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Moldovans and “Moldovan” language schools in Cyrillic alphabet in the Eastern part of the Republic of Moldova (Transnistria)¹

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Resource Center for Human Rights
Centrul de Resurse pentru Drepturile Omului (CReDO)
Al. Hajdeu 95 "A", CHISINAU, MD 2005, Moldova
(373 22) 212 816, fax (373 22) 225 257
CReDO@CReDO.md, www.CReDO.md

Additional research on the situation with the respect of human rights in Transnistria region of Moldova can be found here (political, religious, media, association, justice and sociological surveys):
<http://www.credo.md/pageview?id=245> and in English <http://www.credo.md/pageview?id=245?&lang=en>

Abstract

Moldovan schools population decreased substantially from 12 thous in 1993 to 5 thous in 2013, whereas general population remained more or less stable in percentage expression (around 30%). To compare Ukrainian school population, the situation is even worse (28% of population and less than 2% of school population). According to the regional authorities, although in 1999 the Moldovan nationality students were 32.6% of all Transnistrian students, only 13% went to the Moldovan schools. In 2004, in special professional education and in higher educational institutions only 6% of students are enrolled in Moldovan language (Cyrillic).

The problem of Moldovan schools teaching in Cyrillic has been neglected and their needs are not voiced. Comparatively, students in Russian schools have not only improved conditions for studies and programs and new textbooks. Moldovans from the region are basically have no choice - they must remain in the so-called Moldovan schools learning in Cyrillic, which secures their underdevelopment, or they are forced to abandon them and enroll in Russian schools as there is no continuation to study at University and the Cyrillic alphabet provides no future for them. Those who still want to make language studies are constantly subjected to intimidation and persecution even the separatist authorities.

De facto the Russian language is the only official language. Persons who do not speak Russian in sufficient volume of speech and writing, in practice, cannot seek employment in state enterprises, organizations, institutions, local and national authorities, law enforcement, customs and tax authorities, educational and social institutions and etc. All the above facts indicate the presence of discriminatory language persons for whom Russian is a second language, and the formal declarative nature of the declared three-lingual state where along the former Moldovan/Romanian and Ukrainian exercised in administration and in public.

THIS BRIEF DOES NOT DEAL WITH THE ROMANIAN LANGUAGE SCHOOLS IN
LATIN SCRIPT FUNCTIONING IN TRANSNISTRIA.

1. General ethnic composition of Transnistria²

1.1 In 1989 – the population of Transnistria counted 750,000 people of which (last Soviet census): 40 % Moldovans, Ukrainians - 26%, Russian 24% , Bulgarians, Jews , Gagauz , Germans and others - 10%.³

1.2 According to regional data in 1993 the ethnic composition of the population of Transnistria within the present boundaries was as follows: from 712.500 inhabitants - 243,000 Moldovans (34.1%), 214,300 Russian (30.1%) and 199,300 Ukrainians (28%). In the Bender/Tighina city of 144,400 residents was 42,000 Moldovans (29.1%), 62,400 Russian (43.3 %) and 25,900 Ukrainians (17.9%). In 1996 of the 696,100 inhabitants there were 233.500 Moldovans (33.5 %) and 200.800 Russian (28.8%).

1.3. According to the census conducted in November 2004 the ethnic composition has been: about 177 thousand Moldovans (31.9%), 168 thousand Russian (30.4%), 160 thousand Ukrainians (28,8%) , as well as representatives of other nationalities - Bulgarians , Belarusians , Armenians, Jews , Gagauz , Tatars and others

1.4 Census in 2004 depicted that the division of citizenship is as follows: 107.600 people (19.4%) stated that they have citizenship of Moldova, 56,000 (10.1%) - Russian and 44,400 (8 %) - Ukrainian citizenship.

Table 1. Ethnic composition of the region⁴

Year	total	Moldovans	%	Russians	%	Ukrainians	%	Others	%
1989	750 000	300 000	40%	180 000	24%	195 000	26%	75 000	10%
March 1992, Military conflict, internal displacement and relocation (between banks) happened, substantial decrease of Moldovans and Jews in the region									
1993	712 500	243 000	34,1%	214 000	30,1%	199 300	28,0%	56 200	7,9%
1996	696 100	233 500	33,5%	200 800	28,8%
2004	555 500	177 000	31,9%	168 000	30,3%	160 000	28,8%	39 400	7,1%
2014	512 500	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

² <http://www.drepturi.md/ru/discriminare-transnistria>

³ More in CReDO Report on the Implementation of the Minorities Rights in Moldova, <http://www.credo.md/pageview?id=203>

⁴ <http://demoscope.ru/weekly/2014/0591/demoscope591.pdf>

2. School population of ethnic Moldovans in Transnistria⁵

2.1 According to data in **1993** (after the end of military conflict in March 1992), a problem lies in the fact that about **12 000** children studying in schools teaching in Moldovan in Cyrillic script (32 Moldovan schools and 15 Moldovan-Russian). Besides the fact that teaching is carried out in the Cyrillic script, while they go and shortage of qualified teachers. According to data from the authorities in Tiraspol, of the 856 teachers, only 21 highly qualified and 379 (40%) have no qualifications. All these schools function on the basis of the Soviet worked programs and textbooks and educational content is totally ideological and outdated. Students continue to learn the history and geography of the Soviet Union, Russia and of the region. Teaching history Romanians is prohibited.

2.2 In 2013 the overall school population has been divided based on language criteria as follows:⁶ Russian - 40 489 pupils (87,7% of total and 2% decrease as per previous year); Moldovan in Cyrillic alphabet – 4 920 pupils (10,6% of total and 9,2% decrease as per previous year); Ukrainian - 724 pupils (1,7% of total and 4,2% decrease as per previous year).

