonants, 5 vowels, 5 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. Silbo Gomero whistled variety of Spanish used in Canary Islands. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1553–2012. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 559,078,890 (as L1: 485,063,960; as L2: 74,014,930). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Andorra, Gibraltar, Spain. Also established in 40 other countries and unestablished in 32 more.

Turkish [tur] (Osmanli, Turki, Türkçe). Autonym: Türkçe. *Users*: 606,000 in Bulgaria (2011 census). *Location*: Burgas province: Kameno, Malko Tarnovo, east Sredets, Sozopol, and Tsarevo municipalities; Khaskovo and Kurdzhali provinces; Smolyan province: Banite, Madan, and Nedelino municipalities; Stara Zagora and Yambol provinces: small border areas. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). Recognized language (1991, National Education Act, No. 86/18.10.1991), Allows mother-tongue education in primary grades 1–8 for Turkish speakers. *Class*: Turkic, Southern, Turkish. *Dialects*: Danubian, Razgrad, Dinler, Macedonian Turkish. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; indefinite articles; case-marking (6 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; causatives; comparatives; 19 consonant and 8 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on final syllable; vowel harmony; evidentiality. *Lg Dev*:

Fully developed. Bible: 1827–2006. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Bulgaria. Greek script, no longer in use. Latin script, used since 1928 or 1929, primary usage. *Other*: Gradually being replaced by Bulgarian [bul], although Islam and ethnic identity remain strong. Natural growth balanced by emigration to Turkey. Muslim. *Map*: 19:8. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 90,028,000 (as L1: 84,010,500; as L2: 6,017,500). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Also indigenous in: Cyprus, Greece, Turkey. Also established in: Germany, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Syria, Uzbekistan. Unestablished in: Albania, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

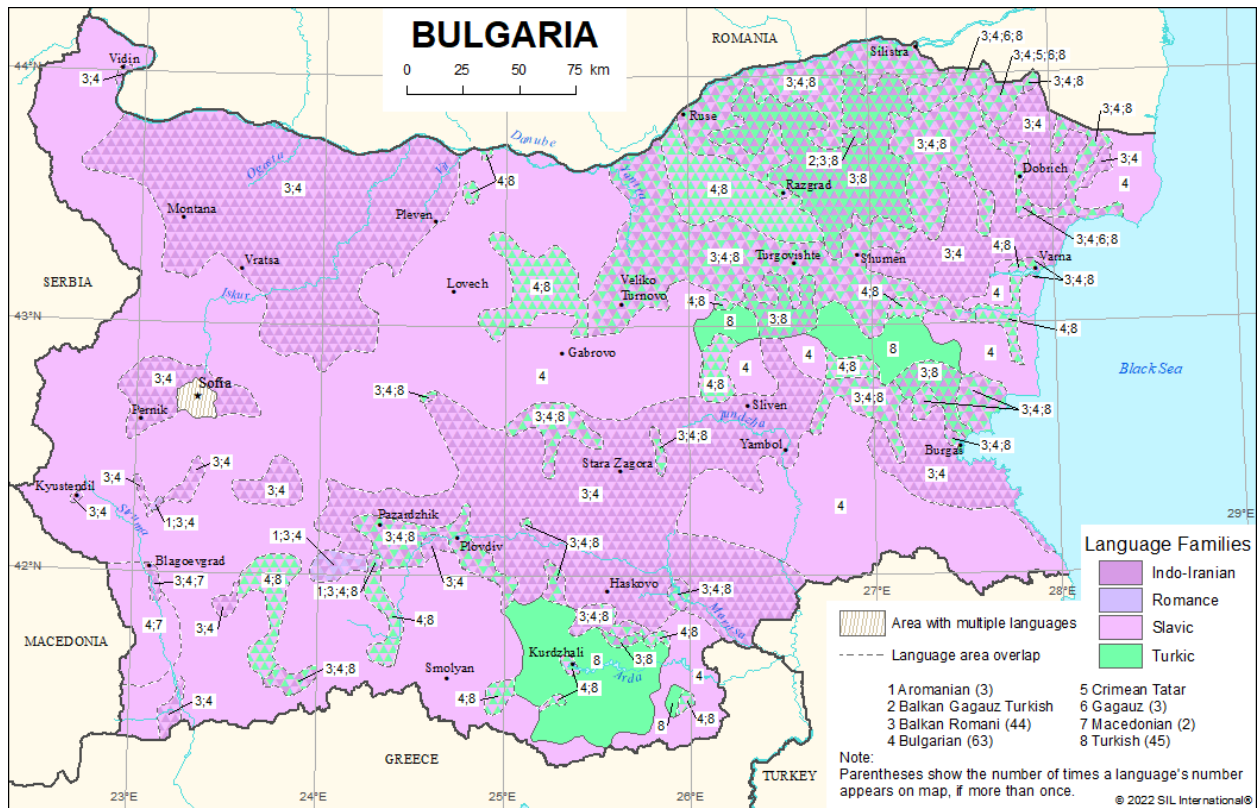
Ukrainian [ukr]. *Users*: 1,760 in Bulgaria (2011 census). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, East. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense and aspect; comparatives; 32 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; free stress. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1903–2020. *Writing*: Cyrillic script. Latin script, used in the 19th century, limited usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 33,026,920 (as L1: 26,862,920; as L2: 6,164,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine. Also established in: Brazil, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland. Unestablished in: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan.

