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**SECOND REPORT SUBMITTED BY MOLDOVA
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 25, PARAGRAPH 1
OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR
THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**

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State Report of the Republic of Moldova on the Implementation of the Framework Convention on the Protection of the National Minorities

(within the framework of the 2 cycle of the Council of Europe Monitoring)

Section I

Practical Measures taken at national level on the results of the first cycle of monitoring of the Framework Convention implementation

a. The period that has passed since the first State Report submission to the Council of Europe by the Republic of Moldova about the implementation of the Framework Convention on protection of national minorities (1999-2003) is characterized with the stabilization of the interethnic relations. Moldova has achieved tangible results in the area of the national minorities' rights protection and for the time being disposes of the legislative base that is on the whole corresponds to the international standards. However, in order to implement the international obligations undertaken by Moldova, this base was being developed and improved. In this connection, a number of legislative acts have been adopted:

- On 16 February 2001, the Government of the Republic of Moldova adopted Regulation N131 'About Some Measures to Protect Roma of the Republic of Moldova';
- On 26 February 2001 the Government of the Republic of Moldova adopted Regulation N167 'About the National Programme on Improvement of the Acquisition of the State Language of the Republic of Moldova by the Adult Population. (2001-2005)';
- On 19 July 2001 the Parliament adopted Law of the Republic of Moldova N382-XV 'About the Rights of people belonging to national minorities and the legal status of their organizations'. The adoption of this law opened a new stage of the Framework Convention implementation in Moldova;
- On 25 July 2002 the special sitting of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova considered the results of monitoring of the given law realization and adopted Regulation N1293-XV 'About the results of the implementation inspection of the Act about the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and the legal status of their organizations';
- On 24 October 2003 the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova adopted Regulation 'About the ratification of the national plan of activities in the area of human rights for 2004-2008'. Chapter 9 of this document developed and being accomplished with the support of the UNDP in Moldova, stipulates actions for the support of the national minorities rights. The adoption of the National Plan followed the work of the group of the independent experts who had created the Main Report about the situation in the area of the human rights in the Republic of Moldova. The chapter of the report 'The rights of the national minorities' except the review of the situation in this area has the recommendations, stipulating the organizational measures including financial support, legislative modifications, joining to the international documents including ratification of the European Charter of the regional languages or national minorities languages. These recommendations are intended for the wide circle of performers: the bodies of public administration, representatives of civil society, law enforcement agencies, mass media (National plan of activities in the area of human rights for 2004-2008. – Chisinau, 2003. – 80 p.; Basic report about the situation in the area of human rights in the Republic of Moldova. – Chisinau, 2003. – 104 p.).
- On 19 December 2003 the Parliament adopted Law of the Republic of Moldova N546-XV 'About Ratification of Concept of the National Policy of the Republic of Moldova'.

This document is a body of principles, priorities and tasks on the integration and consolidation of the indivisible multicultural and multilingual nation of Moldova by means of bringing national interests into accord with the interests of all the national and language groups. In accordance with the Constitution, the Moldovan as the major nation together with the representatives of the other ones: the Ukrainian, Russians, Gagauzian, Jewish, Bulgarian, Romanian, Byelorussian, Roma, Poles and others form Moldovan nation for whom Moldova is our common home. The Concept proclaims as the state responsibility to take every possible care about the preservation, development and free expression of the ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic originality of all the ethnic groups living in Moldova. Hence, the Republic of Moldova legislatively declared herself to be unique, historically established community of many peoples identifying themselves as a part of the whole.

The negotiations on Trans-Dnestr settlement and reintegration of the Republic of Moldova have recommenced. To a considerable extent, the introduction of a new post – the minister of reintegration – contributed into it (Act of the Republic of Moldova № 1520-XV of 6 December 2002 “About the modifications and amendments into Act on the Government № 64-XV of 31 May 1990. The Minister of reintegration interacts with NGOs thus engaging potential of the civil society in the process of discussion and resolution of the problems connected with human rights protection throughout the country.

The work on the population census is being performed in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee of the Council of Europe. The census will take place on 5-12 October 2004 in the period fixed with the enactment of the Government of the Republic of Moldova (№230 of 9 March 2004). The Republican commission has been set up. The Deputy Prime-Minister of the Republic of Moldova heads it V. Cristea. Questionnaires in the two languages the majority of the population speaks hold the questions that allow citizens to recognize their linguistic, ethnical and identity. The census budget has been determined amounted to 29 mln. lei (\$2.2 mln.). 40% of money is provided by the Government of the country.

State level of awareness of interethnic relations development necessity on the basis of all ethnic group equality is seen from the Programme of activities of the Republic of Moldova for 2001-2005 “Revival of economy is revival of the country” that includes section “Regional policy. Interethnic relations”. The Government of the Republic of Moldova recognizes as the main national patrimony ethnic and cultural versatility and interethnic peace. Owing to this the Programme demands that organs of central and local government develop the interethnic relations on the basis of democratic concepts and values that provide the rights for all the nations and exclude ethnic or linguistic discrimination.

Local and public authorities have taken a lot of steps to implement the principal regulations of the Framework Convention in order to assist social and cultural development of the national minorities and integration process in the Moldovan society. The practice of conducting folk festivals, contests is taking shape. Locally, the public ethno-cultural movement of the national minorities is supported. It includes financial assistance to help to develop charters of NGOs.

The chairmanship of the republic in the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe between 112 and 113 sessions (15 May – 6 November 2003) with the motto “Unity through diversity” became an event characterizing recognition of Moldovan authority by the European Community, including the realm of conciliation of the harmonic interethnic

relations. Among the priorities of the republic activities when chairing this European forum were promotion of the cultural, linguistic and diversity as the pan-European patrimony by means of acceptance, appreciation and tolerance to diversities.

b. Activities on popularization of the main provisions of the Framework Convention and the results of the Council of Europe first monitoring cycle of its implementation in Moldova have been continued. The seminar "Implementation of the Framework Convention about the protection of nm: results of Council of Europe monitoring cycle in the Republic of Moldova" that took place on 25-26 September in Chisinau. The seminar, organized by the Department of Interethnic Relations supported by General Directorate on Human Rights of the Council of Europe. It was notable for the presence of many Moldovan MPs, officials, scientists, leaders of public organizations of the national minorities and leaders of human rights protection NGOs. 125 people participated in the seminar including: 24 officials from ministries and departments; 37 officials from public authorities (30 regions, cities and Gagauzia). The subject of the analysis were the Conclusion of the Advisory Committee (ACFC/OP/1 (2002)3) and the resolution of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe Res the Committee of Ministers (2003)4 about the implementation of this important document in the republic as well as Comments of the Republic of Moldova to this Conclusion. For the first time, the documents containing international evaluation of the national minorities situation and intended for the wide propagation were translated and published in 6 languages functioning in the republic: Moldovan, Ukrainian, Russian, Gagauz, Bulgarian and Gypsy. These documents were sent to all the ministries and departments, local public authorities, including Ukrainian, Gagauz, Bularian and other communities.

c. The extent of popularization and promotion of the Framework Convention provisions by the civil society representatives have risen. The civil society is above all a mediator between the national minorities and authorities in the process of calling governmental and international bodies' attention to the most important unsolved problems of nm. NGOs' representatives and general public are given an opportunity to work at international seminars considering these questions. The independent activities of NGOs representing the national minorities and human rights protection organization within the framework of Stability Pact in Southeastern Europe is developing. It is supported by various projects of Council of Europe, Moldova Soros Foundation, UNESCO, diplomatic representatives of Great Britain, USA, Holland etc. accredited in Moldova. The ways of the European human rights and the national minorities standards application in different spheres in polyethnic Moldova in 2002-2003 were discussed at the following seminars and conferences. NGOs were among their organizers and participants:

- "Teleconferences between ethnic and cultural communities: experience of broadcasting in Moldova, Romania and Ukraine (The association of the electronic press "APEL", NGO)
- national minorities and interethnic relations: European tradition and experience of new democracies for Moldova (The Centre of Political analysis and social technologies "Captes", Association of young political scientists, NGOs etc.)
- "Tolerance and diversity in mass media' (Centre of independent journalism, NGO)
- "Promotion of interethnic relations in the Republic of Moldova (League of human rights protection in Moldova, NGO),
- "Bilateral relations as a means of further protection of educational and cultural rights of nm" and "The international standards on protection of the national minorities and ways of their realization in the Republic of Moldova (the Center on problems of nm, NGO)
- "Diversity of cultures – the spiritual wealth of the Moldovan nation" (Association of scientists of Moldova after N. Milescu-Spataru)

The work at such seminars and the national minorities NGO conferences allows shaping public opinion about the effectiveness of application of the international principles of equality and non-discrimination and evaluate in particular the implementation of the Framework Convention main provisions. The number of the national minorities public organizations has significantly increased. According to statistics, on 1 January 2004 at the Department of Interethnic Relations were accredited 78 the national minorities NGOs registered by the Ministry of Justice. About 70 local public ethno-cultural registered organizations of the national minorities function in Chisinau and Belti; in the districts of Soroca, Taraclia, Edinet, Rezina, Soldanesti, Kahul, Drochia, Criuleni, Glodeni, Donduseni, Ungeni, Ryscani, Orhei, Calaras, Strasani, Floresti. The Coordinating Board under the aegis of the Department of Interethnic Relations informs these organizations and involves them into the decision-making process on the state level in the spheres of their interest. (The activities of the Coordinating Board at the Department of Interethnic Relations is considered in detail in the State report of the Republic of Moldova of 1999 in the explanation to clause 15 and Commentaries of the Republic of Moldova CM(2002)44 in the explanation to Clause 15 of fc, p. 119)

d. Department of Interethnic Relations in the name of the Republic of Moldova – body responsible for the state policy in the area of the interethnic relations strives after constant interaction with the Advisory Committee of the Council of Europe on the Framework Convention about protection of nm. For this purpose, it informs about changes concerning legal and practical provision of the national minorities rights, conducts joint seminars organizes visits of the Council of Europe experts to rm. To develop p. 3 of the Committee of Ministers resolution Res CMN (2003)4 of 15 January 2003, on 25-26 September 2003 the seminar “Implementation of the Framework Convention about the national minorities protection the results of the Council of Europe monitoring in Republic of Moldova, a number of meetings with statesmen was organized for the Head of the General Directorate on Human Rights A. Vladichenko when he was in Chisinau on 26-27 September 2003. The possibility to conduct analogous seminars in the regions where the national minorities constitute considerable part of the population was discussed to determine zones of residence of the national minorities considering peculiarity of rm.

