

The reinstatement of historical names of localities - the initial stage of reforming territorial - administrative delimitation of Republic of Moldova

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**“DUNĂREA DE JOS” UNIVERSITY OF GALAȚI
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THE REINSTATEMENT OF HISTORICAL NAMES OF LOCALITIES – THE INITIAL STAGE OF REFORMING TERRITORIAL – ADMINISTRATIVE DELIMITATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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Abstract

The name is one of the essential defining elements of a local identity. Through his name the local community identifies and individualizes itself in relation to other communities of the same gender. The present study emphasizes the idea that the toponymic reforms initiated in 1812 after the annexation of Eastern Moldova by the Russian Empire and those from the Soviet period were used as a tool to form a new collective identity and to erase the historical memory. This was put into practice by providing new names to the localities and administrative-territorial units and the liquidation of names of places that could raise “unwanted” cultural and historical associations of population.

The initial phase of the territorial-administrative reform in Moldova was defined by a return to national and historical names of localities and to the legitimacy of toponyms and anthroponyms in their traditional and correct forms which was a relevant achievement.

Keywords: *administrative reform, the name of local community, collective identity, local community*

An important trend in the contemporary social research is the study of the economic, social and political transformations occurring at the boundary between the 20th-21st centuries in the former soviet states. The reform of the political and social systems in the new

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independent states created after the fall of the USSR had been accompanied by complicated and extremely sensitive social problems.

The issues concerning the regional and administrative reform had become the subject matter of fierce political arguments and confrontations. The former soviet republics had approached this issue differently and of course the ways to the accomplishment of the reforms had been diverse. The transformations concerning the regional and administrative delimitation proved to be very ticklish, complex, and protracted.

The attempts to reform the regional and administrative delimitation of the Republic of Moldova had been influenced by a range of factors which had disturbed the process: a) dissensions among the political elite in relation to the political and geopolitical orientations, b) contradictory estimations of the historical experience with reference to regional and administrative delimitations, c) problems concerning the role and the position of the national minorities in the new realities, d) the separatist tendencies from the South and East of the Republic of Moldova.

The initial stage of the regional and administrative reform in the Republic of Moldova had been defined by the return to the national historical names of the localities.

The name is one of the essential defining elements of the identity of a local community. The name of a local community represents the title of the regional and administrative entity set by the law. The community self-identifies itself by its name and individualizes itself in reference to the other communities of the same type.¹

The names of the local communities have functioned and developed through centuries. Their meaning, content and evolution

¹ If one should determine the defining elements of the identity of a local collectivity, besides the name, these would include: the administrative territory, the population, the public authority of the eligible authorities, the State and the distinctive insignias of the local collectivities. These elements distinguish one local collectivity from other similar collectivities. (Cornea, 2007)

provide valuable information concerning the evolution of the local communities in time. It can be concluded that the names of the localities of the R. Moldova go back to diverse sources: a) relief, natural conditions (*Bălți, Bulhac, Valea, Văleni, Vîlcele, Poiana, Izvoare, Pietrosu, Piatra*); b) military fortifications and fortresses (*Palanca, Parcani, Tabăra*); c) the place of some isolated settlements, buildings, dwelling places, shelters in the field (*Bordee, Vărăria, Chilioara, Coșara, Crama, Odaia, Prisaca, Ratuș, Sătuc*); d) anthroponyms (*Ilenuța, Sofia, Ostăpceni, Procopinți, Bălăsinești*); e) historic personalities (*Decebal, Alexandru cel Bun, Ion Vodă, Alexandru Ioan Cuza, Regina Maria, Pelivan, Inculeț*); f) the social, fiscal and administrative or legal state of the members of the community (*Mazâleasca, Răzeșia, Țărăncuța, Călugăr*); g) functions within the administrative hierarchy of the medieval state (*Visterniceni, Vorniceni, Păhărniceni*); h) services and military duties of the dwellers (*Volontirovca, Vânători, Lipcani, Semeni*); i) métiers or handicrafts of the dwellers (*Cărbunari, Obădari, Rotari, Sobari, Vînători*); j) fauna (*Albina, Bobocica, Bursuceni, Cucoara, Gîsca, Drochia, Căprești, Bursuc, Cioara, Iepureni, Prepeșița, Veverița, Vulpești*); k) flora (*Salcia, Frasin, Florești, Floreni, Floriceni, Mereni, Trestieni, Plop, Secăreni, Stejăreni, Ulmu, Nucăreni*); l) topical names of a soviet origin (*Ilciovca, Pervomaisc, Maiscoe, Octeabriscoe*); m) toponyms of Slavonic origin (*Lipnic, Lozova, Naslavcea, Peresecina, Sadova, Horodiște*); n) toponyms of Turkish origin (*Bender, Căinari, Tașlîc, Ciobalaccia*); o) toponyms of Tatarian origin (*Abaclia, Agichioi, Acui, Baurci, Borogani, Gaidar, Hagimus*); p) toponyms of Gagauz origin (*Avdarma, Baurci, Dezghinge, Joltai, Etulia, Congaz*). (Eremia, 1986, 2004; Dron, 2002)

