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

(received 24 February 2009)

# The III Periodic Report of the Republic of Moldova on the Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

## General Data

**The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities** adopted by the Council of Europe in 1995, entered into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 1998, was signed by Moldova in 1995 and ratified by the Parliament of Moldova on the 22 of October, 1996.

The third periodic report of Moldova on the implementation of the Framework Convention is designed in accordance with article 25, paragraph 2 of this document and the Scheme for national reporting in the monitoring of the third cycle, presented by CoE.

The report covers the period of 2005-2008, which followed the presentation at the CoE of the second periodic report of Moldova on the implementation of the Framework Convention and the approval of the Opinion II on Moldova of the Advisory Committee regarding the Framework Convention for Protection of National Minorities (of 9 December, 2004) and Resolution ResCMN (2005)8 of the Committee of Ministers on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Moldova (of 7 December, 2005).

## PART ONE

The next period of the submission to the Council of Europe (CoE) of the second periodic report of Moldova on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (2004), is characterized by a number of positive changes in the presentation of the rights of national minorities, which relates to the fact that Moldova demonstrates a constructive method of implementation of this international document. The Republic of Moldova took corresponding measures to attract attention to the sphere of protection of national minorities, in accordance with the Recommendations expounded in the Resolution Res CMN (2005)8 and the Opinion II on Moldova adopted by the Council of Europe.

The implementation of the Framework Convention on the state level is coordinated by the **Bureau of Interethnic Relations**. The Bureau of Interethnic Relations is the specialized body of the central public administration which develops the state policy concerning interethnic relations, the monitoring of the respect for minorities, the support of the Moldovan diaspora and the operation of languages spoken in Moldova through the development and adjustment of national legislation to the international standards, taking into account the specific character of polyethnic, multicultural, multilingual and regional minorities, with the support of civil society and international organizations intake.

In 2005 the Bureau of Interethnic Relations replaced the Interethnic Relations Department, whose work was assessed positively in the Opinion II of the Republic of Moldova of the Consultative Committee on the Framework Convention according to the Law for amending the Law no. 64-XII of 31 May 1990 on the Government of the Republic. The Office is the successor of title of the Department of Interethnic Relations, including the activity on implementation of the Framework Convention, the monitoring of the application of the document's basic provisions, the elaboration of periodic reports of the Republic of Moldova. In the sphere of this sort activity the bureau involves the local and central administrative offices, representatives of civil society, non-governmental organizations, ethnocultural associations of national minorities and other state institutions.

Particular attention has been given to the implementation of the dispositions of Framework Convention and of the results of the second monitoring cycle of its performance in terms of Moldova, stipulated in the Opinion II on Moldova of the Advisory Committee regarding the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (of December 9, 2004) and Resolution ResCMN (2005)8 of the Committee of Ministers on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Moldova (of 7 December, 2005).

These documents, as well as the Comments of the Republic of Moldova on the second Opinion of the Advisory Committee have been translated and published in **6 languages** – Moldavian, Ukrainian, Russian, Gagauz, Bulgarian, and Romany. This activity was carried out with financial support of CoE. The translation of the texts, and the above-mentioned documents in the languages listed was made by the scientific collaborators of the Centre for Ethnology of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, the teachers of the State University of Taraclia, representatives of public associations of Roma. It is necessary to note that the experts who have translated the texts participate in the public ethnocultural movement as leaders or members of non-governmental organizations: the Ukrainian Community of the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Community of the Republic of Moldova, the Foundation for Support and Development of Gagauz Science and Culture "Cainac", Scientific Society of Bulgarian Culture of Moldova, the National Centre of Roma of Moldova. The Bureau of Interethnic Relations has translated and edited the documents in the **state language** (Moldovan), using their own resources.

For the purpose of examination, execution and decision-making, these editions have been submitted to parliamentary committees (for human rights, for legal appointments and immunities, for foreign policy and European integration), the President of the Republic of Moldova, the central administrative bodies (ministries, offices, agencies, etc.), the local public administration, including the areas inhabited by Ukrainians, Russians, Gagauz, Bulgarian, Roma, ethnocultural associations of national minorities and other civil society representatives.

The translation and editing of three mentioned documents which reflects the results of the second cycle of the CoE monitoring of the implementation of the Framework Convention in 6 languages operating in Moldova contributed to the following purposes:

- Expanding the area of information of the Moldovan society in the given field;
- Ensuring access of the representatives of national minorities to information reflecting the international appreciation of the state of interethnic relations and the solving process of the respective problems in most utilized languages on the territory of the republic, corresponding to Articles 5, 10, 14 of the Framework Convention;
- Providing information to the central administrative bodies (government ministries, offices, agencies, etc.) and local administrative bodies regarding these issues and their involvement in the process of completing the documents referred to;
- Attracting representatives of civil society, scientists and specialists from educational institutions and others interested in the implementation of the Framework Convention;
- Establishing a dialogue and developing cooperation between public authorities and social society in the given field.

The seminar “**Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities: the conclusions of the second cycle of CoE monitoring in Moldova**” that took place on **30 May, 2006**, in the city of Chisinau in one of the most important halls in the country - the Republic Palace, contributed to the realisation of the above-mentioned goals. The seminar was organized by the Bureau of Interethnic Relations with the support of the General Directorate for Human Rights of the CoE, and was characterized by a large presence of Members of Parliament of Moldova, lawyers and representatives of local administrative bodies, scientists, specialists from educational institutions and media, members of public associations of national minorities and non-governmental organizations for human rights (in total - 100 persons). The seminar was attended by the vice president of the Parliament Maria Postoico; the deputies Victor Stepaniuc, chairman of the Committee on culture, science, education, youth, sports and media (at present Vice Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova); President of the Ukrainian Community of Moldova Nicholae Oleinic; President of the Coordination Council of Russian Public Organizations of the Republic of Moldova Mikhail Sidorov; Vice Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova Valerian Cristea; general director of the Bureau of Interethnic Relations Olga Goncharova. The basic subject of the seminar was the Opinion II on the Republic of Moldova of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities ACFC/OP/II (2004), adopted on 9 December, 2004 and the Resolution ResCMN (2005)8 on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Moldova, adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the CoE on December 7, 2005, including the Moldova’s comments on the given Opinion.

The popularization of the Framework Convention and the CoE’s final documents on the basis of the conclusions of the second monitoring cycle is made through the new form of the Bureau of Interethnic Relations - **Bureau Day**, that means business trips of specialists to districts in order to monitor the ethnolinguistic situation, interethnic relations, information on the forms and methods of this body work, exchange of experience. Representatives of local government from neighbouring districts, representatives of public organizations of ethnic minorities working in the area are involved to participate in the Bureau Day. In the reported period, the Bureau Days were held in the districts of Drochia (with representatives from 12 districts), Cantemir (with representatives from 5 districts), Chisinau (with representatives from 16 districts), the city of Comrat (with representatives from districts in Gagauzia) and Taraclia district. Thus, information on the Framework Convention has been promoted in all areas of the Republic. The wide circle of participants in the Bureau days, contribute to the formation of a constructive dialogue between the state and non-governmental sector, to the training of civil concepts for decision-making in the sphere of interests related to national minorities, in the context of the principles of the Framework Convention.

The spectrum of activity of the central public administration and other central administrative authorities for the implementation of the Framework Convention has extended, and the level of participation to promote the document relating to the spheres of competence has increased. The following ministries are worth a positive assessment:

- Ministry of Education and Youth, in particular the expansion of the teaching system of languages of national minorities, the promotion of the ethnocultural component in the educational process, the training of the spirit of tolerance and intercultural dialogue through the use of various forms and instructive and educational methods;
- Ministry of Culture and Tourism, in particular the work related to the development of the museums, libraries, folk ensembles, which contribute to the preservation of the national cultural identity of representatives of national minorities;

- Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child, in particular, the work to improve the social status of the Roma population;
- Ministry of Internal Affairs, one of the activity of which, including the police, is the popularization of knowledge about human rights and principles of equality before the law for all citizens regardless of nationality, language, religion;
- Ministry of Justice, in particular, the elaboration of the draft law on prevention and combating the discrimination.<sup>1</sup>

The level of participation of members of civil society in the promotion and popularization of the Framework Convention has increased. Nongovernmental organizations are primarily the moderators between national minorities and the state, attracting the attention of the Moldovan authorities and international organizations on the most important problems, the resolution of which corresponds to the interests of national minorities. Non-governmental line organizations form the public opinion regarding the situation of national minorities; propose ways to promote European standards of minority rights. For these purposes, non-governmental organizations representatives and a wide circle of interested societies are offered the opportunity to participate in international seminars and conferences in which the given issues are discussed. Non-governmental bodies develop their own activity regarding the organization of seminars and conferences within the framework of the Stability Pact for South-West Europe, with the support of various programs of CoE, Central European Initiative, UNESCO, diplomatic missions of the United Kingdom, USA, Holland, etc., accredited in Moldova. The Bureau of Interethnic Relations, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Ministry of Internal Affairs and other authorities of local public administration collaborate with NGOs for organization of the round tables, consultations, joint projects realization, etc.

Principles of European standards implementation related to: human rights and the rights of national minorities in various spheres in the conditions of Moldova, the historical paths of development of national minorities, and the problems of their current situation were discussed in a series of seminars and international conferences, the organizers and participants of which being non-governmental organizations and representatives from the scientific circle of national minorities.

The following seminars and conferences could be mentioned:

- **Preservation and development of the Bulgarian language and culture in the contemporary Moldovan state** – scientific – practical conference organized on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2009 in the city of Taraclia by the ethnocultural associations of the Bulgarians with participation of the representatives of central and local authorities, scientists, teachers, etc.
- **Preservation of cultural heritage in the countries of Europe** - International scientific conference held on October 25-26, 2008, organized in Chisinau with the support of the Central European Initiative by a group of Moldovan institutions: Cultural Heritage Institute of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, the National Commission of the Republic of Moldova for UNESCO, the Public Association "Centre for Interethnic Research in Moldova". The works of the conference were attended by researchers, which study the problems of history, culture, language and the current situation of national minorities in Moldova.
- **Meeting of experts for the creation of sub-regional coalition of cities against xenophobia, for civil solidarity, understanding and interethnic stable development** – held on January 28-31, 2008 in the cities of Chisinau, Balti, Soroca, organized by the National Commission of the Republic of Moldova for UNESCO, supported by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Bureau of Interethnic Relations. The conference was attended by representatives of authorities from different cities of Moldova, and presidents of ethnocultural associations of national minorities. The conference adopted a resolution in which, in particular, was appreciated Moldova's positive experience in the sphere of harmonizing the interethnic relations.
- **Youth for tolerance, nondiscrimination and intercultural dialogue** – round table organized by the Bureau of Interethnic Relations on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March within the bounds of the European Actionweek against Racism in which participated NGOs representatives including representatives from youth nongovernmental organizations, mass media.
- **Human rights and the rights of national minorities in the Republic of Moldova** - international scientific and practical conference held in April, 2008, organized by the Slavonic University with the support of the Parliament of Moldova. The conference examined the legal bases on human rights, including the rights of national minorities and the observance of these standards. The conference was attended by: President of the Parliament of Moldova Marian Lupu, a group of deputies, representatives of government and nongovernmental organizations.
- **Moldova – our common home** - scientific and practical conference held on August 21, 2006, organized by the Bureau of Interethnic Relations, jointly with the Cultural Heritage Institute of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, dedicated to the celebration of 15 years of independence of the Republic of Moldova. The participants at the conference were specialists in different spheres of interethnic relations: scholars, historians, ethnological, culturologists, civil servants, members of public associations of national minorities. Speeches were presented with reference to the problems of preserving and supporting ethnic cultures of peoples who call Moldova their parental home, questions relating to legislative rights of national minorities in the context of European integration of

<sup>1</sup> A detailed description of the experience of public administrative bodies is given in the second part of this report.

Moldova, the historical and present Moldavians, Ukrainians, Russians, Bulgarians, Gagauzes, Jews, Roma and representatives of other ethno-social groups of population. The resolution adopted draw the attention of "the government and civil society of the Republic of Moldova to the necessity of a balanced policy on interethnic relations, the improvement of legislation, the education of ethnic, racial and religious tolerance, the contribution to the preservation of cultural and ethnic diversity".

- **Ethnocultural Diversity of Moldova** - international scientific and practical conference held on 23-24 November, 2006 in the city of Chisinau, organized by the Public Organization "Русь". Participants at the conference were researchers, ethnologic historians, representatives of public associations of national minorities, who have presented reports and communications, which reflected different stages of historical and cultural development of ethnic minority on the territory of Moldova in the context of ethnic relations with the majority ethnicity - Moldavians.

- **Russian language in Moldova: Realities and Prospects** - Republican scientific and practical conference held in December 2006, organized by the Coordination Council of the Russian community associations in Moldova, with the contribution of the Bureau of Interethnic Relations, the Ministry of Education and Youth and the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Moldova. In the resolution adopted it is referred to the stable state of the Russian language in Moldova and exposed a number of recommendations for various categories of participants to the process of its preservation and development.

- **From the linguistic diversity to the multilingual and multicultural education** - international conference, held on December 5-6, 2006, in Chisinau, and organized by the Public organization "Centre for minority issues" in cooperation with the Resource Centre of Nongovernmental Organizations for Human Rights in Moldova "CReDO" and Ukrainian Association of Youth "Zlagoda Concordia". The conference was attended by researchers, teachers, civil society representatives from Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, CoE and OSCE experts. The participants spoke about the experience of Moldavian public and state structures in promoting cultural diversity through multicultural education in the context of international experience.

The information presented above shows that conferences, seminars and other similar actions, is an effective method to promote the Framework Convention with the participation of representatives of civil society. These events contribute to the development of positive trends the most important of which must be mentioned:

- the participation of representatives of public organizations and researchers of ethnic minorities at such seminars and conferences, enable the formulation of public opinion on the effectiveness of implementation of international principles of equality and discrimination, including the Framework Convention, in practice, and the assessment of the results of this process;
- these actions contribute to the development of interaction and cooperation between state bodies, scientific circles and civil society, in particular, non-governmental organizations; such a common activity extends the participation of national minorities in the discussion of the issues related to their situation and to the development of appropriate solutions;
- resolutions which include appropriate recommendations are adopted in accordance with the conference conclusions, and collections of speeches and communications are edited, contributing to the expansion of the information of the legislative and executive bodies, and the media about interethnic relations, ensuring the rights of national minorities and those issues that require resolution;
- the development of such assemblies stimulate scientific research aimed at deepening the knowledge of culture, history, language and religion of national minorities in Moldova and of the majority ethnicity – Moldavians.

The development of the activity and the role of the ethnocultural association of national minorities in promoting the principle of cultural diversity, spirit of tolerance, non-discrimination principles which corresponds to the content of the Framework Convention is demonstrated by:

- The increase of the number of youth ethnocultural organizations (formed of youth of Ukrainian, Russian, Gagauz, Bulgarian, Polish, Hebrew, etc. ethnic origin), and the creation of the Coordination Council of mentioned organizations of the Bureau of Interethnic Relations;
- The increase of the number of the ethnocultural organizations: at the moment, 93 associations of national minorities are accredited at the Bureau of Interethnic Relations, 120 similar organizations are registered at the local level;
- The extension of the activity of the ethnocultural Roma associations within the framework of the projects aimed to meet the national, cultural and social needs of Romany population, which is carried out with financial support of international organizations. Coalition of Roma public associations that include 15 organizations was founded with the assistance of the Bureau of Interethnic Relations;
- The increase of the number of ethnocultural organizations, representing national minorities few in number (up to 1% of the population): Lithuanians, Latvians, Estonians, Gruzians, Osetian, Tartars and other ethnic groups;
- The creation of Non-discrimination Coalition "For Diversity - Against Discrimination" in the composition of group of NGOs, in particular: the National Youth Council of Moldova, the Information Centre "GenderDoc-M", the

Roma National Centre, Resource Centre for Human Rights, the League of the Defence of Human Rights, etc. and its activities for the elaboration of the draft Law on preventing and combating discrimination.<sup>2</sup>

The Republic of Moldova by means of the Bureau of Interethnic Relations, aims to achieve a permanent collaboration with the members of the Advisory Committee of the CoE regarding the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Thus, during 2008 the Bureau of Interethnic Relations worked effectively with the Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the CoE regarding the Framework Convention Mr. Alan Phillips, having three consultation meetings (in the city of Strasbourg and Chisinau). In the framework of these consultations there were touched upon the following issues, which are currently discussed in the process of the implementation of the Framework Convention in other States Parties:

- the participation of representatives of national minorities in the areas of cultural, social and economic activity of the state as well as in the public activity;
- Measures for the provision of equal access to education of representatives of national minorities. It was also examined the realisation development of the Governmental Decision nr.1453 of 21 December 2006 "Action Plan to support the Gypsies / Roma in Moldova for the years 2007-2010".

General Director of the Bureau of Interethnic Relations in the quality of a member presents the information about the situation of national minorities in the Republic of Moldova and legislative ensuring of their rights at the meetings of DH-MIN Committee.

To resolve the problems exposed in the CoE documents reflecting the results of the second monitoring cycle of the Framework Convention implementation, the Republic of Moldova made a close collaboration with state bodies, NGOs and international organizations, whose representatives are accredited to the Republic of Moldova – OSCE, CoE, UNESCO National Commission, with support of which various projects aimed to promote the principle of cultural diversity are being developed and carried out.

The responsibility at the state level for national reporting regarding the realization of international treaties to which Moldova adheres has increased. The National Commission for preparation of initial and periodic reports on the implementation of international conventions to which Moldova adhere works in this respect. Under the Regulation of mentioned Commission (comp. II, p.4) a **Working Group** has been created for the elaboration of the third periodic report of the Republic of Moldova on the implementation of the Framework Convention, approved at the meeting VI of June 26, 2008 of the Commission. The membership of this group include representatives of the Bureau of Interethnic Relations, Ministry of Education and Youth, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child, the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Economy and Trade, Ministry of Information Development, Ministry of Reintegration, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Bureau of Migration and Asylum (under the Ministry of Internal Affairs), the Coordination Council of Audiovisual Company Teleradio-Moldova and Chairman of the Coordination Council of ethnocultural organizations of the Bureau of Interethnic Relations.