Table 2. Number of schools as per rayons in Transnistria in 2013 (Romanian with Latin script not included as financed from Chisinau authorities)

Наименование		Тирасполь	Bender/Tighina, Бендеры	Ribnita, Рыбница	Dubosari, Дубоссары	Slobozia, Слободзея	Grigoriopol, Григориополь	Camenca, Каменка	alte	total	
										Number school	%
State schools		26	19	40	20	28	17	15	8	173	
Language of teaching	Russian	26	17	31	8	19	9	8	4	122	70,5
	Moldovan (Cyrillic)	0	0	8	9	4	7	2	2	32	18,5
	Russian and Moldovan (Cyrillic)	0	1	0	3	5	1	3	1	14	8,1
	Ukrainian	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	1,7
	Russian and Ukrainian	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1,2

Moldovan schools population decreased substantially from 12 thous in 1993 to 5 thous in 2013, whereas general population remained more or less stable in percentage expression (around 30%). To compare Ukrainian school population, the situation is even worse (28% of population and less than 2% of school population). According to the regional authorities, although in 1999 the Moldovan nationality students were 32.6% of all Transnistrian students, only 13% went to the Moldovan schools. In specialized and higher educational institutions only 6% of students are enrolled in Moldovan.

⁵ http://minpros.info/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=96

⁶ http://minpros.info/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=95

The problem of Moldovan schools teaching in Cyrillic has been neglected and their needs are not voiced. Comparatively, students in Russian schools have not only improved conditions for studies and programs and new textbooks. Moldovans from the region are basically have no choice - they must remain in the so-called Moldovan schools learning in Cyrillic, which secures their underdevelopment, or they are forced to abandon them and enroll in Russian schools as there is no continuation to study at University and the Cyrillic alphabet provides no future for them. Those who still want to make language studies are constantly subjected to intimidation and persecution even the separatist authorities.

3. Preschool education for ethnic Moldovans in Transnistria

(Romanian with Latin script not included as financed from Chisinau authorities)

3.1 In 2009⁷ there have been 183 preschool establishments, 82% teach in Russian, **13,5%** in Moldovan Cyrillic (around **3 thous children**), 0.7% in Ukrainian.

3.2 In 2013 there have been **157** preschool establishments that included **23 thous**⁸ children. 116 establishments teach in Russian, 17 in Moldovan in Cyrillic, 21 in Russian and Moldovan in Cyrillic, 1 in Ukrainian and 2 in Russian and Ukrainian.

4. Relevant de facto legal norms in the region

4.1 According to the "law of dneister moldavian republic" on September 8, 1992 "On languages" the region has long been inhabited by people of different nationalities, different languages sound. Every language, its literature, live local and historical variety - priceless treasure that belongs not to one people, but to all mankind. On the territory with multinational population traditionally prevailing norm of existence is language bilingualism and multilingualism. Equitable legal regime languages (Moldavian (Cyrillic script), Russian, Ukrainian and others) secured the Declaration of Sovereignty of the transnistrian moldovan republic, adopted at the first session of the Supreme Soviet of the Transnistrian moldavian republic first convocation December 8, 1990. It shall ensure equitable development and preservation of the languages used in the country and creates legal guarantees for citizens of any nationality to develop their language and culture. Intolerable propaganda of hatred, disdain and disrespect to any language , contrary to the constitutional principles of the creation of a national policy in the region obstacles and privileges in the use of languages other violations of the law on languages.ⁱ

4.2 In accordance with Art . 12 of the Constitution and art 3 of " law on languages" status of an official language on an equal footing given Moldovan (Cyrillic), Russian and Ukrainian languages." In accordance with the Law " On languages in the transnistrian moldovan republic" state creates the material basis for the comprehensive development of official and other operating languages on its territory , stimulates their learning , developing programs that provide training in these languages and their learning , teacher training , development of literature , science and

⁷ <http://www.drepturi.md/ru/discriminare-transnistria>

⁸ <http://tdinform.com/ru/news/20131001/03598.html>

art , television and radio broadcasting , publishing of books , newspapers and magazines in the languages of the republic , Issue dictionaries, reference books , educational and methodical literature and other measures for the development of languages , which are national cultural centers, national societies , communities , extracurricular forms of training , study and promotion of the mother tongue and other languages.ⁱⁱ

4.3 Moreover, the law explicitly prohibits teaching in Moldovan language using the Latin alphabet in all Transnistrian schools. According to Art . 6 of the Law "On languages" written form of expression of the Moldovan language in all cases it is the original use the Cyrillic alphabet. Imposition of the Moldavian language Latin alphabet entails liability under the legislation. This norm in practice implies discrimination against children who wish to study in the Moldovan language with the Latin alphabet.ⁱⁱⁱ

4.4 In accordance with Art . 9 civil code dniester moldavian republic “proceedings in civil cases are conducted in the official language or in a language acceptable to most parties involved in the case. Who do not speak the language in which the proceedings have the right to make statements, give explanations and evidence, speak in court and to submit petitions in their native language, as well as an interpreter . Court documents in the manner prescribed by law are given to the persons involved in the case, translated into their native language or in another language they speak . ”^{iv}

