

# EASTERN EUROPE

## POLAND



AREA 323,250 sq km  
POPULATION 38,442,000  
MONEY Zloty

## HUNGARY



AREA 93,032 sq km  
POPULATION 9,976,000  
MONEY Forint

## UKRAINE



AREA 603,700 sq km  
POPULATION 45,135,000  
MONEY Hryvnia

**S** EVEN countries from Eastern Europe joined the European Union in 2004: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic and Hungary.

Poland has a coastline on the Baltic Sea. There are huge shipbuilding factories at Gdansk. Towns in the south have big factories, too, where there is plenty of coal. Most of Poland is flat farmland.

The magnificent mountains in the far south are being 'rediscovered' by tourists.

Czechoslovakia split into two countries in 1993. The **Czech Republic** is west of the **Slovak Republic**. Both countries have beautiful hills and mountains, with fine pine trees. Skoda cars come from the Czech Republic. Further south is **Hungary**, a small country with SEVEN neighbours – can you name them? Most of Hungary is good farmland on plains and hills.

Polish, Czech and Slovak are all Slavic languages. Hungarian is totally different: it came from central Asia. Some Hungarian speakers also live in Slovakia and Romania.



▲ **Budapest, on the River Danube.** Buda and Pest were twin cities on either side of the River Danube. Now they have become Budapest, capital of Hungary. The river Danube is an important international waterway that flows through 9 countries.



▲ **Town square in Telc, Czech Republic.**

These houses date from the 1500s, when the town was rebuilt after a great fire. This is a popular place for tourists to visit. The historic centres of many towns in Eastern Europe are carefully preserved. Some have been totally rebuilt in the old style after wartime bombing.

## BELARUS



AREA 207,600 sq km  
POPULATION 9,578,000  
MONEY Belarusian ruble

## CZECH REPUBLIC

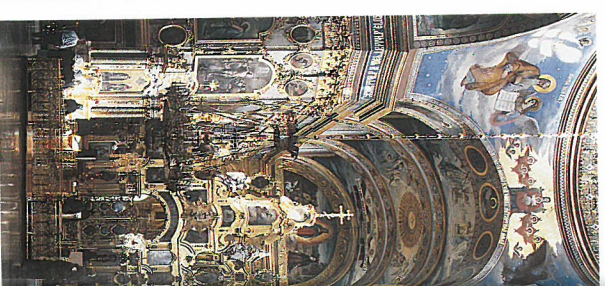


AREA 78,866 sq km  
POPULATION 10,190,000  
MONEY Czech koruna

## SLOVAK REPUBLIC



AREA 49,012 sq km  
POPULATION 5,477,000  
MONEY Euro



▲ **Church in Ukraine,** where many people are Orthodox Christians. The Ukraine is Europe's biggest country, apart from Russia. The population is nearly as big as the UK or France.



## CAN YOU FIND THESE ON THE MAP?

- 4 seas (1 in the north; 3 in the south).
- A lake shared by 2 countries.
- A river with 4 lakes (these lakes have been made by dams).
- A river with a 3-letter name.
- A city with a 14-letter name.
- 2 capital cities very near the sea.
- A mountain over 2500 metres high (the highest part of the mountain ridge in the picture, right).
- A peninsula that is joined to the rest of Ukraine by a very narrow piece of land.

Six countries on this map were part of the USSR (Soviet Union) until 1991. **Estonia**, **Latvia** and **Lithuania** are called 'the Baltic republics' because they are beside the Baltic Sea. **Belarus** ('White Russia') and little **Moldova** are landlocked countries, like several others on this map.

**Ukraine** is the largest country completely in Europe, but it is also one of the poorest. It has large areas of fertile farmland. Europe's largest coalfield is in the east, and there is iron ore for its steelworks.



▲ The border of Poland (right) and the Slovak Republic (left) runs along a high ridge of the Tatra Mountains. Can you find this border on the map below?