Vietnamese [vie]. Autonym: Tiếng Việt. *Users*: 1,700 in Bulgaria (2016 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Austro-Asiatic, Mon-Khmer, Viet-Muong, Vietnamese. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial; classifiers and numerals precede noun heads; possessor noun phrases and adjectives follow noun heads; noun classifiers; no articles; passives; comparatives; 25 consonants, 11 vowels, 20 diphthongs, 4 triphthongs; tonal (6 tones); inclusive/exclusive pronouns. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1916–2008. *Writing*: Braille script. Han (Hanzi, Kanji, Hanja) script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 85,807,700 (as L1: 85,023,700; as L2: 784,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: China, Vietnam. Also established in: Cambodia, Thailand, United States. Unestablished in: Australia, Austria, Canada, China–Taiwan, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Martinique, Netherlands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, Vanuatu.

Yiddish, Eastern [ydd]. *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Bulgaria. Ethnic population: 2,200 (2016 World Jewish Congress). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 9 (Dormant). *Class*: Indo-

European, Germanic, West, High German, Yiddish. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine, feminine, neuter); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; 20 consonant, 6 vowels and 3 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on first syllable. *Lg Use*: Shifted to Bulgarian [[bul](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Periodicals. Radio. Grammar. Bible: 1821–1936. *Writing*: Hebrew script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 408,547 (as L1: 401,947; as L2: 6,600). Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Ukraine. Also established in 19 other countries and unestablished in 3 more.

Language Map



The majority of the language areas shown are the result of our own processing of the data from the National Statistical Institute, Sofia, 2011.

Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Bulgaria are listed in order of their population of first-language speakers within the country, from highest to lowest. The entries report just the population and status elements.

1,000,000 to 9,999,999

Bulgarian [[bul](#)] *Users*: 5,000,000 in Bulgaria (2021). 6,200,000 in Bulgaria, all users. L2 users: 1,200,000 (2011). *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (1991, Constitution, Article 3). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 7,745,340 (as L1: 6,541,540; as L2: 1,203,800).

100,000 to 999,999

Turkish [[tur](#)] *Users*: 606,000 in Bulgaria (2011 census). *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). Recognized language (1991, National Education Act, No. 86/18.10.1991), Allows mother-tongue education in primary grades 1–8 for Turkish speakers. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 90,028,000 (as L1: 84,010,500; as L2: 6,017,500).

Romani, Balkan [[rmn](#)] *Users*: 281,000 in Bulgaria (2011 census). 100,000 Arlija, 20,000 Dzambazi, 10,000 Tinsmiths, 10,000 East Bulgarian. 481,000 in Bulgaria, all users. L2 users: 200,000 (Gunnemark and Kenrick 1985). *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 803,740 (as L1: 603,740; as L2: 200,000).