4.5 According to Article 4.5 . 11 of the Criminal Procedure Code Dniester Moldavian Republic " proceedings shall be conducted in one of the official languages (Moldavian, Russian , Ukrainian), or in a language acceptable to most parties involved in the case . Involved in the case who do not speak the language in which the proceedings have the right to be acquainted with the case materials , to make statements, give explanations and evidence , speak in court and to submit petitions in their native language , as well as an interpreter . Investigative and judicial documents in accordance with the procedure established by this Code and handed to the accused persons involved in the case, translated into their native language or in another language they speak . Paperwork in a criminal trial is conducted in Russian. ”^v

4.6 In practice, the norms are not implemented. Proceedings shall be conducted only in Russian. Judges do not speak Ukrainian or Moldovan language. Persons who do not speak the language , free translator is provided , but only in criminal proceedings , the judgment or sentence (as well as court records) is always made only in Russian , and , after its entry into force , issued in the archive at the hands of the court litigants without translation into the native language . Translation of any official document from Russian to Ukrainian or Moldovan language can be freely implemented within translation agency and notarized if necessary, but for a fee by the person concerned. Arbitration Procedure Dniester Moldavian Republic expressly states that " proceedings in arbitration conducted in the language of international communication - Russian language being one of the official languages of the Dniester Moldavian Republic . Involved in the case who do not speak the language of international communication, ensured the right to be fully acquainted with the case, to participate in the proceedings through an interpreter and the right to appear in bankruptcy court in their native language "(Article 8).

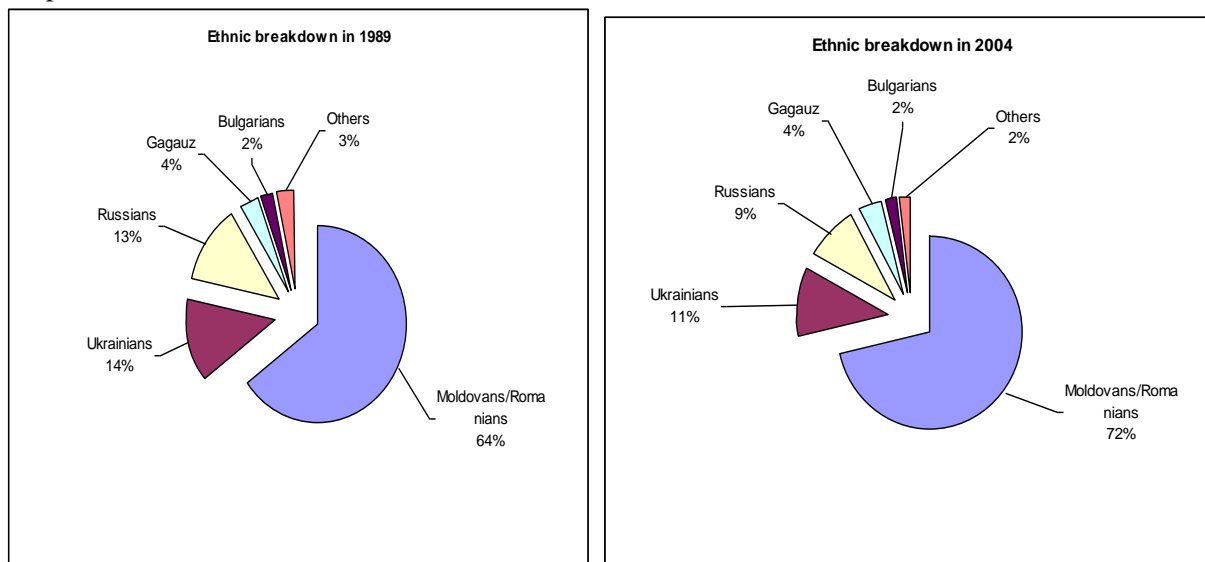
4.7 In actual practice , all official documents in the dneiester moldavian republic compiled in Russian (court decisions , administrative legal acts of local and state authorities , the registrar documents , educational documents , driving license , employment records , as well as documentation in court, in public authorities (legislative, representative , etc.) is conducted exclusively in Russian . Neither official document drawn up in Moldovan or Ukrainian language was not accepted in government bodies , as well as in educational institutions without a notarized translation into Russian (for expense of the applicant , of course) .

4.8 De facto is the Russian language is the only official language, the "language of interethnic communication" as it is often called, and who can confidently be called in public Dniester Moldavian Republic . Persons who do not speak Russian in sufficient volume of speech and writing, in practice, cannot seek employment in state enterprises, organizations , institutions, local and national authorities , law enforcement , customs and tax authorities , educational and social institutions and etc. All the above facts indicate the presence of discriminatory language persons for whom Russian is a second language, and the formal declarative nature of the Transnistrian legislation "in three languages ."

5. General demographics in the Republic of Moldova and in the region⁹

Ethnic composition of Moldova has changed over the period of the last 15 years. In 1989, with 4,5 mln, ethnic breakdown was: Moldovans (Romanians) made up 64% of the total population, followed by Ukrainians with 14%, Russians with 13%, Gagauz with 4% and Bulgarians with 2% of the total population. In 2004, 15 years later, with only, 4.2 mln, the ethnic breakdown has changed: Moldovans (Romanians) make up 72%, followed by Ukrainians with 11%, Russians with 9%, Gagauz with 4%, and Bulgarians with 2%.

