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## DYNAMICS OF “TRANSDANUBIAN SETTLERS” IN BESSARABIA IN THE EARLY XIX<sup>th</sup> CENTURY: MIGRATION PROCESSES AND NATURAL GROWTH

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### Rezumat

#### Dinamica numărului „coloniștilor transdanubieni” în Basarabia la începutul secolului al XIX-lea: procese migraționale și creștere naturală

Studiul dinamicii numărului de coloniști transdanubieni din Basarabia în prima jumătate a secolului al XIX-lea este una dintre sarcinile importante, a cărei soluție se află în planul demografiei istorice. Implicând metodele sale, în această lucrare ne referim la formele de realizare a potențialului structurii de vârstă și sex a populației – model sau mod de reproducere demografică a unei comunități, ținând cont de migrațiile la scară largă ale reprezentanților acesteia. Rezultatele studiului se bazează pe o analiză comparativă a trei variante ale coeficientului de creștere naturală (CCN) a populației, calculate de noi. Primul este pentru intervale de timp mai mari în care ratele natalității și mortalității sunt necunoscute, al doilea este pentru intervalele anuale în care ratele totale ale natalității și mortalității sunt cunoscute în date absolute, iar al treilea se bazează pe variabilitatea ratelor natalității și mortalității în colonii aparte. Autorul articolului ajunge la concluzia că perioada primei jumătăți a secolului al XIX-lea este momentul formării unei comunități prin strămutare și adaptare la noile realități din Bugeac, stabilizarea și evoluția acesteia în regiune, datorită propriului potențial. Perioada 1818–1835 devine o etapă în formarea unei resurse populaționale. Dezvoltarea demografică a comunității în perioada 1835–1850 trece prin auto-reproducere, fără intervenția factorilor de migrație. Datorită creșterii demografice și a natalității, comunitatea în 1850 are 82,2 mii de oameni. Evident, potențialul demografic al grupului în prima jumătate a secolului al XIX-lea a fost realizat destul de puternic.

**Cuvinte-cheie:** populația Basarabiei, migrație, creștere naturală, potențial demografic, coloniști transdanubieni.

### Резюме

#### Динамика численности «задунайских переселенцев» в Бессарабии в начале XIX в.: миграционные процессы и естественный прирост

Изучение динамики численности задунайских переселенцев в Бессарабии на протяжении первой половины XIX в. является одной из важных задач, решение которой находится в плоскости исторической демографии. Привлекая ее методы, в данной работе автор обращается к формам реализации потенциала половозрастной структуры населения – модели или режима демографического воспроизводства сообщества с учетом масштабных миграций его представителей. Результаты исследования базируются на компаративном анализе трех вариантов коэффициента естественного прироста (КЕП) населения, подсчитанных автором. Первый – для более крупных интервалов времени, где коэффициенты рождаемости и смертности неизвестны, второй – для ежегодных интервалов, где известны общие

показатели рождаемости и смертности в абсолютных данных, третий – на базе рассчитанной автором статьи вариативности коэффициентов рождаемости и смертности в отдельных колониях. В результате делается вывод, что первая половина XIX в. является временем формирования сообщества путем переселений и адаптации к новым реалиям Буджака, его стабилизации и эволюции в регионе за счет внутреннего потенциала. Период с 1818 до 1835 г. становится этапом формирования популяционного ресурса. Демографическое развитие сообщества в течение 1835–1850 гг. идет путем самовоспроизведения, без вмешательства миграционных факторов. Благодаря демографическому росту и темпам рождаемости сообщество в 1850 г. насчитывает 82,2 тысячи человек. Очевидно, что его демографический потенциал в первой половине XIX в. реализуется достаточно мощно.

**Ключевые слова:** население Бессарабии, миграция, естественный прирост, демографический потенциал, задунайские переселенцы.

### Summary

#### Dynamics of “Transdanubian settlers” in Bessarabia in the early XIX<sup>th</sup> century: migration processes and natural growth

The population dynamics of Transdanubian settlers in Bessarabia during the first half of the XIX<sup>th</sup> century is a significant matter that can be addressed within historical demography. This paper uses its methods and employs the potential realization forms in the population’s age-and-sex structure – a model or mode of the community demographic reproduction amid the large-scale migration. The research results are based on a comparative analysis of three variants of the population’s natural growth coefficient, calculated by us. The first one is applied to larger time intervals where birth and death rates are unknown; the second is for annual intervals where the total birth and death rates are known in absolute data. The third one is based on the birth and death rates variability, calculated for individual colonies. The author concludes that the investigated period is the time of community formation through resettlement and adaptation to the new Budzhak realia, its stabilization, and evolution in the region due to internal potential. The period 1818–1835 is a stage in population resource formation. In 1835–1850, the community develops demographically through self-reproduction without the intervention of migration factors. In 1850, the community totals 82,200 people due to demographic growth and birth rate. Obviously, the demographic potential of the group in the first half of the 19th century was quite strong.