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<sup>2</sup> Detailed information regarding the participation of the ethnocultural organizations of national minorities and other non-governmental bodies, in the process of the realization of the Framework Convention, and the results of the given activity, is stated in the Second part of this report, in the information regarding particular articles of the Framework Convention.

## PART TWO

### Overview of state policy on protection of national minorities

The Republic of Moldova represents a state with polyethnic and multilingual population which is 650 years since its foundation and establishment in the history. The Moldavians - the basic nationality of a country – together with the representatives of other ethnoses – Ukrainians, Russians, Gagauzes, Bulgarians, Jews, Byelorussians, Romanians, Gypsies, Poles, etc. – constitute Moldavian nation, for whom the Republic of Moldova is a common homeland.

The population census of October 2004 is a positive action, which has made it easier to monitor the situation of persons belonging to national minorities, and to promote a more effective policy in this field. The number of permanent population of Moldova is 3,383,332 (100%) persons, including:

- Moldavians - 2,564,849 people (75.8%);
- Ukrainians - 282,406 people (8.4%);
- Russians - 201,218 people (5.9%);
- Gagauzes - 147,500 people (4.4%);
- Roma - 73,276 people (2.2%);
- Bulgarians - 65,662 people (1.9%);
- Other nationalities - (1.0%);
- Did not indicate their nationality - (0.4%).

The number of representatives of national minorities few in number who live spread throughout the Republic of Moldova is:

Armenians - 1829 people; Azeris - 891 people; Byelorussians - 5059 people;  
Germans - 1616 people; Greeks - 482 people; Grusians - 501 people;  
Estonians - 77 people; Hebrews - 3608 people, Latvians - 185 people;  
Lithuanians - 259 people; Poles - 2383 people; Tartars - 974 people.<sup>3</sup>

The number of national minorities: the share of the Ukrainian population fell by 2.9% and of Russians by 3.9%. However, Ukrainians and Russians are on the second and respectively the third position of the total population of the country. The number of Gagauzes increased by 0.3%. Meanwhile, the number of Bulgarians decreased by 0.1% and of other nationalities by 1.7%. The Moldavians are the most numerous ethnic group. Of the total their share is 75.8%.

78.8% of the population reported as their mother tongue the language of their nationality. 20.8% reported as their main language the language of other nationalities. 78.4% of **the Moldavians** reported Moldovan as their native language. National minorities: **the Ukrainians** - 64.1% reported as their main language the Ukrainian language, 31.8% reported as their main language the Russian language; **the Russians** - 97.2% reported as their mother tongue the Russian language; **the Gagauzes** – 92.3% reported as their main language the Gagauz language, 5.8% – the Russian language; **the Bulgarians** – 81.0% reported as their main language the Bulgarian language, 13.9% – reported Russian as their main language.

Of the total population of the country 58.8% usually speak the Moldovan language, 16.4% - Romanian, 16.0% - Russian, 3.8% - Ukrainian, 3.1% - Gagauz, 1.1% the Bulgarian language. Other languages are spoken by 0.4% of the population; the same number of people did not indicate their language of communication.

Although most Ukrainians, Gagauzes, and Bulgarians have reported that their mother tongue is the one of their nationality, every second Ukrainian, every third Bulgarian and every fourth Gagauz usually speaks Russian. The Moldavians who usually speak Russian form 5.0% of the total number of population. Among the national minorities: 6.2% of Ukrainians, 4.4% of Russians, 1.9% of Gagauzes, and 7.1% of Bulgarians speak the Moldovan language.

### Evolution of national legislation

Moldova has achieved significant results in protecting the rights of national minorities in the process of implementing the Framework Convention, giving a special attention to the legal strengthening of these rights. Currently national law generally meets international standards in this sphere. Also, for the execution of the international obligations took on by the Republic, and in order to achieve the recommendations of the Council of

<sup>3</sup> The census data of the year 2004 do not include information on the numerical ethnic composition of the eastern counties of the Republic and the municipality of Bender.

Europe under results of the second monitoring cycle there is continuing the development and improvement of legislation in force, the approval of the new legislation, and the elaboration of drafting legislation.

#### **In the context of Article 4 of the Framework Convention**

**Law on the Rights of the Child** approved by the Parliament of Moldova, no. 338-XII of December 15, 2004. Article 3 of the Law provides that all children have equal rights regardless of race, nationality, ethnic origin, language of communication, religion, gender, opinion, political affiliation, wealth or social origin.

**Law regarding the Code of conduct for public officials** approved by the Parliament of Moldova, no. 25-XVI of 22 February 2008. **Article 4** of the Law requires public official to exercise the functions of service, to make decisions and take actions in an impartial, non-discriminating and fair mood without giving priority to persons or groups based on race, nationality, ethnic origin, language, religion, gender, political affiliation, wealth or social origin. Also, the law requires the public official with function of leadership to examine and apply impartially the criteria of assessing the professional competence of the subordinate staff, when they propose or approve promotions, transfers, appointment or dismissal, or grant material or moral incentives, excluding any form of favouritism or discrimination, and to avoid discriminating criteria in the access or promotion in public function (see also information in art.4)

**Law regarding public service and status of public officials** no. 158-XVI of 4 July 2008, art. 22 which presupposes that a public official must respect the Constitution, legislation in force as well as international conventions which were signed by the Republic of Moldova, respect the rights and freedoms of the citizens.

By Decision of Government no. 1459 of 24 December 2007 the draft **Law regarding the amending and supplementing the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova** (including articles 176, 346) has been approved, which currently is at the examination in Parliament. According to **Article 176** of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova no. 985-XV of 18 April 2002 the violation of citizens rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution and other laws depending on gender, race, colour, language, religion, political opinion or any other opinion, national or social origin, belonging to a national minority, wealth, birth or any other circumstances constitute a crime and attracts criminal liability. **Article 346** of the Penal Code criminalizes intentional actions aimed at the incitement of enmity or national, racial and religious discord. According to this article, intentional actions, public instigations, including those done through electronic or written media, directed towards the incitement of enmity or national, racial and religious discord, to the humiliation of national honour and dignity, and the direct or indirect limitation of rights or setting direct or indirect benefits for citizens depending on their national, racial or religious affiliation are punished as appropriate with fine, unpaid work in community service or jail. Because **Article 176** of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova does not ensure accurate understanding of the type of prohibited conduct, it was considered necessary to amend it. Currently the Article criminalizes the violation of equal rights of citizens, which may be deemed to be discriminatory against people who are not citizens of the Republic of Moldova, as well as against stateless people. **This Law** was drafted in order to eliminate this loophole, as well as for broadening the circle of situations in which non-discrimination principle may be violated. Thus, the draft version of Article 176 of the Criminal Code proposes to incriminate any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference against a person, group of persons or community, without justification or reasonable objective, based on criteria established by international treaties. Unlike current version of Article 176, which provides imposition for criminal liability for violation of equality depending on gender, race, colour, language, religion or any opinion, national or social origin, affiliation to a national minority, property, the new version of this article provides criminalization for discrimination based on sexual orientation. According to the new version of this article any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference to a person, group of persons or communities based on invoked criteria are to be incriminated if they are done in order to restrict or remove the recognition, the use or exercise, under conditions of equality, of rights and fundamental freedoms recognized by the Constitution, legislation and international treaties to which Moldova adhere. Subject to the crime in question should be not only the individual but also legal entities. However, **Article 346** has been proposed in a new version in order to incriminate public instigations, including the written or electronic media, which humiliate, provoke discrimination or hatred against a group of people or a person on the ground of actual or alleged affiliation to the group based on race, nationality, ethnic origin, language, religion, colour, sex, age, health, sexual orientation, political opinion, social status, membership of a group of disadvantaged people, as well as on the basis of any other criteria, and public instigations to violent action against a group of persons or a person on the grounds indicated above.

Because in the Republic of Moldova there does not exist a separate act to exclude any discrimination, to strengthen the existing legislative framework and adjust it to international standards, a draft **Law on preventing and combating discrimination** is being developed (according to the indications of the Government of Moldova, no. 2503-10 of 21 January 2008). This project proposes to define notions of discrimination (direct or indirect discrimination), harassment, incitement to discrimination, victimization, affirmative action, whose definition can not be found in the national legislation in force.

The draft contains provisions designed to prevent and combat the phenomenon of discrimination in major



areas: employment, education, health, goods and services available to the public, etc. Thus, the provisions prohibiting any distinction or preference which would have the effect of limiting the employment will complement and clarify the existing rules in the Labour Code. The project also provides prohibition of any discrimination in education, access to services available to the public (health care services, banking, transportation, social protection, etc.). The draft law contains provisions on the institutional framework. Resulting from the specific activity of parliamentary lawyers to ensure the human rights and freedoms, their ability to protect individuals against discrimination and ensure equal opportunities has been considered appropriate. In the aspect of promoting policy of preventing and combating discrimination, the draft proposes the establishment of a government committee, which would have the following tasks: to ensure the development and promotion of protection policy against discrimination; to promote the initiation of proposals for amending legislation and to implement and improve protection against discrimination; to remit objections and proposals of a general content regarding the prevention and combating discrimination to the central and local authorities, etc. The project also establishes the right of public associations to exercise certain powers in relation to the prevention and combating discrimination, which will involve civil society in eradicating this negative scourge. The project provisions related to the protection of victims of discrimination are also relevant. At present **Law on preventing and combating discrimination** has been finalized taking into account the proposals of interested bodies and the civil society, and by the Letter nr.03/8089 from 30 September 2008 it was submitted for consideration to the Government and Parliament.

National legislation that relates to the **field of social protection** allows to all citizens of the Republic of Moldova to receive the social assistance in equal measure irrespective of race, ethnic origin, religion, belonging to national minority. In the Republic of Moldova exists quite a number of laws and standard acts that regulate granting of various forms of social assistance: *Law of the Republican fund and local funds for social security of the population* (no.827 from 18.02.2000); *Law on state social benefits granted to some categories of the citizens* (no.499-XIV from 14.07.1999); *Law about special social protection of some categories of the population* (no. 933-XIV from 14.04.2000); *the Governmental decision on indemnities addressed to the families with the children* (no. 1478 from November 15, 2002), etc. In order to ensure social security of the problem families **Law on social assistance no.113-XV from 13th June 2008** was approved. The Law spreads to the families, members of which are the citizens of the Republic of Moldova, citizens of the other countries, stateless persons or refugees who reside in the Republic of Moldova, in accordance with the legislation in force.

*The Governmental decision* no.1512 from December 31, 2008 about aprobaton of **the National program on creation of integrated system of the social services in the period 2008-2012** was adopted with the purpose of improving the life quality of persons in difficulty. The program is based on the principle of equal opportunities – quaranteeing the rights on social services of all people in difficulty regardless of sex, age, religion, culture, language, ethnical origin, etc.

The principles of equality, tolerance and dialogue are reflected in the new **Law on asylum** which was adopted at the end of the year 2008. The given law has widened considerably the rights of the refugees. In particular, the refugees independently of the ethnical origin are provided with the following rights: the families with the children as well as unattended children receive all forms of accepted social assistance on a level with the children of the citizens of the Republic of Moldova; enjoy identitic with the citizens of the Republic of Moldova treatment in relation to the freedom of worship their own religion and religious education of the children; enjoy the same rigths as the citizens of the Republic of Moldova in the system of compulsory medical insurance; enjoy the right to particiate in the program of social integration, etc.

In order to prevent inappropriate behaviour of police officers towards the representatives of national minorities, and to reform the police activity in accordance with the European standards in the sphere of human rights, the **Policemen's Ethics and Deontology Code was approved by Government decision no. 481 of May 10, 2006**. The Code defines the principles that govern the conduct of a policeman, and the manner of behaviour in specific situations like: the relationship with the public, the use of force or the examination of suspects and illegal acts. **Policemen's Ethics and Deontology Code** will, however, be a useful tool for members of civil society. (See also *information Article 4*).

### **In the context of Article 7 of the Framework Convention**

The Parliament of Moldova adopted a new legislative framework on *political parties and meetings*, including: **Law on parties**, no. 294-XVI of 21 December 2007. **Article 3** of the Act prohibits the creation and activity of political parties based on discrimination on grounds of race, nationality, ethnic origin, language, religion, sex, wealth or social origin. Under this law, political parties are organized by the principle of administrative-territorial organization of the Republic of Moldova. Citizens of the Republic of Moldova who, according to legal norms, have the right to vote could be members of political parties. Citizens of Moldova have the right to associate freely in political parties, to participate in the work of these parties and to leave them. No person can be forced to join or not join a political party.

**Law on meetings**, no. 26-XVI of 22 February 2008; the principle of non-discrimination guarantees the right to

assembly of all persons regardless of race, nationality, ethnic origin, language, religion, sex, opinion, political appearance, wealth, social origin or any other criteria. Under **Article 10** of this law, any person intending to conduct a meeting shall announce in writing by a prior declaration the local government of the administrative-territorial unit at least with 5 days before the date of the meeting. (See also information art.7).

### In the context of Article 8 of the Framework Convention

Reports relating to freedom of conscience and religion are regulated by the **Law on religious cults and their component parts**, no. 125-XVI of 11 May 2007. Under this law, every person has the right to freedom of mind, conscience and religion. This right must be exercised in a spirit of tolerance and mutual respect and includes the freedom to belong or not to a particular religion, or to have no belief, to change his religion or belief, to practice religion or belief individually or jointly, in public or in private, through education, religious practice, worship and observance. Each individual religious community can freely join any religious worship (**Art. 4**). Under this law, religious cults are formed on the voluntary principles by individuals under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Moldova, with full capacity of exercise in order to practice in common the faith. The religious cults are formed by their own rules, according to their teachings, canons and traditions, based on beliefs and the will freely expressed by believers. Religious communities can be formed and dissolved through freely expressed will of their members without additional approval or barriers from the outside of community (**Article 16**). According to the law, the registering of the religious cults and their component parts is carried out by the Ministry of Justice. For registration religious cults and their component parts submit necessary documents. Failure to at least one set of necessary documents dispenses the Ministry of Justice from the obligation to examine the application for registration of religious cult or its component part. If the documents presented correspond to the constitution law on religious cults and their component parts, the Ministry of Justice issues to the religious cult a registration certificate within 15 days. Religion is considered registered from the moment of issuing the certificate of registration, being exempted from the registration fee. If the documents submitted for the formation of religious cult do not correspond to the Law on religious cults and their component parts and affect the interests of society, state security, human life and health, the Ministry of Justice refuses the registration of this cult, indicating reasons. The signatories of the constitution act may appeal the decision in court (**Article 19**). (See also information art. 8)

### In the context of Article 9 of the Framework Convention

**Broadcasting Code of the Republic of Moldova**, approved by the Moldovan Parliament, no. 260-XVI of 27 July, 2006. Code goal is: to ensure the rights of programs consumers to receive accurate and objective information that would contribute to the free formation of opinion, to ensure the rights of broadcasters of editorial freedom and freedom of expression, to establish democratic principles of broadcasting operation in Moldova. Broadcasting Code contains a number of provisions regarding ensuring the rights of national minorities. According to the Code:

- Broadcaster is prohibited broadcasting containing any form of incitement to hatred on grounds of race, religion, nationality, sex. (**Art.6 (1)**);
- In the spirit of respect for freedoms and fundamental human rights, through the transmission and retransmission of program services it is ensured the social and political pluralism, cultural, language and religion diversity, the information, education and entertainment of public (**Article 7 (1)**).
- In areas in which representatives of national minorities constitute the majority of the population, local and regional broadcasters will ensure the dissemination of programs in the state language at the rate of not less than 20% of the programs. The activity in the language domain of the company "Teleradio Gagauzia" will also be governed by the empowered authority of U.T.A. Gagauzia (**Article 11 (9)**);
- In areas in which representatives of different nationalities or ethnic groups represent more than 20% the service distributors, holders of broadcast licence will provide broadcasting services and programs in the minority language in question (**Art. 29 (4)**);
- Protection of information space, linguistic and cultural national heritage, including the culture and languages of national minorities (**Article 41 (1e)**).

The powers of National Public Institution of Broadcasting ("**Teleradio-Moldova**" Company) are:

- Cultivation of human dignity, tolerance, morals, citizenship, democratic values, national unity, truth, justice, taking account of the moral, political and religious beliefs of the various categories of the population (**Article 51 (1d)**);
- Ensuring the right to information of all citizens of the Republic of Moldova, including the national minorities (**Article 51 (1f)**);
- The objective of the national public broadcaster: to make radio and television broadcast in the language of the Republic of Moldova and in the languages of national minorities and other international languages, for informative, cultural, educational and entertaining purposes, taking into account the provisions of this Code (**Article 54 (a)**).

In the process of realisation of these principles, "Teleradio-Moldova" Company uses in radio and TV broadcasting throughout the republic, in addition to Moldavian and Russian languages, the Ukrainian, Gagauz, Romany, Polish and Yiddish languages. (See also information art. 9)

## In the context of Article 13.14 of the Framework Convention

On 20 December 2008 the Moldovan Parliament adopted a new legislative framework on education - **Education Code**. The code was initiated by President of the country and aims to improve the quality of education in Moldova. Education Code will replace the Law on education of 1995. The principles of educational system organisation, displayed in a series of articles of the Code, correspond to the provisions of the Framework Convention on right to education for national minorities.

Under the Education Code:

### Article 3 - Educational Doctrine

(1) Education is the fundamental right, essential for the other **human rights**.

(4) The state ensures **equal opportunities and equal access to education irrespective of social status, gender, race, nationality, language, ethnic origin, religion or political affiliation** during their lives.

### Article 4. - The Education principles

(1) The state policy in education is based on principles:

b) **non discrimination and equity**;

### Article 5. - The social functions of education

Education has the following functions:

c) the formation of conscience and **national identity**;

g) development of national culture, **promotion of inter- and multicultural dialogue and ethnic tolerance**;

### Article 6. - The objectives of education

(2) Education has in view:

a) to form an **open society based on democratic principles**;

b) to promote **educational policies of European integration**;

d) to cultivate respect for **the rights, freedoms and human dignity**;

f) to education respect for parents, **Homeland, language, history and cultural values of the people**;

k) to form communication skills in various socio-cultural contexts, **tolerant attitude towards other cultures and respect for cultural diversity**.

