

E-ISSN: 2360 – 6754; ISSN-L: 2360 – 6754

European Journal of Law and Public Administration

2018, Volume 5, Issue 2, pp. 153-162

<https://doi.org/10.18662/eljpa/51>

PARALLEL APPROACH ON TERRITORIAL DIVISION IN THE ROMANIAN AND MOLDOVAN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS - SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

Petronela SCUTARIU

Irina UDOVENCO

Covered in:

CEEOL, Ideas RePeC, EconPapers, Socionet,
HeinOnline

Published by:

Lumen Publishing House

On behalf of:

STEFAN CEL MARE UNIVERSITY FROM SUCEAVA,
FACULTY OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES,
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES

PARALLEL APPROACH ON TERRITORIAL DIVISION IN THE ROMANIAN AND MOLDOVAN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS - SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

Petronela SCUTARIU¹
Irina UDOVENCO²

Abstract

It has always been said about these two states on both sides of the Prut, Romania and the Republic of Moldova, that they are sister countries, reliable partners on the sinuous road of their common history. From this direction, in the space of this article, we propose to analyze, from a parallel perspective, the administrative-territorial division of the Romanian national territory, on the one hand, and of the Moldovan one, on the other side, to identify similarities and differences between them. The research carried out in the pages of this paper has first shown the close location of these two territories; then the study highlighted the integration of both states into many international organizations, a difference being identified in the fact that Romania, unlike Moldova, is a member of the European Union; another difference is given by the fact that the county administrative-territorial unit does not meet on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, but for this level there is a division called rayon; we finally found that both states are divided into development regions for the implementation of the national regional development policy.

Keywords:

Administrative-territorial division, Romanian territory, Moldovan territory, commune, city, municipality, county, rayon, development regions

JEL classification: H79, H83

¹ Lecturer PhD, "Ștefan cel Mare" University of Suceava, Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences, Suceava, Romania, petronela.scutariu@fdsa.usv.ro

² Master Graduate, "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Faculty of Economy and Business Administration, Galați, Romania, irina.udovenco@gmail.com

I. INTRODUCTION

This article has as a subject the investigation of the two neighboring states that have always been a whole, a single country, but which after the 1990's have reached conflicts, beginning with the proclamation of the independence of the Republic of Moldova of 27 August 1991. Over time, the conflicts became more and more tense, their settlement being possible through the unification of the two states, an event that did not occur due to the very rapid expansion of the Soviet forces at that time on Moldovan Plain. Such an advance of the expansions of Soviet has led to the formation of the Autonomous Region of Găgăuzia, located in the south of the country and of the Transnistria - an unrecognized republic. The purpose of establishing these two territories was to stagnate the process of reuniting Romania and Moldova by the Russians.

In this context, in the space of this article, we aim to achieve the next goal: the analysis from a parallel perspective of the territorial-administrative division of the Romanian national territory, on the one hand, and of the Moldovan, on the other side, to identify similarities, but also differences between them.

II. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCALIZATION AND RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF ROMANIA AND OF REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

From a geographic point of view, Romania and Republic of Moldova are located in Southeastern Europe, the location of both countries being visible in the next figure (see Figure no. 1):



Figure no. 1. Location of Romania and of Republic of Moldova

Source:

https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rela%C8%9Biile_dintre_Republica_Moldova_%C8%99i_Rom%C3%A2nia [accessed on September 10, 2018] [1]

The wonderful Romanian Plain is famous for its picturesque Black Sea, Danube Delta and Carpathian Mountains. Exit to sea is a great advantage to Romania for economic growth, hobby development - fishing, tourism, the development of shipping. The Danube is always crossed by cargo ships, the import and permanent export of goods, but also cruise ship trips.

The Republic of Moldova does not have a direct water outlet, like its neighbor Romania, but people can find relief in the heart of nature, in a place untouched by no one, a special place of inner retreat. The parks, the forests, the ponds, the lakes, all bring us into the heart of nature for a moment of rest, for a moment of peace. A chance to get out of the Black Sea is in the south of the country by going to the Danube.

Over the years, both countries have joined and become members of some international organizations. Thus, both countries are members of organizations such as the ONU (United Nations Organization) and OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe).

Romania, as opposed to Moldova, is a member of the EU (European Union) since 2007, World Bank Group, OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development), EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development), IMF (International Monetary Fund), NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), CoE (Council of Europe), IOF (International Organization of Francophonie), Latin Union.

The other country has become a member of the Council of Europe, WTO (World Trade Organization), GUAM (a regional idea consisting of four

states - Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Republic of Moldova; this organization was established on October 10, 1997 in Strasbourg), CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States), BSECO (Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization) and has signed the Partnership for Peace on March 16, 1994. For joining the European Union, the Republic of Moldova has implemented some projects and strategies, but these are not enough to become a member. For this purpose, the first 3-years Action Plan was implemented in practice in the European Neighborhood Policy.