**Key words:** Bessarabia population, migration, natural growth, demographic potential, Transdanubian settlers.

Understanding and interpreting the issue of the total number of Transdanubian settlers in Bessarabia and its historical dynamics depend on the historical demography categories. Its methods establish complex population growth/decline processes and the factors that determine the transformation of these processes. In this study, we focus on realising the potential of the populations' age and sex structure – a model or mode of community demographic reproduction, taking into account large-scale migrations of its representatives. In historiography, demographic reproduction is usually seen as a combination of natural and mechanical (endogenous and exogenous) trends in population movement (Боярский 1975; Валентей, Кваша 1989: 7-8; Медков 2002: 6-7; Дорошенко 2005: 70-74; Крисаченко 2005: 126-130)<sup>1</sup>.

It is essential to understand the relationship between the migration processes results and the community's balance of fertility/mortality. These issues will enable us to characterise the factors and models of populations' formation and reproduction and reveal the relationship between natural and social aspects. The solution we found, in its turn, elaborates the scientific knowledge about the group's demographic behaviour under certain circumstances, which significantly increases the synchronous and diachronic heuristicity of reconstructions. Therefore, the scope of historical and demographic tasks includes establishing and describing population growth trends and analysing the reasons for this growth due to internal potential or through external changes.

This approach is based on the natural growth coefficient (NGC). In demography, it is seen as “the ratio of natural increase (reduction) of the population to the average annual number of the available population, or the difference between the total fertility and mortality rates” (Methodological 2021). It is used to characterise the natural movement intensity and is measured in ppm (%). Such a coefficient is seen as a convenient tool for comparing demographic human development indicators in different territories.

Given the specific features of the general statistical data and the coefficients we calculated to identify the dynamics of the demographic processes' transformation, we will employ three ways to calculate the NGC:

– first, for larger time intervals, where the birth and death rates are unknown, the NGC is calculated by the following formula:

– where  $N_{gc}$  is the natural growth coefficient,  $NG$  is natural growth,  $P_1$  is the population at the end of the period,  $P_0$  is the population at the beginning of the period, and  $CP$  is the current population. The value of the indicator can be negative in case of depopulation;

– second, for annual intervals, where the general indicators of fertility and mortality are known in absolute data:

– where  $N_{gc}$  is the natural growth coefficient,  $B$  is the number of births,  $D$  is the number of deaths,  $CP$  is the current population;

– third, on the basis of the calculated variability of the birth and death rates. Accordingly, it will be useful to rely directly on them to establish NGCs:

– where  $N_{gc}$  is the natural growth coefficient,  $Br$  is the birth rate, and  $Dr$  is the death rate. All results are presented in ppm (%).

Comparison of the calculated coefficient of natural growth at the level of individual settlements and the coefficient of actual population growth exposes the influence of exogenous factors – the migration balance, epidemiological risks, and such-like. Correlation is achieved by comparison with the general Bessarabian indicators. Implementing this tool kit provides science with albeit relative, but, undoubtedly, original conceptual projections about the factors of formation, adaptation, and stabilisation of the settlers' community in Bessarabia.

Before moving on to specific reconstructions, we would like to bring attention to two source study issues concerning the materials of the XIX<sup>th</sup> century. The first is the ethnocultural one, associated with the study exploring the entire array of “Transdanubian colonists”. As a social community under this name, in most documentary sources of that time, the Bulgarians are joined together with the Gagauz, Greeks, Albanians, Serbs, and partly Moldovans. It is impossible to identify each of these ethnicities on the basis of their current settlement due to the significantly different reality of the early XIX<sup>th</sup> century. The second – the geographical one – is semantically allied with the first. Given the conventionality of the boundaries between individual colonies-settlements in the XIX<sup>th</sup> century, we use data from the entire territory of Bessarabia during the historical and demographic analysis.

The empirical data used to establish the number and factors of the natural and mechanical movement of the Transdanubian settlers in Bessarabia were taken from the statistical corpora of the fiscal-administrative, church and military records of the population.

These materials are traditionally used in historiography by both Soviet (Кабузан 1974) and modern (Думиника 2017) socio-economic historians. Based on this historiographic experience, the author developed his calculation scheme, taking into account the critical processing of these materials.

Before the early XIX<sup>th</sup> century, at least 5,000 Transdanubian settlers had already lived in the Budjak territories. This assumption is based on indirect local information about the Tukan Bulgarians, most of whom came to Budjak before 1806 (Ганчев, Мильчев 2015: 57-65; Ганчев, Мильчев 2016: 25-51). However, direct mass formulary sources of that time have not yet been discovered, making this statement a priori.

