

Geography

Location: Eastern Europe, east of Poland

Map references: Commonwealth of Independent States - European States

Area:

total area: 207,600 sq km

land area: 207,600 sq km

comparative area: slightly smaller than Kansas

Land boundaries: total 3,098 km, Latvia 141 km, Lithuania 502 km, Poland 605 km, Russia 959 km, Ukraine 891 km

Coastline: 0 km (landlocked)

Maritime claims: none; landlocked

International disputes: none

Climate: cold winters, cool and moist summers; transitional between continental and maritime

Terrain: generally flat and contains much marshland

Natural resources: forest land, peat deposits, small quantities of oil and natural gas

Land use:

arable land: 29%

permanent crops: 1%

meadows and pastures: 15%

forest and woodland: 0%

other: 55%

Irrigated land: 1,490 sq km (1990)

Environment:

current issues: soil pollution from pesticide use; southern part of the country contaminated with fallout from 1986 nuclear reactor accident at Chernobyl'

natural hazards: NA

international agreements: party to - Air Pollution, Air Pollution-Nitrogen Oxides, Air Pollution-Sulphur 85, Biodiversity, Environmental Modification, Marine Dumping, Nuclear Test Ban, Ozone Layer Protection; signed, but not ratified - Climate Change, Law of the Sea

Note: landlocked