10,000 to 99,999

Bulgarian Sign Language [[bqn](#)] *Users*: 21,000 (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). Estimated 14,000–28,000, assuming 0.2%–0.4% of the total population. Other estimates: 37,000 (2014 IMB), 50,000 (2019 EUD). *Status*: 5 (Developing).

Russian [[rus](#)] *Users*: 15,800 in Bulgaria (2011 census). 1,675,800 in Bulgaria, all users. L2 users: 1,660,000 (European Commission 2012). *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 254,997,130 (as L1: 146,954,150; as L2: 107,987,980).

1,000 to 9,999

Aromanian [[rup](#)] *Users*: 9,800 in Bulgaria (2016 J. Leclerc). *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). De facto language of provincial identity in Blagoevgrad, Kyustendil, Pazardzhik, Plovdiv, Sofia, Sofia Capital, Stanamaka, Stara Zagora, Veliko Tarnovo and Vidin provinces. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 210,000.

Czech [[ces](#)] *Users*: 9,000 in Bulgaria (2016 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 12,257,160 (as L1: 9,568,660; as L2: 2,688,500).

Armenian, Western [hyw] *Users:* 5,620 in Bulgaria (2011 census). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,582,290 (as L1: 1,576,490; as L2: 5,800).

Romanian [ron] *Users:* 5,520 in Bulgaria (2011 census). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 24,478,820 (as L1: 24,461,820; as L2: 17,000).

Gagauz [gag] *Users:* 5,000 in Bulgaria (Salminen 2007). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 146,690.

Greek [ell] *Users:* 3,220 in Bulgaria (2011 census). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 13,088,220 (as L1: 12,992,220; as L2: 96,000).

English [eng] *Users:* 2,500 in Bulgaria (2016 J. Leclerc). 1,742,500 in Bulgaria, all users. L2 users: 1,740,000 (2020). *Status:* 4 (Educational). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

Chinese, Mandarin [cmn] *Users:* 1,900 in Bulgaria (2016 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,138,222,350 (as L1: 939,237,350; as L2: 198,985,000).

Romani, Vlax [rmy] *Users:* 1,830 in Bulgaria (2011 census). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 551,000.

Ukrainian [ukr] *Users:* 1,760 in Bulgaria (2011 census). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 33,026,920 (as L1: 26,862,920; as L2: 6,164,000).

Vietnamese [vie] *Users:* 1,700 in Bulgaria (2016 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 85,807,700 (as L1: 85,023,700; as L2: 784,000).

Macedonian [mkd] *Users:* 1,400 in Bulgaria (2011 census). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,738,250 (as L1: 1,732,750; as L2: 5,500).

Crimean Tatar [crh] *Users:* 1,370 in Bulgaria (2011 census). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 581,340.

Albanian, Gheg [aln] *Users:* 1,000 in Bulgaria (2016 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 4,239,280.

0

Yiddish, Eastern [ydd] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Bulgaria. Ethnic population: 2,200 (2016 World Jewish Congress). *Status:* 9 (Dormant). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 408,547 (as L1: 401,947; as L2: 6,600).

Unknown

Balkan Gagauz Turkish [bgx] *Status:* 7 (Shifting). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 464,000.

French [fra] *Users:* L2 users: 157,000 in Bulgaria (Marcoux et al 2022), L2 users. *Status:* 5*

(Dispersed). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

German, Standard [[deu](#)] *Users*: L2 users: 557,000 in Bulgaria (2020), L2 users. *Status*: 5*

(Dispersed). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 133,245,880 (as L1: 75,282,080; as L2: 57,963,800).

Spanish [[spa](#)] *Users*: L2 users: 127,000 in Bulgaria (2022), L2 users. *Status*: Unestablished.

Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 559,078,890 (as L1: 485,063,960; as L2: 74,014,930).

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Bulgaria are listed in order of their status within the country as represented by their level on the EGIDs scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The language entries are reduced to just the information elements that are relevant to assessing the EGIDS level: population, status, language use, language development, and writing.