The next generation of immigrants moved to Bessarabia during 1807–1813, which is almost clearly recorded in the fiscal and administrative lists. The audit attempts in 1811, 1816, and 1818 provide the first quantitative, relatively balanced data on the number of Transdanubian settlers in Budjak. Land surveying in 1822–1827 records quite comparable data, but they also include the consequences of further resettlement. This is to characterise the migrant population structure of that time.

According to I. N. Inzov's report of 19.03.1819, the entire Bessarabia hosts 6,532 families of "Transdanubian colonists". 2,294 of them are "old", and 4,238 are "new" (Скальковский 1848: 19). It can be assumed that in his report to the Emperor, I. N. Inzov uses the results of the 1818 census of the Transdanubian settlers. These lists divide the settlers into those who had come during the penultimate war (1787–1792), referred to as "old", and those having re-settled during the last Russian-Turkish war (1806–1812), referred to as "new" (Гуцу, Думиника 2012: 302).

Our calculations show that in 1818, the average size of a family in individual "old" colonies was 5.6 people (Ганчев 2020: 329). Meanwhile, the family size in 1811 was 4.4 people, i.e., the families of the "new" settlers should have similar indicators. Therefore, in 1819, the "old" colonists amounted to almost 13,000 people. The "new" colonists, who had come from across the Danube and formed several new settlements, numbered just over 18,000 people. In general, by that year, Budjak had already been populated by more than 31,000 "Transdanubian colonists", of which the absolute majority represented the settlers' community of two chronological stages. Considering the average annual natural increase of the population of 62% (ibid: 145), in

1819, about a third of 31,000 people, that is 10–11 thousand people, were born in Bessarabia. The age-sex ratio provides similar data, which generally correspond to these estimates – in 1818, 33% of people were under 10 years of age (ibid: 362-363).

A. A. Skalkovskiy uses Inzov's report to calculate the total population of Transdanubian colonists. He uses the indicator of 3.7 persons as an average family size that brings him to 24,000 (Скальковский 1848: 20). The comprehensive analysis by G. Kishlaly and L. Reulets provides them with another coefficient – 4.7 persons. Accordingly, their total number makes 31,000 (Кышлапы 2014: 103).

On the basis of church records, V. M. Kabuzan computes the size of the settlers' community up to 19.3 thousand people before 1818 and 25.6 thousand in 1827 (Кабузан 1973: 92-103). He also offers the statistics on the share of the Transdanubian colonists in the Budzhak population: 4,74% – in Akkerman, 5% – in Bendery and 41,6% – in Izmail provinces of Bessarabia oblast. Every fifth inhabitant of the region is a Transdanubian colonist: 21,46% in 1818 and 22,76% in 1827.

The data by V. M. Kabuzan at the level of individual settlements and provinces gives us an idea of population growth. In 1818–1827, it amounted to 32.6% among the colonists of Bessarabia (Ганчев 2020: 483-485). Since this figure is close to the Russian Empire's average of 30% (Mironov 2000: 23), we assume that the community is reproduced naturally. The variability of this coefficient across provinces (7.6% – Akkerman, 36.4% – Izmail and 0.1% – Bendery) witnesses a fundamentally different situation. It is apparent that intraregional migrations were underway, and a significant increase in the community resulted from the mechanical growth of the population. Indirectly, it is revealed at the local level of individual settlements – there are active processes of their emergence and, at the same time, almost complete disappearance. Banovka, Zadunaevka or Dmitrovka exemplify the former. Meanwhile, the Transdanubian population almost disappeared in Kiliya, Etulia, Kopchak, etc.

Differentiation of the data at the level of individual settlements determined the reference to another table on the settlers' distribution in Budjak (Статистическое 1899: 105, 287, 367). The pragmatic nature of the regional land survey improves the quality of the officials' data recording the land allocated to the Bessarabia inhabitants. In general, they coincide with the fiscal materials processed by

V. M. Cabuzan. The same data often serve as fundamental for historical reconstructions. In particular, I. I. Meshcheryuk (Мещеряк 1965: 124-125), and with reference to him, other Bulgarians and Gagauz scholars employ them while exploring the processes of Transdanubian colonists' resettlement.

Let us return to the calculations of the natural and mechanical variants of the "Transdanubian colonies" population movement in Bessarabia. All data and calculations are summarised in Table 1. According to the chronological principle, the Table provides all available information about the number of settlers during the first half of the 19th century. Depending on the source nature, there are data on the number of families and the total population. Their comparison reveals research correlation and criticism of quantitative data in sources. So, for example, an almost identical number of families (6,609 in 1816 and 6,532 in 1819) brings the authors of the documents to a different estimated number – 30,995 and 24,000, respectively. These nuances enable productive criticism of the sources and promote the search for more accurate population size parameters.