Section II

Measures taken to stimulate the Framework Convention implementation in accordance with the resolution adopted by the Committee of Ministers for the Republic of Moldova

a. *Overall review of measures taken to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers.*

Republic of Moldova takes necessary measures to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe Res CMN (2003)4 on the Framework Convention implementation about protection of rights of nm. The recommendations preceding the Resolution adoption have been fulfilled: the seminar “Framework convention implementation about protection of the national minorities: the Council of Europe monitoring results in the Republic of Moldova” (Chisinau, 25-26 September 2003); the Conclusion of the Advisory Committee (ACFC\OPI (2002)3), the Resolution of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe Res CMN (2003) 4 and the Comments of the Republic of Moldova about the implementation of the Framework Convention were translated into the 6 languages functioning (Moldovan, Ukrainian, Russian, Gagauz, Bulgarian and Gypsy). These documents were directed to all the organs of the central and local public authorities as

guidelines for taking practical measures. They were given to the leaders of public organizations of the national minorities to inform about the international evaluation of the interethnic relations and observation of rights Ukrainians, Russians, Bulgarians, Gagauz, Gypsy and other the national minorities small in number. Central and local bodies today tend to consult the national minorities public organizations when their interests are concerned. The city councils of Chisinau, Balti, Sorocs where there are constantly acting commissions and coordinating councils of ethno-cultural organizations. The spectrum of problems and topics to be considered with representatives of the national minorities is beyond the sphere of education and culture and becomes even wider at the meetings with the representatives with the country leaders. Thus in 2003 there were the consultations with the President of the Republic of Moldova Vladimir Voronin (16May), the Head of the Moldovan Parliament E. Ostapciuc (6 November), a group of MPs of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova as well as a number of meeting of the Minister of Re-integration V. Sova. In the course of the open dialogue, many problems of the social, economic and political development of the multi-ethnic Moldovan state are touched, ways of involvement into the decision-making process for all the citizens of the republic regardless of their nationality and language are determined.

The Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Ministry of Health protection, the Coordinating Board on Television and Radio Broadcasting, the Department of Interethnic Relations apply these Recommendations that is reflected in their programmes of activities.

b. *Information concerning the measures taken to implement the conclusions of the Resolution.*

P1, paragraph 2

“there are still some drawbacks and problems concerning the people belonging to small the national minorities who live in unfavourable conditions in the areas like mass media, participation in social life and functioning of minority”

P1, paragraph 3

„changes in legislation stipulated by the adoption of an organic law in 2001 should be done as soon as possible consulting with all the sides concerned. It is important to provide corresponding protection to all the persons belonging to nm, preservation of their identity and culture including smallest ones residing in unfavourable conditions”;

P1, paragraph 4

“though spirit of tolerance and interethnic dialogue in the Moldovan society exists, there are still some tensions caused by the governmental policy in the sphere of the language. To avoid all kinds of language hostility in this realm, balanced approach that would take into account the legitimate interests of all the national minorities as well as major population is necessary”.

The existing legislation of the Republic of Moldova provides the equality to the persons belonging to all the ethnic groups regardless of their number. According to the census of 1989, in the country eclectically live ethnic groups whose number is less than 0.1% of the population. They are considered to be the smallest national minorities. They are Tatars, Armenians, Azerbaijani, Uzbeks, Chuvashes, Lithuanians, Greeks, Koreans, Udmurts,

Ossetins, Latvians, Italians and others. The persons belonging to these minorities have their own public organizations of the republican level; their heads are plenipotentiary members of the Coordinating Board of ethno-cultural organizations at the Department of Interethnic Relations. The co-Chairman of the Consulting Board of ethno-cultural organizations in 2003 was V. Yaniev, the Chairman of the Society of the Greek culture of the Republic of Moldova "Elefteria" and reelected for the next term.

These organizations are accredited at the Department and have the possibility to use the state support for their charter activities including financing of some programmes directed at the development of the national culture and language. The public organization of Georgians is being registered.

Persons belonging to the national minorities small in number are constantly engaged in discussion and solution of the problems concerning ie and participate in consultations with the state leaders.

A priority of the charter activity of the organizations of the national minorities small in number is "Sunday school" where native language, national culture and traditions are taught. "Sunday schools" help to form national the national and ethnic identity with the youth. Owing to their activities, many Moldovan citizens' native language from a family language turns into the language of national, cultural and social life of small national minorities. The work of Lithuanian, Armenian, Azerbaijan, Greek and other "Sunday schools" is accomplished according to the legislation normalizing the educational rights and the national minorities public work. It can be considered as a public teaching and educational body acting within the framework of the additional extracurricular education.

The Republic of Moldova strives after realization of the balanced policy in the field of the language functioning. The national plan of actions in the area of human rights for 2004-2008 adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on 24 October 2004 (Enactment № 415-XV) stipulates the following among others:

- preparation for the ratification of the European Charter of regional languages and the national minorities languages (2006);
- bringing of the existing legislation in conformity with the principles of the European Charter of the regional languages and the national minorities languages (2005);
- creation of classes groups in the state secondary, high and higher educational institutions taught all the disciplines in Russian;
- ensuring teaching Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Gagauz languages and literature in the urban areas where persons belonging to the corresponding national minorities constitute a remarkable part of the population;
- development of curricula and textbooks in Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Gagauz languages and literature for schools with the state language;
- study of possible teaching Gypsy at some educational institution

Focus of the Republic of Moldova at the European integration stipulates the interest to experience in the area of preservation of the cultural and linguistic wealth as a spiritual property of a multi-ethnic state. Because of this, the Republic of Moldova signed the European Charter of regional languages and the national minorities languages on 11 July 2002 this way having begun the preparation for the procedure of its ratification.

During 2002-2003 the Department of Interethnic Relations realized significant work on development of the Plan of Obligations from the list of those to be proposed by the European Charter on protection and support of Ukrainian, Russian, Bulgarian and Gagauz languages. According to this Plan of Obligations, the following steps are proposed on the territory of rm:

- to classify Ukrainian as a regional language and a language of nm;
- to classify Gagauz as a regional language and the less spoken official language today on the territory of ATO Gagauzia (Gagauz Eri)
- to classify Bulgarian as a regional language and a language of nm.

In accordance with the list of the Charter obligations, Russian can only be classified as a regional language or the national minorities language. However, functions of Russian are much more extensive in the republic, it is spread in all the regions. According to the Law of Languages Functioning on the territory of the Republic of Moldova (1989), Russian as a language of interethnic communication is spoken not just by one national minority. In this connection, its inclusion in the European Charter as a regional language or a language of a national minority will not provide it with necessary protection.

This project was developed with the assistance of experts from the Institute of Interethnic Relations of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, lecturers of the Philology Departments of Moldova State University, Pedagogic University after I. Creanga (Chisinau), Pedagogic University after A. Russo (Balti), Comrat University (ATO Gagauzia). Specialists acting for the Ukrainian and Bulgarian communities, Russian and Gagauz public organizations were in this group of experts. Currently, the Plan of Obligations is discussed by the public, researches, experts, state officials at various seminars and conferences touching these problems.

Law of the Republic of Moldova № 469-XV “About insertion of changes and amendments into some legislative acts” of is directed to satisfaction of various linguistic needs. It was adopted by the Parliament on 21 November 2003 in pursuance of article 29 of the Law about the rights of persons belonging to the national minorities and legal status of their organizations. This law changes and amends 6 standard acts in the area of the protection of industrial property:

- The Law about rationalization activities (№ 138-XV of 10 May 2001);
 - The Law about patents for inventions (№ 461-XIII of 18 May 1995);
 - The Law about protection of microcircuitry topography (№ 659-XIV of 29 October 1999);
 - The Law about trademarks and place of goods origin (№ 588-XIII of 22 1995);
 - The Law about protection of industrial patters and models (№ 991-XIII of 15 October 1996);
 - The Law about protection of sorts of plants (№ 915-XIII of 11 July 1996).
- This gives natural persons the right to draw up documents for getting protection of the industrial property in Moldovan and Russian.

The development of the Complex Programme on support of the language functioning on the territory of the Republic of Moldova is directed to the harmonization of the linguistic situation. The development of this new Programme is stipulated with the deficient execution of the Complex Programme on provision of the language functioning on the territory of the Republic of Moldova adopted in 1989 together with the Law about the languages functioning on the territory of, at that time, the Moldovan SSR. The development of a new Program *was*

caused by language functioning problems that is justly established in the p.1 of Resolution Res CMN (2003)4. The work is conducted in accordance with the Government enactment № 48 of 23 January 2003 that bound the Department of Interethnic Relations together with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture and the Academy of Sciences to examine the situation in the area of the languages functioning and present to the Government coordinated proposals on actualization of the Programme in force (1989).

The after-1989 period is notable for positive changes in the languages functioning: the development of the legislative base that extended the application of Moldovan as state language and application of other languages, in particular, Ukrainian, Russian, Gagauz (as state language on the territory of ATO Gagauzia), Bulgarian, Yiddish, Gypsy in various areas of public life. *(The review of the situation in the languages functioning area includes the State Report of the Republic of Moldova about the implementation of the Republic of Moldova of 1999 in the commentaries to Articles 5,9,10,11,12,14 of fc).*

The new variant of the Programme is directed to further support of the 5 main languages to be widely used in various spheres of life in the republic: m, r, g, b; it takes into account needs of other less spread languages: Yiddish, Polish, Byelorussian, Gypsy and also directed to the provision of linguistic needs and interests of small nm. Measures on support of the languages of the national minorities include: development of the scientific and methodic base; organization of the languages learning in various educational institutions according to the international linguistic standards; development and publication of required quantity of textbooks and didactic materials; increase of the volume of literature published in respective languages; preparation and perfection of pedagogic stuff; application of mass media potential for learning and propagation of the languages.

P1, paragraph 5

”in connection with the notable imbalance between different the national minorities concerning their access and presence in mass media, it is important that the Government provide great support to the national minorities that are deprived in this area, in particular the Ukrainian minority”.

Taking into account cultural and linguistic needs of the Ukrainian as the largest national minority – 13.8% of the Moldovan population, Consulting Board on the television and radio of the Republic of Moldova assists development of the television and radio channels broadcasting in Ukrainian. ULDUZ-GRUP Ltd. got the necessary license for the radio station “Radio-Melodia” that plans to broadcast in Ukrainian for the cities of Balti, Orhei, Nisporeni, Rezina, Drochia and other urban areas. The station direction plans three-phase creation of their network of radio broadcasting that will allow organizational and financial interaction with the radio program “Melodia din Ucraina” and ethno-cultural societies of the Ukrainian of Moldova. Television cable channels «CTV», «Cortel», «Teleradio Găgăuzia» also rebroadcast radio programs of the Ukrainian stations «Inter» and «TRC». The system of cable television “SUN TV” rebroadcasts Ukrainian television channels. Ukrainian programs are rebroadcast to the places of Ukrainian communities to the left bank of the Dniester.

The public company “Teleradio Moldova” within the framework of special issues of telecasting and broadcasting in the national minorities languages releases thematic program in Ukrainian, Russian, Gagauz, Bulgarian, Gypsy and Yiddish languages. In 2000-2002 broadcasting in the given languages was shortened. However, in 2003 the volume of

telecasting in the national minorities languages by TV «Comunitate» is increased by 1.7% as against the previous year, though the situation with the volume of broadcasting is still unstable. A new thematic radio programme appeared the same year in Polish within the framework of broadcasting of the national minorities languages of the same company. The future of these programmes arouses alarm of the leaders of ethno-cultural organizations because of the re-organization of the state company “Teleradio-Moldova” into a company with public share.