### Article 7. – General organization of education

(3) Public education is **free**.

(8) The state guarantees the Constitutional right of a person **to choose the language of education and training at all levels of education, forms and types of education**, except for medical education, military, law, order and public security.

(9) **The study of the state language** of the Republic of Moldova is compulsory in all educational institutions. Requirements of the teaching-learning-assessment of the state language are covered by state educational standards.

At the same time it is found necessary, that during discussion of the draft Code, misunderstanding on the part of members of ethnocultural associations of national minorities determined the contents p.(8), art. 7 "The State guarantees the Constitution right of a person to choose the language of education and training at all levels of education, forms and types of education, except for medical education, military, law, order and public security." After the opinion of members of the Coordination Council, ethnocultural organizations and other minorities the phrase "except for medical education, military, law, order and public security" in the contents of this section comes into conflict with the law in force in Moldova, and with international documents, in particular the Framework Convention (art. 13.14) and can limit opportunities and rights of representatives of national minorities to enjoy the right to education after listing specialties. In connection with this the Coordination Council of the ethnocultural organizations proposed to exclude this phrase from the mentioned point, informing about that the Government of Moldova and the Moldovan Parliament. (*See also art information. 13, 14*) adheres.

In the state activity of Moldova, the promotion of **cultural diversity** as a universal European principle recognized in close connection with the implementation of **the principle of respect for human rights and the principle of equality** have a priority place in the field of interethnic relations. These principles are confirmed in a number of new legislative documents and practical measures accumulated in long-term state programs, policies and strategies.

In the reported period there have been adopted the following long-term state programs of a universal content,

the component parts of which are the interethnic relations, the rights of minorities and ensuring the equal opportunities.

The **Program of Activity of the Government of Moldova for 2005-2009** "*The Modernization of the Country Means the Welfare of the Population*" is geared towards the promotion of democracy and European values in the economic development of Moldova, increasing citizens' welfare and rehabilitation of national dignity. In this respect, the fundamental priorities of the Government are as follows: European integration, territorial integration, strengthening the status of law and democracy, respect for minority rights, equal opportunities.

In the compartment "*Social, cultural and moral strengthening*", in the subcompartment "*Cultural identity*" it is recognized that cultural identity is inseparable from such fundamental values as language, collective memory, spirituality, continuity of generations. Therefore the Government, taking into account the old and new experience of the members of the European Union, will promote among all country citizens regardless their ethnocultural origins:

- knowledge, respect and devotion to the culture, language, religion, history, achievements and sacrifices of the Moldovan people in the foundation, preservation and development of state and also to the contribution of the representatives of various local ethnocultural groups to the maintenance of Moldova's cultural and territorial integrity;
- reestablishment of an informational and language environment for unhindered and general utilization of the state language while respecting cultural diversity and tolerance;
- broad and deep study of the state language alongside with the creation of favourable conditions for the development of language and culture of the local ethnocultural groups;
- strengthening the cultural identity of the country's population as a condition determined to build a peaceful and prosperous future for the entire institution.

The subcompartment "*Interethnic Relations*" in the section "*Social Policy*" orients the Government work towards the realisation of a full unity of people, based on interethnic harmony, and on the recognition and guarantees of the rights of all citizens to preserve, develop and express their ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious specific features. For these purposes the Government is required to ensure:

- Improvement of national legislation on human rights, including ethnic minorities, connecting it to the international standards;
- Contribution to the preservation and development of cultural and linguistic diversity;
- Creation of conditions for the study of the state language and the spiritual values of the Moldavian people by the national minorities.

Thus, the essence of the priorities and directions of the Moldovan government activity reflected in the **Program of Activity of the Government of Moldova for 2005-2009** "The modernization of the country means the welfare of the population" meets the requirements, strengthened in the preamble and **Articles. 1, 4, 5, 6, 10** of the Framework Convention, and also the recommendations reported in its resolution ResCMN (2005)8 on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Moldova, adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the CoE on 7 December, 2005.

The **Program of Activity of the Government of Moldova for 2008-2009** "*Progress and Integration*" in which the Government of the Republic undertakes to respect the principles of democracy based on civil participation, means not only the conduct of free elections, but also tolerance towards opinion diversity, edification of institutions of permanent consultation for citizens and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms of each person.

The period of time reflected in the report have coincided with the evaluation of the results of the **Program of actions "Moldova - European Union"** for 2005-2008, signed on 22 February 2005, and approved by Government Decision no. 356 of April 22, 2005. Its content has proved that guiding Moldova towards internal integration agrees with the values and the basic provisions of the European integration in the humanitarian sphere: getting unity through diversity, sustaining cultural, linguistic, religious and spiritual diversity as a common European heritage. Thus, the action plan provided also the development of an intercultural dialogue, the insuring of effective protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, including an adequate reaction to the conclusions and recommendations appropriate to the structures and experts of the Council of Europe concerning how the Republic of Moldova provide national minorities with protection, the elaboration and implementation of antidiscrimination legislation and laws guaranteeing the rights of national minorities in accordance with European standards.

In 2008 the CoE approved the decision of the European Union on negotiations regarding the signing of a new agreement of cooperation with Moldova in the sphere of European integration. Five programs have been started within the framework of collaboration with the EU, aimed, in particular, to support the civil society, to create independent structures in the field of human rights and the protection of Roma's rights.

The **national plan of action** for human rights in Moldova for the years 2004-2008 was approved by the Decision of the Parliament of Moldova no. 415-XV of October 24, 2003. The plan was drafted purposely by the

Coordination Council created with the support of UNDP Moldova within the project "Support of the development of the national plan in the sphere of human rights in Moldova". It involves a wide circle of executors: public administration bodies, representatives of civil society, bodies of the rules of law protection, and media.

**Chapter 1.** The plan provides for the modification of the national legislation for human rights in accordance with national rules and standards, and the performance of obligations received after the ratification of international conventions on human rights. Here are some measures aimed to solve the mentioned issues:

- preparation for the ratification of the European Charter of regional languages or minority languages;
- presentation of periodic reports on implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
- presentation of periodic reports on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

**Chapter 9** of this document includes measures aimed to achieve the following tasks:

- Improvement of the legislation in the sphere of ensuring the rights of national minorities;
- Integration of national minorities in political and public life;
- Ensuring the rights of national minorities to study their mother tongue;
- Increasing the level of knowledge in the sphere of rights of national minorities;
- Ensuring access to information for national minorities;
- Contribution to the establishment of contacts with the historical homeland for persons belonging to national minorities.

**During 2005-2008** the Republic of Moldova has undertaken efforts to promote the previously approved legislation, which governs the rights of national minorities and are oriented towards the harmonization of interethnic relations and eliminate discrimination based on race, language, national or ethnic origin.

The implementation of **Law on the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and the legal status of their organizations**, no. 382 - XV of 19 July 2001 continues. The Law sanctions a significant number of rights of national minorities. According to the law, the state guarantees the right to equality before the law and equal protection before the law (any discrimination on grounds of belonging to a national minority is prohibited); helps the creation of conditions necessary for preservation, development and expression of ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of the national minorities; performs scientific researches on the history, language and culture of national minorities; creates conditions for their right to education and training in their mother tongue; helps to make easier the humanitarian contacts of minorities with their historical homeland. The state ensures that changing the territorial-administrative organization will not pursue the modification of the ethno demographic composition of the regions. Persons belonging to national minorities are entitled to free use of mother tongue, both in writing, and oral, have access to information in that language, to disseminate and exchange information, the right to establish media, to edit the literature in languages of national minorities, and to determine the attitude toward religion, to take on their national holidays and to commemorate their historical dates, to participate in the rituals of their peoples, in particular to use their national symbolism; to use their names, surnames and patronymics, including in official documents as agreed in their mother tongue.

The **Law on the National Policy Concept of the Republic of Moldova** no. 546-XV of 19 December 2003 is being promoted. The concept is all the principles, objectives and priority tasks of strengthening and integration of multilingual and multicultural people of the Republic of Moldova by harmonizing national interests with the general interests of all ethnic and linguistic communities in the country. The State undertakes to take care in full measure of preservation, development and free expression of ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic identity of all ethnic communities living in Moldova. Free development of the culture of different ethnic and language communities in Moldova is a reality that contributes to successful development and affirmation of the spiritual space and common cultural heritage of Moldova. The ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversity, mutual tolerance and peace are inter-spiritual wealth of Moldova. The concept of national policy of the Republic of Moldova contains priority directions of national policy, principles, national policy goals and tasks in the political and state-legal, and socio-economic spheres, in the spheres of training, culture and education, and in the sphere of foreign policy.

Implementation of the present laws is carried out on the basis of a program which presupposes certain measures to be accomplished by the line ministries, local authorities, on the one hand, and by the ethnocultural associations of national minorities, on the other hand.

There is continuing the activity of implementation of international treaties to which Moldova adheres, and the content of which correlates with the basic provisions of the Framework Convention, namely the **International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages**, which is in preparation for ratification. This work is carried out by the central government and local authorities in collaboration with civil society representatives and ethnocultural associations of national minorities.

## Regarding the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was ratified by the Republic of Moldova in 1991 by Parliament decision nr. 707-XII of 10 September 1991. For Moldova the Convention has been in force since 25 February 1993. **Bureau of Interethnic Relations** coordinates the preparation of national periodic reports on Convention implementation stage.

In accordance with the provisions of **Article 9** (paragraph 1b) of the Convention, and with the general requirements regarding the form and content of the reports approved by the UN for the elimination of racial discrimination (CERD/C/Rev.5 of December 2000), in **2005** this Committee was to consider the Periodic report of Moldova on the implementation stage of the International Convention Regarding the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (for the period 2001-2005).

Within the framework of the 72<sup>nd</sup> session of the UN regarding the elimination of racial discrimination, a report of this kind was heard for the first time in Geneva in the period of 27-28 February 2008. The report was submitted by the delegation from the Republic of Moldova that had the following composition: Olga Goncearova – Director General of the Bureau of Interethnic Relations, the delegation leader; Mikhail Sidorov – deputy, Vice-President of the Commission for legal appointments and immunities of Parliament; Eugen Rusu – Prosecutor, Head of the Department of Family and Protection of Human Rights of the Prosecuting General (approved by the Government Decision no. 91 of 4 February 2008). Generally, the experience of the Republic of Moldova regarding the activity of racial discrimination prevention, reflected in the report, was assessed positively. Moldovan delegation answered over 40 questions describing the situation in Moldova concerning this issue. Experts from France, Russian Federation, United States, Romania and Britain exposed positive conclusions regarding the process of democratization of Moldovan society during the independence of the Republic of Moldova.

At the invitation of the UN the following persons as the authors of the *alternative report* on the part of non-governmental organisations participated at the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session:

- Nicholai Radita chairman of the National Centre of Romany in Moldova;
- Sergiu Ostaf, president of the Resource Centre of non-governmental organisations for human rights in Moldova (CReDO).

According to the results of the hearing There were adopted the Conclusions and Recommendations of the UN towards the Periodic Report of the Republic of Moldova on the stage of the implementation of this International Convention in accordance with the results of hearing of the Report.

In order to promote the conclusions and recommendations of the UN and the monitoring of the Convention implementation development on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the following actions were carried out:

- The results of the report presentation were heard at the VI meeting of the National Commission for preparation of initial and periodic reports on the implementation of international conventions to which Moldova adheres;
- Under the auspices of the Bureau of Interethnic Relations a Working Group was created, which includes representatives of the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Education and Youth, Ministry of Information Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child, the Ministry of Economy and Trade, and representatives of civil society;
- Bureau of Interethnic Relations translated the text of recommendations and conclusions of the UN into the state language and sent it to the ministries and other authorities in order they to get informed, to examine and put them into practice;
- The Action Plan on realization of the conclusions and recommendations of the UN developed by the Bureau of Interethnic Relations in common with the competent ministries was approved at the seventh meeting of the National Commission for development of periodic and initial reports on the implementation of international conventions to which Moldova adhere.

**In Moldova there is an authority system** whose jurisdiction is the protection of human rights, including rights of national minorities and also the prevention of discrimination.

### Parliamentary Commission on Human Rights

**The Commission is a working body** of the Parliament established to carry out the activity of the Parliament. The Commission is subordinate to the Parliament. Commission endorse draft laws and legislative proposals, conduct parliamentary surveys, debate and decide on other issues of charging of the President or Vice-Presidents. The committee can be consulted by the government, organisations or other businesses, institutions and organizations in matters pertaining to its field of activity. At the end of the consultation meeting standing committees issue advisory opinions on a recommendation.

## **Bureau of Interethnic Relations of the Government of Moldova**

Bureau of Interethnic Relations is a body of central public administration, which promotes the policy of the Republic of Moldova in the field of interethnic relations and the realization of the constitutional rights of citizens on the preservation, development and expression of ethnic, cultural and linguistic identity, contributes to the functioning of state language, the Russian and other languages in accordance with the law. Office has the following main tasks: to carry out the state policy on interethnic relations and functioning of languages spoken in Moldova in accordance with the law; to supervise the compliance of with laws which regulate the sphere of national-language relations in society; to contribute to the social and cultural development of national minorities, to the optimum correlation of the interests of citizens belonging to different ethnic groups in Moldova, and to the harmonization of interethnic relations; to assess the practical application of legislation in matters falling within the competence of the Bureau, prepare and submit to government advice, information, proposals for policy formation and implementation regarding the interethnic relations and the functioning of languages; to monitor the ethnolinguistic situation in the republic and create a database on all aspects of the Bureau's activity in the socio-cultural sphere; to take part in principles determination and in the formation of regional policy in Moldova on the basis of ethnic and linguistic specificity of the population of the administrative-territorial units and compact villages populated by national minorities; to cooperate with parliamentary committees, with the central government and local authorities, scientific institutions and associations in order to create necessary conditions to meet the needs of all ethnicities that live together in the field of education, culture, language use, renaissance and preservation of traditions and for their cultural and linguistic interaction; to support the work of statutory public associations of national minorities, which operates on the territory of Moldova and are recorded in accordance with the law in force; to cooperate with the governments of other countries and international organizations on matters pertaining to the Bureau; to contribute to the creation of conditions to study the state language by the representatives of national minorities; to oversee the operation of state language in the political, economic, social and cultural development of Moldova, offering when necessary practical help to the interested institutions and organizations to acquire and use it; to monitor in accordance with the law the functioning of languages in compact settlements populated by representatives of national minorities ensuring compliance with the language laws and the performance of measures for issues resolving related to the Bureau; to carry out the ethnolinguistic expertise of the situation in Moldova; to inform the public on topical issues of interethnic relations and language of the country.

## **Centre for Human Rights**

The centre for Human Rights is an independent state made up of parliamentary lawyers appointed by Parliament and officials who provide organizational, information, analytical and scientific, economic, financial and other kind of assistance to parliamentary lawyers. The activity of parliamentary lawyers is intended to provide for ensuring the constitutional rights and freedoms by the central and local institutions, organizations and companies, regardless of the type of property, public associations and individuals in positions of responsibility at all levels. Parliamentary advocates contribute to the restoration of rights of citizens, improvement of legislation related to defence of human rights, the legal training of the population. Parliamentary advocates examine the intimidation from Moldovan citizens, foreigners and stateless persons residing permanently or temporarily on its territory, whose legitimate interests and rights have been violated in the Republic of Moldova. In case there is reliable information on the grave breach of constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens, in cases of great social importance, or when it is necessary to defend the interests of people who can not independently use the legal defence, a parliamentary lawyer is entitled to act on its own initiative, taking the necessary measures the limits of its competence.

## **Information on the fulfilment of Resolution Res SMN (2005) 8 of the Committee of Ministers (from December 7, 2005) on the implementation of the Framework Convention and some articles in Chapter II of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities which contains specific principles**

### **Application of the Framework Convention in Transdniestrian region**

The Transdniestrian problem continues to be a very important question taking into consideration the fact that this conflict widely influences political development and other fields important for the population of the Republic of Moldova as well as implementation of the principles of the Framework convention.

The problem of Transdniestrian conflict remains a serious problem, which impedes the implementation of the Framework Convention on the left bank of the Dniester. During the period reflected in the report Moldovan authorities have undertaken a series of legislative and practical measures aimed to solve this problem.

Despite the sustained efforts of the Moldovan authorities supported by the international community, particularly the OSCE, EU, Ukraine and the U.S., the situation in the Transdniestrian region of the country regarding the protection of human rights, including minorities, has not changed in the right direction.

Separatist regime of Tiraspol has permanently, ostentatiously and fiercely prevented the Moldovan authorities to exercise their constitutional prerogatives in the Transdniestrian region, including the commitments arising from international Conventions on human rights to which Moldova adhere. Moreover, the secessionist regime structures



desecrated systematically and deliberated human rights in the region showing a defiant and contemptuous behaviour towards the constitutional authorities of Moldova and international bodies competent in this matter.

Not having practically real opportunities to exercise their sovereign powers over the Transdnistrian region, the Republic of Moldova has closely followed the developments in this territory of the country, including the observance of human rights, striving as much as possible to influence positively the state of affairs in this field. In particular, actions of information and awareness of international organizations on cases of human rights and fundamental freedoms breaches by the Transdnistrian authoritarian regime, in order to determine it to comply with the requirements of the international standards. Meanwhile, in the context of the Transdnistrian issue settlement there were made considerable efforts by the Government, civil society organizations and international authorities, in particular, UN, OSCE, EU, Council of Europe, aimed at the democratization of the region concerned, in particular through expansion of democratic values and principles on this territory, namely aimed at its "Europeanisation", the development of democratic institutions, the creation of necessary conditions for organizing and conducting free and democratic elections, the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms provided for in international treaties to which Moldova

In the period 2007-2008 President of the Republic of Moldova made a series of proposals to strengthen confidence and security in the context of solving the Transdnistrian problem. They covered the areas of economy, trade, infrastructure development, ensuring the normal operation of railways, health and social issues, education and science, demilitarization and security strengthening, humanitarian aid, etc. In order to ensure the effective implementation of the President of the Republic of Moldova's initiatives sector working groups were created, and a series of negotiations of Mr. Vladimir Voronin with the Transdnistrian leader were held by the Government Decision, no. 1178 of 31 October 2007.