According to the data presented by Anatol Eremia, a valuable specialist in national toponymy, about 1060 (57%) out of the total of 1860 of localities from the republic, have a Romanian name, regionally having the following repartition: 490 (26,4%) in the northern raions, 400 (21,6%) in the central raions and 170 (9%) in the southern raions. About 540 de localities (29%) have a Slavonic name. The regional repartition is the following: 15% in the northern raions, 10% in the central raions and 4% in the southern raions. The Turkish

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names of the regions make up about 7% from the total of names of localities from the republic. The area they cover refers mainly to the territory of the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Găgăuzia (Gagauz Yeri). (Eremia, 2004)

The nomenclature of toponyms of the Republic of Moldova includes also names of German origin. A. Eremia has ascertained that these do not date earlier than the 19th century, because the first German colonies appeared in Bessarabia at the beginning of this century. In 1814, the Russian administration has settled the free lands from Budjac with 1443 families of German colonists, peasants brought from the duchy of Warsaw. Several hundreds of German families, came from Russia, have settled here later. By mid 19th century, there were 24 German colonies in Bessarabia: Arciz, Cațbah, Cleasnița, Culma, Laipțig, Lihtental, Paris etc. Many of them had been named according to the names of the landowners from the given localities: *Achendorf*, *Alexanderfeld*, *Bechendorf*, *Blumental*, *Denevița*, *Emental*, *Iacobstal*, *Iosefdorf*, *Marienfeld*, *Neifeld*, *Rozenfeld*, etc. As these colonies were founded after the war of 1812, many of them were named to denote the Russian army's victories near *Berezino*, *Borodino*, *Tarutino*. In the postwar years, after 1945, most of the German names have been replaced with other names: *Achendorf* with *Doina* (Cantemir, r.), *Denevița* with *Svetlâi* (Taraclia, r.), *Emental* with *Pervomaisc* (Căușeni, r.), *Neifeld* with *Tcacenco* (TAULD), *Iacobstal* with *Lazo* (Ștefan-Vodă, r.) etc. There were also names of localities of other origins: Polish - *Xionzovca* (now- *Popovca*, Râbnița, r.), Czech - *Novigrad* (now *Huluboaia*, Cahul, r.). (Eremia, 2004)

Until the beginning of the 19th century, the national names of the regions had been rendered correctly both in official and unofficial documents. In the past, the names of places and localities served as landmarks for orientation on the field, as a definite boundary between manors, countries, regions and it was important to render them accurately.

The Moldavian proper names were recorded correctly, with some small spelling deviations, in the census registers from the 18th - early 19th centuries because the census takers that carried out the

census from 1817 were mostly Romanians or knew Romanian very well. Thus the proper names included in it kept, more or less accurate, their original forms. (Eremia, 2010)

In 1812, without any historical, legal, national right, or a right of any other nature, the Russian Empire has annexed the Eastern Moldova, a territory later named Bessarabia and transformed into a colony of the Russian Empire. The Russian Empire, being concerned with its political interests in the Balkans, had resorted to the consolidation and centralization of the administrative system of Bessarabia. The political stability, in the view of the Russian authorities, could be maintained only by suppressing any national manifestation and by introducing here Russian institutions, the same as it had been done in other national peripheries of the Russian Empire.

The denationalization and the disrepute of the national element, the disregard for the local institutions and practices, the defamation and disregard for the Moldavian legal norms and national values had been a constant preoccupation of the Russian authorities. The Romanian language had been eliminated from the public life; the bulk of proper names was revised and adapted to the canons of the Russian language while the national names of the localities, was completely neglected. The names of the Bessarabian localities had been replaced or mutilated, attributing them foreign names and forms, in the style of the tsarist occupation regime.

A. Eremia mentioned that the domestic names of localities were so badly distorted that they became unrecognizable: *Александрены, Баланешты, Бельцы, Богданешты, Бутучаны, Ворзарешты, Вулканешты, Глодяны, Гертоп, Драгонешты, Единцы, Изворы, Карпиняны, Киперчаны, Котюжаны, Леушаны, Малаешты, Мындрешты, Ниспорены, Оргеев, Пашканы, Сороки, Ульта, Фагедеу, Фундуры, Четыряны*. These names and contorted forms were legalized by issuing some repertories and official lists of the localities from Bessarabia.

Unlike before, when, in most of the cases, the villages were

named as the landowners and dwellers wished ², then the right to designate new establishments was assumed by the officials, local authorities. Almost all of the colonies that appeared in Bessarabia after 1812 got names denoting the names of several tsarist personalities. Their names were marked by the suffixes *-ka, -obka, -ebka*. (*Alexandrovca, Alexeevca, Antonovca, Anfisovca, Blagodati, Ecaterinovca, Elizavetovca, Ferapontievca, Gavrilovca, Ivanovca, Macarovca, Mihailovca, Nicolaevca, Pavlovca, Petropavlovca, Romanovca, Semionovca, Stepanovca, Țariovca* etc). By the end of the 19th century, their number reached 180, as compared to 17 at the beginning of the same century. (Eremia, 2004, 2010)