1 (National)

Bulgarian [**bul**] *Users:* 6,200,000 in Bulgaria, all users. L1 users: 5,000,000 in Bulgaria (2021). L2 users: 1,200,000 (2011). *Status:* Statutory national language (1991, Constitution, Article 3). *Lg Use:* The Sopa are of Petecheneg origin and speak Bulgarian. Some also use English [**eng**] (European Commission 2006). Some also use Standard German [**deu**] (European Commission 2006). *Lg Dev:* Fully developed. Bible: 1864–1923. *Writing:* Braille script. Cyrillic script, primary usage. Cyrillic script, Old Church Slavonic variant, 19th century, experimental usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 7,745,340 (as L1: 6,541,540; as L2: 1,203,800).

4 (Educational)

English [**eng**] *Users:* 1,742,500 in Bulgaria, all users. L1 users: 2,500 in Bulgaria (2016 J. Leclerc). L2 users: 1,740,000 (2020). *Lg Use:* Used as L2 by Bulgarian [**bul**]. *Writing:* Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage until 1877. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. Shavian (Shaw) script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1,076,766,120).

5 (Developing)

Armenian, Western [**hyw**] *Users:* 5,620 in Bulgaria (2011 census). *Writing:* Armenian script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,582,290 (as L1: 1,576,490; as L2: 5,800).

Bulgarian Sign Language [**bqn**] *Users:* 21,000 (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). Estimated 14,000–28,000, assuming 0.2%–0.4% of the total population. Other estimates: 37,000 (2014 IMB), 50,000 (2019 EUD). *Lg Use:* Since 1920. Primary schools for deaf people since 1898. Allowed in school since 1945. Interpreters are required in court; some available for college students. Used by all. *Lg Dev:* TV. Videos. Dictionary.

Crimean Tatar [**crh**] *Users:* 1,370 in Bulgaria (2011 census). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, used until 1928. Cyrillic script, primary usage. Latin script, official usage since 1997. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 581,340.

Gagauz [**gag**] *Users:* 5,000 in Bulgaria (Salminen 2007). *Writing:* Cyrillic script, used between 1957–1991. Greek script, used until 1957. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 146,690.

5 (Dispersed)

French [[fra](#)] *Users*: 157,000 in Bulgaria (Marcoux et al 2022), L2 users. *Writing*: Braille script. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

German, Standard [[deu](#)] *Users*: 557,000 in Bulgaria (2020), L2 users. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Bulgarian [[bul](#)]. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. Latin script, Fraktur variant, used until 1940. Runic script, no longer in use. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 133,245,880 (as L1: 75,282,080; as L2: 57,963,800).

Romani, Vlax [[rmy](#)] *Users*: 1,830 in Bulgaria (2011 census). *Lg Use*: Also use Bulgarian [[bul](#)]. *Writing*: Cyrillic script, used by Kalderash dialect. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 551,000.

Russian [[rus](#)] *Users*: 1,675,800 in Bulgaria, all users. L1 users: 15,800 in Bulgaria (2011 census). L2 users: 1,660,000 (European Commission 2012). *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 254,997,130 (as L1: 146,954,150; as L2: 107,987,980).

Turkish [[tur](#)] *Users*: 606,000 in Bulgaria (2011 census). *Status*: Recognized language (1991, National Education Act , No. 86/18.10.1991), Allows mother-tongue education in primary grades 1–8 for Turkish speakers. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Bulgaria. Greek script, no longer in use. Latin script, used since 1928 or 1929, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 90,028,000 (as L1: 84,010,500; as L2: 6,017,500).

6a (Vigorous)

Aromanian [[rup](#)] *Users*: 9,800 in Bulgaria (2016 J. Leclerc). *Status*: De facto language of provincial identity in Blagoevgrad, Kyustendil, Pazardzhik, Plovdiv, Sofia, Sofia Capital, Stanamaka, Stara Zagora, Veliko Tarnovo and Vidin provinces. *Writing*: Greek script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 210,000.