Graph 5.1, 5.2

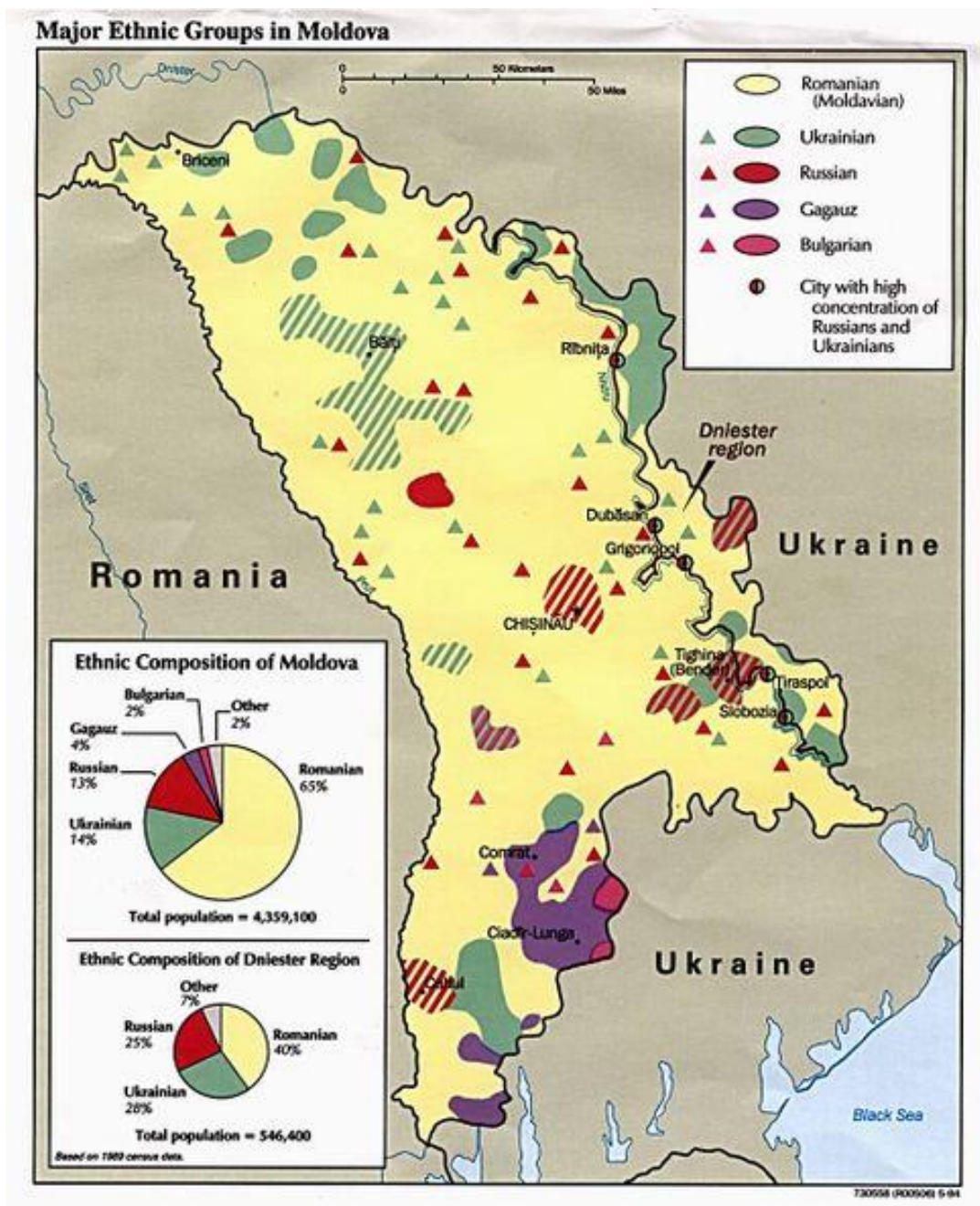


Source: Census 1989, 2004, National Bureau of Statistics

Ethnic map of Moldova in 1989 shows the geographical coverage of the minorities across the country. The map shows important pockets of Ukrainian minorities across the country, specifically in the north and in the South nearing the border with Ukraine. In the South, one can see compact population of the Gagauz and of the Bulgarians. While looking at Transnistria region, the Ukrainians live compactly in the North and with some pockets in the South of the region. In both cases, with just few exceptions, Russians is concentrated in the cities and urban areas.

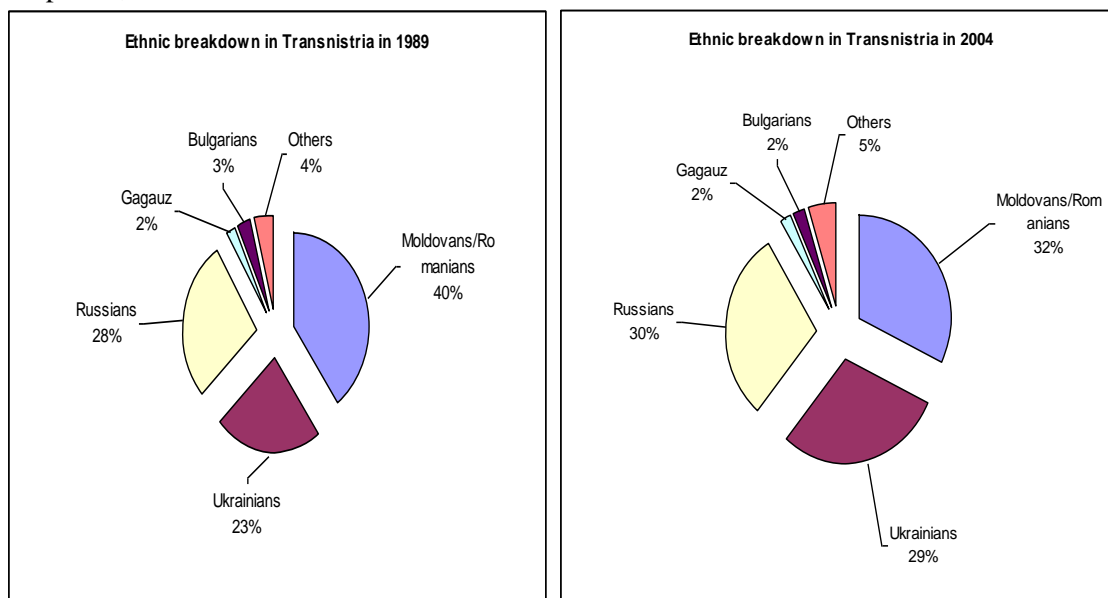
⁹ <http://demoscope.ru/weekly/2014/0591/demoscope591.pdf>