Based on the total number of "Transdanubian colonists", we use simple subtraction to calculate the actual increase/decrease in the colonies' population. The results of such calculations expose the

dynamics of historical and demographic processes: migrations, mass diseases (pandemics), and direct natural reproduction of the community. Another indicator we used was the crude death and fertility rates (Ганчев 2020: 145, 198). This indicator makes it possible to reveal the value of the natural reproduction of the population. In comparison with the previous actual population movement, there is an issue of the ratio of the natural and mechanical movement results, with due consideration to the volume of each option for replenishing/reducing the number of Transdanubian settlers in Bessarabia.

Exclusively from a comparative perspective, we calculated the actual and relative coefficients as a whole for the Bessarabian region. They enable us to identify the typicality or specificity of natural and mechanical factors among the "Transdanubian colonists" and, thereby, contribute to the arguments regarding understanding exogenous and endogenous processes in the community.

Due to the complex research scheme and significant chronological distance, we divided the result interpretation for the first half of the 19th century into three historical stages: the community formation (1806–1827), a significant group replenishment (1828–1835), and the stabilisation period in Bessarabia (1835–1850).

Let us demonstrate the productivity of the com-

**Table 1**

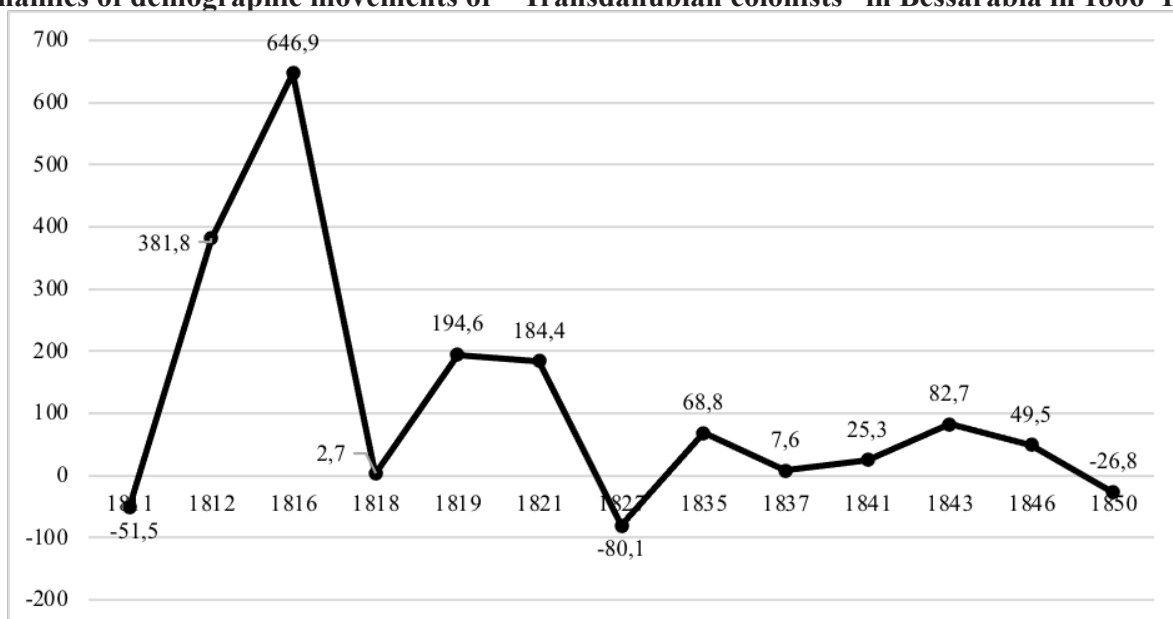
**Number and increase/decrease of "Transdanubian colonists" in Bessarabia<sup>2</sup>**

Year	Families	Persons	1Ngc	Bc	Dc	3Ngc	Persons	2Ngc
1806	1,741	8,506						
1811		6,765	-51.5					
1812	2,626	10,943	381.8	67	12.8	54.2		
1814							5,862	
1815							640	
1816	6,609	30,995	646.9				7,680	23.3
1818		31,161	2.7	62	24.2	37.8	9,550	19.4
1819	6,532	24,000	194.6				11,032	
1820							4,763	
1821	7,735	38,023	184.4				4,532	
1822				57	44.5	12.5	8,059	
1823				59	34.4	24.6	8,320	
1824				56	27.5	28.5	7,939	
1825				57	34.6	22.4	7,645	
1826							8,980	
1827		25,679	-80.1	53	70.8	-17.8	4,928	8.4