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in Article 1 of the Resolution Res CMN (2003)⁴ justly calls attention to the imbalance between various the national minorities concerning their access and presence in the mass media, in particular small the national minorities and especially, Ukrainian minority. Law of the Republic of Moldova 1320-XV “About the public national teleradioorganization of the “Teleradio-Moldova” Company”, adopted on 26 July 2002, allows engaging persons belonging to the national minorities to decision-making process concerning mass media. The Consulting Board of ethno-cultural organizations at the Department of Interethnic Relations in its sitting on 7 May 2003 appointed the chairman of the Ukrainian community of the Republic of Moldova Nicolai Oleinik and the chairman of the Azerbaijan community on cooperation “Moldova-Azerbaijan” Mukharib A members of the Supervisory Board of the teleradioorganization “Teleradio-Moldova” Company for 5 years. They were appointed in accordance with part (2), p.f) Article 13 of the Law about the public national teleradiocompany of RM: “The Supervisory Board consists of 15 members appointed from among prominent people of culture, science, education, mass media and other people from civil society for 5 years in the following way: f) by cultural societies of the national minorities of the Republic of Moldova – 2 members appointed by the general meeting of their representatives”. This way, the national minorities are able to influence the situation in mass media and their development in the national minorities languages of their representatives that corresponds to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee of the Council of Europe.

Information on the steps on the Gypsy support in RM.

Article 1, p 6

«it is very important to consult with the representatives of various the national minorities for the balanced provision of their specific requirements and equal access to the resources available in the area of education. Special attention should be paid to the small national minorities as well as to those who do not have any support from their kin-state”

Article 1, p 7

“in spite of recent initiatives from the Government, the Framework Convention implementation failed with respect to Gypsy. It is important to take urgent measures to eliminate discrimination and serious socio-economic hardships to be faced by Gypsy to help them to socialize into the Moldovan society”.

According to the official 1989 data, the Gypsy population is 11.571. Thus only 0.3 considered themselves to be Gypsy. However, according to the leaders of many Gypsy organizations, this figure is false and the Gypsy minority is bigger. the Department of Interethnic Relations has statistic information taken from regional public authorities (2002). According to this data, the total Gypsy number on the territory of the former districts of the Republic is 19 000 including: in the district of Soroca – 4,286, Orhei – 1,789, Tigina – 575, Taraclia – 532, Edinet – 4,293, Balti – 2,055, Ungheni – 2,265, Lapusna – 1,080, Kahul – 526, Chisinau – 1,105, ATO Gagauzia – 1,550. The real Gypsy population will be determined by the 2004 census results.

In the Republic of Moldova in comparison with the period reflected with the previous State Report the problems of the Gypsy socialization are resolved much better. The central and local authorities support the Gypsy. The evidence of the state attention to the Gypsy problems using the international principles is Enactment of the Republic of Moldova Government #131 of 16 February 2001 “About some measures on the Gypsy support of rm”. It approved “Main directions on the Gypsy of the Republic of Moldova support for 2001-2010”. The provision stipulates concrete measures directed to the improvement of the social status of the Gypsy living in the republic. The executors of this enactment are the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Health, the Department of Interethnic Relations, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Moldova as well as local authorities. These institutions developed and approved plans of measures on the Gypsy of the Republic of Moldova support for 2001-2010. The extent of activeness of ministries and departments allows evaluating the review of their activities given below.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova approved a plan of measures stipulating steps on studying the problem of the Gypsy involving in the area of employment, reduction of unemployment, stimulation of the professional orientation of the Gypsy as well as measures on the social support of the Gypsy women on 12 April 2001. This Ministry also conducted a poll which results were taken into account in the district programmes of the population employment for 2003-2005. A special attention is paid to the representatives of the Gypsy population when they address employment agencies to help them to find a job. Interests of socially vulnerable Gypsy families are taken into account when implementing the Government’s Enactment 456 of 15 May 1997 “About the additional measures on social protection of families with children”, as well as when implementing the National Conception on protection of child and family approved by the enactment of the Government of the Republic of Moldova # 51 of 21 January 2002.

The Ministry of Education in accordance with the plan of measures on the Gypsy support: developed and directed the recommendations on the study of the extent of education covering of the Gypsy children, implements various forms of popularization and development of national culture among children and youth, came forward with the initiative of opening handicraft class at an educational institution of the republic for the Gypsy children within the

framework of the international programme “RIPPLE”, conducted the study of the Gypsy situation in the villages with the Gypsy population.

The Ministry of Health have conducted polling of more than a 100 Gypsy with a view to determine the level of the Gypsy awareness of the hygienic norms in the former districts of Soroca, Balti and Ungheni. The analysis of this poll will be the basis for the increase of effectiveness of measures on education of the sound way of life in the Gypsy midst. The Ministry developed information booklets to propagate in the Gypsy communities on the following themes:

- preventive measures for the venereal diseases as well as AIDS;
- harmful effect of drug addiction;
- influence of pernicious habits, alcohol, smoking on human health;
- family planning;
- tuberculosis prophylaxis;
- sound way of life and cancer prophylaxis;
- role of personal hygiene in strengthening health.
- Physicians conduct classes amidst the Gypsy women in the “School of future mothers” and the mothers who have a child less than one-year-old in the “School of mother”.
- The activeness on creation of their public organizations of the persons belonging to the Gypsy minority has increased. By 1 January 2004 at the Department of Interethnic Relations had been accredited 8 ethno-cultural organizations of the Gypsy having the republican status:
- Public organization of the Gypsy women «Juvlia Romani», 1997
- Association of the Gypsy youth «Terminatango-Rroma», 1998
- Ethno-socio-cultural association «Bahtalo Rom», 1999
- Social movement of the Moldovan Gypsy, 2001
- Scientific-cultural association «Elita Romani», 2001
- Union of young Gypsy «Tărnă-Rom», 2002
- Socio-cultural society «Tradiția Romilor», 2002
- Association of the Gypsy of the Republic of Moldova «Рубин», 2002

Local authorities (Chisinau, Balti, Comrat, Chadir-Lunga, Soroca, Vulcanesti) have registered 7 public organizations of the Gypsy functioning locally. Intensive development of the national-cultural movement of the Gypsy on one hand testifies of the absence of any restrictions on the ethnic unification in the legislation. On the other hand, it testifies to non-discrimination attitude to the initiatives of the Gypsy on the part of the respective state authorities. In 2001-2002 at the initial phase of implementation of the Enactment of the Government of the Republic of Moldova #131 of 16 February 2001 “About some measures on support of the Gypsy of the Republic of Moldova» district authorities provided many concrete measures directed to resolving the problems of the socio-cultural development of the Gypsy. At the same time, the main directions and forms of support of the Gypsy and their public organizations on the part of executive authorities took shape:

- Representatives of the Gypsy are engaged in the folk festivals, contests, festivals of national cultures, exhibitions of arts and crafts, amateur and folk arts
- Support, including financial is given to the events on revival and development of the Gypsy culture, traditions, customs and traditional crafts
- Bigger amount of help is given to scanty means, needy and socially vulnerable families: they are given fuel, food, clothing and welfare.

- There is work on giving more Gypsy children secondary education
- Local public authorities' funds are used to repair school premises in villages with the Gypsy communities
- Publishing activity is given financial support.

These directions are illustrated by the facts below that the Department of Interethnic Relations received from authorities of the former districts for the period of 2001-2002.

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With assistance of the Department of the Social Protection of Children of the Central Department of Education and Sport of the district of Lapusna, 10 Gypsy children began going to school.

In the village of Vulcanesti on the territory of the district of Ungheni, 18 Gypsy students were taken in 9 form, 6 have finished the academic year. In this village a very low level literacy is observed among the Gypsy. 566 people are able to read (47 %), read with difficulty 201 (17 %), 174 are illiterate (15 %).

In district of Soroca 157 Gypsy children attended school in 2002.

In district of Edinet 175 Gypsy children attended school in 2002.

In 2001 in district of Cahul 15 schoolboys were prepared to school.

In 2002 in district of Balti the material help to 9 Gypsy children at a rate of on 85 lei to everyone for preparation to school was rendered. To the International day of children – 1 June - the Gypsy children consisting on the account at the appropriate state bodies received the 30 lei material help; to the beginning of academic year – 1 September - 7 Gypsy families received the help of 100 lei. At boarding school of Balti 12 supported Gypsy children were educated.

At schools of Chisinau in 2002 157 Gypsy children were educated. By the International day of children - June 1 - children from large families have received gifts from municipal Management on protection of the rights of children. To christmas holidays children from needy and large families received gifts and participated in events conducted by the city authorities of measures spent.

In district of Tigina the material help in the sum 700 lei was allocated from public fund in the same period to 5 needy Gypsy.

In district Orhei by bodies of public authority are revealed and are put on the account large and socially unprotected Gypsy families with the purpose of rendering social support and giving children school education.

At sessions of administrative council of Fund of social support of district Soroca were considered 107 applications from the needy Gypsy citizens of and the material help of 5 600 lei was allocated. 5 adults Gypsy were given doles. The experts of Department of protection of the rights of children have revealed most needy children and children from large families to give them school education from the beginning of the academic year. 14 large families, 16 single mothers, 8 families adopted children, 19 families having invalid children, 12

incomplete families are rendered material help. Soroca city authorities have given apartments to two Gypsy families.

City authorities of Pirjolesti have allocated 1500 lei to repair a classroom, where a group of Gypsy children are educated, in a Gypsy village of Ursari. Here local authorities have solved the problem on payment of nutrition of schoolchildren; among the girls up to 6 years the clothes and footwear were distributed; 10 numbers of telephones were established; weekly to village there come the doctors of the Centre of medicine from Calaras.

The concrete measures are taken by authorities of Tibirica, which includes the village Schinoasa with 270 Gypsy population: for repair of an elementary school is allocated 2,000 lei; the problem of supply with electricity is solved; the telephone at village school is set up as well as a village library.

In 2001 in district Lapusna the Fund of social support rendered the material help to 135 Gypsy families in the sum of 150 lei each. In April 2002 in the same district an event under the motto "Love your neighbour" was passing for a month, during which 4 large and needy Gypsy families received the humanitarian aid with clothes, footwear and products.

From the local budget of Chisinau publishing of the literature devoted to the Gypsy history and culture is financed. The social-cultural society "SINTI" has received 10 000 lei to publish a book by national artist of Moldova, known man of culture, chairman in republic of the first Gypsy society "Romii Moldovei", nowadays deceased Pavel Andreicenco. The centre of culture and art of the Gypsy "Ama Roma" has received 10 000 lei for the edition of the Gypsy-Romanian and Gypsy-Russian phrase-book; 10 000 lei was allocated on the edition of the Collection of Gypsy songs and dances of Moldova by Leonid Cerepovschi, the known figure of Gypsy musical art.