Graph 5.3 Ethic map in 1989



A similar analysis of the evolution of the population of ethnic groups in Transnistria region shows the following situation: in 1989, with 0.7 mln populations, Moldovans (Romanians) make up the largest group of 40%, followed by Ukrainians with 23%, Gagauz with 2% and Bulgarians with 4%. In 2004, with 0,5 mln, Moldovans (Romanians) still make up the largest group with 32%, followed by Ukrainians with 29%, Russians with 30%, Gagauz with 2% and Bulgarians with 2%.

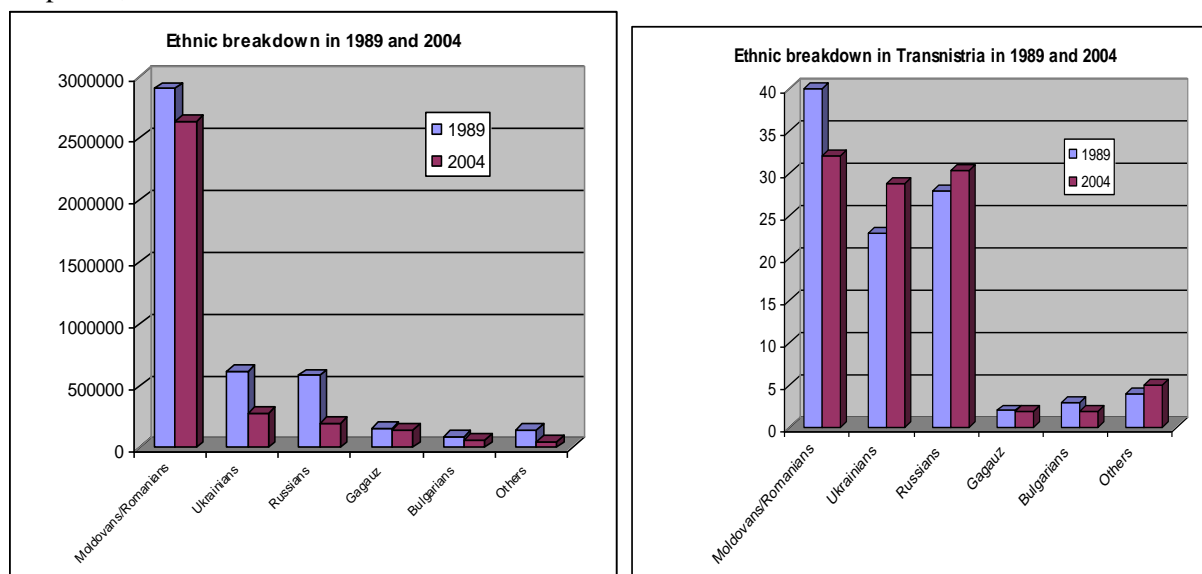
Graph 5.4, 5.5



Source: Census 1989, 2004, National Bureau of Statistics and data from regional authorities

The following graphs show the changes occurred in each ethnic group. Overall, one can see, that all ethnic groups decreased. Gagauz and Moldovans registered least of decrease as compared with the 1989 population stand. Moldovans are down to 90%, Gagauz down to 93%. The next group that registered decrease is Bulgarians, down to 75%. The two mostly losers of population are: Russians and Ukrainians, down to 35% and 45% of population as compared to 1989.

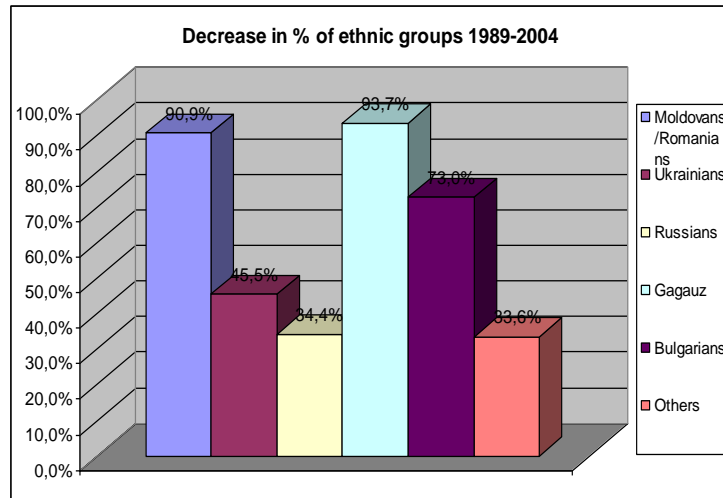
Graph 5.6, 5.7



Source: Census 1989, 2004, National Bureau of Statistics and data from regional authorities

In Transnistria, region, the population change pattern is a bit different. The population size decreased substantially, yet relative weight in percentage shows that Moldovans weight lowered, Ukrainians and Russians went up, the rest having little of change.