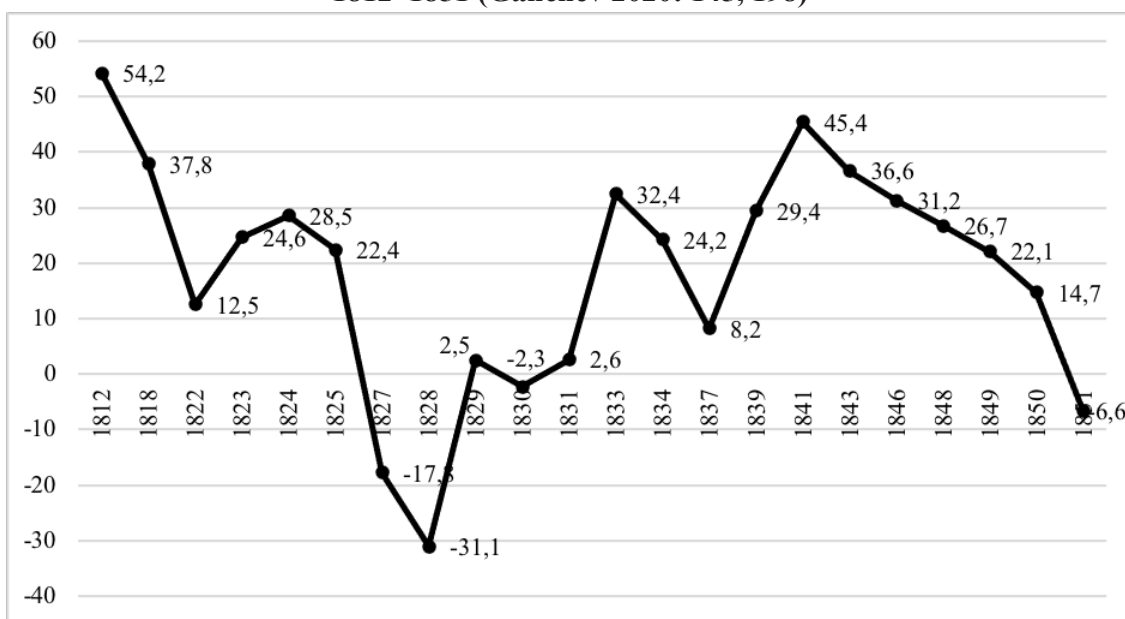
1828				55	86.1	-31.1	5,669	
1829				51	48.5	2.5	5,729	
1830				53	55.3	-2.3	7,188	
1831				59	56.4	2.6	9,074	
1832							17,424	
1833				61	28.6	32.4	14,911	
1834				60	35.8	24.2	14,635	
1835	10,047	57,075	68.8				2,834	
1836							15,245	
1837	10,077	57,960	7.6	62	53.8	8.2	14,131	
1838							14,064	
1839				64	34.6	29.4	16,604	
1840							14,727	
1841		64,500	25.3	69	24.6	45.4	14,927	
1842							15,141	15.8
1843		77,282	82.7	70	33.4	36.6	12,368	
1845							16,951	
1846		76,982	49.5	68	36.8	31.2	11,357	
1847							12,527	
1848				60	33.3	26.7	3,681	
1849				55	32.9	22.1	2,701	
1850		69,525	-26.8	55	40.3	14.7	245	
1851				54	60.6	-6.6	5,830	
1852							15,202	
1853							14,820	
1854							9,210	9.6
1855		84207					5,946	