The Bureau of Interethnic Relations collaborates with the social society from the left bank of the Dniester River through instrumentality of NGOs. Under the aegis of the Bureau the Slavonic ethnocultural associations participate in Days of Slavonic Writing and Culture and Ethnocultural Festival annually conducted in Chisinau (May, September); the round table "Writers from the both bank of the Dniester River" took place in 2007 and 2008; the monuments to V. Levski – the Bulgarian writer – were erected in the village of Parcani. The representatives of public youth associations make part of the Coordination Council of the youth public ethnocultural organizations under the Bureau.

### **Measures taken to support the Gypsies/Roma in Moldova**

According to the census of 2004, the number of Gypsies/Roma people constitutes 12271 people (0.4 % of the population of Moldova).

During the period reflected in this report Moldova made significant efforts in addressing issues related to the integration of Gypsies/Roma in the Moldovan society. Gypsies enjoys support from the central and local governments. The Government Decision "*On some measures to support the Gypsies of Moldova*" no. 131 of February 16, 2001 became the first step in creating the system of state support for Gypsies/Roma as ethnic minority.

The next act which consolidated a number of state obligations on the Romany is the Government Decision of the Republic of Moldova "**On the Approbation of the Action Plan to support the Gypsies/Roma in Moldova for the years 2007-2010**", no. 1453 of December 21, 2006. The decision contains concrete actions in the education, scientific, culture, health protection, child, social, employment, and public order fields. The working group composed of representatives of ministries and leaders of the Gypsies/Roman public organizations, the proposal of whom were taken into care and included in the final version of the plan, took part in the drawing up of the mentioned plan.

According to Decision no. 1453 of December 21, 2006:

- Responsible for carrying out the Action Plan are: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Economy and Trade, Ministry of Education and Youth, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Information Development and Bureau of Interethnic Relations, Academy of Sciences of Moldova, which annually develop and approve plans for concrete actions to support Gypsies/Roma in the Republic of Moldova;
- Financial provisions of the action regarding the realisation of the annual above-mentioned plans, shall be carried out within the limits of budget allocated to institutions, and from special funds, including funding from international organizations;
- Work coordination of the central public speciality administration and the Academy of Sciences of Moldova as regarding the realisation of the annual plan of action is the responsibility of **Bureau of Interethnic Relations**, which annually inform the government about the performance of the actions to support the Gypsies/Roma in Moldova for the years 2007-2010 and submit proposals for its improvement.



An important direction of activity of the Bureau of Interethnic Relations is the work for the support of Roma in the execution of the **Moldovan Government Decision, 1453 from December 21, 2006 "On approval of the actions to support the Gypsies/Roma in Moldova for the years 2007-2010"** which corresponds to the conclusions and recommendations outlined in the second opinion on the Republic of Moldova of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and Resolution ResCMN (2005)8 on the implementation of the Framework Convention by Moldova.

At present (1 January, 2008) within the framework of the Bureau of Interethnic Relations 11 ethnocultural Romany organizations are accredited which have a republican status:

- Public Association of Roma Women "Juvlia Romani", created in 1997;
- Ethno-Socio-Cultural and Education Association "Bahtalo Rom", created in 1999;
- Social Movement of Roma in Moldova, created in 2001;
- Scientific and Cultural Association "Elita RomanY", created in 2001;
- Union of Young Roma "Tarna-Rom", created in 2002;
- Social-Cultural Society "Romany Tradition", created in 2002;
- Association of Roma in Moldova "Rubin", created in 2002;
- Public Organization "Bare-Rom", created in 2003;
- Democratic Union of Roma in Moldova, created in 2004;
- United Alliance of Roma, created in 2005;
- Public Association "Romany-Group", founded in 2005.

The ethnocultural Gypsies Associations are registered with local governments in Chisinau, Balti, Cahul, Comrat, Soroca, Vulcănești, Ciadir-Lunga. The intensification of national and cultural movement among the Gypsies is due to the absence in the legislation of the republic of restrictions on association according to the ethnic criterion and demonstrates a non-discriminatory attitude of the Moldovan authorities against Gypsies initiatives. In general the Bureau collaborates with 36 ethnocultural Gypsy/Romany associations in the republic, supporting their statutory activity and diverse projects implemented by them.

**In the period 2007-2008, regarding the fulfilment of "Plan of Actions to Support the Gypsies / Roma in Moldova for the years 2007-2010":**

**Bureau of Interethnic Relations** organized a number of actions:

- Round table on "*The Plan of action to support the Gypsies/Roma in Moldova for the years 2007-2010*", during which they discussed possibilities of implementing the Government Decision nr. 1453;
- Training with the generic "*Training health mediators in Romany communities in rural areas*";
- The round table "*Romany in Moldova: history, culture, traditions*", organized in collaboration with the National Library for Children "Ion Creanga";
- *International Romany Day* (annually, April);
- Round tables: "*The implementation of the system of Romany socio-health mediators in the communities predominantly populated by Romany in Moldova*", as a result of which the agreement was signed, namely "*The implementation of Romany socio-health mediators in communities predominantly populated by Romany in Moldova*", which governs the relations of cooperation between the Bureau of Interethnic Relations, Ministry of Health and the Union of Young Romany from Moldova "Tarna/Rom";
- Support of Romany education project in partnership with non-governmental organizations of Romany "Ograda Noastra" (based in Cahul, Ruslan Stanga being the organization President) and "Tarna Rom" (President of the organization being Marin Ala). The project aims to assess the situation of Roma in the Republic of Moldova as concerning their education;
- The training "*Techniques for identifying indicators, activities and implementation of the Action Plan to support the Gypsies/Roma*" was held in collaboration with the Council of Europe and the European Commission in Chisinau and in the north of Moldova (the Soroca town). The main objectives were:
  - presentation of the support system of Romany school assistants implemented in European countries;
  - proposals on improving the education of Romany children in Moldova.
- Within the Office Days that took place in different localities of Moldova, in the districts of Ocnitza and Taraclia the realisation development of the Plan of action to support the Gypsies / Roma in Moldova was monitored. Representatives of all local structures responsible for implementing the District Plan, including leaders of ethnocultural associations Gypsies / Roma took part in this action;
- The graduates of Roma ethnicity who wanted to prolong their studies were provided support: a person at the College of Medicine in Chisinau and a Roma-graduate from the University of Medicine who expressed her will to do her Master's; briefcases, school supplies and clothes were handed to the pupils from Schinoasa village and the village of Tibrica, Calarash region but on the occasion of Christmas Day they were invited to participate in the performance organized in the House of Nationalities.

In the report made by the delegation of the Secretariat of the Council of Europe which has visited the Republic of Moldova from 20 to 24 of October, 2008 active collaboration of the Bureau of Interethnic Relations with the European Commission in realization of the joint project on support of Roma people in the Republic of Moldova (organization of the educational seminars in Chisinau, Soroca) was positively evaluated. The experts of the Council of Europe stated that contribution of the Bureau to the realization of the above-mentioned program is of utmost importance for implementation of this document.

In order to enforce the chapter "**Education and science**" (p. 7-19 of Plan) by the **Ministry of Education and Youth, and the Academy of Sciences of Moldova** the following actions have been taken:

- the development of a program to boost school participation and reduce school drop out, especially in the poorer segments of the population of;
- the analysis of the possibility to establish institutions of primary, secondary and vocational education, to educate school mediators and to improve the staff activity in the field of intercultural education;
- the provision of subsidized facilities and places for young Roma who want to attend colleges and universities;
- the development of actions at schools and district Directorate which organizes courses of school recovery for Roma, using all possible teaching forms approved, at the requests of individuals and Roma organizations in the Republic of Moldova;
- the elaboration of a curriculum in the discipline "Language, history and culture of Gypsies / Roma", the introduction of these disciplines to the educational plans of the establishments that are situated in localities densely inhabited by Gypsies / Roma;
- a close collaboration with educational institutions, scientific and educational centres in foreign countries in the development of the curriculum in the discipline "Language, history and culture of Gypsies/Roma";
- the co-participation in the International Conference "Education of Roma children in Europe";
- the organisation of the Regional Conference "Education of Roma children in Moldova";
- undertaking training activities for Gypsies/Roma children in university education and motivating parents to participate in their children's education.

In order to enforce the "**Culture**" chapter (p.15-18 of the Plan) by the **Ministry of Culture and Tourism** the following actions have been taken:

- The National Library of the Republic of Moldova has organised a book exhibition "Origin of the Roma." Within the International Book Salon the book "Maria Dragan" a singer of folk music has been launched, the author of this book being Ion Duminica of Romany ethnicity who works at the Centre of Ethnology of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova. The book was awarded the prize "To support young talents of national minorities";
- The Service "Moldavistica" of the National Library has developed a list of thematic literature about the history, language, culture and customs of the Gypsies/Roma in order to help the libraries in the Republic;
- The National Library for Children "Ion Creanga" decided to exempt from charges for processing permit entry to the library the Roma children from boarding sports school, auxiliary school no.7, boarding school nr.2, special school no.8, boarding school no. 3 during the year of reference;
- Development of the folk activity of Gypsies/Roma through assistance and support by the National Centre for Folk Creation: the Romany artistic band from the village of Slobozia, Orhei district, on the selection of repertoire; the Romany artistic band "Model" from the town of Sîngerei regarding the traditional costumes manufacturing, the study and development of choreographic and musical traditions, the improvement of the stage culture and the level of interpretation;
- Support of Mereuță Dynasty from the village of Ciocîlteni, Orhei district, regarding the Gypsy repertoire selection and the promotion of the originality of instrumental music; the band from the village of Mîndrești, the district of Telenesti; the fiddlers from the Cahul district, who have participated in the National Festival "Lăutarii Moldovei"; the blacksmiths craftsmen from the village of Otaci, the district of Ocnîța in order to promote the craft;
- Republican Centre of Culture and Art "Ginta Latina" worked with the purpose of the foundation of a Romany professional assembly, the elaboration of its status, the artists employment, and the repertoire formation.

In order to enforce the chapter "**Health and Welfare**" (p.20-23 of the Plan), the **Ministry of Health** has developed institutional and territorial plans to support Gypsies/Roma, which were brought to the attention of all medical workers, especially of the GP, as regards the promotion of a healthy lifestyle and the control of harmful habits (smoking, drogues drug consumption, alcoholism) among the population of Romany ethnicity.

Activities of health education and promotion of healthy way of life, oriented towards maintaining and improving health, prevention of acute and chronic diseases, combating harmful habits are undertaken systematically. These activities are undertaken by doctors in collaboration with local authorities, public organizations, media sources. For these purposes the media - local and republican, television and radio are often involved. Among the population of Roma ethnic group many lectures, talks and speeches were conducted with the following themes:

- The harmful effects of the narcotic substances;
- Preventing sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS;

- Family planning and the contraceptive methods;
- Individual and collective hygiene in health maintenance and strengthening;
- Harmful influence of alcoholism and smoking on health, etc.

In order to increase access of the population of Roma ethnicity to health services in the medical surgery of the localities Huzun and Stejăreni in the district of Straseni populated mainly by Roma, major repairs have been made. A travel schedules of GP and nurses in the Health Centers of the villages of Micleușeni and Lozova, the district Straseni in order to provide curative-prophylactic assistance to the people in these villages which provides immunization of children and the patronage of the babies who are one year of age, monitoring of pregnant women, performing medical procedures, in surgeries and at home.

In the village of Vulcanesti, the district of Nisporeni, in association with Roma students the reparation of the surgery has been done, people with medical disabilities and social disadvantage in the community have been offered medical insurance. Capital reparations and the arrangement of the procedures and vaccination rooms of the chemist's have been started at the surgery in the village of Bursuci, the district of Nisporeni. The children up to one year can have for free Hemofer and Vitamin D2 that prevent rachitis and anaemia. Children who are from 0 through 5 years of age are given gratuitously medicines, according to the Program of Integrated Control of Children Disease in the country. Children aged 2 to 5 receive free prophylactic treatment of dehelmintization. Through national programs and the volume of drugs purchased centrally by the Ministry of Health, the patients who suffer from such diseases like diabetes, tuberculosis, cancer and mental diseases, asthma, etc. are provided with medicines.

The training of mediators of socio-health among Gypsies / Roma is being continued, a project supported by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child and the Bureau of Interethnic Relations in the quality of the governmental partners.

In order to facilitate communication and working together between Roma communities and health workers in the village of Parcari, the district of Calarasi, two mediators have been trained and engaged in activities in the localities of Huzun and Stejaresti, and the village of Bursuc, the district of Nisporeni.

The organization and conduct of the actions for health education and the promotion of a healthy way of life among the Roma, meet some difficulties caused by the general culture, national traditions and cultural migration that have increased. For these reasons, in many cases women do not plan their pregnancy, they are not controlled during the period of pregnancy because they do not a consult a doctor in due time, or they are hospitalized when they are giving birth to the child. There are cases when children are not vaccinated on time and take under control because they do not go to kindergartens or schools. The high level of migration limits the early detection of different diseases, the hospitalization of the ill persons and their proper treatment.

6 Roma children were repatriated from the Russian Federation by the **Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child** in collaboration with Swiss Foundation Terre des Hommes in the context of social integration of the Roma people in the course of the years 2007-2008.

In order to enforce the “**Work**” chapter (p.24-27 of the Plan) by the **Ministry of Economy and Commerce and the National Agency for Employment** the “Plan of action of supporting the Gypsies/Roma in Moldova” has been prepared. In accordance with it, the Ministry's and the Agency's work has been oriented towards the implementation of the National Strategy for Employment for the years 2007-2015, approved by the Government Decision nr.605 of 31.05.2007.

Thirteen Roma people were engaged in public works, 82 Roma were registered with the territorial Agency for Employment, of which 6 people were offered a job. Under the existing legislation, 4 Roma people enjoy the benefits of integration training allocations, a person receives compensation paid to a mother with a child up to the age of 6, and 115 Roma have received professional and information advice. 8 persons have completed training courses, 9 Roma have been trained at the training-seminars “Labour Club”, 17 Roma have attended the training seminars on techniques and methods to search for a job, 82 people have benefited from mediation services, 7 people have benefited from electronic mediation. The information of the Rome on the organization of job fairs has been done with the help of ethnocultural Rome associations.

In order to enforce the “**Public Order**” chapter (pct.28 31 of the Plan), the executive being the **Ministry of Internal Affairs (MAI)**, various organizational and practical actions have been undertaken, oriented towards the instruction of the officers of the internal affairs bodies in the field of interethnic relations, and the choose of a staff of Gypsies/Roma in accordance with the law in force for the structures of protection of the rules of law in compact settlements populated by Roma.

The officials take marked examinations the results being notified and registered into the record books of attending training classes. In the thematic plans and programs of study for the educational institutions of MAI, the Institute of Professional Training also conducts applied research. At the Academy “Stefan cel Mare” of MAI themes

of "Human rights, police ethics and conduct" are included.

In accordance with section 3 of the Regulation on the service in the bodies of internal affairs approved by the Government Decision nr.334 of 08.07.1991, the staff employment done in accordance with the principle of racial non-discrimination is guaranteed, the right to be employed being provided to any person who meets the criteria established by legislation. For the purpose of filling vacancies, MAY as well as the territorial subdivisions collaborate with local authorities, civil society, carrying out agitation among communities of Gypsy/Roma people in order to engage graduates of institutions of higher education and environmental specialist (among graduates, the number of Roma is very small.

Following the existing requirements, it was decided to select staff from among the Gypsies / Roma for active involvement in the structures of protection of the rules of law in villages populated mainly by this ethnicity. To contribute actively to the order of law maintenance, it has been agreed to include Gypsies in public structures represented by popular guards, who are to contribute to preventing and combating crime phenomenon.

In order to monitor the work and to assess the role of civil society on the progress of public order maintenance, it was proposed to carry out periodic review meetings with the participation of the local government representatives, the Roma community and officials, in which the problems faced by national minorities in their relations with various members of law enforcement institutions will be reflected.

To improve the activities oriented to a better collaboration of the police with the civil society and to the improvement of the image of the organs of internal affairs in public opinion the Provision no. 6 / 2120 of September 11, 2007 "On improving the meeting organization and conduct with citizens, at enterprises and with young and industrious people" was issued, that had the purpose to organize meetings with people of Gypsies / Roma ethnicity for their familiarization with the situation in the country and the administrative sector. On this purpose some measures have been undertaken like: to reduce the criminality, to involve people in the popular guards which helps to combat crime and ensure public order, in this way helping the policemen.

To accomplish the **points 33-32** of the Plan, the responsible – **Ministry of Information**, official letters have been sent to the town halls of the localities inhabited mainly by Roma, to the Rome public associations with the purpose of information about the services offered by the Departments (Bureaus) of registration and documentation of population on documenting with identity cards of the National system of the passports.

At the same time, there were held meetings with the representatives of 18 ethnocultural Roma organizations during which they were informed of the legislation concerning the entry and exit from the country, with the requirements for foreign citizens, stateless persons in Moldova, developing ID card, foreign passports, etc. Through the registry of birth, marriages and deaths the directive of monthly information of the local government authorities on the cases of undeclared birth has been given.

According to the Ministry of Information Development from 2007, 11,561 citizens of the Republic of Moldova of Romany origin were issued identity cards of the national identification system of Moldova. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of december, 2008 National population register kept information on 20.888 citizens of the Republic of Moldova belonging to the Gypsy etnos. The biggest quantity of the identity cards was eliberated to the representatives of the given category of people in the following regions: Soroca (identity cards – 4754; passports - 4369), Ocnita (identity cards – 3138; passports - 2770), Edinet (identity cards – 1158; passports - 1039), Riscani, Nisporeni, Balti, Hincesti. (*See also information on special items*)

## **Information on changes in the implementation of separate articles of the Framework Convention**

### **Article 4 of the Framework Convention**

In implementing the Framework Convention, in particular, to promote the principles of equality before the law and to ensure equal protection of law, to prevent any discrimination against the minorities, the role of the Ministry of Internal Affairs has increased. (MIA)

The measures taken by Ministry of Internal Affairs (MAI) have been especially focused on the strengthening, protection and support of ethnic groups to ensure compliance with the principles of law, on the exclusion of cases of discrimination against minorities, particularly Roma, equal opportunities for people in achieving the fundamental rights of people.