The process of mutilating the national toponyms continued in the soviet period. The regional administrative delimitation in M.S.S.R. was based on the principles of soviet political construction and in accordance with the ideology of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. It has to be mentioned that, in the years of soviet domination, the regional administrative delimitation of the republics entering in the union was made completely uniform and was deprived of the local colour and national features. This phenomenon manifested also by the domination of the soviet toponyms that were absurdly ideological. The soviet authorities had used the reforms of toponyms as an efficient tool for forming a new collective identity, and for erasing the historical memory. This was accomplished by conferring the localities and the administrative-regional entities new names which were clearly influenced by the ideological ideas, and by liquidating the toponyms which could arouse in people “undesired” cultural and historical associations. (Androshiuc, 2009)

As a result of this approach, localities named after outstanding personalities having a special value for the national history and conscience were ideologically and absurdly renamed: the locality *Decebal (Soroca, r.)* was given the name *Tatarovca–Mică* on 07.07.1946; the locality *Ghica–Vodă (Drochia, r.)* was given the name *Miciurin* on

² About 55% out of the total number of Bessarabian names of localities are formed from the names of persons (names, surnames, agnomina, and nicknames). (Eremia, 2004)

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28.10.1949; the locality *Mihnea – Vodă (Drochia, r.)* was given the name *Dimitrovca* on 29.09.1949; the locality *Regina Maria (Leova, r.)* was given the name *Semionovca* on 29.09.1949; the locality *Dragoș – Vodă (Drochia, r.)* was given the name *Iliciovca* on 03.09.1951; the locality *Carol al II -a (Glodeni, r.)* was given the name *Stepnoe* on 11.03.1955.³

The distorted forms of the names of many localities introduced by the tsarist administration had been preserved even in the soviet period. Thus, the names of towns and cities – district centers, for example, were officially used in the following forms: *Novîe Anenî, Atachi, Benderî, Briceanî, Cagul, Caușanî, Criuleanî, Dubossarî, Edințî, Faleștî, Floreștî, Orgheev, Rîșcanî, Strașenî, Slobodzeia, Sorochi, Unghenî, Vulcanestî*.⁴

Actually, the soviet authorities, using the same procedures, methods and means as the tsarist officialities had continued to crumble the basis of the national toponyms. The hybrid formations ending in *-ка, -овка, -евка, -аны, -ены* and *-ишты* had multiplied and had acquired general distribution. Moreover, the compound names of the localities had been completely translated into Russian: *Большие Аснашаны, Малая Ульма, Верхние Попешты, Нижние Буздуганы, Новая Обрежа, Новые Анены, Новые Мындрешты, Старая Ларга, Старая Сарата, Старые Негурыны, Старые Саратены*. Names having singular forms in Romanian had groundlessly acquired plural forms in Russian: *Bălceana – Болчаны, Bălțata – Балцаты, Burlacu – Бурлаки, Chetrosu – Кетросы, Ciubara – Чубары, Talmază – Талмазы, Tuzora – Тузоры*.⁵

³ RSS Moldovenească. Orînduire administrativ-teritorială la data de 1 aprilie 1988 / Moldavian S.S.R. Territorial and administrative organization on April 1 1988. Chișinău: Cartea Moldovenească, 1988, p.172-173.

⁴ Молдавская ССР. Административно-территориальное устройство на 1 апреля 1988 / Moldavian S.S.R. Territorial and administrative organization on April 1 1988. Кишинев: Картя молдовеняскэ, 1988, с.6-7.

⁵ Молдавская ССР. Административно-территориальное деление на 1 января 1955 года. / Moldavian S.S.R. Territorial and administrative organization on January 1 1955. Издание первое. Кишинев Государственное Издательство Молдавии, 1955, с.141; RSS Moldovenească. Împărțire administrativ-teritorială pe

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As A. Eremia has observed, some names had been distorted to such a degree that they became unrecognizable: *Crihana – Chirgani, Cucoara – Cacora, Otaci –Atachi, Satul Nou – Satanov, Valea Adâncă – Valeadinc*, etc. There are also some artificial, ordinary names, of a proletcultural facture: *Iantarnoe, Maiac, Mirnoe, Svetlâi, Ugodnoe, Uiuutnoe* etc. (Eremia, 2004, 2008)

In the postwar period, the number of names of Russian origin (of the tsarist dynasty, Russian dignitaries and officials) doubled and tripled, some names being multiplied by five and more: *Alexandrovca* (5 names), *Alexeevca* (5), *Antonovca* (3), *Elizavetovca* (3), *Ivanovca* (6), *Nicolaevca* (8), *Romanovca* (3). Names with a revolutionary and military hue, and soviet propagandist-ideological orientation were added to them, in this period: the locality *Biruința (Căușeni, r.)* was given the name *Suvorov* on 23.12.1964; the locality *Nicolaevca (Florești, r.)* was given the name *Iliciovca* on 11.06.1964; the locality *Andriașevca Nouă (Slobozia, r.)* was given the name *Frunze* on 23.01.1965; the locality *Novosiolovca (Orhei, r.)* was given the name *Cotovskii* on 23.01.1965; the locality *Ialoveni (Strășeni, r.)* was given the name *Cutuzov* on 23.01.1965; the locality *Sîngerei (Lazovsc, r.)* was given the name *Lazovsc* on 07.04.1965; the locality *Alexandrovca (Camenca, r.)* was given the name *Crasnîi Octeabri* on 20.06.1972; the locality *Balan (Rîșcani, r.)* was given the name *Malinovskii* on 21.11.1973; the locality *Șoldănești (Șoldănești, r.)* was given the name *Cernenco* on 05.05.1985.⁶ About 100 localities had been “rebaptized” with names specific to the spirit of the former regime. In the case of some locality names had been replaced the constituent elements or have been added Russian suffixes: *Antonești – Антоновка, Ciolacu – Чолаковка, Constantinești – Константиновка, Sturzești – Стурзовка, Ștefănești – Степановка, Volintiri – Волонтировка*. (Eremia, 2010, 2011)