In 2000 for the first time in Moldova on 7-8 April the International day the Gypsy was marked. The festivities on these days became annual and take place at active participation of the Gypsy and NGOs, in the best music halls of the capital, in the House of Nationalities, National Philharmonic society etc.

In a certain sense, the attention of the international organizations and diplomatic missions of foreign countries accredited in Moldova to socio-economic difficulties of the Gypsy population is stimulus for development of public Gypsy organizations. The interest in their overcoming, and formation of the tolerant attitude to the representatives of this nation is expressed, in particular, in granting the money grants.

Potential of the international financial support of the projects (on organization of seminars, conferences, researches), aimed at wide discussion of the socio-economic situation of the Gypsy and definition of methods of their solution, effectively use Public organization "Juvlia Romani" (chairman E. Drossu), the Association the Gypsy students (chairman N.Radita) etc. This public activity is conducted within the framework of the existing national legislation at wide participation of state bodies. During 2001-2003 the following most significant events were held:

- the first congress the Gypsy of the Republic of Moldova (February 20 2001, Chisinau);
- round table "The Gypsy and local public administration - joint activity on improvement of a situation the Gypsy of The Republic of Moldova" (22-23 August 2001 Ungheni);

- the international seminar "Situation of the Gypsy of Moldova according to the sociological survey" with participation of the representatives of bodies of local public authorities (28 September 2001, Chisinau);
- meeting "Influence of the Gypsy in policy of Central and East Europe" within the framework of the international program RIPPLE (21 March 2002 Chisinau);
- a cycle of seminars in cities Criuleni, Calaras and Chisinau under the rights the Gypsy and problems of their social integration in conditions Moldova (2003).

The international organization has allocated the French alliance the financial grant on the project on creation of a monument the Gypsy - victims of the Holocaust during the World War II. The project was developed by the first in Moldova public Gypsy organization – social—cultural "Romii Moldovei" - and Kishinev municipal society "SINTI". On the allocated means in May 2003 in Chisinau the memorial stone of memory the Gypsy of victims of the Holocaust on the territory of Moldova during the World War II was mounted. The memorial stone was mounted with assistance of Chisinau city authorities in one of the city districts, in which the Gypsy population prevails.

The state bodies of Republic of Moldova, in particular, Department of the Interethnic relations, as structure of the executive authority responsible for realization of state national policy, aspire to deepen cooperation with Council of Europe, interaction with the countries-members of the Pact of Stability in Southeast Europe having the experience of integration the Gypsy in the civil society. Appreciably this is promoted by creation in structure of Council of Europe of a special bureau on realization of the project "The Gypsy in the Pact of stability". In April, 2002. The Department of the Interethnic Relations has organized visit in Moldova of the coordinator of this project Mr Henri Scicluna and manager Mr Michael Guet, during which the ways of the international cooperation directed on the decision of problems of social-cultural development of the Gypsy Moldova were determined during meetings with the chiefs of the Ministries of Culture, Education, Labour and Social Protection, Public Health. The program of visit also included: visit to the village of Vulcanesti and city of Soroca - places of residing of the most numerous Gypsy communities; meetings - dialogues with the leaders of Gypsy public organizations, chiefs of local public authorities. On results of visit the arrangement between a bureau and Department of the Interethnic Relations about realization in Kishinev of an event was achieved, which topic is the situation of the Gypsy population in Moldova and prospect of improvement of this situation. This event was implemented in the round table "Development of multilateral national strategy on improvement of a situation of the Gypsy in the Republic of Moldova" on July 24-25, 2003. More than 120 people, including on categories took part in work of a round table: 18 - of the representatives of bodies of authority of the central level (ministries and departments), 32 - representative of bodies of local public authorities (municipal and regional), 38 - representatives of a Gypsy public (chiefs of public organizations, figures of culture, the experts of a different structure) from 16 urban areas of Moldova, where the Gypsy live compactly, and also scientific, journalists, representatives of the international organizations. The basic purpose of a round table - rating of an opportunity both prospect of development and introduction of strategy on improvement of the situation of the Gypsy in the Republic of Moldova. The international experts of Council of Europe M.Buceanu and C. Necula presented the participants of this round table experience of some countries of Europe developed and introducing similar strategy. On results of 2-day's work the agreement on creation of a working commission of experts from number the Gypsy - "Gypsy group on negotiation" - on development of Strategy in structure was signed: N.Radita, secretary, the Chairman of Association of the Gypsy students M.Alla, vice-secretary, chairman of Union the young Gypsy; S.Nenita, vice-secretary, lawyer; N.Arapu, vice-secretary, chairman of

Democratic union the Gypsy. The recommendation about assignment of the constant representatives of the ministries, departments, other state structures in group of the developers of the project of Strategy was accepted, the special secretary for the tax both processing of the offers and materials under the project of National strategy on improvement of the situation of the Gypsy in the Republic of Moldova is created.

Departmental and personal structure of group

№№	Фамилия, имя	Ведомство	Должность
1.	Sandler Igor	Ministerul Educației	The Head of the Department of Education in the languages of the national minorities
2.	Ciobanu Victor	Ministerul Culturii	Deputy Chief of the Department
3.	Craievschi Viorica	Ministerul Muncii	Main specialist
4.	Triboi Cristina		Main specialist
5.	Vecvert Eduard	Ministerul Afacerilor Interne	Deputy Chief of the Department
6.	Frunze Nicolai		Consultant
7.	Gonța Victor	Ministerul Sănătății	Main specialist
8.	Ivanoglo Gheorghe		Deputy Chief of the Department of Interethnic Relations

For organization of activity of expert Gypsy group the Department of the Interethnic Relations is given a special premise.

The stated facts allow to speak that in Moldova the system of state support of the Gypsy population taking into account specific feature of the representatives of this nation is formed: a low educational level, regular departure in other countries in searches of earnings, quite often beggarly conditions of existence etc. The tendency of positive changes concerning the state to Gypsy minority has not changed general situation yet and not all problems are solved. It is possible to judge it, in particular, by results of 2 researches to have been conducted on means of the international organizations by Public organization (of the Gypsy women) "Juvlia Romani" and the Helsinki Committee on the rights of the man of Republic Of Moldova.

The research "Situation the Gypsy of Republic Of Moldova" was conducted in 2001 by the public organization "Juvlia Romani" within the framework of the project CORDAID. Poll was held in 9 districts (except for district Taraclia and Chisinau) and in territory ATO Gagauzia. The research put by the purpose study of the situation of the Gypsy population in 3 aspects:

- specification of total number;
- employment the Gypsy;
- educational level of the adult population.

According to the received results the total number of the Gypsy population in 9 districts and ATO Gagauzia makes 20,040 men, without district Taraclia and Chisinau, which were not covered with interrogation. The most numerous Gypsy community in districts Ungheni (5057 men), Sorocea (3450 men) and Edinet (3046 men). The men make 52,45 %, woman - 47,55 %. The participation the Gypsy in labour activity is characterized by the following parameters: 13,37 % are engaged in labour activity; 14,86 % are the pensioners; 71,77 % do not work. 24,7 % of the adults the Gypsy are illiterate; 43, 51 % have primary education. During research the basic directions of socio-economic development the Gypsy requiring for support and assistance of the state are determined:

- involving of Gypsy children in school education;
- development of traditional culture the Gypsy in modern conditions;
- support of development of traditional Gypsy crafts and trades;
- support of development of legal enterprise activity the Gypsy;
- creation of workplaces for the Gypsy; creation of system of social maintenance focused the account of specificity of the Gypsy population.

The statistical results of interrogation are issued by a brochure in the Moldavan and English languages (Situatia romilor din Republica Moldova=Situation of Gypsy in the Republic of Moldova. - Chisinau, 2001. - 32 p.).

The research organized by the Helsinki Committee on the rights of the man of Republic Of Moldova, within one day - August 11, 2001, put by the purpose the multidimensional analysis of situation the Gypsy in one village Schinoasa, at which since 70 years XX of century the Gypsy have compactly live. In this village there are more 70 Gypsy families with the total number 270 men. The research has revealed the basic social-cultural problems of Gypsy community of this village, which accumulated for many decades and aggravated last

15-10 years. The results of research have allowed drawing local authorities' attention to these problems and became a starting point for their resolution. So, city authorities of Tibiric, in which territory the village Schinoasa is located has allocated 2000 lei for repair of an elementary school, resolved a problem of electricity supply, set up a telephone at village school, organized the work of this village library.

In 2002 in the Moldavian and English languages the brochure "The Gypsy of Republic Of Moldova " (Etnia roma din Moldova = The roma minority of the Republic of Moldova. - Chisinau, 2002. - 60 p.) was issued which includes the historical information on moving the Gypsy in Moldova and review of the basic problems of a social-economic situation of the Gypsy population. The edition also offers Strategy on improvement of the situation of the Gypsy in Republic Of Moldova, developed by public organizations "Juvlia Romani" and "Romii Moldovei". The offered Strategy is aimed at acceptance of concrete measures on involving the representatives the Gypsy in all spheres of ability to live of the state, overcoming negativism and prevention of discrimination to this nation, creation of equal conditions for worthy lifestyle. The brochure is issued at financial support of the international organization Minority Group International (MRG).

The culture and history the Gypsy as parts of the polyethnic population Moldova becomes object of professional science. By the Institute of Interethnic Researches (till 1999 - the Institute of the national minorities) Academy of sciences of Republic Of Moldova is developed the project "a History and culture the Gypsy", authorized by Supreme Council on science and technical development in 2002, that has given financial opportunities since January, 2003 to begin research of the subject " The Gypsy of Republic Of Moldova " and to open a special department of a history, language and culture of the Gypsy population.

Considering the recommendations of Advisory Committee about improvement of situation of the Gypsy population, at the same time it is necessary to note the following. It is impossible to estimate situation of the Gypsy in Republic Of Moldova without the socio-economic situation of all population of the country as a whole, without the account of difficulties, with which collides in this transitive period all citizens of republic, irrespective of an ethnic identity: unemployment, low level of wages, rise in prices, problems of formation of market economy, lacks of social sphere etc. The overcoming by the republic of the economic crisis will allow to lift a standard of living of all population, including the Gypsy.

c. The information below reflects changes in legislative and practical maintenance of execution of separate clauses of the Unit II of the Framework Convention on protection of the national minorities, containing the list of specific principles. These changes comprise the period 1999-2003 commented in the present Report.

Clause 5 of the Framework Convention

The central and local public authorities of Republic of Moldova, conduct the policy of preservation of cultural variety, promote creation of necessary conditions for development and expression of ethnic, cultural, language and religious originality the national minorities. The activity of establishments of culture is conducted not by an ethnic principle: the majority of them represent versatile the Moldovan culture as spiritual property of all people of Moldova. At the same time, work of a number of establishments of culture is directed on support and development of cultural-linguistic originality separate small nations – Ukrainians, Russians, Gagauz, Bulgarians, Jews etc. The practical maintenance of the cultural

rights of the national minorities in the Republic of Moldova is based on interaction of two groups of institutions:

- systems of official bodies representing culture and art the national minorities and
- public ethno-cultural of organizations of the national minorities.