In order to improve the social situation through the activation of the methodical and educational process among national minorities, as to encourage them to participate more actively in public life, a wide range of measures have been developed. As a result, the organization of specialized training programs for officers of law enforcement in the field of interethnic relations, who extend their activities in the areas populated mainly by persons belonging to national minorities, and the ensuring access to justice and development conditions that would allow the use of minority language in relationships with law enforcement have been disposed.

Under the Thematic Plan of Professional training in the study year 2008, the employees of internal affairs bodies have been studied various themes concerning the human and interethnic relations within the disciplines "Human Rights" and "Police ethics and conduct", which relate to the field of the interethnic and human relations:

- Ensuring respect for human rights by the police;
- Distinguishing features and concept of human rights;
- Elimination of racial, national, religious and sexual discrimination;
- The situation of national minorities in Moldova;
- Protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, etc.

In accordance with the Regulation on Service in the Bodies of Internal Affairs approved by the Government Decision no. 334 of 08.07.1991, in the bodies of internal affairs, on the basis of free consent, citizens of the Republic of Moldova in the age of at least 18 years that have a dignified conduct in the workplace, in society and while studying or being on military probation, healthy and having the qualities and skills required to perform job specific task can be engaged. Thus, when employed in the internal affairs the racial non-discrimination is guaranteed, the right to be employed in the service being provided to any person who meets the criteria established by legislation.

Particular attention is given to the measures taken in order not to admit the cases of violence or discrimination because of the ethnic identity among military carabineer troops. In this respect, in all subdivisions of the Department of carabineer troops consultative meetings have been held, which were aimed at elucidating cases of discrimination and the importance of establishing a coherent behaviour of soldiers belonging to various ethnic groups.

Law of **criminal procedure** satisfies the requirements of protection of national minorities. Principles of legality and equality set out in Articles 7 and 9 of the **Code of Criminal Procedure**, ensure equal treatment before the law without discrimination on grounds of ethnic origin. National minorities are guaranteed "access to justice", namely, under criminal procedural law everyone has the right to examine and settle his case fairly and reasonably, by an independent, impartial, and legally constituted instance which will act in accordance with the law.

The language utilisation in relations between persons belonging to national minorities and the prosecution is done with the principle enshrined in the legislation, which provides that the persons who do not know the state language, can speak in front of the prosecution in a language understood through the interpreter, and if the majority of participants in the process supports the use of other languages, the process can be conducted in the language acceptable to them. The same principles are promoted when the person is informed about the reasons of his detention and arrest, the nature of allegations that are made against him, and the provision of interpreters in cases where its presence is necessary, is carried out exclusively for free.

In order to implement some standards of fair administration of provisional detention centre, some practical and of normative order measures have been taken, in order to ensure that the rights of persons arrested or detained, representing national minorities are respected. These standards provide more rights which are meant to protect the people from hostility, violence or discrimination because of their cultural, ethnic, linguistic and religious identity.

Activities in the provisional **detention centres** are focused primarily on:

- Ensuring the right to inform one of the relatives or another third person about the place of his/her detention;
- Access to a lawyer;
- Ensuring free access to an interpreter;
- Ensuring the right to medical services;
- Continuous training of staff on compliance with human rights and freedoms. Also, the persons detained or under arrest are issued a written form in a language they understand, in which the rights they have are indicated, and a statement that must be signed confirming this fact.

According to information of MAI in the years 2007-2008, there have not been registered any cases referring to acts of discrimination, hostility or violence based on ethnic intolerance. In this vein, the employees of Home Affairs, with the representatives of local authorities, permanently organize meetings with people belonging to ethnic minority who are familiarised with the criminal situation existing in the town of their residence, with measures of prevention and counteracting of illegal behaviours and ways of making progress on harmonization and strengthening of social relations.

With the purpose of accession to the European standards the Bureau for Migration and Asylum (MIA) in cooperation with the international organizations signed the Joint Declaration on a mobility partnership with the states: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italia, Poland, Portugal, Romania,

Slovenia, Slovakia, Sweden, which have as their object creation of preconditions and development of cooperation dialogue in the sphere of prevention and struggle against illegal migration and creation of favourable conditions for legal migration beyond measures of observance of the basic human rights and liberties as well as the basic rights and liberties of the people under the state protection. The Bureau cooperating with the international organizations (Mission of the International Organization for Migration, European Commission, etc.) implements the assistant projects for the identified refugees and namely: „Consolidation of migration management in the Republic of Moldova - MIGRAMOL”, „Improvement of Asylum Conditions and International Protection in the Republic of Moldova”, etc. what presupposes organization of instruction courses in state language, professional trainings, job placement.

### Article 5 of the Framework Convention

Central public administration bodies and local authorities in the Republic of Moldova, through the implementation of a balanced policy for the preservation of cultural diversity, contributes to the conditions creation necessary for the development and expression of ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of persons belonging to national minorities. The activity of cultural institutions of the Republic is not organized according to the principles of ethnicity and most of them present cultural diversity as spiritual treasure of the entire people of Moldova. However, some of them have as priority task supporting the culture and language of certain ethnicities co-inhabiting: Ukrainian, Russian, Gagauz, Bulgarian, Hebrew, etc.

The system of state institutions of national minorities' culture includes libraries, theatres, and art associations like:

- Library of Bulgarian literature and culture “H. Botev” (Chisinau);
- Library of Hebrew literature and culture “I. Manghera” (Chisinau);
- Library of Ukrainian Literature and Culture “L. Ucrainka” (Chisinau);
- Library of Russian Literature and Culture “M. Lomonosov” (Chisinau);
- Library of Gagauz literature and culture “Ciachir M.” (Chisinau);
- Library of Polish literature and culture “A. Miłkevici” (Chisinau);
- State Russian Dramatic Theatre “A. P. Cehov” (Chisinau);
- National Gagauz Theatre “M. Ciachir” (Ceadir-long);
- Dramatic Bulgarian Theatre “Olimpii Panov” (Taraclia);
- House-Museum “A. S. Pushkin” (Chiłșinău);
- Republican Music Boarding Lyceum “Sergei Rahmaninov” (Chisinau);
- Byelorussian literature room in the library “M. Lomonosov” (Chisinau);
- Bulgarian ensemble “Rodoliubie” (Taraclia);
- Gagauz ensemble “Cadînja” (Comrat)

To hold annual national cultural events organized by ethnocultural associations together with cultural institutions has become a tradition in Moldova. Among them the following could be mentioned:

- Days for Slavic culture and writing;
- Day for Pushkin's poetry;
- Days for the commemoration of the Ukrainian poet Taras Șevcenko;
- Day for the Bulgarians supporters of the enlightenment;
- Hebrew Book Festival;
- Festival “Belarus is my country”;
- Polish Spring in Moldova;
- Armenians Day for mothers and beauty;
- Ethnic festival

In 2008 the eighth edition of the **Festival** was attended by 70 ethnic republican and municipal organizations, which represents over 30 ethnic minority. This year this festivity was dedicated to the **European Year of Intercultural Dialogue** designated by EU, and also to the **Youth Year**, proclaimed in the Republic of Moldova. The festival events were held in 26 regional centres and rural areas. Festival organization has contributed to the aesthetic, ethics, moral and spiritual education of the people, to the culture and art development, and to the capitalization of the customs and traditions of the Moldavian polyethnic people.

Nationality House play an important role in preserving cultural diversity. It is a cultural and documentation ethnocultural association of Moldova, which operates within the Bureau of Interethnic Relations. In the halls of the **House of Nationalities 115 actions were held** during the year 2008, including: conferences, roundtables, seminars, exhibitions, national and popular holidays, books launches, meetings, discussions, etc.

To support and draw attention to the culture and traditions of national minorities the **Ministry of Culture and Tourism** offers methodical and logistics assistance in order to maintain and develop **the museum institutions network**,

such as:

- *Museum of History and Region Study* in Comrat that includes documents, photos, tools, ceramic items, towels, embroidery and Gagauz national costumes, the total basic fund – 35,386 exhibits;
- *Museum of History and Ethnography* of Ceadir-Lunga that includes archaeological pieces, numismatics, photographs, documents, ethnographic collection, and decorative art, graphic art that represents the Gagauz culture, total basic fund – 8,578 exhibits;
- *Museum of History and Ethnography "D. Cara-Ciobanu"* in the village of Besalma, the district of Comrat. The funds are made of collection of old books, numismatics, ethnography materials, Gagauz plastic and decorative art, the total basic fund – 10,781 exhibits;
- *Museum of History and Ethnography* of Taraclia. The collection includes historical and ethnographic material that refers to Bulgarians; total – 1,160 exhibits.
- *Museum of History and Ethnography* of the village of Tvardita, the district of Taraclia possesses a collection of 3,825 exhibits;
- *History Museum and Regional Study* of Vulcanesti has formed its collection of archaeological items, documents, numismatics, tools, wood sculpture and graphic works that represents the Gagauz culture.

The following actions were fulfilled at the expenses of the state budget with involvement of financial resources of the NGOs: reparation of A.S. Puskin Museem (Chisinau), erection of the monuments to T. Sevcenco – the Ucrainian poet, (Chisinau, Balti), to I. Vazov – the Bulgarian writer, (village of Colibabovca, Taraclia region), to Nizami – the Azerbaijani poet (Chisinau).

According to data from 01.01.2008 the following artistic **amateur bands** activates in Moldova:

<i>Total bands</i>		<i>With the title "Model"</i>
Ukrainian	271	34
Russian	80	11
Bulgarian	51	12
Gagauz	60	18
Roma	5	2
Czech	1	1
Mixed	45	3

**Artistic educational institutions** provide access to education for the most talented students, so at the Academy of Music, Theatre and Arts the following number of students studies: Russians – 96, Ukrainians – 29, Bulgarians - 17, Gagauzes - 7; in musical and art lyceums there study: Russians - 152, Ukrainians - 94, Bulgarians - 15, Gagauzes - 14, Hebrews - 8, Uzbeks - 1, Roma – 4; in the general educational institutions there study: Russians - 30, Bulgarian - 28, Hebrews - 1, Byelorussians - 1, Roma - 1, Gagauzes - 2, Armenians - 1.

## Article 6 of the Framework Convention

Public administration bodies in the Republic of Moldova contribute to the promotion of the spirit of tolerance and intercultural dialogue in the Moldovan society. For this purpose, effective measures to develop mutual respect and understanding between citizens, regardless of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious is carried out. This activity is characterized by a close collaboration between the state and civil society representatives in such areas as education, culture, media, business and scientific publishing, liquidation of "white spots" in the general historical heritage, as well as in the field of public initiatives support.

In this context measures regarding the preserving of the memory of **Holocaust** victims from Moldova, and the prevention of **anti-Semitism** manifestations deserve attention. Although Hebrew national minority is not numerous, because according to the census of 2004 it has 3608 people. The Hebrew associations and institutions in Moldova are at the forefront of promoting objective information based on documents and facts, of the education of young generations in the spirit of awareness of these important themes and issues, and of the widening process of assessing the Holocaust in schools.

The numerous actions undertaken in the last 4 years: scientific conferences, building the memorial and other monuments in almost all districts, and in many villages in the republic, the publication of monographs based on archival materials documenting the testimonies of survivors and tragedies of that period, the promotion of a tremendous number of information materials for teachers of history, including monographs, all these being an evidence of a permanent attention that is paid in Moldova with the support of the central and local authorities to the whole complex of issues related to the history of the Holocaust.



Since 2005, Moldova has held "**Days for Holocaust memory and the prevention of crimes against humanity**", proposed by the Council of Europe for all Member States. The complex study of the **Holocaust** is related to the problem of counteracting anti-Semitism. In Moldova, at present there is no political party or non-governmental organization in the program of which there would be present an anti-Semitic state of mind. There are no periodic anti-Semitic issues, like in other countries. This however does not exclude the existence of separate people who also share ideas based on hatred towards the man according to his religious faith or ethnic origin. However, it is necessary to acknowledge the influence of some countries outside the borders of Moldova, where neo-fascist parties and organizations still exist, and where literature that denies the Holocaust and propagates anti-Semitism is published. As a result of this negative influence in the Republic of Moldova there are certain signs of disrespect and incorrect attitude towards the memorial vestiges of Hebrew population: desecration of monuments in the Hebrew cemeteries, the apparition of some books of anti-Semitic content.

One of the methods used to thwart a possible anti-Semitic mentality is highlighting the positive contribution of the representatives of the Hebrew population in Moldova to the material and spiritual life of the country, basing on real facts and convincing arguments made in conferences, seminars, and trainings.

This question does not concern only the Hebrew people. A testimony to this is the action that occurred in 4 districts of Moldova: Edineț, Briceni, Ocnița, and Donduseni. In 138 schools of this area lectures have been given: "*Genocide of Jews and Roma in the period of the Second World War*". There also have been organized contests of student's composition under the theme of "*Holocaust tragedy must not happen again.*" Each school has prepared an album with documents, photos, memories of witnesses of the fascist crimes. There have also been organized a contest of drawings made by children under the slogan: "*What children think of fascism.*" One of city streets in Edineț has been called "*Street in the Memory of Holocaust Victims.*" The initiator of these actions is the Moldavian Iurie Zagorcea, the founder of the public organisation "Nemurire".

The monuments in Moldova in memory of the victims of Holocaust in the period 1941-1944 have a great educational and moral value. Monuments "**In memoriam**" have been built in places where massacres have been committed or where the victims have been buried. Such monuments are in Chisinau, Bender, Orhei, Balti, Soroca, Tiraspol, Ribnita, Dubossary, and in many villages.

From 12 to 16 September, 2008 Moldova was visited by a delegation of 25 people of the Centre for the Study of Anti-Semitism of the Technical University of Berlin. The purpose of the visit was to take cognizance of the situation in this field and of the measures applied to counter this negative phenomenon. The visit program included:

- visiting the memorial complex Dubossary;
- acquaint visitors with the activities of the Hebrew community in Tiraspol, in particular with the measures taken to avoid any future repetition of acts of vandalism at the Hebrew cemetery in this settlement;
- in Chisinau the German delegation took knowledge of the monuments raised in memory of victims of former ghetto, had a meeting with members of the Association of former prisoners of fascist concentration camps;
- German delegation got acquainted with the pedagogical and educational activity of the Hebrew lyceum "Rambam" and of the Hebrew kindergarten. 68, in Chisinau;
- the climax of the visit was the participation of the German guests in the round table on "**The problem of anti-Semitism and the role of Hebrew organizations to solve it**", organized with the help of the Bureau of Interethnic Relations. Representatives of other co-inhabiting ethnicities (members of the Coordination Council of ethnocultural organizations) participated in the discussions.

An international scientific conference under the theme of "**The role of historical memory and lessons of the Holocaust in the education of contemporary youth**" was held in Chisinau on November 21, 2008. The conference was attended by delegations from Ukraine, Romania and Israel, and many historians of education and research institutions in Moldova. The conference was held in four parallel workshops after a plenary session. They provided the opportunity to present reports built on the basis of unpublished documentary materials, and to discuss the tasks for further study of the unexplored side of the Holocaust in connection with the issue of combating anti-Semitism, the need to educate the youth in the spirit of humanism, interethnic and interconfessional tolerance.

The current conference is not the only one that has the theme of the memory of the Holocaust. Since 2005 annual scientific conferences, roundtables, publications on this important issue have took place. Thus, on 10 November 2008 a series of events took place occasioned by the anniversary of 70 years from the "Crystal Night", which is regarded as the beginning of the Holocaust in Europe. The anniversary of **105 years from the pogrom in Chisinau** was commemorated in April, 2008. According to the established tradition, this anniversary of genocide that occurred in the town of Dubossary on the left bank of the Dniester, where approximately **18,000 Hebrew** were killed by Romanian and German fascists, is commemorated annually.

In the reported period many materials were published: monographs and history textbooks with chapters devoted to the Holocaust, specialized guidebooks in this matter, information material for teachers of history: in 2005 – the materials of the international scientific conference devoted to "The righteous of the world peoples" (the author – M. Bekker), the documentary book entitled "Returning to the events that have a century length", and a



fundamental monograph "Holocaust. History Fragments" (300 pages, large print) in Russian and Romanian, (the author being Sergiu Nazaria); in 2006 – the manuals of Moldova's history for the grade 9 and 12 that contain material referring to the Holocaust (the authors – a group of historians).

A positive thing is that Moldovan historians take part in various cultural, scientific and advertising events in other countries. Speech uttered on this occasion by the representatives of the Moldovan public opinion, such as S. Nazaria, D. Dumitru, Ș. Roif, L. Bondar, M. Sprinceanu, G. Cargher and others have had a positive echo in the press and periodical collections in question in Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Israel, the United States and other countries.

### Article 7 of the Framework Convention

The role of **public ethnocultural associations** has to be mentioned, whose priority task is to contribute to preserving and developing cultural identity, traditions and customs of these ethnicities.

During the years 2005-2009 the right of the persons belonging to national minorities to associate in public organizations has actively been carried out. According to data from 1 January 2008, within the Bureau of Interethnic Relations 93 public associations of national minorities were accredited (registered by the Ministry of Justice), representing nearly 30 ethnic groups. In January 2004 within the Bureau of Interethnic Relations (formerly the Department) 78 organizations were accredited. Approximately 100 local public ethnocultural organizations have been registered and work in Chisinau and Balti, in the districts of Soroca, Taraclia, Edinet, Rezina, Șoldănești, Cahul, Drochia, Criuleni, Glodeni, Donduseni, Ungheni, Riscani, Orhei, Calarasi, Straseni, and Floresti.