About 340 names of localities disappeared from the map of

data de 1 octombrie 1974 / Moldavian S.S.R. Territorial and administrative organization on October 1 1974. Chișinău: Cartea Moldovenească, 1975, p.123-124.

⁶ RSS Moldovenească. Orînduire administrativ-teritorială la data de 1 aprilie 1988. / Moldavian S.S.R. Territorial and administrative organization on April 1 1988. Chișinău: Cartea Moldovenească, 1988, p.172-173.

Moldova in just a few decades. Most of these (245) had disappeared either when the localities had been eradicated being accepted by the authorities as having no prospective (*Bădrăgi, Brașov, Găvănoasa, Călinești, Conacu, Cristea, Eminescu, Mereuți, Munteni, Odaia, Răzoaia, Recea, Urziceni* etc.) or when some villages and localities had been merged (*Alexăndrești* with *Burlacu*, *Berești* with *Ungheni*, *Butuceni* with *Cârpești*, *Copăceanca* with *Râșcani*, *Dănuțeni* with *Ungheni*, *Mihăileni* with *Dominteni*, *Schinoasa* with *Țibirica*, *Topor* with *Cărpineni*, *Unteni* with *Horești* etc.). (Eremia, 2010)

In the years of the soviet rule, the preservation of the national values, of the traditional names of streets and localities was considered to be a homage to the “sombre past” and to the “world imperialism”. Thus, an ample process of sovietization and homogenization of the names of the localities had been started, but without considering the historical and cultural traditions of the peoples inside the soviet Empire. Moreover stress was laid on the ideological message of the names, this however having no connection with the real history of the regions or of the national republics.

The regular change of the names of the localities was common practice in the soviet period. For example, the “de-Stalinization” process of the society started after 1956 had also been reflected in the toponymy. Thus, the localities named after Voroișilov, Stalin’s right hand, had been renamed after the criticism of Stalin’s cult: the locality *Voroișilovo* (*Florești*, r.) was given the name *Octeabriscoie* on 10.04.1958; the locality *Voroișilovca* ⁷ (*Glodeni*, r.) was also given the name *Octeabriscoie* on 23.01.1961; the locality *Voroișilovca* ⁸ (*Lazovsc*, r.) was given the name *Lazo* on 23.01.1961. It has to be mentioned that localities with the name *Lazo* (data refers to the year 1974) existed in the *Orhei* and *Suvorov* districts, too.⁹

⁷ Until 1948 it was named *Dușman*.

⁸ Until 1948 it was named *Cuza - Vodă*.

⁹ RSS Moldovenească. Împărțire administrativ-teritorială pe data de 1 octombrie 1974./ Moldavian S.S.R. Territorial and administrative organization on October 1, 1974. Chișinău: Cartea Moldovenească, 1975, p.123-124.

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In the years of perestroika and mainly after the collapse of the USSR an inevitable trend became the return to the traditional names of localities. The town *Cernenco* renamed in 1985 got back its historical name *Șoldănești* in 1988. On May, 24, 1990 the name of the small town-like locality *Suvorov* from the district *Suvorov*¹⁰ was transformed into *Ștefan Vodă*, and the name of the district *Suvorov* into *Ștefan Vodă*.¹¹ On June, 15, 1990 the Supreme Soviet of the M. S. S. R. changed the name of the town *Cotovschi* into *Hîncești* and the name of the district *Cotovschi* into *Hîncești*,¹² and on June, 20, 1990 they restored the old name *Sîngerei* of the small town - like locality *Lazo* and of the district *Lazo*.¹³

On August, 31 1989, as a result of the growth of the level of linguistic culture of the people, as well as due to the role of scientific, ethic and moral, cultural, psychological and didactic, and social factors affecting the development of the Moldavian language, the Parliament took the decision to convert the spelling of the “Moldavian language” to the Latin alphabet, in order to liquidate the distortions occurred in the language due to some objective and subjective causes.¹⁴ In accordance with the decision of the Supreme Soviet of the M. S. S. R., the transition to the Latin alphabet in the

¹⁰ The locality was named *Chizil* until 12.28. 1949 when its name was changed into *Biruînța* (*Volontirovca, r.*), but on 12.23. 1964 it was renamed *Suvorov*.

