

UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE LAW MAKES EU MEMBERSHIP IMPOSSIBLE

Ukraine cannot become a member of the EU if it does not revoke its discriminatory language laws, according to Gabor Landman, founder of the European Language Rights foundation, which advocates equal language rights. "The Ukrainian language laws are a violation of the Strasbourg Convention. It will have very bad consequences if the EU allows this discrimination."



Gabor Landman, the son of a Hungarian mother and a Frisian father, has experienced first-hand what language discrimination means. He lived in Romania for a number of years, where he worked as an interpreter, and experienced the difficulties experienced by the Hungarian autonomous minority there. He was therefore alarmed when the EU Association Agreement with Ukraine was proposed around 2016 since it would not bring any good for the minorities in Ukraine.

Immediately after the Association Agreement was approved, in 2017, Ukraine introduced its first language law, with several discriminatory provisions. Between 2017 and 2019, more Ukrainian language laws had been adopted. "Ukraine even prohibited the publication [of Russian-language books](#), on top of an existing ban for broadcast in Russian on the radio, or to publish Russian-language newspapers," says Landman. "The Ukrainian Commissioner for the Protection of the State Language even proudly reports on his [website](#) that from January 16, 2021, it is forbidden to address a customer in a store in a language other than Ukrainian. The fact that Ukraine has not made any efforts to repeal these laws since it has become an EU candidate member damages the EU's credibility in defending European values."

The language laws in Ukraine affect not only Russian speakers but also Hungarian and Romanian speakers, among others. "In Ukraine, as in its neighbors Moldova and Romania, there are large geopolitical linguistic minorities, and the area in which this minority language is spoken is not limited to the country's borders."

"Language rights are extremely relevant to European integration," explains Landman. 'It was exactly due to the violent ethnic failure of Yugoslavia that the

rights of autonomous minorities were identified as the basis for lasting peace by codifying them in the 1995 Strasbourg Convention. This treaty protects minorities from nationalism by ensuring the free use of their language and culture. Ukraine ratified this convention in 1998. North Macedonia only became a member of NATO in 2019 after guaranteeing the language rights of the Albanian autonomous minority."



Bilingual Police Car in Bozen, South-Tyrol, Italy. (July 2023)

In addition to the Strasbourg Convention, there is also an European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages, which entered into force in 1998, which prohibits linguistic discrimination, and there are several other treaties, which give [German speakers in North Tyrol](#), Swedish speakers in Finland, Frisians in the Netherlands, Basques and Catalans in Spain, and Hungarians in Slovakia and Romania, among others, the right to use their language and identity freely in their private lives. healthcare, commerce, culture and justice. The European Convention on Human Rights also prohibits discrimination on the basis of language and ethnicity, Landman argues.

In 2019, he approached the European Commission and European Council (of ministers) and [filed a complaint with the Commission](#) on behalf of his foundation, aimed at Ukraine's accession, but he has not heard back. However, the European Council (of Heads of Government) did indicate in 2022 that Ukraine must "respect the language and educational rights of persons belonging to national minorities". The question is whether it will put this principle into practice with regard to Ukraine. Landman is not feeling confident about this. "It is extremely unfortunate that by dismantling the existing education in the mother tongue, Ukraine threatens the survival of communities of vulnerable historical minorities such as Russians, Hungarians, Poles and Romanians. All that is needed is political will from Ukraine to repeal those laws. It would be unacceptable for the EU not to enforce this. This could have major repercussions for the future."

Published in the De Andere Krant of 21-10-2023 More information and publications: <https://language-rights.eu/NL/>

DUTCH VERSION :

<https://language->

rights.eu/DAK_OEKRAINSE_TAALWET21102023.pdf

ENGLISH VERSION :

<https://language->

rights.eu/DAK_OEKRAINSE_TAALWET21102023_GB.pdf

HUNGARIAN VERSION :

<https://language->

rights.eu/DAK_OEKRAINSE_TAALWET21102023_HU.pdf

ARTICLE FROM 2014 !

Ernstig als Russen geen Russisch mogen spreken

Voor de Russisch sprekende bevolking is het dan een nachtmerrie wakker te worden in een nieuwe nattestaat.

Ook taaknederlanden die de Gagausen hebben geïnforceerd reden om verniging van Moldavië met Roemenië te vrezen. Hierop alles op papier wel klapte, werd de naleving van de toelichting verward tot dat de EU niet door Transjed afgewezen. Zojuist had de Russisch-talige inwoners van Moldavië in een Oekraïne niet recht

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voorzitter van de
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een minderheid natuurlijk van de Europese
Unie, waarvan de bewoners tevreden zijn
met een administratieve indeling die verschill-
tende levensverhoudingen mogelijk maakt.
Dit moet worden toegestaan. De voorstelling
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Europese Unie vormen, is een voorbeeld van
een voorstelling die de Europese Unie te on-
tersteunen doet. De voorstelling dat de Moldaviërs
daar geen gevoelde Europese identiteit
hebben, is een voorbeeld van een voorstelling
die de Europese Unie te ondersteunen doet.

Language Rights en vertaler-Hongaars. Hij woont in Transsylvanië. Transsylvanië (Roumanië).

men, als absolute ondervader en spiegel van nationalisme en een charactéristische politiek.

Deze translatie speelt dus een cruciale rol in dit conflict. Naar een rechtscheide van Joegoslavië waren taalrechten juist de Europese Unie heeft daarentegen een duidelijk recht van spreken in deze Oekraïense crise, zolang dit niet in strijd is met de belangen van de andere lidstaten. De juist een voorwaarde waren voor toetreding tot de Europese Unie of zijn er tegen.