

FINAL REPORT

Participation of National Minorities in Public
Life Including their Interaction
with Public Authorities

● ● ● EUROPEAN CENTRE
● ● ● FOR
● ● ● MINORITY ISSUES



SUPPORTED BY THE MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DENMARK

CONTENT

INTRODUCTION.....	05
I. GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONCEPTUAL NOTES	06
1. General Information.....	06
2. Terminology and Major Concepts	06
<i>Minorities</i>	06
<i>Participation</i>	07
<i>Representation</i>	08
<i>Mechanisms for the Communication and Participation</i> <i>of Minorities in Decision-Making</i>	08
<i>International Legal Framework</i>	09
3. Previous studies.....	12
II. LEGAL FRAMEWORKS IN BELARUS, MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE.....	14
1. Belarus	14
<i>International Obligations</i>	14
<i>General Constitutional and Legislative Norms on Ethnic Communities</i>	15
<i>Other Laws and Norms Related to Ethnic Groups Participation</i>	15
2. Moldova	16
<i>International Obligations</i>	16
<i>General Constitutional and Legislative Norms on Participation</i>	16
<i>Gagauzia</i>	17
3. Ukraine.....	18
<i>International Obligations</i>	18
<i>General Constitutional and Legislative Norms on Participation</i>	19
<i>Norms Directly Related to Minority Participation</i>	19
III. STRUCTURE OF ETHNIC DIVERSITY MANAGEMENT	20
1. Belarus	20
<i>Parliament</i>	20
<i>Central Executive Power</i>	20
<i>Other Executive Authorities</i>	22
<i>Local Authorities</i>	22
<i>Situation in Transnistria</i>	22
3. Ukraine.....	22
<i>Legislative Power</i>	22
<i>Regional Authorities</i>	24

IV. STRUCTURES AND PRACTICES OF INTERACTION WITH MINORITIES. PROBLEMS AND POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENTS.....	26
1. Belarus	26
<i>The Role of Non-Governmental Organisations.....</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Roma mediators.....</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Representation through Public Elected Bodies.....</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Role of Executive Authorities</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Major Communication Problems.....</i>	<i>34</i>
3. Ukraine.....	34
<i>Role of Non-Governmental Organisations.....</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>The Role of Verkhovna Rada</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>Major Communication Problems.....</i>	<i>38</i>
RECOMMENDATIONS	42
<i>Mechanisms for Dispute Resolution.....</i>	<i>44</i>
<i>Education and Awareness-raising</i>	<i>46</i>
<i>Civil Society Activities</i>	<i>46</i>