

OFFICIAL REGULARIZATIONS OF SETTLEMENT NAMES IN THE TERRITORY OF PRESENT-DAY TRANS-CARPATHIA DURING THE 20TH CENTURY (1898–2000)

Sándor Dobos, assistant-lecturer and researcher at Ferenc Rákóczi II Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute, Ukraine

Transcarpathia is the western region of Ukraine, officially called Закарпатська область/Zakarpatska oblast. Its administrative centre is Uzhgorod and the official language is Ukrainian. It is a multi-ethnic territory. According to the Ukrainian census data of 2001, the population of Transcarpathia is about 1 254 614 people. The majority of the population is Ukrainian (80.5%). We can also find people of several other nationalities: Hungarians, Russians, Romanians, Ruthens, Slovaks and some others. The largest national minority is the Hungarian community, about 151 516 Hungarians (12.1% of the population).

During the 20th century several territorial and governmental changes occurred in the Carpathian Basin that caused several regularizations of settlement names by the authorities in the territory of present-day Transcarpathia – especially because of political and ideological purposes, without taking the cultural traditions and historical backgrounds of the local Hungarian community and other ethnic groups into consideration. In this way, settlement names have been changed about five times in the region:

1) the first regularization of settlement names took place between 1898 and 1912 when the territory of present-day Transcarpathia belonged to the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy;

2) the second one was during the period between the two World Wars, when the region was integrated to the first Czechoslovak Republic (1919–1938);

3) the names of the settlements were modified for the third time when the region became part of Hungary again (1938–1944);

4) after the Second World War the settlement names were changed again, for the fourth time, when the territory of present-day Transcarpathia was attached to the Soviet Union (1945–1991);

5) the fifth changing of settlement names began after the collapse of the Soviet Union, when the region became part of the independent Ukraine (1991).

The subject of the given presentation is to show the above mentioned regularizations of settlement names which took place in the territory of present-day Transcarpathia during the 20th century (1898–2000).