¹¹ Hotărârea Sovietului Suprem al R.S.S.Moldovenești cu privire la unele modificări în diviziunea teritorial-administrativă a R.S.S. Moldovenești nr. 27-XII din 24.05. 90. / Decision of the Supreme Soviet of the Moldavian S.S.R. regarding some changes in the territorial- administrative division of the Moldavian S.S.R.

¹² Hotărârea Sovietului Suprem al R.S.S.M. cu privire la schimbarea denumirilor orașului Cotovschi și raionului Cotovschi din R.S.S. Moldova nr. 101-XII din 15.06.90 / Decision of the Supreme Soviet of the M S.S.R. regarding the change of the names of the town and district Cotovschi from the Moldavian S.S.R.

¹³ Hotărârea Sovietul Suprem al R.S.S.M. cu privire la restabilirea denumirii vechi a localității de tip orășenesc Lazo și a raionului Lazo nr. 120-XII din 20.06.90 / Decision of the Supreme Soviet of the M S.S.R. regarding the reestablishment of the old name of the town and district Lazo

¹⁴ Legea cu privire la revenirea limbii moldovenești la grafia latină nr. 3462-XI din 31.08.89 /The law concerning the return of the Moldavian language to the Latin alphabet.

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political, economic, social and cultural spheres of life of the republic was accomplished in two stages: 1) 1989-1993, the transition stage and 2) 1994-1995 – the completion of transition to the Latin alphabet.¹⁵

The return to the Latin alphabet and the adoption of some unique spelling norms contributed to the regulation of the national proper names, based on new principles. Rules concerning the Romanian spelling and the transliteration into Russian of the proper names had been elaborated. The enactment of the toponyms and anthroponyms in their correct traditional forms represents an outstanding achievement in the present local context. (Eremia, 2008)

According to the law *Legea cu privire la funcționarea limbilor vorbite pe teritoriul RSS Moldovenești nr. 3465-XI from 01.09.89*, “the Moldavian language” was restored in its rights. The law provides that “the Moldavian language” as an official language “is used in all the spheres of political, economic, and social life”.¹⁶

To regulate the correct spelling of the official names of the localities and administrative units of the Moldavian S. S. R., to omit inaccuracies and mistakes in the spelling of Moldavian toponyms in Romanian and to correctly transliterate them into Russian, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Moldavian S. S. R., adopted a decision, on February, 28, 1990 which approbated the materials presented by the Institute of language and literature of the Academy of Sciences of M. S. S. R. concerning the correct spelling in Romanian

¹⁵ Hotărîrea Sovietului Suprem al R.S.S. Moldovenești despre modul de punere în aplicare a Legii R.S.S. Moldovenești „Cu privire la revenirea limbii moldovenești la grafia latină” nr. 3463-XI din 31.08.89 /Decision of the Supreme Soviet of the Moldavian S.S.R. regarding the enactment of the Law of the Moldavian S.S.R. “The law concerning the return of the Moldavian language to the Latin alphabet”.

¹⁶ *Legea cu privire la funcționarea limbilor vorbite pe teritoriul R.S.S. Moldovenești nr. 3465-XI din 01.09.89* / The law concerning the functioning of the spoken languages on the territory of the Moldavian S.S.R.; Hotărîrea Sovietul Suprem al RSS Moldovenești despre modul de punere în aplicare a Legii R.S.S. Moldovenești „Cu privire la funcționarea limbilor vorbite pe teritoriul RSS Moldovenești” nr. 3466-XI din 01.09.89 / Decision of the Supreme Soviet of the Moldavian S.S.R. regarding the enactment of the Law of the Moldavian S.S.R. “The law concerning the return of the Moldavian language to the Latin alphabet”.

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and Russian of the names of the localities of the Moldavian S. S. R. (the repertoire of names of localities). Point 4 of the decision provided the publishing of the repertoire of names of localities in the republican newspapers “Moldova Socialistă”, “Sovietscaia Moldavia”, “Viața satului”, in order to instantly familiarize the population with the spelling norms of the names of localities of the Moldavian S. S. R in Moldavian and Russian.¹⁷

The return to the Latin alphabet, the adoption of unique Romanian spelling norms, the regulation of the Romanian spelling of the proper names had quickened the process of reinstatement of the historical names of the localities from the R. of Moldova.

On January 22, 1992 were restored the historical names of the following villages: *Biruința* from *Taraclia*, *r.* changed into *Borceag*; *Cotovsca* from *Soroca*, *r.* changed into *Regina Maria*; *Lazo* from *Sîngerei*, *r.* changed into *Chișcăreni*; *Octeabriscoie* from *Glodeni*, *r.* changed into *Dușmani*; *Poenița* from *Dondușeni*, *r.* changed into *Niorcani*; *Sipoteni* from *Călărași*, *r.* changed into *Șipoteni*; *Oziornoe*, *v.* from *Săngerei*, *r.* changed into *Izvoare*; *Ghidighici*, *t.*, district *Buiucani* of the city *Chișinău*, changed into *Vatra*; *Leninschi*, *t.* from *Florești*, *r.* changed into *Chindești*.¹⁸

On the same day, on January, 22, 1992, the village *Luceafărul* from *Orhei*, *r.* merged with the village *Mitocul Nou*, thus being reinstated the historical name - *Pelivan*.¹⁹ On May, 27 of the same

¹⁷ Hotărârea Prezidiului Sovietului Suprem al R.S.S. Moldovenești cu privire la reglementarea scrierii denumirilor oficiale de localități și de unități teritorial-administrative ale R.S.S. Moldovenești nr. 3757-XI din 28.02.90 / Decision of the chair of the Supreme Soviet of the Moldavian S.S.R. regarding the regulation of the spelling of the official names of localities and territorial-administrative units of the Moldavian S.S.R.

