

# Identificational and Attitudinal Trends in the Ukrainian–Romanian Borderland of Bukovina

Nadiia Bureiko and Teodor Lucian Moga

***Abstract:** This article explores from a bottom-up perspective the societal perceptions, attitudes, and attachments existing in the Ukrainian–Romanian borderland of Bukovina at the level of the two most significant minority groups: those who self-identify as Romanians, live in the northern part of Bukovina, and are citizens of Ukraine; and those who self-identify as Ukrainians, live in the southern part of Bukovina, and are citizens of Romania. The paper argues that these two communities share a mixture of multifaceted identities and attachments which could be explained by the strong ethnic and cultural diversity of the region and by its complex historical evolution.*

## **Introduction**

After the dissolution of the communist bloc, in a complex quest to crystallize their nationhood and national identity, the newly reconfigured states of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) have evolved within a framework “of multiple cultural and national loyalties on the one hand and of mutually-exclusive identities on the other” (Magosci 1989: 51-52). No longer bound by the communist system to affirm the continuity of the nation, most of the CEE countries attempted to connect to the pre-communist period (Elster 1991: 476). Concurrently, their political leaderships focused on the development of updated narratives for their ethno-national state policies, a process which was particularly complex given that in most of the CEE countries there is no congruence between ethnicity and nation-state frontiers (Kuzio 1997: 36; Sanford 1997: 45; King and Melvin 1999). This could be a