Romani, Balkan [[rnmn](#)] *Users*: 481,000 in Bulgaria, all users. L1 users: 281,000 in Bulgaria (2011 census). 100,000 Arlija, 20,000 Dzambazi, 10,000 Tinsmiths, 10,000 East Bulgarian. L2 users: 200,000 (Gunnemark and Kenrick 1985). *Writing*: Cyrillic script, used in Bulgaria. Greek script, used in Greece. Latin script, used in Serbia. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 803,740 (as L1: 603,740; as L2: 200,000).

6b (Threatened)

Macedonian [[mkd](#)] *Users*: 1,400 in Bulgaria (2011 census). *Writing*: Cyrillic script, used since 1944. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,738,250 (as L1: 1,732,750; as L2: 5,500).

7 (Shifting)

Balkan Gagauz Turkish [[bgx](#)] *Lg Use:* Shifting to Bulgarian [[bul](#)]. *Writing:* Latin script.
Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 464,000.

9 (Dormant)

Yiddish, Eastern [[ydd](#)] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Bulgaria. Ethnic population: 2,200 (2016 World Jewish Congress). *Lg Use:* Shifted to Bulgarian [[bul](#)]. *Writing:* Hebrew script.
Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 408,547 (as L1: 401,947; as L2: 6,600).

Unestablished

Albanian, Gheg [[aln](#)] *Users:* 1,000 in Bulgaria (2016 J. Leclerc). *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 4,239,280.

Chinese, Mandarin [[cmn](#)] *Users:* 1,900 in Bulgaria (2016 J. Leclerc). *Writing:* Bopomofo script, used since 1913, revised in 1920 and 1932, mainly used in Taiwan. Braille script. Han script, Simplified variant, used since 1956, official in Mainland China (1956) and Singapore (1969), also used elsewhere. Han script, Traditional variant, used since mid-19th century, official in Taiwan, also used elsewhere. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,138,222,350 (as L1: 939,237,350; as L2: 198,985,000).

Czech [[ces](#)] *Users:* 9,000 in Bulgaria (2016 J. Leclerc). *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 12,257,160 (as L1: 9,568,660; as L2: 2,688,500).

Greek [[ell](#)] *Users:* 3,220 in Bulgaria (2011 census). *Writing:* Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Ukraine. Greek script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 13,088,220 (as L1: 12,992,220; as L2: 96,000).

Romanian [[ron](#)] *Users:* 5,520 in Bulgaria (2011 census). *Writing:* Braille script. Cyrillic script, official usage in Moldova until 1991. Cyrillic script, Old Church Slavonic variant, 1688, experimental usage. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 24,478,820 (as L1: 24,461,820; as L2: 17,000).

Spanish [[spa](#)] *Users:* 127,000 in Bulgaria (2022), L2 users. *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 559,078,890 (as L1: 485,063,960; as L2: 74,014,930).

Ukrainian [[ukr](#)] *Users:* 1,760 in Bulgaria (2011 census). *Writing:* Cyrillic script. Latin script, used in the 19th century, limited usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 33,026,920 (as L1: 26,862,920; as L2: 6,164,000).

Vietnamese [[vie](#)] *Users:* 1,700 in Bulgaria (2016 J. Leclerc). *Writing:* Braille script. Han (Hanzi, Kanji, Hanja) script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 85,807,700 (as L1: 85,023,700; as L2: 784,000).

Languages by Province

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the top-level administrative subdivisions within Bulgaria. Under the name of each province is a list of the language communities that are located within its area.