Graph 5.8



Source: Census 1989, 2004, National Bureau of Statistics, plus author calculations

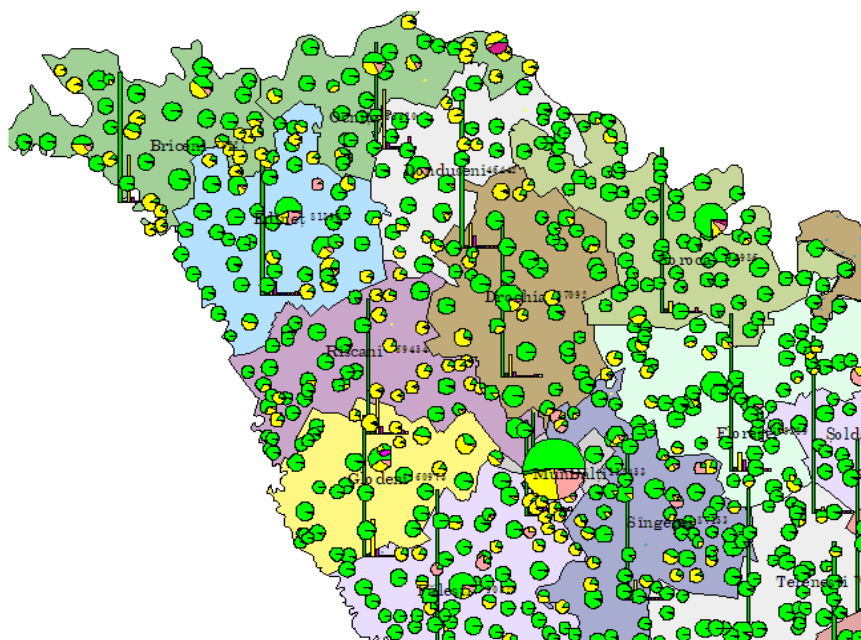
Below we present a more detailed look at the country geographical ethnic distribution. We present a detailed look at the regions at the level of the settlements. This approach allows understanding much better the issue of schooling.¹⁰

Ethnic map of the North-western part of Moldova,¹¹ where the size represents the dimension of the locality. Northern part of the country has a clear presence of the Ukrainians. The following rayons: Briceni, Ocnita, Edineti, Donduseni, Riscani, Drochia, Soroca, Floresti, Ialoveni, Glodeni as well as the Balti municipality make the Northern Moldova. Rural areas have villages where Ukrainians coexist with Moldovans in various proportions from 20 to 50 and 80%. The Ukrainian population is not concentrated in one or two administrative districts, up to a dozen villages could be found in almost each administrative district of 2nd level – rayon. The rural population of the Ukrainians does not reach 15%. In the principal rayon towns, the proportion of the Ukrainians is bigger, reaching up to 25%.

Graph 5.9 North of Moldova (exception of Transnistria)

¹⁰CReDO, <http://www.credo.md/pageview?id=168> Evaluation of Linguistic Education Policy Options for Bulgarians and Ukrainians in Moldova, Vulnerability Study Taxonomy and possible decentralization policy implications for vulnerable groups in Moldova, <http://www.credo.md/pageview?id=249>

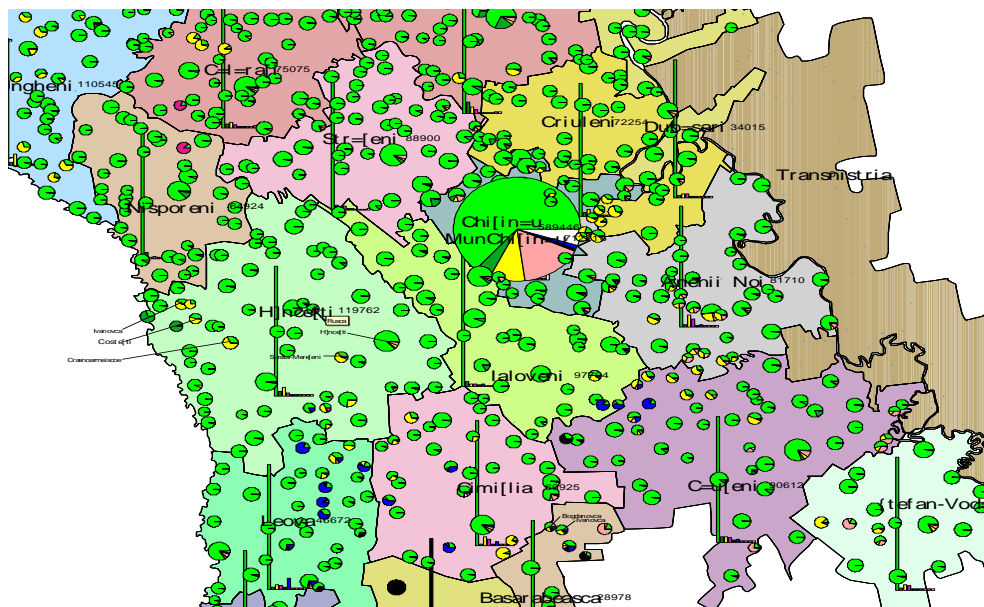
¹¹ Executed in GIS, green color is representative for the Moldovans/Romanians, yellow color is representative for Ukrainians, pink color stands for Russians, red is for Roma.



Source: Census 1989, 2004, National Bureau of Statistics, author GIS representation of data

The central part of Moldova ethnic pattern is very different from the northern one. There are just few Ukrainian villages in the east and an important presence in the municipality of Chisinau.

