

Bessarabian, Moldavian, and Romanian: Complementary Identities
(Abstract)

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Bessarabia and Bessarabians in Greater Romania came into public sphere after 1989 and historical debates on memory and trauma can be understood through the liberated narratives after the death of censorship. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, in Bessarabia two types of identity narratives and memories collide: first, the forbidden memory of persecutions during the Communist regime and, second, the nostalgic memory. Thus, the mission of oral history was to collect accounts useful both in macrohistory of the region and microhistory in order to describe more accurately representations of the past. Various eyewitnesses testimony challenge myths and clichés on Bessarabia and interwar Romania, most of them might be considered both as forms of perception and recovered information. Born in 1928, architect Alexandru Budișteanu was living in the town of Bălți from 1928 until 1944 and his story deals exactly with preconceptions regarding Bessarabia and Bessarabians during the 1930s.

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