Young people from ethnic minorities have become more active as regard the establishment of public associations. Within the Bureau of Interethnic Relations 12 public organizations of young people the members of which are Ukrainians, Russians, Gagauzians, Bulgarians, Poles, Jews, Gypsies, Greeks, Latvia, Belarus, Armenia and Azeris, are accredited. In 2006 these organizations were named by the Coordinator Council of the ethnocultural youth organizations, which contributes to the achievement of the principles of cultural diversity, equality and equal opportunities for young people, regardless of ethnic origin and the creation of conditions for integration in all spheres of activity of the Moldovan state. To these ends during the period 2006-2008 a number of events were organised in collaboration with the Bureau of Interethnic Relations:

- The project "**Dialogue of tolerance of young people**" organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Youth, the Information Office of CoE in Moldova within the framework of the Campaign "Youth for polyethnicity, integrity and democracy of Moldova";
- The project "**The Qualifying of Young Ukrainians for a better future**" organized by the Association for Supporting the Initiatives of Students and Youths (ASIST) in partnership with the Ukrainian Youth Association "Zlagoda" (for the period of September 2008 – May 2009), with the financial support of the Small Grants Program of the U.S. Embassy. The project goal is to promote active participation of Moldova's population of Moldova in the voting, and to capacitate the youth to organize civic campaigns;
- Round table "**We – They: Ethnic Identity and Ethnic preconceptions**" with the participation of youth organizations from Moldova, Germany, Romania and Austria;
- Project launching "**The ability of the multinational society in Moldova through the facility of strengthening the social integration processes**", organized together with the organization LAPSAG (Latvia) and the Ukrainian Youth Association "Zlagoda" in Moldova, with the financial support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia. The project goal is the promotion and development of the multinational society in Moldova facilitating the consolidation of the interethnic integration processes.

Youth associations belonging to national minorities were involved in many activities that took place in Moldova within the framework of the **Youth Year** declared in 2008. Such participation is contributing to establish full ties of cooperation between young people regardless of their ethnic and linguistic identity, and the formation of their civil identity.

### Article 8 of the Framework Convention

In the Republic of Moldova the following cults and religious organizations are recorded: Metropolis of Moldova (Christian Orthodox church), that have 1224 parishes; Metropolis of Bessarabia (the Orthodox Christian church), taking 199 parishes, Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Old-Rite Church in Chisinau (15); Chisinau Roman-Catholic Bishopric (27); the Union of Evangelical Christian Baptist Church (241); Church of Adventists of the Seventh Day "The movement of reformation" (1), Church Union of the Christians of Evangelical Faith (Pentecostal Religion) (29); Religious Organization of Jehovah's Witness (158), the Federation of Hebrew (8); Apostolic Armenian Orthodox Church (2); the Society of Krișna conscience of the Republic of Moldova (3), the Union of Christian Spiritual Communities Molocani (2); Baha'i Religion (1), the Religious Presbyterian Community "Peace Church" (1); New Apostolic Church (11), the Union of Free Christian Church (Charismatic cult) (18); the Church of the Last Testament (3), Bible Church (3), the Union of Messianic Jewish Communities (1), Evangelical-Lutheran Church (7).

The census in 2004 provided information on population distribution by religion. Of the total population 93.3% are members of Orthodox Church; about 1% are Baptists; 0.4% are the seventh day Adventists; 30% are the witnesses of the 50<sup>th</sup> day; and 0.15% each are the believers of Russian Orthodox Old-Rite Church and Evangelists. The believers of other religions constitute 1.1% of the total population. 4645 people said that they belong to the Roman Catholic religion, to the Greek Catholic Religion - 700 people, Muslim - 1667 people, Mosaic people.

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Under the office of the Bureau of Interethnic Relations 10 ethnocultural associations are accredited by the Ministry of Justice with republican status, which unite the Muslims, including: Tartars, Azeris, Uzbeks, Kazakhs, Turkmen, and the Afro-Asian ethnic groups. The presidents of these organizations are members of the Coordination Council of the ethnocultural organizations, which acts within the office of the Bureau of Interethnic Relations as an advisory body. However, it is necessary to state that the registration procedure of **Muslim worship** in the Republic of Moldova has not been finished yet.

The procedure for registration of Muslim culture was the responsibility of former State Service for Religious Issues (which, in accordance with the Decision no. 1130 of 16.10.2007 has been dissolved). According to the Law **"On religious cults and their component parts"** no. 125-XVI of 11 May 2007 (art. 19, 20) it is provided that the registration of religious denominations and religious communities is the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice.

*The Spiritual Board of Muslims in Moldova* has been denied registration because of the failure of legal requirements to be met for the recognition of a religious cult. The Spiritual Board of Muslims in Moldova has sent a request to the European Court of Human Rights (application no. 12282/02) because it considers that refusing to registry its statute the Articles 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms have been infringed.

On 14 June 2005 the European Court found that the applicant organization was denied registration because of its omission to present to the Moldovan government the document that would contain the basic principles of religion. Because the organisation had not presented such a document "the state did not had the opportunity to determine authenticity of this organisation which claims to be recognized as a religion and that the cult could present a danger to a democratic society." The Court did not consider this requirement as one too burdensome and therefore disparity in Article 9 of the Convention. The Court opinion was that the requirement to obtain registration in accordance with the law in force served a legitimate purpose of allowing the government to ensure that religious organizations, aspiring to an official recognition by the state to act in accordance with the law in force. The application was declared inadmissible because the registration was refused on the grounds that not all necessary documents for registration of worship were submitted. The Court found that the request to submit the required documents was neither arbitrary nor impossible.

On February 11, 2008 the Spiritual Board of Muslims in the Republic of Moldova submitted the Ministry of Justice a new application on the registration status of the organization. In the process of examination of the documents submitted for the registration of the organisation's status, it was found that the content did not meet the following legal requirements:

- it did not contain all provisions required under art. 18 of the **Law on religious cults and their component parts** no. 125-XVI of May 11, 2007, namely: fundamental principles and confession of faith of the religious cult, the cult of religious activity, rights and obligations of members of religious cult, the dismissal of members of governing bodies and their mandate;
- the religious organization name under art. 66 of the Civil Code did not include the legal organization form, abbreviations are admitted misleading on the legal form of the organisation;
- the provisions of sections 1, 2, 4, 9 of Chapter I of the Statute infringe art. 16, paragraph (1), paragraph (4), art. 17, paragraph (2) of Law no. 125-XVI of May 11, 2007;
- sections 9 of chapters I and 12 of Chapter II contravene the provisions of art. 16, paragraph (4) and art. 17 of Law no. 125-XVI of May 11, 2007;
- section 36 of Chapter III contravenes art. 16, paragraph (1) and (2) of Law no. 125-XVI of 11 May, 2007;
- section 41 of Chapter III is contrary to art. 17, paragraph (2) of Law no. 125- XVI of 11 May, 2007;
- the statute was not signed by the founders of worship which contravene art. 18, paragraph (1) of Law no. 125-XVI of May 11, 2007 and art. 186, paragraph (2) of the Civil Code.

It was also found that:

- Minutes of the constituent assembly does not contain a nominal list of members present at the hearing and of those absent;
- The list of the founding members of the religious organization did not contain their original signatures;
- The proof of the citizenship of the religious organization's members-founders was not presented.

Because the legal norms concerning the requirements to be met for the registration of the status of a religious cult have been infringed, the registration of the Spiritual Board of Muslims in the Republic of Moldova has been denied by the decision of the Ministry of Justice no.9 of February 23, 2008. Under the **Law on religious cults and**

**their component parts**, the decision to refuse the registration of the status does not constitute an obstacle for repeated submission of documents after processing them in accordance with law. The problem with respect to the Tatar community's request for Muslim cemetery in Chisinau has been solved. There were given 100 places for the Muslim cemetery in accordance with the information provided by the Tatar public association "Tugan Tel" from the Republic of Moldova.

## Article 9 of the Framework Convention

**Broadcasting Code** approved by the Moldovan Parliament, no. 260-XVI of 27 July 2006 grants the representatives of national minorities new opportunities for the realization of free access to the media, what is confirmed by data presented by the National Public Broadcasting "**Teleradio-Moldova**".

### TV channel "Moldova 1"

The TV programs for ethnic minorities in Moldova have a social, cultural, educational, and ethno-folklore theme aimed to maintain and develop their culture and language. The programs reflect memorable events in the ethnicities' history, folk holidays, traditions, present the outstanding personalities of the respective ethnic groups, point out the destinies and contribution of representatives of all ethnic groups to the country's development and to their integration into society. The Television prepares and broadcasts 6 cycles of programs for national minorities:

- "Svitanoc" – a program in Ukrainian, 30 min., twice a month;
- "Gagauz Ocaa" - a program in Gagauz, 30 min., twice a month;
- "Bugeac Wave" - a program in Bulgarian, 30 min., twice a month;
- "Petalo Romano" - a program in Romanian, 30 min., monthly;
- "Russchii Mir" - a program in Russian, 30 min., monthly;
- "Under the same sky" - a program in Russian about the life of other ethnicities (Poles, Byelorussians, Azeris, Hebrews, Lithuanians) – 30 min., twice a month.

In 2006 with the support of the Bureau of Interethnic Relations "Teleradio-Moldova" created the film "Polyethnic Moldova".

### Radio Moldova

Within the radio broadcasting framework programs are provided at fixed hours (20:00) in the languages of national minorities in Moldova.

In accordance with the Broadcasting Code the percentage of the radio broadcasting programs in languages other than the state is as follows: in Russian –24,5%, in Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Gagauz, Yiddish, Polish and Romanian – 5.5%.

The following radio programs in the languages of national minorities are broadcast:

- "Radiomegdan" (Bulgarian) weekly: 52x30min.= 1560 min.
- "Renaissance" (Ukrainian) weekly: 52x35 min.= 1720 min.
- "Budjan daglasinda" (Gagauz) weekly: 52x30 min.= 1560 min.
- "Polish Wave" (Polish) monthly: 12x30 min.= 360 min.
- "Petalo Romano" (English) monthly: 12x30 min.= 360 min.
- "Life Hebrew" (Yiddish language) bi-monthly: 24x30 min.= 720 min.
- "Russian House" (Russian) bi-monthly: 24x30 min.= 720 min.

The bi-monthly program "Patria" broadcast in the state and Russian languages addresses specific problems of all minorities or reflects events of general interest. It lasts for (24x30 = 720 minutes).

The events related in one form or another to the national minorities are related in the basic radio programs: Latest News", "Radiomatinal", "Media-info", "Panorama", "Info-Terra", etc.

Periodically, except rest days, a program of music of various minorities and a performance in Gagauz are broadcast.

Legislative obstacles to editing and distribution of newspapers and magazines in the languages of national minorities do not exist. They are published, as a rule, by the following public organizations: "Український голос" (Ukrainian newspaper), "Русское слово" (a Russian newspaper), "Ana Sosu" (Gagauz newspaper), "Родно слово" (a newspaper in Bulgarian), "Български Хоризонти" (an almanac in Bulgarian), "Еврейское Местечко" and "Истоки" (Hebrew newspapers in Russian), "Jutzenka" (a magazine for children in Polish), "Progressive" (a newspaper for youth in Polish). Within the framework of the project on "Prevention of interethnic conflicts and integration through education" the Centre for Minority issues the newsletter "Etnodialog", which contains: articles, drawings, essays, aimed at preserving national, cultural and language identity of the minorities in Moldova, the

formation of the spirit of tolerance and the promotion of the European values, to be published simultaneously in two languages: Moldovan and Russian. The editions contain methodical annexes for teachers "The teacher's Compasses" in Bulgarian and Ukrainian.

### Article 12 of the Framework Convention

In 2006 the Institute of National Minorities, which works within the office of the Academy of Sciences, was reorganized into the Centre of Ethnology of the Institute of Cultural Heritage of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova. The main directions of this Centre are the history, language and culture of the co-inhabiting nationalities in Moldova - Moldavians, Ukrainians, Russians, Gagauz, Bulgarians, Gypsies and Hebrews.

The Ethnographic Centre has published a number of scientific works on the ethnography and cultural heritage of ethnic minorities in Moldova: V. Stepanov "Ukrainians of Moldova" (1989-2005); Cojuhari E. "Ukrainians of Moldova: history and modern times"; E. Cvilincova "Gagauz Traditional Spiritual Culture", I. Copanschii "The Hebrew National Movement in Basarabia" (1918-1940), I. Duminica and N. Salii "The Emergence of Civil Society. Roma in Moldova: Between Tolerance and Prejudice", N. Zabunova-Avacumova "The Russian Population in the Cities of Bessarabia, XIX Century", I. Bodruc and G. Damanciuc "Polish Diaspora in Moldova", etc. There is also published a magazine of ethnology and culturology in which ethnic issues of co-inhabiting nationalities in Moldova are discussed, and the mechanisms of protection of national minorities are reflected.

The centre collaborates effectively with the civil society representatives with a view of putting into practice the project of the democracy and civil society development in Moldova regarding ethnic tolerance, conducted with the support of the Program of small projects of the Kingdom of Netherlands Embassy "Marta KAP".

To achieve Resolution Res CMN (2005) 8, the collaborators of the Centre of Ethnography prepare school manuals history and languages of national minorities, in particular for the Ukrainian language study (for grades 2, 4, 9, 11, 12). Information on the rights of national minorities has been promoted publishing materials related to human rights – L. Drumea "Human Rights. Mechanisms of protection (international and of the Republic of Moldova)".

Different aspects of the life of national minorities, their history and culture become the object of the research in various scientific disciplines (ethnology, history, ethnopsychology, politics, law, etc.). Within the framework of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova a number of scientific research in the issues mentioned have been made. Among them there are: "Problems of ethnic identification of young people in Moldova", the author being Irina Caunenco, Doctor of psychology, from the Institute of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Science; the doctoral thesis in law entitled "The legal status of ethnic minorities in Moldova", the author - Galina Pogoneț from the Institute of History, State and Law; doctoral thesis in politology entitled "Minorities in Moldova: the situation and problems of integration (political analysis)", the author Alina Moroza, from the State University of Moldova; doctoral thesis in ethnology entitled "Retrospective and evolution of the Gagauz families in Moldova: XIX century and the beginning of XXI century", the author Natalia Daradur, from the Cultural Heritage Institute; the PhD thesis in history entitled "Ukrainians in Moldova: the dynamics of ethnic and civic identities (years 1989 -2005)", the author Veaceslav Stepanov, director of the Ethnology Centre of the Institute of Cultural Heritage.

The cooperation between the Bureau of Interethnic Relations, the Institute of Cultural Heritage and the Centre for Ethnology (the director of the Institute is a member of the board which is the advisory body of the Bureau) is being developed. The monograph "Polyethnic Moldova" and the "Guide of national minorities in Moldova" are being developed. In the year 2008 the national, cultural and linguistic situation of minorities was monitored in the districts of Taraclia, Soroca, Briceni, Donduseni, in connection with the preparation for ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

### Articles 13, 14 of the Framework Convention

At present a major objective in implementing the state policy on interethnic relations is to ensure the rights of national minorities to study their mother tongue.

The Ministry of Education and Youth of the Republic of Moldova, in accordance with the law in force, ensure the right to choose the language of education and training. The right of citizens to education in mother tongue is ensured by the creation of the necessary number of educational institutions, classes, groups, and the conditions of their operation. The network of pre-university educational institutions in the Republic includes 1561 establishments (primary schools, gymnasiums, general schools, lyceums) of which in 280 of them the teaching is in Russian, and in 82 of them the teaching is done in different languages.

Three study models of the minority languages have been developed in the Republic of Moldova:  
**Model I** - schools with teaching in Russian, in which, traditionally, representatives of national minorities do their studies: 280 schools and lyceums (101,172 pupils);

**Model II** - schools teaching in Russian, where the Ukrainian, Gagauz, and Bulgarian languages are studied as a school subject 3 classes per week and 1 class is dedicated to the new discipline "History, culture and traditions of nations: Russian, Ukrainian, Gagauz, and Bulgarian":

The studied language	The year of study: 2001-2002	The year of study: 2007-2008
Ukrainian	50 schools (7,011 students)	57 schools (6,311 students)
Gagauz	52 schools (2,456 students)	52 schools (24,004 students)
Bulgarian	30 schools (7,897 students)	32 schools (6,812 students)
Polish	1 school (65 students)	1 school (136 students)
Jewish	2 schools (345 students)	2 schools (667 students)
German	1 school (77 students)	1 school (118 students)

**Model III** - experimental schools and lyceums, where in separate classes the primary education is made in the mother-tongue – in Ukrainian or Bulgarian (Theoretical Lyceum of Ungureni, the district of Ocnita; Theoretical Lyceum "Vasil Levschi" in Chisinau, and Theoretical Lyceum "K. Popocivi" in Nicoreni, the district of Riscani); the state and Russian languages are taught beginning with the first grade, the foreign languages – beginning with the second grade, and at the secondary level a range of subjects taught in the state language are introduced.

In 21 classes (429 students) the instruction is done in Ukrainian, in 7 classes (114 students) - in Bulgarian; it has been created the basis for the gradual shift to training in the Gagauz language. The most used model is the second one.

It is clear that one of the realities of today's school, which teaches children of national minorities, is the need to study 4 languages: the state, Russian, native and one of the international languages. This objective could be achieved through the introduction of multicultural and polylinguistic education.

To achieve this purpose the Ministry of Education and Youth has developed educational materials for the Russian, Ukrainian, Gagauz, and Bulgarian languages. For example:

- Standards for language and literature for grades 1-12 (all minority languages);
- Curriculum for language and literature for classes 1-12;
- Methodological guidelines for implementing curricula;
- Textbooks on language and literature for grades 1-9;
- Programs and tests for national testing for grades 1-9;
- Programs for language and literature for baccalaureate;
- Curriculum for "History, culture and traditions of the Russian, Ukrainian, Bulgarian and Gagauz peoples for grades 1-4.

At the educational institutions in which there study pupils of whose native language is not the state one, at primary and secondary levels the course "History, traditions and culture of the people (Russian, Ukrainian, Gagauz, Bulgarian)" is taught. In 2007 the **textbook "History, traditions and culture of the people (Russian, Ukrainian, Gagauz, and Bulgarian)" for grades I-II** was compiled.

In the Republic of Moldova there are educational establishments that prepare teachers for educational institutions with training in the languages of minorities:

- **Pedagogical College of Lipcani** – prepare teachers for kindergartens and primary schools with teaching in the Ukrainian language;
- **Faculty of Philology at the State University of Balti "A. Russo"** provides training for teachers of Ukrainian language and literature;
- Teacher reparation for teaching Gagauz literature and Gagauz is made at **the State University of Comrat and the State Pedagogical University of Chisinau "I. Creanga"**, and **the Normal School "M. Ciachir" of Comrat**;
- Teacher preparation for the Bulgarian language is carried out at **Chisinau University "I. Creanga"**, **State University of Comrat and Pedagogical College of Taraclia** which prepare specialists for primary education, pre-education and music education.