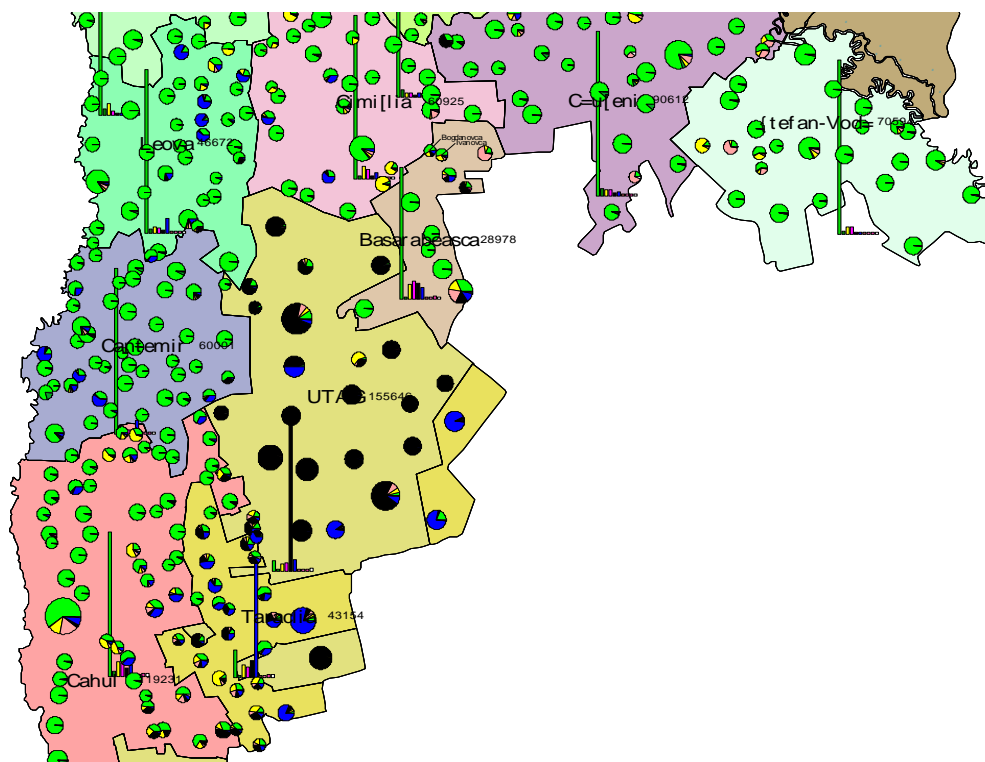
Graph 5.10 Center of Moldova (exception of Transnistria)



Source: Census 1989, 2004, National Bureau of Statistics, author GIS representation of data

Ethnic Map of the Southern part of Moldova¹², is quite different from the other two. Apart from the Gagauz (that live in the Gagauz autonomy), one can find Bulgarians living compactly in Taraclia rayon (more than 70% are Bulgarians) and a number of villages in Cahul, Cantemir and Leova rayons. Overall, there are 3-5 villages in the preponderantly Moldovan rayons. There are just few Ukrainian villages in the South.

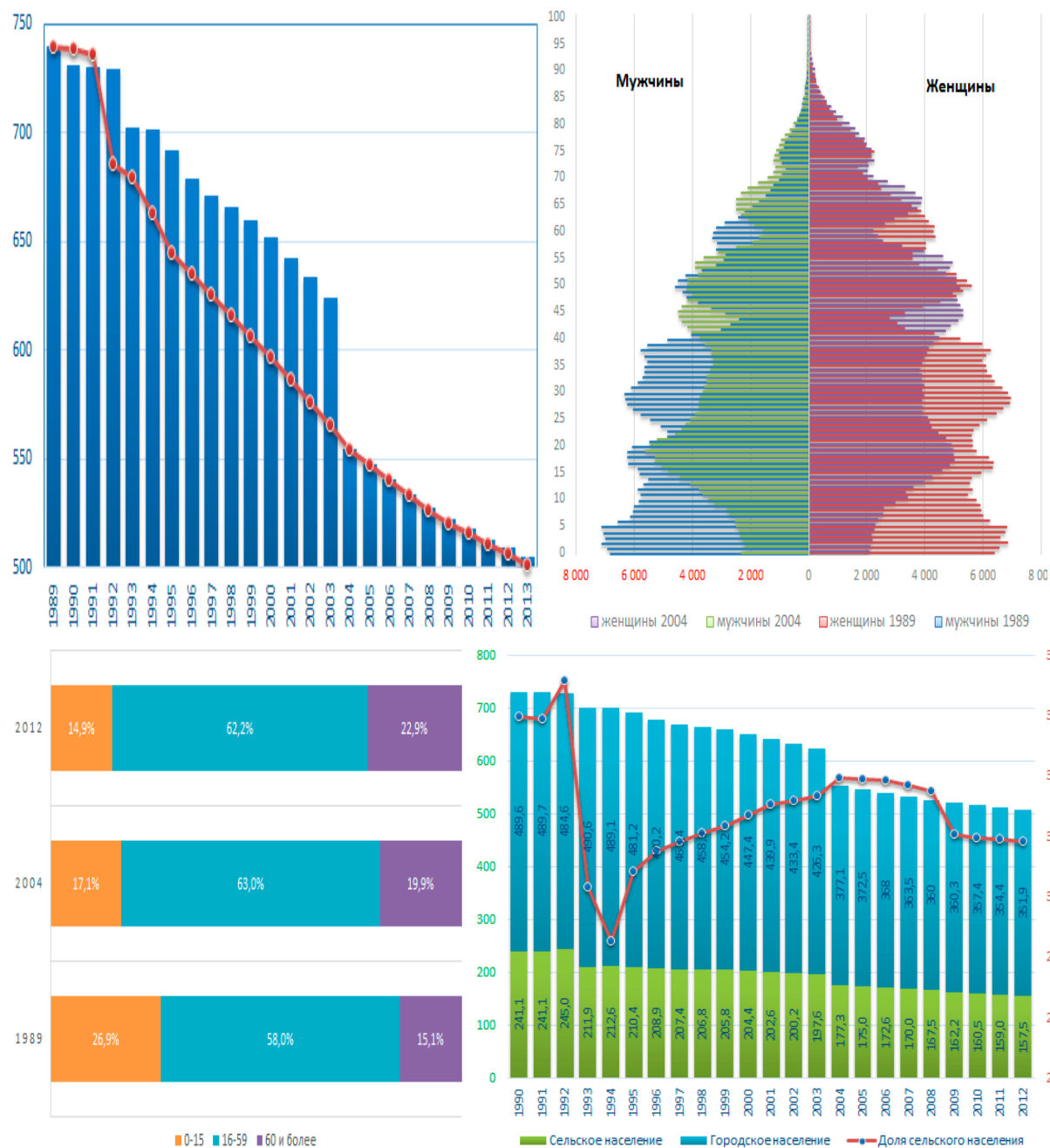
Graph 5.11 South of Moldova (except of Transnistria)