The system of establishments of culture of the national minorities is a state network of libraries, theatres and art collectives. Among them:

- library of the Bulgarian literature and cultures after Hristo Botev (Chisinau);
- library of the Jewish literature and cultures after Itsek Manger(Chisinau);
- library of the Ukrainian literature and cultures after Lesea Ukrainka(Chisinau);
- library of the Russian literature and cultures by after Mihail Lomonosov(Chisinau);
- library gagauz of the literature and culture by after Mihail Chakir(Chisinau);
- state Russian drama theatre by after A.P.Chehov (Chisinau);
- a hall of the Polish literature in National Library of Republic Of Moldova (Chisinau);
- halls of the Byelorussian book in libraries by after Alecu Russo and them(him,it). Mihail Lomonosov(Chisinau);
- national gagauz theatre by after Mihail Chakir (Ciadir-Lunga);
- the Bulgarian drama theatre after Olimpiu Panov(Taraclia);
- a republican puppet theater "Licurici" (section of performances in Russian);
- a republican musical Liceum - boarding school after Serghei Rahmaninov with Russian of training) (Chisinau);
- a house - museum Alexandr Pushkin (Chisinau);
- the Bulgarian ensemble "Rodoliubie" (Taraclia);
- Gagauz ensemble "Kadinja" (Comrat);
- others.

In territory of the majority of areas of republic develop local folklore amateur collectives, which are created at schools, lyceums, public ethno-cultural organizations. According to the data of the Ministry of Culture in the Republic of Moldova there are 525 amateur collectives representing culture of the national minorities, with the participants total number 7202, including: Ukrainian - 259; Russian - 119; Gagauz -39; Bulgarian - 43; Gypsy - 1. 63 collectives have been awarded the honourable rank "exemplary", among them: Ukrainian - 11; Russian - 20; Bulgarian - 7; gagauz - 15; Gypsy - 1.

The Ministry of Culture of Republic Of Moldova has signed more 30 international agreements on cooperation in the field of culture, paying special attention a cultural exchange with the countries of the CIS. In the Republic of Moldova the Days of Culture of Russian Federation, Days of Culture of Ukraine, Days of Culture of Byelorussia, other countries are traditionally be conducted. Potential of the states – kin-states for support and development ethno-cultural originality of the national minorities thus is used.

During execution of the stipulations of the given clause of the Framework Convention the role of public ethno-cultural organizations is important, whose purpose - assistance to preservation and development of cultural originality, traditions and customs represented nations. (the Review of the basic directions of activity ethno-cultural of organizations is submitted in the State report of The Republic of Moldova 1999 in the information to an item 5 Frame conventions). These organizations actively cooperate with establishments of culture,

rendering them possible help, including material. The tradition of conduct by ethno-cultural organizations took shape in Moldova at support and participation of the state cultural-educational establishments of the annual national-cultural actions, such as:

- days of Slav literature and culture,
- a holiday of Pushkin's poetry,
- days of memory of Taras Shevchenko
- a holiday Bulgarian enlighteners
- communal festival of the Jewish book,
- the Polish spring in Moldova,
- Ethno-cultural festival.

Last of the listed actions - ethno-cultural festival is a new national holiday appeared on the verge of the second millennium to preserve and develop the original culture of this territory, form the tradition of intercultural and interethnic interaction with the young generation. For the first time the festival was organized in June, 2000 according to the Decree of the President № 1396 from March 30, 2000 and Decision of Government of the Republic of Moldova № 1106-596 from 7 April 2000 "About realization ethno-cultural festivals". On September 15, 2002 according to the governmental Order of the Republic of Moldova № 82 from January 29, 2002 "About ethno-cultural festival", the second festival took place simultaneously in Chisinau and in all districts. 104 art collectives presented traditions and customs more than 20 nations of Moldova have taken part in it as well as 75 ethno-cultural of organizations of a republican and local level. Having become a tradition, the festival was held in third time of September 21, 2003. Having presented original culture more than 25 nations Moldova. The festival gets the status of a republican holiday and will be conducted at support of Department of the interethnic attitudes(relations), Ministry of culture of Republic Of Moldova, city authorities of Chisinau and bodies of local public authorities.

Clause 6 of the Framework Convention

The bodies of the executive authority of all levels promote formation in the Moldavian society of spirit of tolerance, development of intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding and respect, including to the common historical past, distinctions in cultural traditions, liquidation "white spots" in historical process. Joint activity of state bodies and public of republic in this connection develops. The initiatives of public organizations directed on achievement of these purposes, are encouraged. During 1999-2002 the representatives of communities the national minorities, leaders ethno-cultural of organizations consistently put forward a problem of introduction "ethno-cultural component" in the educational plans of school and educational institutions, that promotes not only deepening of knowledge of an own history and culture, and serves also means of knowledge and understanding beside living compatriots. The reciprocal step became the decision of the Ministry of education of Republic Of Moldova about introduction in the educational plans of new subjects " History, culture and traditions of the Ukrainians", "History, culture and traditions of Russians", "History, culture and traditions Gagauz ", "History, culture and traditions of the Bulgarians". Since September 1 2002-2003 academic years, these subjects in the appropriate languages are read in 1-4 classes of an elementary school on 1 hour per one week. From a beginning 2003-2004 academic years these subjects are entered the program 5-9 gymnasium classes in same volume - 1 hour into one week. The new subject yet is not supplied with the tutorials and educational-methodical materials, however, this inclusion partially fills up absence in the tutorials in use at schools Moldova of history of the national minorities living in this territory country in the educational plans.

Introduction of a subject of the Holocaust in the school programs of a history - one more initiative of public organizations, namely - Association of the Jewish organizations and communities of the Republic of Moldova and Jewish Congress of Moldova. The tragic subjects of the Holocaust concern not only ethnic Jews. A unique public action that was conducted within 2003 by the above-mentioned Association of the Jewish organizations and communities (the chairman is Semen Shoikhet, deserved architect of the Republic of Moldova) is a proof to it. It expressed in organization of a cycle of seminars for the teachers of high schools of republic:

- in May at 138 schools, irrespective of language of teaching four areas of North Moldova - Edinet, Briceni, Ocnita and Donduseni had the classes on the following subject: "Genocide of the Jews and the Gypsy during World War II";
- the summer seminar for 100 school teachers of a history was organized on the basis of one of resort houses in a village of Holercani on a coast of Dniester;
- in November in capital of republic - Chisinau - the seminar for 40 inspectors Authorities of regional education departments was held.

This educational activity finds support on the part of Government of the country and will be conducted together with the Centre of innovations in the field of education, departmental structure of the Ministry of education, to which the brochure "Holocaust" is given free (Holocaustul: materiale informativ pentru profesorii de istorie. Chisinau, 2003.- 48 p.), issued on the Moldavian and Russian languages to help the teachers of history on means of the Jewish congress Moldova (president Alexandr Pincevsky) with more than 1000 copies.

The bodies of local public authorities of city Edinet promoted in the same year implementation of the initiative of other public organization - "Nemurire" ("Immortality"), headed by the Moldavian Yuri Zagorcia. At the presence of local authorities the official renaming of one of streets of this city in " a Street of memory of victims of the Holocaust " and opening of a board with the new name was held. Under the initiative of the same society in territory of former transit concentration camp in city Edinet in 2002 the memorial board of memory staying here in 1941-1944 Jews-prisoners with an inscription " the Christians to the compatriots - Jews " is established; in 2003 will erect a monument to victims of the Holocaust in a village of Fiantina Alba.

Installation of monuments to memory of victims of the Holocaust 1941-1944 in Bessarabia and Trans-Dnestr territories of modern Republic Of Moldova - gets large pedagogical and moral value. Such monuments mounted with participation of public authorities in cities of Chisinau, Bendery, Orhei, Balti, Soroca, Tiraspol, Rybnita, Dubasari and many other urban areas of Moldova.

The stated facts allow to make a conclusion that in Republic Of Moldova more and more obvious there is a increased attention of the state to problems of the prevention of animosities and intolerance to the representatives of various nationalities, restoration of historical reliability. The evident proof to this became participation of the leaders of the country the President of Republic Of Moldova V. Voronin and chairman of Parliament of Republic Of Moldova E.Ostapciuc at the event devoted to 100 anniversary from the date of Chisinau Jewish pogrom in 1903. The organization of all actions held in April, 2003 in Chisinau and other cities Moldova and devoted to this mournful date, passed under direction of a specially created governmental commission.

Clause 7 of the Framework Convention

During 1999 – 2003 the right of the persons belonging to national minority, on association in the public organizations is realized most fully and actively. According to the data for 1.01.2004 of Department of the interethnic relations 78 NGOs of the national minorities are accredited. About 70 local public ethno-cultural of organizations the national minorities are registered and work in Chisinau (16) and Balti (12); in areas of Soroca (4), Taraclia (2), Edinet (4), Rezina (1), Soldanesti (1), Cahul (4), Drochia (1), Criuleni (2), Glodeni(2), Donduseni (1), Ungheni (4), Riscani (4), Orhei (2), Calaras (3), Strasheni(2), Floresti(1). By the form of informing and involving of the representatives the national minorities in process of acceptance of the decisions at a state level in spheres touching their interests, there is working under aegis of Department of the interethnic relations the Coordination council of ethno-cultural organizations. (the Activity of Coordination council of ethno-cultural organizations at Department of the interethnic relations is in detail covered in the State Report of Republic Of Moldova 1999 in the information to an item 5,6,8, and Comments of Republic Of Moldova 2002 in the explanations to an item 15 Framework convention, item 119).

In the same period at bodies of local public authorities for the first time began to be created similar coordination councils (in Chisinau, Balti, Soroca). As the methodical help to local bodies of the executive authority the Department of the interethnic relations in 2002 developed a Typical Condition about Coordination Council of local ethno-cultural organizations. Such councils will become an effective form of co-operation with organizations of the persons belonging to national minority, in places of their compact residing.

The law of Republic Of Moldova (2001) " About the rights of the persons belonging to national minority, and legal status of their organizations " has strengthened the status of public organizations the national minorities. In particular, the item 22 Laws obliges the government, ministries and departments, bodies of local public authorities at formation and realization of policy in the field of culture and education of the national minorities to consult with ethno-cultural organizations.

Clause 8 of the Framework Convention

In Republic Of Moldova procedure of registration of Islam till now is not completed. The representatives the national minorities, professing Islam, on behalf of the chairman of the Tatar community of Republic Of Moldova Alber Babaev, have addressed to a State service on problems of cults at Government of Republic Of Moldova with the application for registration of Islam. The named state structure has counted, that the documents submitted by the applicants, do not correspond to the requirements of the current legislation. The applicant has not agreed with reasons of a State service on problems of cults and has addressed to court. In result the business was considered by the Supreme judicial chamber of the Republic of Moldova (the supreme judicial instance of the republic) and is returned in the appeal court for reconsideration. Now sanction of a problem of registration of Islam in Republic Of Moldova depends on the decision, which will be born in the appeal court.