Blagoevgrad

- Aromanian [rup], 11
- Macedonian [mkd], 14

Burgas

- Romani, Balkan [rmn], 15
- Turkish [tur], 16

Dobrich

- Crimean Tatar [crh], 12
- Gagauz [gag], 14

Gabrovo

- Romani, Balkan [rmn], 15

Grad Sofiya

- Romani, Balkan [rmn], 15

Khaskovo

- Turkish [tur], 16

Kurdzhali

- Turkish [tur], 16

Kyustendil

- Aromanian [rup], 11

Pazardzhit

- Aromanian [rup], 11

Silistra

- Balkan Gagauz Turkish [bgx], 11
- Gagauz [gag], 14

Sliven

- Romani, Balkan [rmn], 15

Smolyan

- Turkish [tur], 16

Sofiya

- Romani, Balkan [rmn], 15
- Romani, Vlax [rmy], 15

Stara Zagora

- Romani, Balkan [rmn], 15
- Turkish [tur], 16

Varna

- Gagauz [gag], 14
- Romani, Balkan [rmn], 15

Yambol

- Turkish [tur], 16

Languages by Family

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the linguistic classifications used for the established languages of Bulgaria. The entries in this index represent the full path in the linguistic family tree from the highest level grouping down to the lowest. All the languages listed in the same entry are members of the same lowest-level subgroup. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language.

Indo-European, Armenian

Armenian, Western [hyw], [11](#)

Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, East

Russian [rus], [16](#)

Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, South, Eastern

Bulgarian [bul], [11](#)

Macedonian [mkd], [14](#)

Indo-European, Germanic, West, English

English [eng], [13](#)

Indo-European, Germanic, West, High German, German, Middle German, East Middle German

German, Standard [deu], [14](#)

Indo-European, Germanic, West, High German, Yiddish

Yiddish, Eastern [ydd], [17](#)

Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Romani, Balkan

Romani, Balkan [rmn], [15](#)

Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Romani, Vlax

Romani, Vlax [rmy], [15](#)

Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Eastern

Aromanian [rup], [11](#)

Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Gallo-Romance, Gallo-Rhaetian, Oïl, French

French [fra], [13](#)

Sign language, Deaf community sign language

Bulgarian Sign Language [bqn], [12](#)

Turkic, Southern

Crimean Tatar [crh], [12](#)

Turkic, Southern, Turkish

Balkan Gagauz Turkish [bgx], [11](#)

Gagauz [gag], [14](#)

Turkish [tur], [16](#)

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 24 three-letter codes that are used in this work to uniquely identify languages. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. All codes listed are part of the ISO 639-3 standard; see <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/>.

aln	Albanian, Gheg, 11	hyw	Armenian, Western, 11
bgx	Balkan Gagauz Turkish, 11	mkd	Macedonian, 14
bqn	Bulgarian Sign Language, 12	rmn	Romani, Balkan, 15
bul	Bulgarian, 11	rmy	Romani, Vlax, 15
ces	Czech, 13	ron	Romanian, 15
cmn	Chinese, Mandarin, 12	rup	Aromanian, 11
crh	Crimean Tatar, 12	rus	Russian, 16
deu	German, Standard, 14	spa	Spanish, 16
ell	Greek, 14	tur	Turkish, 16
eng	English, 13	ukr	Ukrainian, 17
fra	French, 13	vie	Vietnamese, 17
gag	Gagauz, 14	ydd	Yiddish, Eastern, 17

Language Name Index

This index lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. The following abbreviations are used in the index entries: *alt.* ‘alternate name for’; *alt. dial.* ‘alternate name for a dialect of’; *dial.* ‘primary name for a dialect of’; *pej. alt.* ‘pejorative alternate name for’; and *pej. alt. dial.* ‘pejorative alternate name for a dialect of’. Each index entry resolves to the primary name for the language with which the indexed name is associated, followed by square brackets containing the unique three-letter language code from ISO 639-3. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. If the language appears on a map, the entry for the primary name also lists page numbers for the maps on which the language occurs.