Source: Census 1989, 2004, National Bureau of Statistics, author GIS representation of data

Some Graphs on Transnistrian region

¹² Executed in GIS, Green color is representative for the Moldovans/Romanians, blue is representative for **Bulgarian**, yellow color is representative for Ukrainians, black is for Gagauz, pink color stands for Russians



ⁱ "Согласно Закону Приднестровской Молдавской Республики от 8 сентября 1992 года «О языках в ПМР» «в Приднестровской Молдавской Республике издавна живут люди разных национальностей, звучат разные языки. Каждый язык, его литературная, живая местная и историческая разновидность - бесценное богатство, принадлежащее не одному народу, а всему человечеству. На территории Приднестровской Молдавской Республики с многонациональным населением традиционно сложившейся нормой языкового существования является двуязычие и многоязычие. Равноправный правовой режим языков (молдавского, русского, украинского и других) закреплён Декларацией о суверенитете Приднестровской Молдавской Республики, принятой на первой сессии Верховного Совета Приднестровской МССР первого созыва 8 декабря 1990 года. Приднестровская Молдавская Республики обеспечивает равноправное развитие и сохранение употребляемых в республике языков и создает правовые гарантии для граждан любой национальности на развитие своего языка и культуры. Недопустимы пропаганда вражды, пренебрежения и неуважительности к любому языку, создание противоречащих конституционным принципам

национальной политики в Приднестровской Молдавской Республике препятствий и привилегий в использовании языков, иные нарушения законодательства о языках Приднестровской Молдавской Республики».

ⁱⁱ В соответствии со ст. 12 Конституции Приднестровской Молдавской Республики и тс. 3 Закона Приднестровской Молдавской Республики «О языках» «Статус официального языка на равных началах придается молдавскому, русскому и украинскому языку». В соответствии с Законом «О языках в Приднестровской Молдавской Республике» государство создает материальную базу для всемерного развития официальных и иных функционирующих на своей территории языков, стимулирует их изучение, разрабатывает программы, обеспечивающие обучение на этих языках и их изучение, подготовку педагогических кадров, развитие литературы, науки и искусства, телевидения и радиовещания, издание книг, газет и журналов на языках республики, выпуск словарей, справочников, учебной и учебно-методической литературы и другие меры на развитие языков, для чего используются национальные культурные центры, национальные общества, землячества, внешкольные формы обучения, изучения и пропаганды родного языка и других языков.

ⁱⁱⁱ Причем, законодательство прямо запрещает обучение на молдавском языке с использованием латинской графики во всех приднестровских школах. Согласно ст. 6 Закона «О языках» письменный формой выражения молдавского языка во всех случаях его использования является исконный кириллический алфавит. Навязывание молдавскому языку латинского алфавита влечет за собой ответственность, предусмотренную законодательством. Данная правовая норма на практике влечет дискриминацию детей, желающих обучаться на молдавском языке с латинской графикой, узаконенном в Республике Молдова.

^{iv} В соответствии со ст. 9 ГПК Приднестровской Молдавской Республики «судопроизводство по гражданским делам ведется на государственном языке или на языке, приемлемом для большинства участвующих в деле лиц. Лицам, не владеющим языком, на котором ведется судопроизводство, обеспечивается право делать заявления, давать объяснения и показания, выступать на суде и заявлять ходатайства на родном языке, а также пользоваться услугами переводчика. Судебные документы в установленном законом порядке вручаются лицам, участвующим в деле, в переводе на их родной язык или на другой язык, которым они владеют».

^v Согласно ст. 11 Уголовно-процессуального кодекса Приднестровской Молдавской Республики «судопроизводство осуществляется на одном из официальных языков (молдавском, русском, украинском) или на языке, приемлемом для большинства участвующих в деле лиц. Участвующим в деле лицам, не владеющим языком, на котором ведется судопроизводство, обеспечивается право полного ознакомления со всеми материалами дела, делать заявления, давать объяснения и показания, выступать на суде и заявлять ходатайства на родном языке, а также пользоваться услугами переводчика. Следственные и судебные документы в соответствии с установленным настоящим Кодексом порядком вручаются обвиняемому и лицам, участвующим в деле, в переводе на их родной язык или на другой язык, которым они владеют. Делопродводство в уголовном процессе ведется на русском языке».