Clause 9 of the Framework Convention

By feature of process the realization of the right the national minorities on access to mass media in the represented period is intensive development of private media. On the territory of the republic a number of private electronic and printed mass media is created.

According to the data of the Coordination Board on radio and TV of Republic Of Moldova, from 150 radio and television stations about 15 broadcast in the national minorities' languages: Gagauz, Bulgarian and Ukrainian. Scope of their announcement is distributed on ATO Gagauzia (" Radio Gagauzia ", " Yeni Ay ", TVC-47 ", " TVC ", " TV-Gagauzia ", " Aiin Aciic ", " Bezim Aiidinic "), Taraclia area (" STV-41 ", " Tvardita " – in Bulgarian) and Chisinau (" Radio Melodia " – in Ukrainian).

The electronic MASS-MEDIAS, in the basic television stations, mainly broadcast transfers in the Moldavian and Russian languages. In area Taraclia - on Russian and Bulgarian, in area Edinet - on Moldavian, Russian and Ukrainian. In territory ATO Gagauzia (Гарыз Ери) State company " Teleradio of Gagauzia" and others a body and radio stations broadcast transfers on the Gagauz language.

Private radio stations develop less actively. In Chisinau the local radio stations broadcast transfers in the Moldavian and Russian languages; in Balti - in the Moldavian and Russian languages, some transfers - on Ukrainian and Polish; in area Edinet - in the Moldavian and Russian languages.

A language variety of electronic mass media, in particular, is reached by relaying of the programs a foreign radiocompanies - Russian, Romanian, Ukrainian.

Adopted July 26, 2002 Law of the Republic of Moldova № 1320-XV "About public the national Company "Teleradio-Moldova" gave to the persons belonging to the national minorities new opportunities for access and presence at mass media. Taking into account interest the national minorities in participation during acceptance of the decisions in the field of MASS-MEDIA, Coordination Council of ethno-cultural of organizations at Department of the interethnic relations at the session of May 7, 2003 has nominated as the members of the supervisory Council public the national Company "Teleradio-Moldova" for the period of 5 years of the chairman of the Ukrainian community of Republic Of Moldova Nichilai Oleinik and chairman of the Azerbaijan organization on cooperation "Moldova-Azerbaijan" Muharib Alahverdiev. Their purpose was to observe to p. (2), item f) clause 13 Laws about the national Company "Teleradio-Moldova", which says: " The Supervisory Council consists of 15 members nominated from among the outstanding figures in the field of culture, science, education, mass media and other representatives of civil society for the period of five years as follows: f) cultural societies the national minorities of Republic Of Moldova - 2 members nominated as general meeting of their representatives ".

In the structure of the national public Company "Teleradio-Moldova" the special editions a body and broadcasting in languages the national minorities, issuing thematic programs on Ukrainian, Russian, Gagauz, Bulgarian, Gypsy and Yiddish languages are kept. In 2003 volume of a teleannouncement in languages the national minorities of television edition "Comunitate" has increased on 1,7 % of time in comparison with the previous year. In the same year the new thematic radio program leaving in the Polish language within the

framework of edition of broadcasting in languages the national minorities of same company appeared.

The legislative obstacles to the edition both distribution of the newspapers and magazines in languages the national minorities do not exist. Many from them are issued by public organizations: "Ukrainskii a vote" (newspaper in Ukrainian), "Russian word" (newspaper), "Community" (newspaper), "Ana Sosu" (newspaper in Gagauz); "Родно слово" (newspaper in Bulgarian), "Български хоризонти" (almanac in Bulgarian), "our vote" (Jewish newspaper in Russian), "Дорејну" (youth Jewish newspaper in Russian), "Еврейское местечко" (edition of Charitable fund "Dor le dor"), "Jutrzenka" (children's magazine in Polish), "Араз" in Moldova " (Azerbaijani newspaper in Russian).

The multidimensional analysis of presence of languages the national minorities in mass media, including digital, is made in the report on a rule(situation) of MASS-MEDIA in Republic Of Moldova as a polylinguistic society(community), including the review of legislative base and detailed picture of a status of businesses in various regions of the country made by the expert of not governmental organization the Centre of independent journalism Nataly Angheli. (Media in Multilingual Societies. - Vienne.- 2003. p. 71-96). The report was submitted at the international seminar organized OBSE in Bern (Switzerland) of March 29, 2003. The composer states, that the legislation of Republic Of Moldova gives the rights on access to mass media in the native language to all ethnic groups. However, implementation of many legislative rules directly is connected to financial difficulties, opposition of political interests and low professional level of journalism. Dominant languages in MASS-MEDIA remain Moldavian and Russian; The development of MASS-MEDIA in other languages depends from private donations and leave not regularly.

Clause 11 of Framework Convention

p. (1)

Has received the further development process of maintenance of the right of the representatives the national minorities to use the surname, name and patronymic, and also right on their official recognition. It has found reflection in the Law of Republic of Moldova № 100-XV "About the acts of a civil status", April 26, accepted by the Parliament, 2001. According to provisions of the given law a surname and name in recording about a civil status it are specified on the basis of the documents certifying the person, certificates on registration of the acts of a civil status, or other documents presented by the applicant, or received from official bodies stipulated by the legislation. According to an item 5 ч. (5) "... at the request of the person of the not Moldavian nationality the patronymic of this person - derivative enters the name also on behalf of his father".

p. (2)

By the order of the Constitutional court of the Republic of Moldova № 28 from May 30, 2002 syntagma "... And Russian" from an item 11 p. (1) Laws on the rights of the persons belonging to national minority, and legal status of their organizations (2001) is recognized unconstitutional. Specified clause says: "the Information of public character having the direct relation to protection of health, maintenance of the public order, safety of the citizens, and also the visual information in establishments of the Ministry of foreign businesses, Ministry of justice, Office of Prosecutor, medical establishments of cities, on vehicles, on road service stations, railway and river stations, at the airports, on highways is made out in the Moldavian and Russian languages".

Till now the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova does not accept the appropriate amendments to this part of given clause, in this connection is kept uncertainty by way of registration of the visual information of public character. In bodies of state government, medical establishments, enterprises of transport, trade the appropriate information not always is made out simultaneously in the Moldavian and Russian languages, is more often on one of these languages.

In territory Gagauzia information specified in ч. (1) items 11 are made out basically in Russian.

As the practice shows, the information of public character, and also visual information only in single instances is made out in other languages, except for Moldavian and Russian.

p. (3)

According to the Order of the Constitutional court of Republic Of Moldova № 28 from May 30, 2002 "... And Russian " from an item 10 Laws on the rights of the persons belonging to national minority, and legal status of their organizations (2001) in the part concerning the names of occupied items and streets, is recognized unconstitutional. Named clause says: " the Names of the occupied items, streets, public establishments, places of public usage, are specified in the Moldavian and Russian languages, and in the occupied items, with which the status of an autonomy, - and in other official languages is given. Established by the appropriate law ". As the Parliament of Republic Of Moldova does not accept the appropriate amendment to given clause to this day is kept unaware in a part of use of language / of languages at the instruction(indication) of the names of the occupied items and streets, as an item 28 Laws on functioning languages in territory of Republic Of Moldova (1989.) Directly specifies, that boards with the name of the areas, streets, lanes occupied items and other geographical objects are made in state and Russian languages.

As the practice shows, the information with the indication of the names of streets of urban areas, public establishments, places of public accommodations is not always in the Moldavian and Russian languages, more often in only Moldavian or Russian.

Clause 12 of the Framework Convention

In 1999 working at an Academy of sciences of Republic Moldova the Institute the national minorities was transformed into Institute of interethnic researches. The institute has kept continuity of the basic directions of scientific researches in the field of a history, language and culture of the most numerous ethnic minorities - Ukrainian, Russian, Gagauz, Bulgarian, Jewish population, - conducted by the appropriate structural divisions. Only for the period 2002 - 2003 by the collective of Institute is prepared and 19 scientific monographs are issued.

Taking into account needs for the profound study of culture, history and language of the representatives others the national minorities, republic, living in territory, in 2002 in structure of Institute the section engaged in complex problems of interethnic researches, and also problems of national-cultural development of the Poles, Germans and representatives others nations is created. The given problematic was authorized by the Supreme Council on science and technical development of Republic Of Moldova and includes such urgent subjects as: " the Interethnic relations of the south and center of the Prut-Dniester region in 18 century ", " the Conflict on the Dniester: basic researches ", " Ethno-cultural interaction in Republic Of Moldova ", " Problems ethno-psychological relations ", " Ethno-cultural organization Balti

(1990-2003) ", " the Poles and Germans of the north of republic ", " Spiritual and cultural interaction nations, living in Republic Of Moldova ".

Object of professional science becomes culture and history the Gypsy as by a component of the polyethnic population Moldova. The institute develops the project " a History and culture the Gypsy ", authorized in 2002. By the Supreme Court on science and technical development, that has given financial opportunities since January, 2003 to begin research of a subject " The Gypsy of Republic Of Moldova " and to create a special department of a history, language and culture of the Gypsy population. Scientific staff of a department now is from among the young researchers, including Gypsy ethnic origin.

The scientific researches require state financing, which now Institute of interethnic researches lacks, in this connection there are non-realized whole directions of activity in the field of a history, linguistics, ethno-psychology, ethno-sociology, the edition of the prepared monographs is postponed, the scientific investigations are not conducted.

Clause 13, 14 of the Framework Convention

The contents of the first State report about implementation of the Framework convention of 1999 allows to receive rather complete performance about legislative bases of maintenance of the educational rights the national minorities and to make a conclusion that in the whole legislation of Republic Of Moldova in sphere of education is democratic and does not contradict the European standards. (see. The State Report of Republic Of Moldova 1999, information to articles 13,14).

In the subsequent period at a state level the realization of the right the national minorities on study of the native language was most intensively conducted. Practical satisfaction of needs of the representatives the national minorities in study of the native language is conducted by means of:

- creation of didactic-methodical and normative base for study Ukrainian, Russian, Gagauz, Bulgarian and languages of other minorities (in educational institutions in places of compact residing the national minorities);
- preparations of the necessary pedagogical staff;
- formations of positive public opinion concerning policy of satisfaction of educational interests the national minorities;
- interactions with the ministries of education and education of Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Turkey and other countries in frameworks 2-сторонних of the agreements.

The statistical data testify to progressive changes in the given direction. So,

- the Ukrainian language and literature are studied - in 40 educational institutions, switching 4 Lyceums (8,897 pupils);
- Gagauz language and literature - in 53 educational institutions, switching 16 Lyceums (29,483 pupils);
- the Bulgarian language and literature - in 30 educational institutions, switching 10 Lyceums (8 186 pupils).