¹⁸ Hotărârea Parlamentul R. Moldova privind unele schimbări al diviziunii teritorial-administrative și ale denumirilor unor localități și commune nr. 882-XII din 22.01.92 / The decision of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova regarding some changes of the territorial – administrative division and of the names of some localities and communes.

¹⁹ Hotărârea Parlamentul R. Moldova privind unele schimbări al diviziunii teritorial-administrative și ale denumirilor unor localități și commune nr. 882-XII din 22.01.92 / The decision of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova regarding

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year were restored the historical names of the following villages: a) Cotovschi, v., Orhei, r., - the historical name *Crihana*, a new locality broke apart from it and got the name *Cucuruzenii de Sus*; b) Ustia, v., Orhei, r., got back its historical name *Inculeț*, remaining a part of the commune *Zorile*.²⁰

Considering the given context, I would like to mention that after the Union, some localities got the names of the deputies of the Sfatul Țării (the National Assembly): Anton Crihan, Ion Pelivan și Vasile Țanțu. Pan Halippa's name was conferred to a suburb of the commune *Ulmu*, the *Lăpușna* district.

In 1924, within the agrarian reform from Romania, in accordance with the directive of the minister of Internal Affairs from Bucharest, was set up the locality of *Crihana* (*Orhei, d.*). As it was a small locality it had been part of the communes of *Ciocâlteni* (1929-1931) and *Cucuruzeni* (1931-1940). During the accomplishment of the administrative reform from 1925, the vilage *Inculeț*, was part of the commune of *Cișmea*, district *Orhei*. During those 22 years when Bessarabia was part of Romania (1918-1940) the village was also a part of the communes of *Ciocâlteni* (1929-1931) and *Cucuruzeni* (1931-1940). The names of both villages were changed in 1946, when the soviet authorities decided that "they did not meet the socialist realities" anymore.

The appearance of the village *Pelivan* was a result of a natural catastrophe. Thus, during the flood from April, 4-5, 1932, caused by the sudden thaw of the snow, the heart of the village *Mitoc* from the district of *Orhei*, located in the valley of the *Răut* river, was under water. Over 300 families lost their homes. Ion Pelivan, who was sent to help the victims of the disaster, insisted that the farm "Ferma-model Orhei", that belonged to the village, to grant 60 ha for the re-

some changes of the territorial – administrative division and of the names of some localities and communes.

²⁰ Hotărârea Parlamentul R. Moldova privind unele schimbări ale diviziunii teritorial-administrative și ale denumirilor de localități și comune nr. 1043-XII din 27.05.92 / The decision of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova regarding some changes of the territorial – administrative division and of the names of some localities and communes.

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establishment of a new locality. After the village had been transferred, they named the village in honor of their saviour - Pelivan. First, the name of the locality *Pelivan* was not officially registered. It was not recorded in the governmental inventory book, being considered a suburb of the heart of the village *Mitoc*, this however didn't ever stop the natives from naming it *Pelivan*. In the soviet period, the locality had the name *Mitocul Nou*, and several times shifted from one village soviet to another. (Tașcă,2012)

On May, 27, 1992 the name of the commune of *Cricova Nouă*, part of the municipality of *Chișinău*, was changed into *Ciorescu*,²¹ and on March, 02 1993 the historical name of the village was restored *Pridnestrovscoe, Camenca, r.- Tîrgul-Vertiujeni*²².

The process of coming-back to the traditional names of the localities continued even after the enactment and enforcement of the law *Legii privind organizarea administrativ-teritorială a Republicii Moldova nr. 306-XIII* from 12.07.94.²³

Thus, on December, 08, 1995, the locality *Sturzești, Glodeni,r.* was renamed *Sturzovca*, and the locality *Cobîlnea, Șoldănești, r.* was renamed *Cobîlea*.²⁴ On December, 26, 1995, by the separation from the town Rîșcani of a part of the territory, was recreated an

²¹ Hotărârea Parlamentul R. Moldova privind unele schimbări ale diviziunii teritorial-administrative și ale denumirilor de localități și comune nr. 1043-XII din 27.05.92 / The decision of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova regarding some changes of the territorial - administrative division and of the names of some localities and communes.

²² Hotărârea Parlamentul R. Moldova privind unele schimbări în diviziunea administrativ - teritorială și restabilirea denumirii istorice a Satului Pridnestrovscoe din raionul Camenca nr. 1317-XII din 02.03.93/ The decision of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova regarding some changes of the territorial - administrative devision and of the restoration of the historical name of the village Pridnestrovscoe from Camenca raion.