In recent years, the question of teacher provision, in general, is resolved. During the years 1993-2007 there were instructed:

- In Ukrainian - 184 teachers;
- In Gagauz - 279 teachers;
- In Bulgarian - 282 teachers.

The training courses for teachers of the languages of national minorities are conducted in Ukraine, Russia, Turkey, Bulgaria, Poland and other countries, and are very effective.

During the period reflected in this report, the work of the **State University of Taraclia**, which was inaugurated in 2004 in the presence of the Presidents of Moldova and Bulgaria, developed efficiently. In this context: the structure of the university has been established, the pedagogical staff has been formed, and a technical and material basis has been created, which provided access of the representatives of the Bulgarian national minority to higher education in the territory with concentrated Bulgarian settlements. The teaching is conducted in three languages - the state, Bulgarian and Russian. In 2007 the first specialists in number of 38 people graduated; in 2008 there were 114 university graduates in specialties: history, pedagogy, literature, music pedagogy, accounting, auditing work and in the field of social insurance. It has to be mentioned, that all graduates are sure to work in the district of Taraclia and other districts of the southern districts of the Republic.

The new institution of higher education has become a regional cultural centre of Bulgaria, in particular in supporting research and cultural Bulgarian heritage, the Bulgarian history and language. The university study programs include items related to the Bulgarian history, culture and language. The first university textbooks have been issued - 5 volumes, namely "On the path of Bulgarians national spirituality in Moldova", the monographs by P. Stoianov, I. Simeonov and E. Madanji, the scientific periodical "The Danube – The Dniester", the newspaper "TUC".

Moldova and Bulgaria contributes greatly to the development of the university. Bulgaria gives financial support, which is directed towards the increasing of teachers' wages, the purchase of methodological and didactic literature, the reparation of the study buildings and students residences, etc. The sources allocated by Bulgaria are used for scholarships for students. Teachers from the Republic of Bulgaria work at this university.<sup>4</sup>

The project on "Prevention of interethnic conflicts and integration through education", realised by the non-governmental organization the "Centre for Minority Issues" in collaboration with the Non-governmental Information Centre for Human Rights (CReDO) and the Ukrainian Youth Association "Concordia-Zlagoda" with the support of the Netherlands organization CORDAID, aims to solve the problems related to multilingual education. Within the framework of the project on the basis of a group of preschool institutions and primary schools having a contingent of children of Ukrainian and Bulgarian nationality the following program is realised which provides:

- Promotion of international standards and best practices of multicultural and polylinguistic education;
- Developing educational materials;
- Teaching of the bilingual/polylingual methods of education and the principles of multicultural training of the teachers linguists;
- The probation of national experts, primary school and kindergarten teachers in European countries which have a positive experience in the study of bilingualism/polylinguism, and multicultural education;
- Providing preschool and primary schools, participating in this project with technical equipment and teaching materials;
- Experimental work on optimizing the process of language instruction and promoting multicultural education.

The project goal is the increase of the quality of the state language study and the strengthening of Moldovan society, the preservation of the cultural and national identity of national minorities and the education in a spirit of tolerance, the promotion of European values by adapting modern technologies in multilingual and multicultural education. The project has been supported by the Ministry of Education and Youth, which according to Decision № 401 (2006, November) has approved 8 pilot institutions, including: kindergarten no. 12, Theoretical Lyceum "M. Coțiubinski" and Bulgarian Lyceum "V. Levschi" in Chisinau; the kindergarten and the lyceum in Tețcani village, the district of Briceni; kindergarten no. 1 in the village of Valea Perjii; the kindergarten and the lyceum in the village of Tvardita, Taraclia district. Within the framework of the project a series of seminars, roundtables, conferences, training courses for 53 teachers, the trips of 20 specialists to Hungary and the Netherlands, with the aim of studying European experience, has been organised; the newsletter "Ethnodialogue" is published.

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<sup>4</sup> However, proceeding from the specific situation in relation to promoting the idea of multicultural and polylinguistic education in Moldova, representatives of public associations of national minorities, educational and scientific circles, participating in seminars and conferences on this subject, found that the following issues in language learning:

- Insufficient conditions for the Ukrainian, Gagauz, Bulgarian languages learning in preschool institutions;
- Using the traditional method of teaching the language without taking into account children's linguistic experience;
- Insufficient training of teachers working in the field of polylinguistic education;
- Insufficient coverage in the curricula of the historical and cultural coexisting experience of coinhabiting ethnicities in Moldova;
- Lack of a scientific structure for the study and introduction of the principles of polylinguistic and multicultural education;
- Liquidation (in 2007) of the special directorate, which dealt with issues of education of minorities within the office of the Ministry of Education and Youth.

In order to promote intercultural dialogue the optional subject "To know each other better" has been introduced, which has been developed and implemented by the Educational Centre "Pro-teaching". This course provides concurrent study of the main works of Moldovan, Russian, Ukrainian, Bulgarian and Gagauz literature. This discipline aims the education of mutual respect and cultural and spiritual enrichment of peoples.

The problem of knowing **the state language** (Moldovan) by the representatives of national minorities is still present. In order to adapt effectively to the state language in the educational institutions where representatives of national minorities study, the increase of the number of subjects taught in the Moldovan language is practiced. The lyceum in the village of Nicoreni can serve as a good example, where, beginning with the first grade, the state language is taught 4 classes per week. Starting with the fifth grade, a series of humanitarian subjects are taught in the state language. The first experimental classes of this type complete the secondary education cycle (grade 9), demonstrating the possibility to implement the single educational standard for the state, native, Russian, and a foreign language.

The next period of 2005 is marked by positive changes in the **linguistic state**, especially in the process of training of representatives of national minorities to study the state language. **The Bureau of Interethnic Relations** has helped to create the conditions necessary for the language study by the adults whose native language is not the state one. Thus in 2006 the Bureau held inside the House of Nationalities **courses** in the state language study for 50 students, whose native language is not the state one, using its own funds.

In collaboration with the OSCE, local authorities, NGOs "IDIS Future" and the National Association of European Trainers of Moldova (ANTEM), a vast program of language training for state officials has been launched. During 2006-2007 within the framework of this project **courses for the study of the state language by state officials** for two levels of proficiency were conducted. The courses were attended by 483 people from the southern and northern counties of the Republic: Gagauzia - Comrat: 7 groups (121 people); Ceadir-Lunga - 4 groups (61 people); Vulcanesti: 5 groups (93 people); Taraclia: 5 groups (83 people); Cahul - 3 groups (45 people); Bălți: 1 group (20 people); Drochia: 1 group (24 people); Soroca: 2 groups (36 people). On the basis of this project there have been developed training programs based on standards for four levels, printed educational materials accompanied by audio materials for different categories of beneficiaries: civil servants, doctors, policemen, etc. The program was conducted with the support of the High Commissioner for National Minorities of the OSCE.

Taking into account the achievement of more effective linguistic integration of minorities' representatives, National Association of European Trainers in Moldova (ANTEM) in partnership with "IDIS-Future", and the Bureau of Interethnic Relations, with the financial support of the High Commissioner for National Minorities of the OSCE, is implementing the project "**Training for linguistic minorities in Moldova**", which provides the period: September 2008 - April 2009. The goal of this project is the socio-linguistic and professional integration of the representatives of national minorities; it is planned for Chisinau, Comrat, Ceadir-Lunga, Congaz, Basarabasca, Taraclia, Vulcanesti, Balti, Drochia, Soroca, Ocnita, Briceni, and is aimed at public officials, policemen, doctors and lawyers. Within the framework of the project 15 groups (300 persons) of adults, whose native language is not the state one, have been created; the Conference on the result evaluation of the language training program of national minorities in Moldova (14 May 2008) and the Summer School for the methodical and didactic training of new teachers, who subsequently will be employed in the program to train minorities (9-13 July 2008) have been organized. The essence of the project consists in the instruction of the 40 local trainers in the northern, central, south districts and the districts situated on the left bank of the Dniester, by 5 national experts, in accordance with the methodology of language teaching-learning of the adults whose native language is not the state one. The impact of the project is:

- 300 civil servants will be able to master the state language;
- Methodological and linguistic training of the teachers improves the quality of teaching the state language in Moldova, of the adults whose native language is not the state language;
- Language training of civil servants and other categories of professionals improves the dialogue between the public authorities and the population.

In May 2008 representatives of Gagauz national minorities addressed the Moldovan Parliament regarding the quality of the state language teaching process of those people whose native language is not the state language. In this context, under the office of the Parliament the Commission for linguistic integration and state language teaching has been established, and allocation of additional financial sources for these purposes are planned.

Bureau of Interethnic Relations has discussed with the OSCE mission in Moldova the need for the elaboration of the *Strategy of linguistic integration of minorities in Moldova for the years 2009-2012* in cooperation with the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, the Ministry of Education and Youth, and with the financial support of OSCE.

## Article 15 of the Framework Convention

Art.22 of the Law "**On the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and the legal status of their organizations**" commits the Government, ministries, local government authorities to consult with organizations of persons belonging to national minorities in the development and promotion of policy in the field of culture and



education when it reaches the interests of national minorities. One of the mechanisms for achieving this article of the Law is the activity of the **Co-ordinating Council of ethnocultural organizations**. The Status of the Co-ordinating Council, as a public consultative body within the office of the Bureau of Interethnic Relations, is enshrined in article 25 paragraph (3) of the Law mentioned.

The Co-ordinating Council (2008) consists of the leaders of 93 ethnocultural organizations registered with the Ministry of Justice with republican status and accredited within the office of the Bureau of Interethnic Relations. The total number - 30 national minorities have their representatives in the Coordination Council: Ukrainians (8), Russians (11), Bulgarians (4), Hebrews (4), Belarus (1), Roma (12), Germans (2), Poles ( 3), Tartars (2), Armenians (4), Azeris (3), Uzbeks (and representatives of other ethnic groups in Central Asia) (1), Chuvashes (1), Lithuanians (3), Greeks (2), Koreans ( 1), Italians (1), Udmurts (1), Osetins (1), Estonians (1).

The number of the Council members does not depend on the ethnicity number they represent. Tartars, Armenia, Azeris, Uzbeks, Chuvashes, Lithuanians, Greeks, Koreans, Italians, Udmurts, Osetins are least numerous national minorities, whose number (for each ethnic group) does not exceed 0.1% of the population of Moldova.

The co-chairmen of the Coordination Council are: Director-General of the Bureau of Interethnic Relations and one of the members of the Coordination Council - the leader of one of the ethnocultural associations. Council represents the interests of national minorities and should act as a mediator between national minorities and the state to take decisions concerning the interests of minorities.

At the Council meetings many important issues and recommendations have been discussed, and appropriate resolutions have been adopted. The range of problems and issues discussed with the representatives of national minorities is not only the areas of education and culture, and there are organised meetings with representatives of the state power, which have become traditional.

During the period, reflected in the report there were meetings of:

- Moldovan President Vladimir Voronin with the representatives of Bulgarian Community in the Republic of Moldova (2006), representatives of the Coordination Council of public organizations and Russian communities (2007), the representatives of Hebrew Community in Moldova (2007);
- President of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova Marian Lupu with the leaders of the Hebrew Committee of the Republic of Moldova (2007), the Coordination Council of youth ethnocultural organizations (2007), members of the Coordination Councils of the Ukrainian, Russian, Bulgarian, Gagauz, Azerbaijani organizations;
- Members of the Parliament of Moldova and representatives of public Roma organisations (2006).

In these and other meetings many issues of the socio-economic and political development of the polyethnic Moldovan state have been addressed. The conclusion of the meeting was that a basic means of constructive dialogue between authorities and national minorities should be seeking means of training in making policy decisions for all citizens regardless of their national and linguistic affiliation.

Similar advisory structures work under the county and municipality public authorities councils, which permanently cooperate with the public associations of national minorities with local statutes. For example, the Coordination Committee of the activity of the ethnocultural societies with local status in Chisinau. The Commission members are the leaders of 27 municipal public organizations of national minorities. Such a council exists in the municipality of Balti too.

Consultative meetings of the Bureau of Interethnic Relations have been also hold with representatives of public associations of Ukrainians, Russians, Bulgarians, Byelorussians, Lithuanians, Azeris, Tatars, Roma and others.<sup>5</sup>

There were conducted the consultative meetings of the Bureau of Interethnic Relations leaders with the representatives of the social society, the Ucranian, Russian, Bulgarian, Byellorussian, Lithuanian, Azerbaijani, Roma and other public associations concerning the problems of legislation in force implementation, international conventions which relate to protection of national minorities interests.

It is necessary to state that the leaders of the ethnocultural organizations which represent the Ucrainians, Russians, Bulgarians, Roma and other as well as the representatives of public administration authorities of ATU Gagaizia consider that people belonging to the national minoroties are insufficiently taken on the staff in the bodies of central public administration: ministers, bureaus, agencies, etc and the art.24 of mentioned law which presupposes that the persons belonging to national minorities have the right on aproximate proportional representation in the structures of executive and judicial power at every level, in the army, law machinery, is not

<sup>5</sup> It is necessary to mention, that the leaders of the ethnocultural organizations which represents Ukrainians, Russians, Bulgarians, Roma, and other nationalities, and also the representatives of the public administrative bodies of Gagauzia consider that the number persons belonging to national minorities is not enough in the central public administrative bodies: ministries, bureaus, agencies, etc., as article 24 of the mentioned Law provides.



realized in full. At the same time, 40% of the members of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova belong to the national minorities. In localities where the minorities constitute the majority, 60% of the nominal composition of the local authorities belong to the corresponding national minorities.

### Article 16 of the Framework Convention

The observance of the principles consolidated in art. 16 on the Prevention of cases, in the districts where people belonging to national minorities live, towards limiting their rights and freedoms, is shown by the activity of the local, municipal and district bodies, where national minorities are present in a considerable number. A positive assessment deserves the activity of the local government in Chisinau, Gagauzia and Taraclia district, which take into account the polyethnic composition of the population.

According to the 2004 census, the ethnic composition of the population living within the municipality of Chisinau is characterized according to the data:

- The total population - 712,218 people;
- Moldovans - 481,626 people;
- Ukrainians - 58,945 persons;
- Russians - 99,149 persons;
- Romanians - 31,984 persons;
- Gagauzes – 6,446 people;
- Bulgarians – 8,68 people;
- representatives of other ethnicities - 11,605 people.

The administration of Chisinau has taken note of the recommendations outlined in Resolution ResCMN (2005) 8 of the Committee of Ministers of the CoE regarding the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, and works in order to apply them in practice.

Under the office of Chisinau mayoralty there are 27 ethnocultural associations registered. Chisinau Municipal Council granted financial support to these organizations for the achievement of statutory objectives. The ethnocultural associations participate in the cultural activities organized in the city:

- Christmas holidays;
- Independence Day of the Republic of Moldova;
- Our Language;
- Chisinau City Day;
- Ethnicity festival.

Promoting the state policy of education and training of young generation, the local government creates conditions for training and education of children belonging to national minorities in their mother tongue or at option.

Currently in the city there exists:

- 92 schools with instruction in the state language (60,504 students);
- 42 schools with instruction in Russian (22,415 students);
- 16 mixed schools (8485);
- 84 kindergartens with instruction in the state language (21737);
- 18 kindergartens with instruction in Russian (5780);
- 44 mixed kindergartens.

In the municipality there are:

- 7 institutions (lyceums: "Mihailo Koțubinski", "Ivan Neciui-Levițki", "Archbishop Petru Movila", schools no. 26, 95, 82, kindergarten no. 12 (100 seats)) in which the Ukrainian language is studied (1082 students);
- 4 institutions (the Lyceums "Beniamin Zeev Hertli" and "Rambam", kindergarten no. 25 and 28) in which the Hebrew language is studied (614 students);
- At the Lyceum "Vasil Levicki" the Bulgarian Language is studied (288 students);
- At the Lyceum "Nicholae Gogol" German is studied (269 students) and Polish (122 students); at kindergarten no. 23 Polish is studied (20 children);
- In 2 institutions Turkish is studied (242 students);
- Under school no. 13, with the support of the Armenian Community of the Republic of Moldova, a Sunday school for children of Armenian nationality operates, where the Armenian language is studied;
- Optional language study of Azeri are arranged in school no. 33. Teachers from Poland, Bulgaria and Israel work the Lyceums "Nicholae Gogol", "Vasil Levicki", "Beniamin Zeev Hertli", and "Rambam".

Favourable conditions for studying **the state language** are created, both for children and for adults.

With the support of the OSCE, the "Pro-teaching" has organized refresher course, and about 90% of teachers of Moldovan language have had the opportunity to attend it. Here the teachers have learnt methods and interactive techniques, various forms of teaching and assessment, which allows them to maintain and enhance the students' interest in studying the state language. In the municipality there are the following linguistic centres: "House of the Romanian Language - Nichita Stanescu", "Linguistic Centre", Romanian language courses within the General Department of Education, Youth, and Sports.

In the period from January to July 2008, the following situation was observed regarding the studying the state language:

Linguistic Centre	free		for money	
	groups	students	groups	students
"House of the Romanian Language - Nichita Stanescu"	12	150	1	10
Romanian language courses within the General Department of education, youth and sports.	14	210	-	-
<b>Total</b>	26	360	1	10

Within the office of the "House of the Romanian Language - Nichita Stanescu" in the process of the state language teaching, teachers of lyceums and national minority schools (Russian school "Kiril and Methodius", the Bulgarian School "Vasil Levski", the Arts Lyceum "V. Poleacov", Russian school no. 85, the music school "Alexei Stircea", the officially registered unemployed at the Agency for Employment), members of the Ukrainian Community of Moldova are involved. Special courses have been organized for MOLDTELECOM officials, specialists of the municipal library "B. P. Hasdeu", etc.

According to art. 6 of the Law on the functioning of languages spoken in Moldova (1989), to address the Chisinau City Hall and City Council of Chisinau, the citizens can choose as the language of communication Russian or the state language. This fact has been also confirmed by the evidence of the Department for correspondence, petitions and audience of Chisinau City Hall, which during January-July 2008, recorded about 7370 petitions (individuals) and 4865 (legal persons), of which about 6-7% (juridical persons) have addressed in Russian.