The significant work on creation and introduction curriculums on study of languages the national minorities for 1 - 12 classes is conducted. Are issued created in Moldova the original tutorials on Russian, Ukrainian, Gagauz, Bulgarian languages. The tutorials in other subjects

with the purposes of unification of educational process, irrespective of used language, are translated from the state language.

In Republic Of Moldova the system of preparation of the pedagogical staff for educational institutions is created, where languages the national minorities are studied:

- pedagogical college in Lipcani carries out preparation of the tutors for kindergartens and teachers of initial classes with the Ukrainian language of training;
- philological faculty of State pedagogical university after A.Russo (Balti) for last 10 years has prepared 100 teachers of the Ukrainian language and literatures;
- the preparation of the teachers Gagauz of language and literature is conducted in Comrat state university (25 - 28 graduates annually), State pedagogical university after I. Creanga (Chisinau), where for last 5 years are prepared more than 100 teachers on specialties of Gagauz/Romanian language and literature, Gagauz/Russian language and literature, Comrat pedagogical college after M.Ciachir, which for 8 years has prepared 214 experts for educational institutions in the occupied items with compact residing the Gagauz;
- the preparation of the teachers of the Bulgarian language is conducted at State pedagogical university after I. Creanga (Chisinau) and Comrat State University, Taraclia pedagogical college; the latter prepares the teachers of initial classes, preschool educational institutions, music.

Improvement of professional skill of the teachers of the native languages the national minorities in Ukraine, the Russian Federation, Bulgaria, Poland and other kin-states.

It is necessary to ascertain, that the process of introduction of languages the national minorities as languages of training develops more slowly. In Republic Of Moldova two basic languages of training prevail: state and Russian. On the data of the Ministry of education from 1499 average educational institutions (high schools, grammar schools and Lyceums):

- with the state language - 1116;
- with Russian - 276;
- mixed – 93.

In 2002\2003 educational year:

- at schools with the state language of teaching 78 % of the pupils were educated-;
- at schools with Russian – 21. 8 % of the pupils.

As language of education is used:

- the Ukrainian language - in 18 classes;
- the Bulgarian language - in 6 classes;
- the Polish language - in 1-4 classes of one elementary school;

Gagauz is not used as language of education in average educational institutions.

As well as in the previous period, the teaching in the system of higher education is conducted, as a rule, in state and Russian languages, except for the above-mentioned pedagogical faculties.

In republic 47 universities and 60 colleges function, from which accordingly 32 and 17 are private. To the full right on creation of private educational institutions the representatives of the national minorities use. The similar educational institutions are mainly created in the capital of republic Chisinau. Here during 1999-2003 are created Slavic university, Lyceum "Светоч", Lyceum after Peter the Great (with branch in Balti), experimental school of the Petrovskie, other educational institutions, which founders are the persons belonging to national minorities.

The system of private higher educational institutions is supplemented by branches of two Russian universities: modern humanitarian university from Moscow (with branches in Chisinau, Balti, Ciadir-Lunga) and Baltic university of ecology, policy and right from St.-Petersburg (in Balti). The decision at the level of the presidents of Republic of Moldova and Republic of Bulgaria about opening in Taraclia of a branch of University from Tyrnovo (Bulgaria) is taken, in which the education will be conducted in the Bulgarian language.

The analysis of legislative and practical maintenance of the educational rights the national minorities, statistical characteristic of presence minorities languages in system of education is submitted in section " education of the national minorities " of the report " Raport de evaluare cu privire la nediscriminare ". The report is made in the English and Moldavian languages by group of the national experts within the framework of the project " Studiul ne-disriminare ", conducted at support of the Council of Europe within the framework of the Pact of Stability in southeast Europe. (Educatia minoritatilor nationale // Raport de evaluare cu privire la nediscriminare. - Chisinau, 2003. - p. 9-48). The improvement of a situation in the given area, in opinion of the composers of the Report, in conditions of multilingual community Moldova will be promoted by acceptance of a number of concrete measures, such as:

- ratification of the European Charter of regional languages or languages of minority;
- creation of a network of preschool children's establishments (kindergartens) with teaching and education in languages of the national minorities, first of all in places of compact residing the national minorities;
- introduction in the educational plans of average professional educational institutions (in places of compact residing the national minorities) obligatory teaching of the native languages of the national minorities for mastering a professional terminology;
- education of the experts in the field of culture in their native language in greater volume (in view of real situation of Gagauz and Bulgarian minority);
- creation of scientific laboratory of a technique poly-lingual education;
- teaching of the native languages on the basis of the native language;
- development of the State concept and programs of education of the national minorities.

Clause 16 of the Framework Convention

December 27, 2001. The parliament accepted the Law of Republic Of Moldova № 764-XV " About the administrative - territorial organization of Republic Of Moldova ", which came into force on May 25, 2003 simultaneously since accepted March 18, 2003 by the Law of Republic Of Moldova № 123-XV " About local public authorities ". The new legislation on local public authorities and administrative – territorial organization of Republic Of Moldova as a whole was favorably affected the national minorities.

According to p. (2) items 17 of the given law " Independent administrative - territorial unit are formed provided that its population makes, as a rule, not less than 1,500 inhabitants and there are financial assets, sufficient for the contents of the device city authorities and establishments of social sphere ".

Reduction of quantitative structure of the population as condition of setting up a separate administrative-territorial unit (village, community) allowed setting up a lot of independent administrative-territorial units (village, community), in which persons belonging to national minority, make the majority, that allows them to more actively participate in social - political life at a local level, to use large volume of the national-cultural rights stipulated by the current legislation.

Clauses 17,18 of the Framework Convention

In July, 2001 the amendments were brought in to Law on citizenship of Republic Of Moldova № 1024-XIV from 02.06.2000, according to which getting by the citizen of Republic Of Moldova of citizenship of other state does not bring about loss of citizenship of Republic Of Moldova. Thus, the persons belonging to national minority, can on the lawful basis become simultaneously citizens of other states, including kin-states (under condition of observance of the appropriate of the legislation of these countries) and, thus, receive more opportunities for participation in social and cultural life of other states, and also maintain and develop ethno-linguistic identity.

The bilateral interstate cooperation in sphere of maintenance of the rights the national minorities is encouraged. With the purposes of assistance to creation of favorable conditions for preservation and development of national-cultural originality of the most numerous national minority – the Ukrainians - the special Governmental order of Republic Of Moldova (№ 882 from July 15, 2003) creates the Moldavian part of the Mixed intergovernmental Moldovan-Ukrainian commission on problems of observance of the rights of the national minorities.

27 December 2001. The parliament accepted Law of Republic Of Moldova № 760-XV from " About the ratification of the Treaty of Friendship and cooperation between Republic Of Moldova and the Russian Federation ", signed in Moscow November 19, 2001. This treaty provides warranting and protection by the parties signed it, of the right of the persons belonging to national minority, on free expression, preservation and development of ethnic, cultural, language and religious originality and creation of necessary conditions for preservation of the given identity. Thus, Republic Of Moldova and Russian Federation confirm the right of the citizens on use of the native language, freedom of a choice of language of dialogue, training, education and creativity according to the European and international standards. Considering a role and importance of Russian, the Moldavian Party will ensure, according to the national legislation necessary conditions for education in Russian within the framework of system of education of The Republic of Moldova.

Section III

Special questions concerning the Republic of Moldova approved by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 15th January 2003.

1. *Please specify the extent to which the new legislation on local public administration and the administrative-territorial division of the country has an impact on the situation of national minorities in Moldova.*

On 27th December 2001 the Parliament adopted the Law of the Republic of Moldova No. 764 – XV “On administrative-territorial organization of the Republic of Moldova”, which came into force on 25th May 2003, at the same time with the adoption on 18th March 2003 of the Law of the Republic of Moldova No. 123 – XV “On local public administration”.

The new legislation on local public administration and administrative-territorial organization of the Republic of Moldova impacted positively the situation of the national minorities. Article 4 of the Law on administrative-territorial organization of the Republic of Moldova stipulates: the territory of the Republic of Moldova is organized, in administrative aspect, in administrative-territorial units: districts, towns and villages. Considering this, there are 32 districts in Moldova. The districts bear the name of the residential towns, in which the district council is placed. Some towns have received the status of municipality. In accordance with Article 7, a municipality is a locality of urban type with a special role in economic, socio-cultural, scientific, political and administrative life of the country, with important industrial and commercial structures, and educational, health protection and cultural institutions. Article 8 provides that the status of municipality is attributed to Chişinău, Bălţi, Bender, Comrat, Tiraspol.

According to Article 17, paragraph 2 of the Law on administrative-territorial organization of the Republic of Moldova “the independent administrative-territorial unit is to be established only if it has a population of, at least, 1500 people and enough financial resources for maintaining the administrative machinery and social institutions”. In extraordinary circumstances the Parliament is in force to establish, by the means of an Organic Law, the setting up of a new independent administrative-territorial unit with a smaller number of people than the one mentioned in paragraph 2, modifying the respective appendix of the present Law (paragraph 3).

In accordance with the Law on administrative-territorial organization of the Republic of Moldova, No. 191 – XIV on 12th November 1998, anterior to the present one, the independent administrative-territorial unit could be set up if it had a population of at least 2500 people and enough financial resources for maintaining the administrative machinery and social institutions (Article 18, paragraph 2).

Reducing the number of population permitted to set up a range of independent administrative-territorial units (village, community) with the majority of inhabitants belonging to national minorities, which allowed them to imply more actively in social-political life at local level, to benefit in a greater degree from their national and cultural rights provided by the legislation in force.

Under the Law on administrative-territorial organization of the Republic of Moldova, of 27th December 2001 there was kept the existence of Taraclia district, populated mostly by Bulgarian minority.

Decision no. 1167 of the Government of the Republic of Moldova of 29 September 2003 provides that the presidents of the districts, the municipality authorities and the leaders of TAU Găgăuzia are recommended to include in the functional attributes of one of the administrative machinery's specialists to coordinate activities in problems of interethnic relations and the functioning of languages in the territory. This allows maintaining a permanent link between central and local public administration in the realization of politics in the field of interethnic relations. At the same time, through the mentioned above specialists the cooperation of the persons belonging to national minorities with the representatives of the local administration was considerably improved.

At the moment national minorities are represented in many district councils and local councils of towns, municipals, villages and communities, where they constitute majority of population. The persons belonging to national minorities are approximately proportionally represented in the administration of the heads of districts, which corresponds to Article 24 of the Law on the rights of the persons belonging to national minorities and the juridical status of their organizations (2001). However, in some districts the disproportion of the number of the representatives of national minorities in the local executive power is still maintained.