III. PARTICULARITIES OF ADMINISTRATIVE-TERRITORIAL DIVISION IN ROMANIA

Since the appearance of the first Constitution, **the territory of Romania** has been administratively divided into villages, communes, cities and counties; in turn, some cities have become municipalities.

The Romanian territory has 2861 communes, totaling 12957 villages [2]. Thus, a commune is a basic unit of the administrative organization, composed of one or more villages. The commune is governed by a mayor and the local council.

The next stage of the administrative-territorial division is *the city*. On the whole Romanian territory there are 320 cities, of which 103 are declared municipalities, the remaining of 217 being cities [2]. The city is governed by an elected mayor and by the local council, as well as the commune case. The cities declared more important, such as some university centers, high-profile tourist or political centers, are called municipalities. Cities-municipalities are Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Timișoara, Galați, Brăila, Bacău, Târgu Mureș and others. The mentioned cities are just a few of the wide list of cities-municipalities that can constitute metropolitan areas of Romania, due to the communication routes - road, rail, naval, air; have more population; have developed various sectors of the economy - productive, social-cultural or water transport services; universities or diversified education institutions - schools, lyceums. These municipalities are ranked 0 and I, with national importance and potential at European level.

The II ranking municipalities are of inter-county importance or with a balance role in the network of localities. On the territory of Romania there are, as mentioned above, a number of 103 municipalities. Municipalities are

managed by the mayor. The main difference between the municipality and the city is mainly given by the political-administrative criterion.

The third administrative-territorial unit is *the county* that is governed by a prefect and the county council. The prefect is appointed by the Government and has the status of a representative of the Government at territorial level, and the county council coordinates the activity of the communal, town and municipal councils in order to achieve the public services of county interest [3]. There are 41 counties in the Romanian territory and the municipality of Bucharest [4] (see Figure no. 2). The capital is designated as a municipality, with county administrative level, being delimited in six sectors.



Figure no. 2. Administrative map of Romania

Source: http://inpolitics.ro/ce-mai-cloceste-pdl-dupa-regionalizare-se-reduc-masiv-localitatile_1813449.html [accessed on September 11, 2018] [5]

In other respects, it should be noted that in 1998, within a PHARE project, development regions were created in Romania. By the freely consented association of the counties and of the Bucharest Municipality, eight development regions were established. Organization at the level of the regions was a European standard, which had to be fulfilled as the stage in the process of joining the European Union. The Development Regions do not have the status of administrative units and do not have legal personality, but they are territorial structures in which the implementation and evaluation of the national policy of regional development is realized. [6]

The eight regions are North-East, South-East, South, South-West, West, North-West, Center and Ilfov, and from the point of view of historical names these are known as Moldova, Dobrogea, Muntenia, Banat, Crișana and Maramureș (see Figure no. 3, Figure no. 4):



Figure no. 3. Map of historical regions in Romania

Source:

<https://civitaspolitics.org/2010/12/07/o-pledoarie-pentru-federalizarea-romaniei/>
[accessed on September 12, 2018] [7]



Figure no. 4. Map of development regions in Romania

Source: <http://turism.bzi.ro/cum-ar-arata-harta-romaniei-dupa-reforma-administrativa-opt-regiuni-cu-bugete-proprii-si-presedinti-alesi-11743> [accessed on September

12, 2018] [8]

IV. TERRITORIAL UNITS IN THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

As in the neighboring country, after the appearance of the first Constitution of the **Republic of Moldova**, the territory of the country was organized in rayons, cities and villages. The territorial-administrative organization of Moldova across the Prut is constituted on two levels. The first level is represented by villages, sectors and towns, and at the second level we meet the rayons, Chișinău Municipality and Bălți Municipality.

The village, also called commune, is an administrative-territorial unit headed by a mayor and the village council; if the village is part of the commune is headed by the same administrative bodies. The village is a territorial unit with a rural population united through the territory, geographical conditions, economic and socio-cultural relations, time well-developed and preserved over traditions and customs. Today we find 1681 villages throughout the territory.

Without exception, the commune in the Republic of Moldova is composed of two or more villages, as well as in Romania.

Another administrative-territorial unit is the *city*. From an economic and socio-cultural point of view, the city is more developed than the village. The vast majority of the population of a city is in the public service sphere, in different fields of intellectual activity, in industry, in cultural and political life. The urban settlement differs also by the larger number of population as

opposed to the village, on the territory of the Republic of Moldova being 65 cities. Under the conditions provided by law, cities may be declared municipalities and are headed by a mayor.

