



Nikolai Genov (Ed.)

Interethnic Integration

in five European societies

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This book is the result of the international research project *Comparing Societal Integration of Ethnic Minorities* (InterEthno) funded by the INTAS Programme of the European Union.

Present day ethnic relations question the vision of progressing assimilation of ethnic minorities. Neither the development of traditional nor of new minorities follows this pattern any more. The reasons are related to the modern means of transportation and communication, to the porous state borders and the global spread of cultural pluralism and individualization. Democratic governance and constitutional human rights also allow ethnic minorities to resist ethnic assimilation. The ideas about integration of minorities or of multiculturalism offer little theoretical and practical help in this dynamic situation. We witness the turn to interethnic integration in the sense of convergence of values, normative standards and behavioural patterns among ethnic groups. This concept fosters the discourse and policies focusing on full economic, political and social citizenship for representatives of all ethnic groups. The concept implies respect to ethnic diversity and ethnic symbioses together with efforts to institutionalize the mutual enrichment of cultures.

This cross national comparative research of experts (Russian Federation, Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria and Germany) is of high actuality and provides deep and new insights in the subject of "Interethnic Integration".

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