**Graph 1**  
**Dynamics of demographic movements of “Transdanubian colonists” in Bessarabia in 1806–1850<sup>3</sup>**



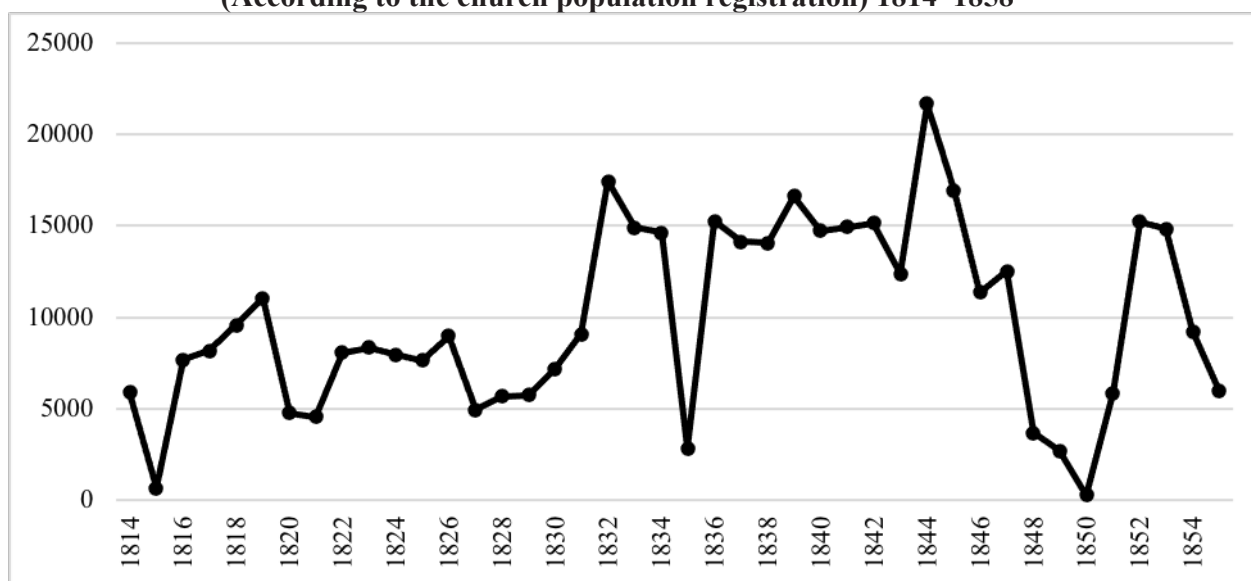
Graph 2

The natural movement of “Transdanubian colonies” in Bessarabia in 1812–1851 (Ganchev 2020: 145, 198)



Graph 3

The natural movement of the Bessarabia oblast population (According to the church population registration) 1814–1858<sup>4</sup>



parative-demographic method regarding the analysis of the mechanical and natural population growth of the “Transdanubian colonies” in Bessarabia at the stage of community formation (1806–1827). For illustrating purposes, we will place three key indicators on the diagrams: general data on population movement (Graph 1), natural increase calculated by us (Graph 2), and general Bessarabian trends (Graph 3).

In the early 19th century, the curve of the actual movement of the “Transdanubian colonies” inhabitants of Bessarabia was sharply progressive and peaked in 1816. Then it sharply dropped to an insignificant

value of 2.7% in 1818. From 1819 to 1821, we observe the population increase to 194.6% and 184.4%. It is followed by a fall to -80.1% in 1827. Therefore, there is a balance between the individual years of this period. The patterns of curve changes coincide with the well-known events. Bessarabia’s active mass colonisation in 1807–1813 resulted in a soaring communities’ population. Special rights and privileges, granted to colonists, stabilised the colonist community and led to new waves of external migrations and increased growth rates during 1818–1821. The epidemics of 1827–1828 resulted in a radical decrease in the population growth rate,

natural reduction, and temporary cessation of its mechanical movement.

There is an explicit correlation between exogenous and endogenous factors of “Transdanubian colonies” reproduction. In 1812–1822, there was a significant drop in the rate of the natural movement of the population – from 54.2% to 12.5% (Graph 2). This trend manifests itself in at least two areas: first, the gradual improvement of the population registration system leads to more accurate figures in the materials of primary statistics; secondly, it reflects general regional processes. The community migratory nature determines significant fluctuations in the indicators of the total number – from 8,500 at the beginning to 38,000 people at the end of the period. Thus, the overall growth rate was influenced by the consequences of the mechanical population replenishment due to new settlers. That is why Graph 1 displays sharp peaks in population inflows (up to 646.9%). Graph 3 clearly shows the upward trend of absolute growth in the region (except for 1818–1820, when it halved).

It shows the progression of mechanical growth, which neutralises the negative influence of natural factors, including epidemiological losses.

In a general historical dimension, it should be pointed out that as soon as the “Transdanubian settlers” settled in new places in Bessarabia, the group was exposed to population and demographic threats in the form of the 1827–1828 smallpox epidemic (Ганчев 2020: 235). Epidemics were not unusual for the Prut-Dniester interfluvium. In the 19th century, it suffered outbreaks of plague, cholera, typhus, smallpox, and other epidemic diseases. For example, the plague affected Bessarabia in 1812, 1813, 1814, 1817, 1819, 1825, 1828, 1829 (Думиника 2020). During one conditional generation, epidemiological events brought the community to the edge of demographic survival. Migration and re-emigration became the way of harmonising the situation. At the beginning of the period, high rates of exogenous growth formed a rather viable group, which, despite direct population losses, had every chance of autonomous development. Fatal diseases in 1827–1828 led to a negative balance in the population reproduction (-31.1%). A comparison with other regional groups shows that they were also affected by these factors. Graph 3 clearly shows the decrease in the population growth rate in Bessarabia during 1818–1820 and 1826–1827. The total number of the “Transdanubian community” in 1827 (more than 25,000 people) gives every reason

to believe that the epidemiological factor significantly impacts its reproductive behaviour.

Nevertheless, it allows us to look at the factors of the subsequent resettlement in 1829–1832 from a different perspective. It is unknown whether the “Transdanubian colonists” needed new inhabitants to stabilise the group in Bessarabia. However, the next wave of immigrants strengthened the demographic potential of the young ethnocultural community.

During 1827–1830, the Transdanubian colonists’ community of Bessarabia had negative balances of population growth: -17.8%; -31.1%; 2.5% and -2.3%. Epidemiological risks explain this dynamic.

The problems are neutralised through new massive resettlement to Budjak.