- Gheg Albanian**, *see* Albanian, Gheg [aln], 11
- Arli**, *dial.* Romani, Balkan [rmn], 15
- Armani**, *alt.* Aromanian [rup], 11
- Armenian, Western** [hyw], 11
see Armenian, Western [hyw], 11
- Armina**, *alt.* Aromanian [rup], 11
- Armini**, *alt.* Aromanian [rup], 11
- Aromanian** [rup], 11, 19
- Arumanian**, *alt.* Aromanian [rup], 11
- Balgarski žestomimičen ezik**, *alt.* Bulgarian Sign Language [bqn], 12
- Balkan Gagauz Turkish** [bgx], 11, 19
- Bogomil**, *alt. dial.* Bulgarian [bul], 11
- Bulgar Gagauz**, *dial.* Gagauz [gag], 14
- Bulgarian** [bul], 11, 19
- Bulgarian Sign Language** [bqn], 12, 0
- BŽE**, *alt.* Bulgarian Sign Language [bqn], 12
- Central Crimean**, *dial.* Crimean Tatar [crh], 12
- Chalgijis**, *alt. dial.* Romani, Balkan [rmn], 15
- Mandarin Chinese**, *see* Chinese, Mandarin [cmn], 12
- Crimean**, *alt.* Crimean Tatar [crh], 12
- Crimean Nogai**, *alt. dial.* Crimean Tatar [crh], 12
- Crimean Tatar** [crh], 12, 19
- Crimean Turkish**, *alt.* Crimean Tatar [crh], 12
- Danubian**, *dial.* Turkish [tur], 16
- Deutsch**, *alt.* German, Standard [deu], 14
- Dinler**, *dial.* Turkish [tur], 16
- Drindari**, *dial.* Romani, Balkan [rmn], 15
- Dzambazi**, *dial.* Romani, Balkan [rmn], 15
- East Bulgarian Romani**, *dial.* Romani, Balkan [rmn], 15
- English** [eng], 13
- Erli**, *alt. dial.* Romani, Balkan [rmn], 15
- French** [fra], 13
- Gagauz** [gag], 14, 19
- Gagauz dili**, *alt.* Gagauz [gag], 14
- Gagauzça**, *alt.* Gagauz [gag], 14
- Gagauzi**, *alt.* Gagauz [gag], 14
- Gajal**, *dial.* Balkan Gagauz Turkish [bgx], 11
- German, Standard** [deu], 14
see German, Standard [deu], 14
- Greek Romani**, *dial.* Romani, Balkan [rmn], 15
- Gypsy**, *alt.* Romani, Balkan [rmn], 15
- Ihtiman**, *dial.* Romani, Vlax [rmy], 15
- Ironworker Romani**, *dial.* Romani, Balkan [rmn], 15
- Khorakhani**, *dial.* Romani, Balkan [rmn], 15
- Kitajis**, *alt. dial.* Romani, Balkan [rmn], 15
- Macedo**, *alt.* Aromanian [rup], 11
- Macedonian** [mkd], 14, 19

Macedonian Turkish, *dial.* Turkish [tur], 16
Macedo-Rumanian, *alt.* Aromanian [rup], 11
Maritime Gagauz, *dial.* Gagauz [gag], 14
Northern Crimean, *dial.* Crimean Tatar [crh],
 12
Osmanli, *alt.* Turkish [tur], 16
Palitiani, *alt. dial.* Bulgarian [bul], 11
Palityan, *dial.* Bulgarian [bul], 11
Paspatian, *dial.* Romani, Balkan [rmn], 15
Pazardžik Kalajdži, *dial.* Romani, Balkan
 [rmn], 15
Qirim, *alt.* Crimean Tatar [crh], 12
Qırım Türkçesi, *alt.* Crimean Tatar [crh], 12
Qirimtatar, *alt.* Crimean Tatar [crh], 12
Razgrad, *dial.* Turkish [tur], 16
Rom, *alt.* Romani, Vlax [rmy], 15
Romani, Balkan [rmn], 15, 19
see Romani, Balkan [rmn], 15

Romani, Vlax [rmy], 15
see Romani, Vlax [rmy], 15
Romanian, *alt.* Aromanian [rup], 11
Russian [rus], 16
Sofia Erli, *alt. dial.* Romani, Balkan [rmn], 15
Southern Crimean, *dial.* Crimean Tatar [crh],
 12
Steppe Crimean, *alt. dial.* Crimean Tatar [crh],
 12
Tinners Romani, *dial.* Romani, Balkan [rmn],
 15
Türkçe, *alt.* Turkish [tur], 16
Turki, *alt.* Turkish [tur], 16
Turkish [tur], 16, 19
Yiddish, Eastern [ydd], 17
see Yiddish, Eastern [ydd], 17

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