Municipalities are urban localities of major importance in the economy, socio-culture, science, politics and in the administrative life of the country with important structures such as industry, trade, education, health and culture. Cities with status of municipalities are Chişinău, Bălţi, Bender, Comrat, Tiraspol and are governed by their mayor and the municipal council.

The last territorial unit is *the rayon*, consisting of several villages (communes) and cities. The rayon is administered by a rayon council and the rayon president, together with the mayor of the rayon. There are 32 rayons [9] on the territory of the country. This unit represents a Soviet system of administrative division of the territory, the boundaries of each rayon being represented in the following figure (see Figure no. 5):



Figure no. 5. Administrative map of the Republic of Moldova

Source:

https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lista_ora%C8%99elor_din_Republica_Moldova [accessed on September 13, 2018] [10]

The territory of the Republic of Moldova is divided into development units, these being six - North, Center, South, Găgăuzia, Chişinău and Transnistria (see Figure 6):



Figure no. 6. Map of administrative regions in the Republic of Moldova

Source: <http://www.basarabia.md/prizrak-federalizacii-moldovy-mozhet-vernutsya/> [accessed on September 13, 2018] [11]

The emergence of these regions on the territory of the Republic of Moldova aimed at balanced socio-economic development on the entire territory of the country as well as within each region.

The North Development Region has its headquarters in Bălți, and its structure include rayons such as Soroca, Ocnița, Glodeni and others.

The Center Development Region has its headquarters in Ialoveni and comprises rayons like Anenii Noi, Călărași, Criuleni and others.

The Southern Region, based in Cimișlia, includes rayons such as Cahul, Cantemir, Leova or Ștefan Vodă.

Chișinău Municipality, representing the capital of the country, and Transnistria, officially named The administrative-territorial units on the left bank of the Nistru, including the Tiraspol and Bender municipalities, are part of the territory of the Republic of Moldova.

Găgăuzia is known by the official Autonomous Territorial Unit of Găgăuzia [12].

V. CONCLUSIONS

On the background of the present pages, we can conclude that the mirror analysis of the territorial divisions of the public administrations of the two states located on both sides of the Prut made it possible to identify similarities but also differences between them.

First, the very close location of the Romanian and Moldovan territories shows the status of their sister states.

Then, both countries under review are members of several international organizations. Romania, unlike Moldova, is a member of the European Union.

Regarding the territorial organization of the two countries, as it results from the investigations carried out, on the territory of the Republic of Moldova does not meet the county administrative-territorial unit, but for this level there is the division called rayon. Be it rayon or county, both have several cities in administration.

Also, the territory of Romania as well as that of the Republic of Moldova is divided into development regions, which are territorial structures in which the implementation and evaluation of the national policy of regional development is realized.

Bibliography:

- [1] https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rela%C8%9Biile_dintre_Republica_Moldova_%C8%99i_Rom%C3%A2nia [accessed on September 10, 2018]
- [2] National Institute of Statistics, Tempo-online Base, the last update May 6, 2017, available at <http://statistici.insse.ro/shop/?lang=ro> [accessed on September 10, 2018]
- [3] Law no. 215 of 23 April 2001 of the local public administration, republished in the Official Gazette no. 123 of 20 February 2007
- [4] <http://www.romaniaview.info/> [accessed on September 11, 2018]
- [5] http://inpolitics.ro/ce-mai-cloceste-pdl-dupa-regionalizare-se-reduc-masiv-localitatile_1813449.html [accessed on September 11, 2018]
- [6] <http://www.scriub.com/stiinta/stiinte-politice/POLITICA-DE-DEZVOLTARE-REGIONA6516151714.php> [accessed on September 12, 2018]
- [7] <https://civitaspolitics.org/2010/12/07/o-pledoarie-pentru-federalizarea-romaniei/> [accessed on September 12, 2018]

- [8] <http://turism.bzi.ro/cum-ar-arata-harta-romaniei-dupa-reforma-administrativa-opt-regiuni-cu-bugete-proprii-si-presedinti-alesi-11743> [accessed on September 12, 2018]
- [9] Law no. 764 / 27.12.2001 on the administrative-territorial organization of the Republic of Moldova, published on 29.01.2002 in the Official Gazette no. 16, art. 53
- [10] https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lista_or%C8%99elor_din_Republica_Moldova [accessed on September 13, 2018]
- [11] <http://www.basarabia.md/prizrak-federalizacii-moldovy-mozhet-vernutsya/>
- [12] Law no. 438 / 28.12.2006 on regional development in the Republic of Moldova, published on 16.02.2007 in the Official Gazette no. 21-24, art. 68.