According to the Government Decision of the Republic of Moldova no. 1453 of 21.12.2006 "On the National Plan of Action to Support the **Gypsies/Roma** in Moldova for the years 2007-2010" a program of action for the realisation of the main support directions of Gypsies/Roma in Chisinau has been worked out. The Chisinau City Hall and City Council of Chisinau grants assistance requested by local ethnocultural associations of Roma. In this sense, assistance has been given in the following cases:

- The installation of the memorial plaque in the honour of the Honoured Popular Artist Pavel Andreicenco, ex-chairman of the Social and Cultural Society of Roma in Moldova "SINTI";
- Publication of the books "ДЕСЯТЬ ТЕТРАДЕЙ В КЛЕТОЧКУ, the author Pavel Andreiocenco;
- Publication of the books "Gypsy Destiny", "Romany-Romanian conversation guide", "Gypsy songs and dances from Bessarabia", the author Leonid Cerepovschi, Honoured Artist, President of the Centre of Art and Culture Renaissance in Chisinau "Ama Roma".

The cultural manifestations held by the Roma municipal ethnocultural associations - Centre of Roma culture and art in Chisinau "Ama Rome" (President Leonid Cerepovschi) and the Association of Roma in Chisinau (President Valentin Cebotari) are partially supported financially by the Chisinau City Hall. The Centre of Roma culture and arts "Ama Rome" has been given financial support to manufacture costumes for Gypsy Dance Ensemble, which has been formed recently. The Scientific and Cultural Association "Elite Romani" in the Republic of Moldova has received a lot of land for the construction of the Roma Cultural Centre (the decision of the City Council of Chisinau no. 25/15-1 of 22.05.2005).

**A.T.U. Gagauzia (Gagauz Yeri)** – the autonomous territorial unit, created in conformity with **the Law of the Republic of Moldova about special legal status of Gagauzia (Gagauz Yeri) № 344** from 23.12.1994 with the purpose of satisfaction of national needs and preservation of Gagauz people identity. The majority of the Gagauz minority lives in the territory of the autonomy. In accordance with the 2004 census:

total population – 155 646 pers.  
Moldavians - 7 481 pers. (4.8%)  
Ukrainians – 4 919 pers. (3.2%)

Russian -	5 941 pers. (3.8%)
<b>Gagauzes</b> -	127 835 pers. (82.1%)
Romans -	38 pers. (0.0%)
Bulgarians -	8 013 pers. (5.1%)
Other nationalities	1 409 pers. (0.9%)

The structure of state authorities of Gagauzia includes: Peoples' Assembly – the legislative body; the Head of Gagauzia (Bashcan) – the Chief Executive Officer, to whom all public administration bodies are subordinate, Executive Committee – the executive body. Administrative-territorial structure consists of 3 regions: Comrat, Ceadir-Lunga, Vulcanesti.

Organization of language training gives a possibility to meet in the autonomy the following challenges:

- preservation and development of language and cultural diversity;
- youth preparation for social adaptation and self-realization in the framework of Moldovan language space.

Thus, with the view of integration in the social environment Gagauz children master 4 groups of languages: Turkic (the native Gagauz language), Slavonic (the Russian language – the language of instruction and international communication), Romance (the Moldovan language – the state language), Germanic (the foreign language according to the program). The native languages – Gagauz, Bulgarian and Ukrainian – are studied as the disciplines in the system of pre-university education.

In the territory of the autonomy operate:

- 59 preschool institutions in which 6.324 schoolchildren study in the Russian language;
- 56 pre-university institutions in which study 23.293 schoolchildren including 26 lyceums, 14 comprehensive schools, 11 gymnasiums, 2 primary schools, 1 boarding school, 1 special school.

The native language – Gagauz- and the Moldovan language are studied beginning from the age of 3. As the discipline the Gagauz language is learnt in 50 pre university institutions (3 hours per week from the 1<sup>st</sup> till the 12<sup>th</sup> grade). The discipline "History, culture and traditions of the Gagauz people" is taught in the Gagauz language (total 21.854 schoolchildren). The State Comrat University in which the Gagauz language is one of the languages of instruction was formed in the system of higher education. The Gagauz language represents the compulsory discipline for acquiring the Bachelor's degree.

The Gagauz language is used in various cultural mass activities (festivals, competitions, conferences, symposiums on the problems of the language and culture). The National theatre of Gagauzia "M. Ciachir" uses the Gagauz language. The newspapers in the autonomy are published in the Gagauz language and the programs of the Gagauz public television also go on the air in the given language. 2007 year was dedicated to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the appearance of Gagauz written language. At the same time, it is necessary to state that the Gagauz language isn't used as business language in local public administration bodies with the exception of proceedings in the tribunal, court, court of arbitration in which some minutes are kept in the Gagauz language.

The Moldovan language as the discipline is studied in all educational institutions of Gagauzia (total 23.293 schoolchildren). There operate two lyceums with the Moldovan language as the language of instruction, and namely: the Comrat lyceum "M. Eminescu" and Vulcanesti district lyceum, mixed Russian-Moldovan lyceum acts in village of Russkaia Ciselia of Comrat region, the classes with the Moldovan language as the language of instruction function in Ceadir-Lunga boarding school.

Besides above-mentioned National Theatre of Gagauzia "Mihail Chiachir" in the autonomy operate: 27 houses of culture and clubs, 4 child music schools, 7 museums, 47 libraries. Book foundation in the Gagauz language is formed in all libraries. In Gagauzia function 125 amateur talent groups, 25 of them possess the rank "Exemplary" among them "Diuz-ava" in Comrat, "Cadinja" in Ceadir Lunga, "Gagauzlar" in Vulcanesti, "Cesmea", the ensemble of Pedagogical College "Mihail Cekir" in Comrat; folkloric vocal ensembles: "Budgactan ildizlar" in village Congazcik, "Sevda" in village Cazaclia, "Gunesli coraf" in village of Copcac" and other artistic ensembles which creative work is directed on promotion of preservation and development of the Gagauz national culture.

**The district of Taraclia** is a compact residential centre inhabited by the Bulgarian national minority, which according to the census of 2004, represents 67% of the district population. On the territory of the district there live: total - 43,154 persons;

Moldovans – 5,980 people;  
 Ukrainians – 2,646 people;  
 Russians – 2,139 people;  
 Romanians - 29 persons;  
 Gagauzes – 3,587 people;  
 Bulgarians - 28,293 persons;

Representatives of other ethnic groups - 480 people.

The local public administrative bodies take effective measures, aimed at creating the conditions for keeping the minority elements of Bulgarian cultural identity and language, while applying in practice the state policy in the sphere of international relations and contributing to the meeting of the national and cultural needs of the representatives of other ethnicities living on the mentioned territory.

A network of state cultural institutions operates on the territory of the district:

- Village houses of culture and clubs - 22;
- Libraries - 24;
- Arts schools for children - 2 (with branches in the village of Valea Perjii and the village of Cairaclioa);
- Museums of Region History - (in the villages of Tvardita and Vinogradovca);
- Historic and ethnographic museums - 2 (in the villages of Cairaclia andCorten).

The activity of these state institutions is oriented towards preserving folklore, popular traditions, customs, language, the revival of the culture of the Bulgarian population. Seven Bulgarian popular groups that are considered "models" works in the district:

- in the village of Tvardita - Ensemble "Tvardișca Mladost", the School of Arts for children, the Bulgarian women ethnographic choir, the Folk ensemble "Tvardicianca" and the Ensemble of the Bulgarian folk music and dance, a House of culture;
- in the village of Corten – the fanfare and the women choir "Bilgarski resign", and House of culture;
- in the village of Cairaclia – the Folk Ensemble "Jivi izvora", and a House of Culture;
- in the town of Taraclia – the Ensemble "Helios", the reading room "Olimpii Panov".

With the support of the village and local authorities there are some other Bulgarian folk ensembles: in the town of *Taraclia* – the Bulgarian folk vocal ensemble, the Orchestra of folk music "Cerneva kitka" and the Folk dance ensemble "Izvorce", the district House of Culture, the town Bulgarian theatre "Smeșen petik", the reading room "Olimpii Panov"; in the village of *Valea Perjei* – the Bulgarian folk ensemble.

In the town of Taraclia there are two professional ensembles: Theatre of Bessarabian Bulgarians and the Ensemble of song and dance "Rodoliubie".

On the territory of the district of Taraclia there are located and protected by state 41 archaeological, historic and cultural monuments of the Bulgarian population. Within the office of the Reading room "Olimpii Panov" in the town of Taraclia a fund of Bulgarian literature is being constituted, in which at present there are 4000 copies. This fund supplies with books the libraries in the villages of Corten, Cairaclia, Valaea Perjei, etc. The Republic of Bulgaria has an essential contribution in the collection of literature in Bulgarian.

On the territory of the district of Taraclia there are 26 kindergartens and 21 high schools. 3,911 students study the Bulgarian language at these educational establishments. During the classes "The history, traditions, and culture of the Bulgarian people" children gain knowledge of culture achievements of Bulgarian people, study the traditional costumes, ornaments, and handicrafts of the Bulgarians.

The teaching of the Bulgarian language and literature is well organized from the methodological and scientific point of view. The teachers have new methods and technologies for education. The courses for teachers have a great contribution in this sense, which are conducted annually in the Republic of Bulgaria, in accordance with the Protocol on cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Youth of the Republic of Moldova and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria.

For the purpose of social integration of the Bulgarian population's representatives in various spheres of activity of the Moldovan state, a special attention is given to the state language study. **The state language** (Moldovan) is studied in the educational institutions of all levels. A number of issues have been solved: the provision of educational institutions with pedagogues, the improvement of the teaching quality and knowledge obtained, the increase of the awareness of the need to study the Moldavian language which is received as an object of study priority. The needs of the mature population to sustain the state language are being meet. An essential contribution in this regard is the work of the Linguistic Centre in the town of Taraclia that has a reach fund of methodological and scientific literature, audio cassettes and dictionaries.

In 16 pre-university institutions in the region, the studies are in Russian, the following foreign languages are studied there: English - in 18 education institutions, French – in 5 education institutions, German – in 3 education institutions. Thus, in the system of educational institutions of the district of Taraclia the principles of multicultural and multilingual education are provided.

Taraclia authorities take concrete measures to ensure full national and cultural needs of the representatives of other ethnicities. Thus, under the House of Culture in the village of Mussait the Ukrainian folk ensemble "Cervona troianda" works; funds of Ukrainian literature are being formed in the libraries of the villages of Budei and Musait; the ethnic festival held annually demonstrates the specific traditions of all co-inhabiting nationalities in the Republic of Moldova.

In the process of realization of the Government Decision no. 1453 of 21 December, 2006 which approved the plan of action sustaining **the Gypsies/Roma** for the years 2007-2010, a district program of actions supporting ethnic Roma representatives has been elaborated. The Gypsy culture, traditions, habits, customs, and crafts are preserved (especially the smith's work). The District Department of Culture, together with the Roma Community, conducts annual actions devoted to the International Roma Day - April 8.

### Articles 17, 18 of the Framework Convention

Promoting the European **Neighbourhood** Policy which corresponds to the principles of Framework Convention Moldova cooperates with countries, which are the ethno-historic homeland of national minorities, in the field of education, culture, media, etc. These relations are regulated by the basic treaties of friendship and cooperation, the bilateral intergovernmental agreements, and interdepartmental programs.

The development of constructive cooperation with **Ukraine** continues in order to strengthen the forces of two states for the support of the Ukrainian national minority in Moldova. The cooperation between countries and the strengthening of the relations with the state power bodies of the bordering regions of Ukraine are accelerated. In the years 2006-2007 the Program of collaboration of the Government of Moldova with the State Administration of the region of Chernauti in the economic, interethnic relations, culture, education and other fields were fulfilled. The program of collaboration of Bureau of Interethnic Relations with the State Administration of Odessa region in support of national minorities has been finished. In 2008 work the activity of elaboration of the **Agreement between Moldova and Ukraine** on cooperation in ensuring the rights of persons belonging to national minorities was finished. The Agreement highlights that the rights of persons belonging to national minorities is part of human rights and part of the society in which they live. According to the Agreement the persons belonging to national minorities in Moldova are the citizens who live permanently in the country and belong because of their ethnic, cultural and linguistic differences to the Ukrainian national minority. The text of this document was initiated by the foreign ministers of External Affairs of Ukraine and Moldova in April 2008.

Taking into account the interests of Byelorussian national-cultural minority, the collaboration between **Moldova and Belarus** continues, based on the Agreement of collaboration between the Government of Moldova and the Republic of Belarus in the field of ensuring the rights of persons belonging to national minorities (in 1997). In accordance with article 8 of the Agreement the Moldavian-Byelorussian interdepartmental advisory committee is working in order to examine the common programs and actions. Meetings of this commission are held annually in turn in the capitals of the states that are members of the contracting parties (Minsk and Chisinau). The coordinator of the implementation of this agreement is the Bureau of Interethnic Relations, which collaborates with the Office of the Commissioner for religious and ethnic problems under the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus on the basis of common actions programs, signed annually.

Being guided by the more effective ensuring of the linguistic rights of the **Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian** ethnicities belonging to national minorities les numerous, the Bureau of Interethnic Relations concluded interdepartmental programs of cooperation with similar institutions in **Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania**, namely: **Department of National Minorities and Immigration of the Republic of Lithuania, the Secretariat of the Minister Delegate for Social Integration of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry delegated in the problem of population of the population of Estonia.**

The similar document was signed between the Bureau of Interethnic Relations and the **State Agency for the Bulgarians Abroad under the Bulgarian Government.** (2004).

The utilisation of the potential of the Republic of Moldova cooperation with foreign countries in order to ensure the rights of the persons belonging to national minorities is manifested in various forms and activities, in particular:

*providing scholarships to study in the historical homeland*  
- Bulgarian Government provides annual grants for university and postgraduate studies, for 2008-2009 academic year 91 scholarships for students have been allocated, of which 85 scholarships for ethnic Bulgarians in Moldova;  
- Russian Federation allocates annually to citizens of the Republic of Moldova 150 seats in the universities of higher education;  
- Annually Ukraine provide about 100 seats in the universities of higher education for ethnic Ukrainians - citizens of the Republic of Moldova,  
*creating informational and cultural centres of the historic homeland*

- In 2007 in Chisinau the Informational and cultural centre of Ukraine was opened;
- In 2008 under the State University of Moldova in Chisinau the Russian Information Centre was opened, and a similar centre under the University State Aleco Russo of Balti is planned to be opened;
- The Information and Cultural Centre of Israel continues its activity in Chisinau.

*the development of cultural events (festivals, days of culture, etc.)*

- The festivals of the Ukrainian, Polish, Belarusian, Hebrew artistic films, the Culture Days of Belarus, Days of the Russian Federation, etc. has become traditional in the Republic of Moldova.

## CONCLUSION

This report is prepared by the Bureau of Interethnic Relations. Being guided by the recommendations of the Advisory Committee for the Framework Convention of the Council of Europe, the Bureau has used the information on the implementation of this document, submitted by the National Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Education and Youth, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Reintegration, Coordination Council of Audiovisual "Teleradio-Moldova", the Centre for Human Rights in Moldova, the local government, and the public ethnocultural associations of national minorities.

During the period presented in the Report, the Republic of Moldova as a member of the Framework Convention, while fulfilling the assumed international commitments, has achieved significant results regarding the rights of the national minorities. State bodies' responsibility for implementation of adopted laws has increased; national legislation was developed with a view of taking into account interests of polyethnic population; the level of tolerance and interethnic cooperation in the Moldavian society has been risen; civil servants knowledge in the field of international and national standards on national minorities protection has widen, the dialogue of collaboration between the state authorities and the representatives of the social society has established.

Obtained positive results:

- implementation of 2 monitorings of linguistic situation in the Republic of Moldova with the view of extension of opportunities of using the native languages in different spheres, extension of teaching the subjects in the native languages in the system of pre-university educational institutions. The monitorings were conducted by the Bureau of Interethnic Relations in collaboration with the Institute of Cultural Heritage and Ethnology Centre of Academy of Science of Moldova;
- conduction of execution monitoring of the Republic of Moldova Law about the rights of people belonging to national minorities and legal status of their organizations and the Law on functioning of the languages in the territory of the Republic of Moldova;
- discussion of monitoring results at the meeting of the Coordination Council of the public ethnocultural organizations and the Board of the Bureau of Interethnic Relations as well as conduction of press conference with the purpose of public informing.
- appointment in the structure of local authority the specialists responsible for carrying out a policy in the field of interethnic relations, preservation and development of cultures, languages and traditions of national minorities;
- creation of the Coordination Center of the public ethnocultural organizations;
- compilation and preparation for edition by the Institute of Cultural Heritage and Ethnology Centre of Academy of Science the monograph about all ethnical groups purposely to widely reflect the topic of cultural and linguistic diversity in the programs of pre-university educational institutions. On the basis of the given material the Bureau of Interethnic Relations plans to publish the methodological workbook "Ethnoses of the Republic of Moldova" in 2009.

At the same time, it is necessary to affirm the presence of some problems including those in the sphere of education of the national minorities, one of which is closing down of special direction in the structure of the Ministry of Education and Youth that was occupied with the educational problems of the national minorities.

Taking public opinion of the representatives of national minorities and their public organizations into consideration, further implementation of basic principles of the Framework Convention will be directed on achievement of the following tasks:

- promotion of principles of cultural diversity, observance of human rights, equality and nondiscrimination by means of implementation of national legislation in the given realm;
- adoption of law about prevention and struggle against discrimination;
- ratification of European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages;
- creation of favorable conditions for linguistic integration of national minorities with the purpose of their adaptation in different spheres of the state activity.

Resulting from the reason that there has not been any specific question against the Republic of Moldova provided in Part III of the Scheme on national reporting in the monitoring of the third cycle, the report does not contain information in question.

Data on the implementation of the Framework Convention provisions for the Protection of National Minorities in the eastern districts of Moldova (Transdnistria) are not submitted in this Report, as currently the territorial integrity of Moldova and the districts on the left bank of the Dniester are not restored, and are not effectively controlled by the Republic of Moldova.