# SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN COOPERATION OF THE BLACK SEA REGION COUNTRIES: CHALLENGES, TRENDS AND PROSPECTS FOR MOLDOVA

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*This research represents the regional and foreign policy of the Black Sea region, cooperation within the framework of social and humanitarian organizations, elaborated with the help of analysis of socio-humanitarian issues and problems in this region, highlighting the main challenges, trends and prospect for the Republic of Moldova and the current stage.*

At the regional level, the Black Sea region is a strategically important object, where, in addition to economic and energy interests, there is a problem of post-Soviet conflicts, ethnic differences. The region is characterized by migratory flows of population, as a result of problems with living standards. The abundance of social programs and platforms for cooperation between the countries of the Black Sea region emphasizes the relevance of studying social and humanitarian cooperation, which is more relevant than ever for each state of this territory.

The importance of the topic at the national level indicates that the Republic of Moldova is a full-fledged participant in the events in the Black Sea space. Humanitarian cooperation will enable the Republic of Moldova to clearly and clearly create clear and hidden risks in the standard of living of the population, as well as in other areas of social policy. It is possible to exchange specialists in the humanitarian and social fields, as well as the participation of Moldovan representatives in humanitarian programs by regional organizations and at the interstate level.

So, research issue is presented by the aspects of the socio-humanitarian Black Sea cooperation and its impact on the existing challenges and risks for the Republic of Moldova. That is why, the object of this thesis represents the regional and foreign policy of the countries of the Black Sea region, interstate relations, as well as

cooperation within the framework of social and humanitarian organizations. In analytical-applicative chapters, the most importance was given to the objectives such as identification the socio-humanitarian problems and risks for the Black Sea region countries at the present stage; demonstration the social and humanitarian aspects of Moldova's foreign policy in the Black Sea region through the national and interstate relations and assumption of the main trends and prospects for the Republic of Moldova social development within the framework of the Black Sea regional cooperation.

Taking as a basis the research of such Western authors as N. Gleditsch [1]; J. Christensen, J. Thoennessen, J. Walker [2]; post-Soviet researchers as T. Gella [3] and O. Bogatyreva, N. Kozykina, K. Tabarintseva-Romanova [4]; Moldavan scholars as I. Moroz [5] and T. Daut [6], were used sociological and mathematic methods (content and event analysis), also methods of political science (case-study, comparative method), historical method was also applied.

The result of historiographic and theoretical research was not without the foundation of the review of the literary list, important for the studied domain. Social and humanitarian cooperation entails active interference on a legitimate basis in the internal affairs of another state, establishing relations with it on a long-term basis. The effectiveness of social cooperation depends on the correct positioning of the parties involved. There should be an equal position of the positions of the participating parties for their further cohesive development on certain problems. A special place is occupied by a civilized civil society, which is aware of the ways and mechanisms of protecting interests. Both social and humanitarian components are equal important, which complement each other, while only strengthening the field for cooperation and partnership between stakeholders.

Concentration on study of the currents trends within relationships between Black Sea region's key actors we can underline that, the Burgas Vision Paper, the key framework document for a shared vision of a productive, healthy, resilient, sustainable and better-valued Black Sea by 2030. It addresses the key pillars on which a new Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda can be built on. It can be noticed

that there are four main pillars of the Black Sea region development [7]. Based on the past events of 2020, the established crisis areas for member states, both at the international level and within the Black Sea region, are clearly distinguished: first to the health crisis (i.e., lockdown measures) and then to the economic consequences of those lockdown measures. The second section covers a discussion of the effects of the crisis on economies and two sectors that are particularly important for showing differences between countries. The third section deals with social consequences, pointing to an even greater differentiation between countries [8, p. 53].

The Republic of Moldova analysis in the context of the Black Sea States cooperation lead to the following conclusions. The resilience of the Black Sea ecosystem will be improved by adequate protection and by achieving a good environmental status of the sea and rivers flowing into the sea. The environmental and anthropogenic pressure to the biological resources will be reduced by taking common or joint protection measures by the Contracting Parties of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution [9, p. 2]. For Moldova it will be useful to be an active participant in the project, connected with the platform, which will "encourage joint projects amongst protected areas - marine, coastal and wetlands – connecting the sea, limans, deltas, lagoons and rivers in the Black Sea region. Nevertheless, the membership of the Republic of Moldova in the project of the Three Seas Initiative will provide an opportunity for the implementation of priority areas in cooperation with active developed European states.

To sum up, it will be necessary for Moldova to follow these steps: 1) developing regional cooperation between relevant legal authorities (police, border guards, migration and asylum services, custom); 2) reinforcing structures and necessary procedures for evaluating environmental impact, including in a cross-border context; improvement of respective legislation; 3) intensifying contacts and regional cross-border capacity by undertaking the opportunities and challenges which arise from the EU enlargement.

The Black Sea region is the object of both regional and international interests. Interested and active participants establish links

among themselves in the form of cooperation and partnership, based on intersecting mutual interests. The social and humanitarian spheres are characteristic features of modern trends for cooperation. Sustainability will be achieved through a close exchange of experience and past practices on national issues between developed and less developed countries. The success is due to detailed monitoring by international and regional institutions, which will provide forecasts and recommendations to their participants. Recommendations for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova include several key domains: in the area of human rights protection, modifications should be made to the anti-trafficking policy, which would serve as an instrument to reduce risks and consequences at the national level, as well as to protect citizens outside the State, through regional cooperation. The field of environmental protection has a tool for the approach of humanitarian issues, as the Danube and Dniester Commissions, as ones of the existing mechanisms, is a good platform for active foreign policy of the Republic of Moldova.

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