In historiography, the issue of the quantitative ratio of “old” and “new” settlers in 1829–1832 remains controversial. So, I. I. Meshcheryuk, relying on reasonably direct evidence, indicates that in 1829–1830, 61,580 people received “tickets” for resettlement to Bessarabia (and in general to Russia – 66,462) (Мещерюк 1965: 94). A total of 86,700 migrants comprised that resettlement wave. Stefan Doinov argues with him, estimating that the size of this emigrant community reached 140–150 thousand (Дойнов 2005: 111). At the same time, V. M. Kabuzan operates with the current statistical data and indicates that in 1832 there were 36,529 immigrants (Кабузан 1973: 61-62). Appealing to the fragmentation of purely fiscal sources, I. I. Meshcheryuk substantiates the thesis that in 1835 there were 26,000 “new” settlers in Budzhak, along with more than 28,000 “old” ones (Мещерюк 1965: 139-141).

In modern times, archaeological research by I. F. Grek and N. N. Chervenkov revealed the replacement of 52,777 “Transdanubian colonists” to Bessarabia in 1829–1830 (Грек, Червенков 1993: 21). In their calculations, they rely on data from the border quarantine services. M. D. Dykhan shares their stand completely (Дыхан 2001: 22). Moreover, following I. I. Meshcheryuk, these researchers emphasise that some of the new settlers left for the territory of Dobrudja, Wallachia, and Moldova (18,840 people). As a result, they cite data on 26,679 or 28,331 “old” colonists along with 33–35 thousand “new” ones, which in total amounts to about 61,000 people living in Bessarabia in 1832 (Грек, Червенков 1993: 21; Мещерюк 1965: 198-199).

The statistics data for 1832, provided by I. I. Mescheryuk (Мещерюк 1965: 139-141), witness

about 5,656 families of “old” and 6,098 families of “new” settlers (a total of 11,754 families). I. Dumini-ka analyses the 1835 revision that also divides families into “old” and “new”. According to I. Dumini-ka (Dumini-ka 2017: 264-267), this ratio is 6824:3223 (a total of 10,047 families). Therefore, we witness two parallel processes. First, within 3 years the number of old families increased by 1,168, that is, by almost 20%. Taking into account the famine of 1833–1834 and a significant decrease in the natural population increase (Graph 2), we believe that it becomes possible only due to the share of new settlers, whom census takers recorded as the community’s old population in 1835. Second, there is a significant decrease in new families by 2,875. The difference in the total number is 1,707 families. So, considering the possible natural increase in the number of families, it can be argued that from 1832 to 1835, re-emigration was about 1,500 families or 8,000 people.

Stepping into the discussion about the 1828–1830 resettlement, we believe it should not be seen as a result. It has a pendulum procedural content. Some of the migrants who had come to Bessarabia ended up in other territories of southern Ukraine. Others settled in Dobruja for several years or returned to their homeland. Such a complex nature of the settlement on new lands begs for a critical attitude towards the apparent backlash of 30,000 people. This re-emigration relates to every other person of those who received a resettlement “ticket”. At the same time, the ratio of “old” and “new” settlers should become the basis for studying both their total number and the factors of population reproduction.

Mass formal sources processed by I. I. Meshcheryuk should be seen as the most relevant materials on the demographic situation (Мещеряк 1965: 198-199). They provide for structural reconstructions of the community of “Transdanubian colonists”, establishing the role of exogenous and endogenous factors in the movement of this population. So, they show that in 1832 the total number of colonists in Bessarabia totalled 11,754 families. Calculations of the number of households and their inhabitants in the Bessarabia colonies in 1830 indicate an average of 5.2 persons per household (Ганчев 2020: 329). Accordingly, we operate on the data of 61,000 people and obtain the result that is almost identical to the calculations by the Moldovan scientists N. N. Chervenkov and I. F. Grek (Грек, Червенков 1993: 21).

Transdanubian colonists living in Bessarabia

before 1830 comprised a group of 5,656 families. “New” settlers made up 6,098 families; there were 0.9 “old” families per one such family. These communities are commensurate with each other. To establish this fact at the local level of individual settlements, we use a similar ratio index, taking into account the number of “old” and “new” families of migrants (Ганчев 2020: 496-498). This index shows that a new wave of immigration significantly replenished existing colonies and contributed to establishing many new ones. Moreover, there are significant additions to settlements in the first case, where the settlers of 1830 dominate over the “autochthons”. Some of them only strengthened the territorial communities functioning at that time.

The absolute jump in the total population in 1832 can be traced to the sources of the church population registration (Graph 3). Against 1829, this growth yearly increased by 2.5–3 times – 5,729 people in 1829 against an average of 15,657 in 1832–1834. The residents’ mechanical growth due to the “new” settlers in Budjak is much more significant than the natural increase among the region’s colonists. Similar community indicators in 1835 equal 32.4% (Table 1).