2. *Indicate how representatives of national minorities will be involved in the current debate on constitutional reform.*

3. *Specify the extend to which the authorities are taking account of the issue of protecting national minorities, with particular regard to the situation of the population of Transdnistria, in the current process of negotiating the possible changes in the structure of the State of Moldova.*

In the conditions of a becoming civil society in the Republic of Moldova the mechanisms to involve national minorities in the process of discussing the constitutional reform are their ethno-cultural NGO-s and the Coordinating council of the ethno-cultural NGO-s, which activate under the Department of Interethnic Relations. The consulting character of the Coordinating council, which includes the leaders of ethno-cultural NGO-s, is declared by Article 25 of the Law on the rights of the persons belonging to national minorities and the juridical status of their organizations (2001). *(The activity of the Coordinating council of the NGO-s is reflected in the Commentaries of the Republic of Moldova CM (2002) 44 in information on Article 15 of framework Convention, p. 119).*

Although the participation of national minorities in the discussion of important problems, such as the constitutional reform, is realized through the members of Coordinating council that participates in different meetings with the state officials, there are, nevertheless, created conditions and possibilities in order to express public opinion.

During the year 2003 there were meetings organized between the leaders of ethno-cultural organizations and the president of the Republic of Moldova Mr. V. Voronin (May), the chairman of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova Ms. E. Ostapciuc (November), vice-chairman of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova Mr. V. Mișin (April), group of the members of Parliament of the Republic of Moldova (May). Also there has been organized a number of meetings with the Minister of reintegration Mr. V. Șova. In the process of open

dialog many problems concerning the form of future state structure of the Republic of Moldova, were discussed.

The Constitutional reform is directly related to the resolution of the Transdnistrian problem. In 2003 the initiative of the public representatives, concerned about the problem of disintegration of the state, appeared in the form of creation of Civic Forum (Forul civic). The purpose of this Forum is to mobilize the potential of civil society, to establish and develop an open political and social dialog among the two banks of the Dniester River. The leaders of a number of national minorities' organizations take an active position in this social structure: Ukrainian society of the Republic of Moldova, Bulgarian society "Vozrojdenie", Byelorussian society of the Republic of Moldova, Coordinating Council of Russian public organizations in the Republic of Moldova and others.

All of them were participants of the Round Table, under the aegis of Civic Forum, "Creation of the new model of civil collaboration – ways to resolve the Transdnistrian problem. The role of civil initiatives" which took place on 25th of July 2003. An important feature of the Round Table became the wide representation of the non-governmental organizations, including ethno-cultural organizations from both left and right banks of the Dniester River. The Round Table has approved the composition of the Coordination Council of the Civic Forum; among the members of the Council there are representatives of ethno-cultural organizations.

During the chairmanship of the Republic of Moldova at the Council of Europe, in September 2003 the International Conference "Frozen conflicts in Europe – democratic security dimension – case of Transdnistria" took place, organized by the Ministry of Reintegration and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The year 2003 was marked by enhanced activity in the negotiation process for adjustment of the Transdnistrian conflict. According to the agreements, concluded in July 2002 during the Summit in Kiev, the recommencement of the negotiation process will be conducted in five-lateral format, with participation of Russia and Ukraine, as the countries-guarantors. This is an important factor, since Transdnistria is a region where a large number of ethnic Russians (29.1% of population) and ethnic Ukrainians (28.9 % of population) are currently living, thousands of them being the citizens of these states.

The initiative launched by the President of the Republic of Moldova (February, 2003) on the elaboration of the new constitution for the united state and establishment of the Mutual Constitutional Commission became a realization and development of principles, based on the Kiev Summit, where the words "federalization of Moldova" were firstly mentioned. The Initiative of the President of the Republic of Moldova corresponded to the interests of population from both banks of the Dniester, since the meaning of it was joint elaboration of the Constitution, which would outline the real mechanisms of creating the unified federative state.

Within this process comes the understanding of the necessity to adjust the unified and acceptable economic and cultural-linguistic standards for the Transdnistria. Humanitarian contacts and politics of civil reconciliation are encouraged. With participation of civil society scientific and informational relations are being reestablished and become more and more diverse. The conditions for establishing contacts between ethno-cultural organizations from the two banks of the Dniester are being created. In this context we should encourage the tendency towards the creation of the Coordination Councils of ethno-cultural organizations of

Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Poles – in which also the social associations from Tiraspol, Rîbnița, Camenca, Bender, Grigoriopol and other locations of Transdnistria are included.

One of the main tasks is to find the acceptable and coordinated resolution of new problems and issues, aimed to protect the interests of the whole population. The number of these issues is related to the introduction of obligatory medical insurance in the Republic of Moldova and the necessity to create the possibility for the inhabitants of the left bank to benefit from the medical service on the right bank of the Dniester.

Contacts in the field of education are being developed as well. In general, the correction of working mechanism is taking place, the mechanism that has been put into practice for years by educational institutions of Moldova in respect of the university entrants and students from the left bank of the Dniester. In particular, the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova has adopted the decision according to which the documentation issued by the educational institutions of Transdnistria has the same legal effects as similar institutions of Moldova. This will allow to continue the education at any University of Moldova and to enter employment on the territory of the Republic of Moldova.

Thus the graduates from colleges from the left bank of the Dniester river have the possibility to study at universities of Moldova during four years, just as the graduates from the colleges from the right bank, and not five years as it used to be. The issues of the knowledge evaluation system, which is established as 10 grades scale in Moldova and 5-grades scale in Transdnistria, will be resolved with the help of the notes interpretation scale.

Any citizen of the Republic has the right to receive any information about the achievements in the negotiation process and to express his/her opinion on the issue, using mass media. Thus in many newspapers from the right bank the Propositions on the structure and content of the future Constitution of the Federative state were published, having been presented by the Transdnistrian party in 6th of July 2003.

4. *Provide information on any recent development vis-à-vis the moratorium introduced following the Council of Europe's recommendations on the teaching and status of the Russian language and the revision of the history teaching curricula.*

Problems, which appeared in January 2002 concerning the teaching the Russian language in primary schools with Moldovan language of study, did not have any cultural or linguistic reasons. Taking into account the recommendations of the Council of Europe, the Order of the Minister of Education Nr. 409 from 7th of August 2001, providing for obligatory study of Russian language starting from the 2nd grade in schools with the official language of study, has been abrogated by the Order of the Minister of Education Nr. 59 from 25 of February 2002.

At the moment the study of the Russian language in Moldovan schools is accomplished twice a week in 5-9 grades in gymnasiums and 10-11 grades in public schools. The curriculum also gives the opportunity to study Russian language twice a week as a subject in primary and lyceum grades.

At the same time it should be outlined that according to the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova (art. 13, p.3), the state encourages the studying of languages of international

communication, among which is Russian as well. According to the Law on functioning of languages (1989) the Russian language is a language of interethnic communication.

Teaching of any language other than official language at school can not harm the educational process in schools with official language of study; on the contrary, it may contribute to the development of interethnic dialog and interaction.

The State Commission, which was established by the Government of the Republic of Moldova, approved the Concept of study and teaching of integrated history course. According to the Order Nr. 459 the Ministry of Education there was a contest organized for teachers to participate at the experiment for practical implementation of the Concept at pre-university educational institutions. 100 teachers participated at the contest. 75 teachers from 45 schools have been chosen. Since the 1 of September 2003 the experiment on teaching the course of integrated history is carried out at 63 schools from 29 districts of the Republic.

5. *Provide information on any recent development in the procedure for granting to the private Gagauz university, set up by persons belonging to the Gagauz minority, a license to operate.*

On 28th of October, limited company “Gagauz University” appealed to the Chamber of License of the Republic of Moldova with the declaration to provide license for activity in the field of higher education.

On 13th of November 2003 the specialists of the Chamber of License and the Ministry of Education visited the place and established the fact of inconsistency between the presented documentation and the conditions necessary for the license. Namely: unauthenticity of the data in the presented documentation and lack of technical and material basis for the organization of the teaching process (appropriate premises for educational process, laboratories and specialized halls, library, necessary equipment and technical means).

Thus, according to art. 11(3) a) and b) of the Law of the Republic of Moldova Nr. 451-XV from 30th of July 2001 “for licensing of some types of activities” (art. 11 Decision on issuing the license or refusal of its issuing, p.3 the reasons for refusal to issue the license are: a) unauthenticity of the data at the documentation presented by the declarant; b) inconsistency of the declarant with the license conditions), the Chamber of License rejected the declaration of the “Gagauz University” Ltd., to issued the license by a decree Nr. 1584 from 19th of November 2002.

Until the present time the named above educational institution did not address with the new request to receive license.

6. *Please outline any recent development vis-à-vis recognition in Moldova of university diplomas obtained in Bulgaria by students belonging to the Bulgarian minority.*

In 2000 in Sofia, the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria signed an Agreement on mutual recognition of documentation of pre-university, undergraduate and postgraduate education.

The mentioned above Agreement recognizes as equivalent the following documents:

- Document about the graduation from the gymnasiums, lyceums, secondary schools and professional colleges issued in Moldova and Bulgaria.
- Diploma of higher education with degree of “license” and title of “Magistrate”
- Diploma of conferment of the title of “doctorate», such degrees as “doctor of science” and “doctor habilitat”
- Documentation of conferment of the scientific degree “conferențiar” issued in Moldova and documents of conferment of the scientific degree “senior lecturer”, issued in Bulgaria.

The Agreement is currently in force, thus everyone who wishes has the right to receive the equivalence status of his/her documentation on education, scientific degrees and titles.

Conclusion

The present report is elaborated on the basis of the art. 25 par. 2 of the Framework Convention on the Protection of Rights of National Minorities within the 2nd cycle of its monitoring by the Council of Europe in the Republic of Moldova throughout the period 1999-2003. Following the recommendations of the Consulting Committee on implementation of the Framework convention of Council of Europe, the composer of the given report – the Department of Interethnic Relations – has used the information received from the ministries and departments, bodies of local executive power, public organizations and other institutions, according to the request.

During the elaboration of the Report other materials, such as other similar documentation, prepared and issued by the independent experts, materials published in mass media and other sources were used.

During the period of time covered in the Report the Republic of Moldova has achieved significant results in the field of protection of national minorities’ rights as a state-participant in the Framework Convention, executing the international obligations. At the same time in some cases we may see the weaknesses within the process of implementation of the adopted laws; still the level of tolerance and interethnic interaction is not very high in Moldovan society; we may outline the low awareness of the state functionaries about the international and national standards on protection of national minorities’ rights.

Taking into account the public opinion of the representatives of national minorities, the potential of traditionally formed good neighbor interethnic relations, existence of appropriate legislative basis, and further implementation of the main principles of the Framework Convention should be aimed towards achieving following results:

- Modification and completing of the Law on the Parliamentary advocates, the Law on functioning of languages and other legislative acts in order to adjust them with the needs of multi-ethnic population.
- Ratification of the European Charter of regional languages and languages of minorities.
- Implementation of population census in the Republic of Moldova.
- Elaboration of the criteria for the possession of the official language by the different categories of workers.
- Respecting of the principle of equal and proportional representation in the bodies of legal authorities, courts, police and military forces.