²³ Published in Monitorul Oficial al R.Moldova nr.3-4/40 din 14.01.1995. Abrogated on 12.30. 1998 by the Law of the R.Moldova nr.191-XIV din 12.11.1998.

²⁴ Lege pentru modificarea Anexei nr.3 la legea privind organizarea administrativ-teritorială a Republicii Moldova nr. 676-XIII din 08.12.95 / The law for the modification of the Annex nr.3 of the law concerning the territorial-administrative organization of the Republic of Moldova.

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administrative division and was restored Nihoreni the historical name - of the village that used to exist as an independent locality.²⁵ On April, 24, 1996 the name of the commune *Șipoteni, Călărași, r.* was changed into *Sipoteni*,²⁶ and on February, 04, 1997 the locality *Talmaz, Ștefan Vodă, r.* was renamed *Talmaz*.²⁷

Although many localities restored their historical names, the process is not over yet. Even today one can still find in the toponymic landscape of the R. Moldova names of localities improper to the national spirit and historical traditions.

Bizarre names, unfit to the national toponymy are not only preserved, but even worse, even today the Moldavian lawmaker creates toponymic monsters.

The Parliament set up the locality *Fabrica de Zahăr* ²⁸ as a part of the town Fălești, on 04.05 2007, mainly from political considerations.²⁹ Besides the fact that the locality was given a weird

²⁵ Lege pentru formarea unor unități administrativ-teritoriale și pentru modificarea și completarea Legii privind organizarea administrativ-teritorială a Republicii Moldova / The Law for the formation of some territorial-administrative units and for the modification and complementation of the law concerning the territorial-administrative organization of the Republic of Moldova nr.706-XIII din 26.12.95. (Abrogated on.12. 301998 by the Law of R.Moldova nr.191-XIV from 11.12. 1998).

Lege pentru modificarea anexei nr.3 la Legea privind organizarea administrativ-teritorială a Republicii Moldova nr. 812-XIII din 24.04.96 / The law for the modification of the Annex nr.3 of the law concerning the territorial-administrative organization of the Republic of Moldova. (Abrogated on 12.30. 1998 by the Law of R.Moldova nr.191-XIV from 12.11.1998).

²⁷ Lege pentru modificarea anexei nr.3 la Legea privind organizarea administrativ-teritorială a Republicii Moldova nr. 1096-XIII din 04.02.97 / The law for the modification of the Annex nr.3 of the law concerning the territorial-administrative organization of the Republic of Moldova. (Abrogated on 12.30.1998 by the Law of R.Moldova nr.191-XIV din 12.11.1998).

²⁸ On January 01, 2012 the population of the locality Fabrica de Zahăr was of 1000 people. In: <http://www.statistica.md/newsview.php?l=ro&idc=168&id=3719&parent=0>

²⁹ Legea pentru modificarea și completarea anexei nr.3 la Legea nr.764-XV din 27 decembrie 2001 privind organizarea administrativ-teritorială a Republicii Moldova nr. 90-XVI din 05.04.2007 / The law for the modification and complementation of

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name, the Law nr. 90 from 04.05. 2007 did not consider the existing realities and groundlessly made the newly created locality a part of the town of *Fălești*, thus depriving the village of *Sărata Veche* of the lands that it rightly possessed: the sugar plant was built on 145 ha of land that belonged to the village. (Gâștemulte, 2011).

Even now we encounter among the names of the localities from the R. Moldova a great number of localities with names improper to the national toponyms. I make reference to some localities which have names of a soviet origin and to those with the suffixes *-ca* and *-evca*. Further, I present, a list of such localities:

In the raion of *Anenii Noi*: the communes of *Ciobanovca* (Mirnoe)³⁰, *Maximovca* and *Zolotievca* (Nicolaevca), the locality of *Beriozchi* as part of the town of *Anenii Noi*.

In the raion of *Basarabeasca*: the communes of *Carabetovca* and *Iordanovca*, the locality of *Ivanovca* from the commune of *Iserlia*.

In the raion of *Briceni*: the locality of *Chirilovca* from the commune of *Halahora de Sus*, the locality of *Pavlovca* from the commune of *Larga*.

In the raion of *Cahul*: communes of *Iujnoe* and of *Lebedenco*.

In the raion of *Cantemir*: the commune of *Vișniovca*, the locality of *Șofranovca* from the commune of *Cîșla*, the locality of *Popovca* from the commune of *Lingura*.

In the raion of *Căușeni*: the communes of *Grigorievca*, *Pervomaisc* (*Constantinovca*), *Ucrainca* (*Zviozdocica*).

In the raion of *Cimișlia*: the town of *Cimișlia* (*Bogdanovca Veche*, *Bogdanovca Nouă*, *Dimitrovca*), the communes of *Ecaterinovca*, *Ivanovca Nouă*, *Mihailovca*, *Troițcoe*, the locality of *Iurievca* from the commune of *Gradiște*, the locality of *Artimonovca* from the commune of *Javgur*.

In the raion of *Criuleni*: the commune of *Dolinnoe*.