Despite the high birth rates (from 53% to 60% during 1830–1835), the natural movement rate is quite modest – from 2.6 to 24% (Table 1). It can be explained by the super-high mortality rate – 28.6% – 56.4%. Epidemics, droughts, and severe demographic losses are causing the partial re-emigration of settlers. As a result, in 1835–1837, the “Transdanubian colonists” ethnocultural community reached 57–58 thousand people (Table 1).

In the historical and anthropological dimension, despite certain losses of human resources, the “Transdanubian group” in Bessarabia in the mid – 1830s is a community with significant potential for further development. In 1843, it numbered 77.2 thousand people (Table 1). In other words, the actual growth rate is 32.8%. At the same time, the growth rates calculated by us in the interval from 1837 to 1843 averaged 29.9%.

The indicators are quite close. At the same time, the average figures for the region are only 15.8%; that is, the demographic growth of the colonist population is twice the size. This can be clearly seen in the dynamics of the population movement rates: fertility – from 62% in 1837 to 70% in 1843, mortality from 53.8% to 33.4% and growth – 29.4% against 36.6%. In 1843, this demographic potential led to 20,000 more “Transdanubian colonists”, or a 34% increase.



The population growth rate is hindered by the epidemics of 1843–1844 and 1847–1848. Both periods of mass disease result in the direct losses of about 10% of people. However, in ppm, the community moves to a negative balance of natural growth (-26.8%). The rest of the Bessarabia population suffers approximately the same losses; that is, this group is no exception to the general trends.

With the population movement showing a steady positive dynamic during the 1840s, our calculations (Table 1) prove that at the beginning of the decade, the increase was 45.4% and 36.6%, and in its second half – 26.7% and 22.1%.

It indicates that, despite the high mortality rate, the group maintains an extensive path of population reproduction in super-high fertility rates – on average 64.4% during the 1840s.

Due to this demographic potential and birth rate, the community of “Transdanubian colonists” in 1850, that is, at the time of the 10th revision census, totals 82.2 thousand people. In fact, it was a 1.43 times growth against the previous 1835 census. We emphasise that this time the growth was entirely due to the natural movement of the population (endogamous factors of the group reproduction).

Therefore, studying the historical dynamics of the “Transdanubian settlers” community reproduction in Bessarabia during the first half of the 19th century relies substantially on the calculations and characteristics of two categorical groups. On the one hand, the research into the stability and mobility of the population’s age and sex structure allowed us to identify the historical and demographic context from the standpoint of the processes results and, at the same time, of the potential to determine the factors of further development. The analysis based on specific studies of demographic development patterns, socio-economic circumstances, and internal population factors of group reproduction shows that this period was the time of community formation through resettlement and adaptation to the new realities of Budjak, its stabilisation, and evolution in the region due to internal potential.

The results of the 1828–1830 resettlement, reflected in the 1835 revision census, exposes a group that was located in the colonies of Bessarabia for about a quarter of a century, along with a new migration community of a similar scale. In general, the population consists of two strata, each being a migratory one. The intersection of these groups’ experience in the integrated settlements (territorial

communities) makes it possible to trace the variability of adaptation processes. At the same time, their integration into a unified community forms those stabilising factors providing for critical ethno-demographic processes of the genesis of a Transdanubian settlers group in Bessarabia.

In addition to the demographic transformations themselves, one can also point out the historical consequences of these processes. The 1818–1835 period becomes a stage in the population resource formation with its further robust development. The effectiveness of the group’s adaptation in the new territories of Bessarabia is manifested in the demographic reproduction of the population. All the previous data being considered through the resettlement processes, the 1850 revision census records the results of the intensive community development. And although only 15 years separate it from the previous similar census, this is already the time of evolution.

Demographic development of the Transdanubian settlers’ community in Bessarabia during 1835–1850 was already going through self-reproduction, with no interference of migration factors. From 1818 to 1850, the total number of people in the group increased more than threefold (3.3 times). This indicator being high for that time reflects mechanical factors (resettlement in the 1820s and 1930s) rather than natural ones. Yet, it is apparent that the demographic potential of the studied group in Bessarabia is being realised quite powerfully.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> We will disregard the opinion of some demographers who believe that population migration falls beyond the scope of this study area (Borisov 1976; Borisov 1999; Denysenko et al. 1989; Moiseenko 1997: 23-30; Korovina 1985: 226-228) – such division can be seen as scholastic for the reconstruction of the historical experience.

<sup>2</sup> All coefficients and calculations are made by the author. The table is drawn up by the author on the basis of Duminica 2017: 256; Kabuzan 1973: 90, 91; Stanchev 2009: 30; Скальковский 1848: 20; Статистическое 1899: 105, 287, 367; Klaus 1868; Kerpen 1854: 21-36.

<sup>3</sup> See reference to – Table 1.

<sup>4</sup> The Graph is drawn up using the data of the church current population registration, discovered and processed by V. M. Kabusan (1973: 61-62).

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