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SCHOOL IN BESSARABIA BETWEEN 1918–1923.
A FORGOTTEN HISTORY
(Summary)

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The present paper continues the approach meant to reconstruct the events taking place in Bessarabia in the aftermath of World War I. In the first part, “Highest Grade for Good Behaviour”: Romanian School in Bessarabia in the First Years after the Great Union (part I), we particularly focused on what happened in 1917–1918 and on the gradual coagulation of a national ethos, of some directions of change in the school system in the name of the “nationalization” brought forward by the Moldavian patriots. After the union with the Romanian Kingdom, the same notion acquired new meanings and thus mobilized the school environment in Bessarabia. In order to better understand what happened then, we propound a social and institutional history of the concept of “national” in Bessarabia, analysed from the perspective of the school culture. Our investigation aims at several levels of analysis: the changing of the school syllabuses and textbooks, the winning of the teaching staff’s loyalty, the new curriculum, the civic and national education, the general disciplining of the new teachers and pupils, who had to meet the requirements of the cultural model from the Old Kingdom of Romania.

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