In the raion of *Dondușeni* the communes of *Elizavetovca*, *Pocrovca*, locality *Octiabriscoe* from the commune of *Moșana*, locality

the Annex nr.3 of the law nr.764-XV from December 27, 2001 concerning the territorial-administrative organization of the Republic of Moldova.

³⁰ Here and farther on in brackets are presented the localities included in the given communes.

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of *Elenovca* from the commune of *Tîrnova*.

In the raion of *Drochia*: the communes of *Maramonovca*, *Miciurin*, *Pervomaiscoe*, locality of *Lazo* from the commune of *Hăsnășenii Noi*, the localities of *Ceapaevca* and *Iliciovca* from the commune of *Șalvirii Vechi*.

In the raion of *Dubăsari*: the locality of *Vasilievca* from the commune of *Cocieri*

In the raion of *Edineț*: the communes of *Alexeevca* and *Constantinovca*.

In the raion of *Fălești*: the communes of *Egorovca*, *Natalievca* (*Comarovca*, *Ivanovca*, *Popovca*), *Pompa* (*Pervomaisc*, *Suvorovca*), the locality of *Fabrica de Zahăr*, as part of the town of *Fălești*, locality of *Nicolaevca* from the commune of *Scumpia*.

In the raion of *Florești*: the communes of *Alexeevca* (*Chirilovca*), *Iliciovca* (*Maiscoe*), *Nicolaevca*, locality of *Mihailovca* from the commune of *Prajila*, locality of *Ivanovca* from the commune of *Sevirova*, the locality of *Alexandrovca* from the commune of *Trifănești*, the locality of *Octeabriscoe* from the commune of *Văscăuți*.

In the raion of *Glodeni*: the commune of *Sturzovca*, the locality of *Nicolaevca* from the commune of *Danu*.

In the raion of *Hîncești*: the communes of *Crasnoarmeiscoe*, *Ivanovca*, *Pervomaiscoe*, the locality of *Dubovca* from the commune of *Bozieni*, the localities of *Coroliovca* and *Brătianovca* from the commune of *Sărata-Galbenă*.

In the raion of *Ialoveni*: the localities of *Alexandrovca*, *Misovca* and *Homuteanovca* from the commune of *Gangura*,

In the raion of *Leova*: the communes of *Cneazevca*, *Colibabovca*, *Romanovca*, the locality of *Nicolaevca* from the commune of *Hăsnășenii Noi*.

In the raion of *Ocnîța*: the commune of *Calarașovca* (*Berezovca*), the locality of *Maiovca* from the commune of *Ocnîța*.

In the raion of *Orhei*: the locality of *Andreevca* from the commune of *Chipereni*.

In the raion of *Rîșcani*: the commune of *Malinovscoe*, the locality of *Ciobanovca* from the commune of *Grinăuți*.

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In the raion of *Sîngerei*: the locality of *Nicolaevca* from the commune of *Chișcăreni*, the localities of *Antonovca*, *Evghenievca*, *Gavrilovca*, *Petrovca* from the commune of *Copăceni*, the locality of *Petropavlovca* from the commune of *Grigorăuca*, the locality of *Romanovca* from the commune *Pepeni*, locality of *Mihailovca* from the commune of *Prepețița*, locality of *Octeabriscoe* from the commune of *Țambula*, locality of *Cotovca* from the commune of *Dobrogea Veche*,

In the raion of *Soroca*: the locality of *Lugovoe* from the commune of *Regina Maria*, the locality of *Ruslanovca* from the commune of *Vasilcău*.

In the raion of *Strășeni*: the locality of *Rassvet* from the commune of *Bucovăț*, the locality of *Gornoe* from the commune of *Micăuți*.

In the raion of *Ștefan Vodă*: the commune of *Semionovca*, the locality of *Lazo* from the commune of *Alava*.

In the raion of *Taraclia*: the communes of *Novosiolovca*, *Vinogradovca* (*Chirilovca*, *Mirnoe*), the locality of *Orehovca* from the commune of *Salcia*.

In the raion of *Ungheni*: the communes of *Alexeevca* (*Lidovca*), *Agronomovca*, the locality of *Romanovca* part of the town of *Cornești*, the locality of *Drujba* from the commune of *Hîrcești*, locality of *Novaia Nicolaevca* from the commune of *Mănoilești*, locality of *Hristoforovca* from the commune of *Pîrlița*, locality of *Elizavetovca* from the commune of *Zagarancea*.

UTA Găgăuzia: the communes of *Cotovscoe*, *Svetlîi* (*Alexeevca*), *Ferapontievca*. In Transnistria soviet toponymics remained unchanged.³¹

I consider it necessary to study thoroughly the evolution of their names and where it's possible, to return to the original names.

Regretfully, a large part of our citizens cannot give up the mutilated toponyms of localities, which are an expression of the totalitarian terror and of a distorted human consciousness.

³¹ Anexele 3, 4 și 5 ale Legii privind organizarea administrativ-teritorială a Republicii Moldova nr. 764-XV din 27.12.2001 / The law concerning the territorial-administrative organization of the Republic of Moldova.

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