

***Ukraine-Romania Relations:
Perceptions, Perspectives, Priorities***

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Project background

- Previous experience of SSSG in studying the region
 - ❑ We discovered a range of factors which impede effective cooperation development between stakeholders
 - ❑ Among both parties, we saw insufficient understanding of the factors which provided impact on current relations and drivers which can initiate changes
- There is a necessity in developing the dialog in the region
 - ❑ Dialog between non-governmental think-tanks and organizations
 - ❑ Dialog between governments
 - ❑ ? Defining other stakeholders ?
- Support from the Romanian partners – objectives were similar, but assessments varied
 - ❑ we came to the idea of conducting a survey of opinions and perceptions of Ukrainian, Romanian and international experts
 - ❑ idea of creating a wide expert consortium for developing joint strategy for the future

Methodology

- English version of the questionnaire for expert survey – during 2 weeks, together with Romanian partners (RESURSE Association)
- The final version of the questionnaire – 26 questions, as open as with alternatives, and socio-demographic section
- English version was translated into Ukrainian and Romanian languages
- Then the questionnaire was distributed among the sample of experts (via email) with supporting explanation about the project objectives and tasks

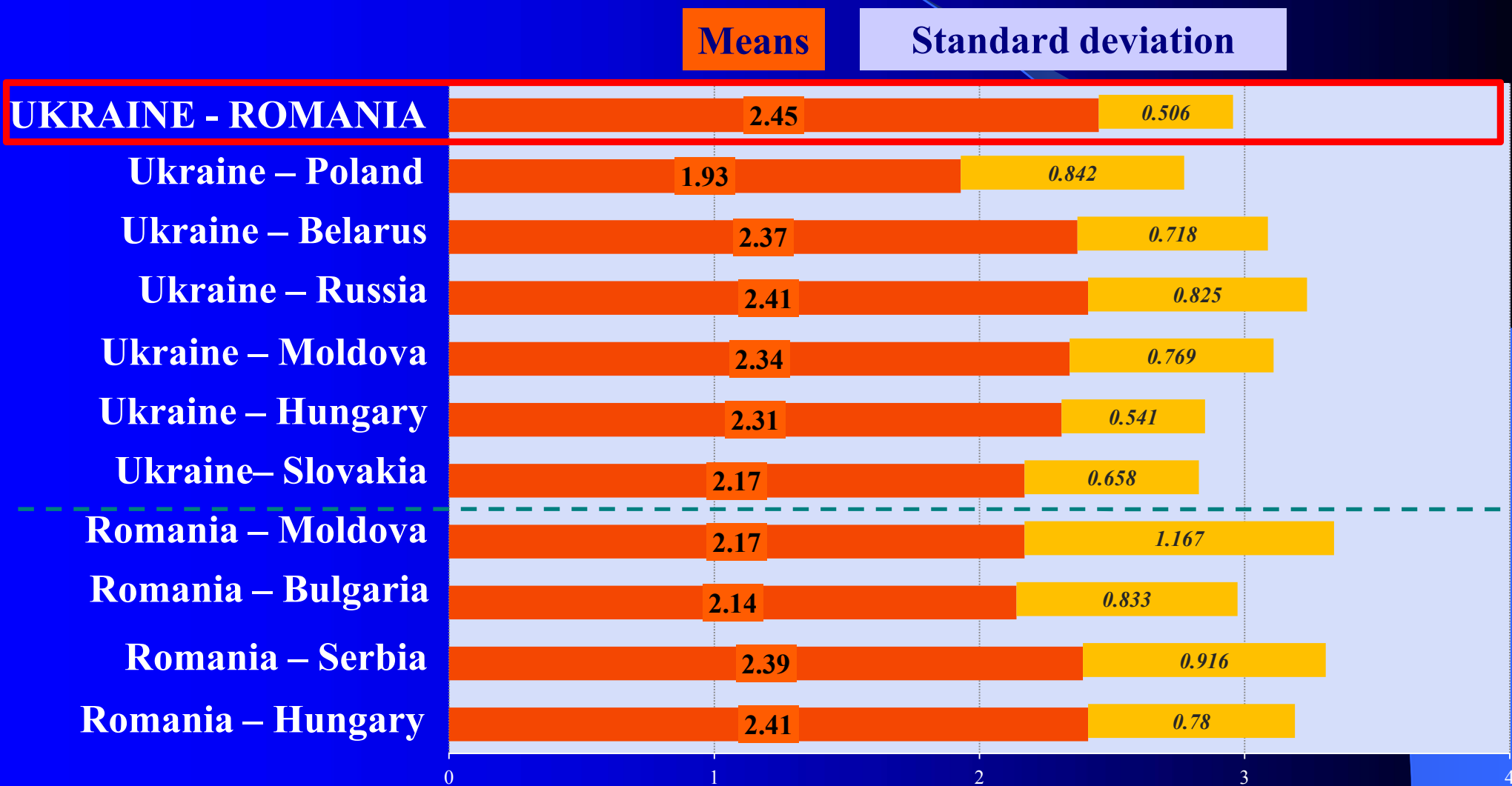
Sample for expert survey

- The overall sample included 120 experts from Ukraine, Romania and other countries
- During September-October we received 31 filled-in questionnaires from Ukrainian, Romanian and international experts (~25% response rate)

Expert's «profile»

	%
Male	54,8
Female	45,2
Below 29 y.o.	48,4
30-39 y.o.	22,6
40-49 y.o.	16,1
50-59 y.o.	6,5
60 y.o. and more	6,5
Undergraduate (not obtained BA degree yet)	20,0
Graduate (obtained BA, enrolled in specialist/MA degree program)	26,7
Post-graduate (obtained specialist/MA degree/ enrolled into PhD program)	40,0
Post-doctorate (obtained PhD degree or 'kandydat nauk')	10,0
Doctorate/ Professorship (obtained 'doktor nauk' or passed habilitation)	3,3
Scholar/professor at the university	9,7
Researcher/analyst at the non-state think tank	32,3
Researcher/analyst at the state-funded research institute	3,2
Students, youth leaders	25,8
Diplomatic officials	3,2
Media observers	12,9
Other	12,9
TOTAL	100,0

Ukraine-Romania relations comparing to the relations with other neighbouring states



Impact of various factors on Romania-Ukraine relations

■ Not important at all ■ Rather not important
■ Rather important ■ Extremely important

3.2. Rivalry for natural resources in BS basin

3.8. Lack of governmental contacts/cooperation

3.1. Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and its outcome for borders

3.9. Insufficient cross-border cooperation (within existing Euroregions)

3.6. Dissimination of Romanian passports in Ukraine

3.7. Illegal trade/smuggling in border regions

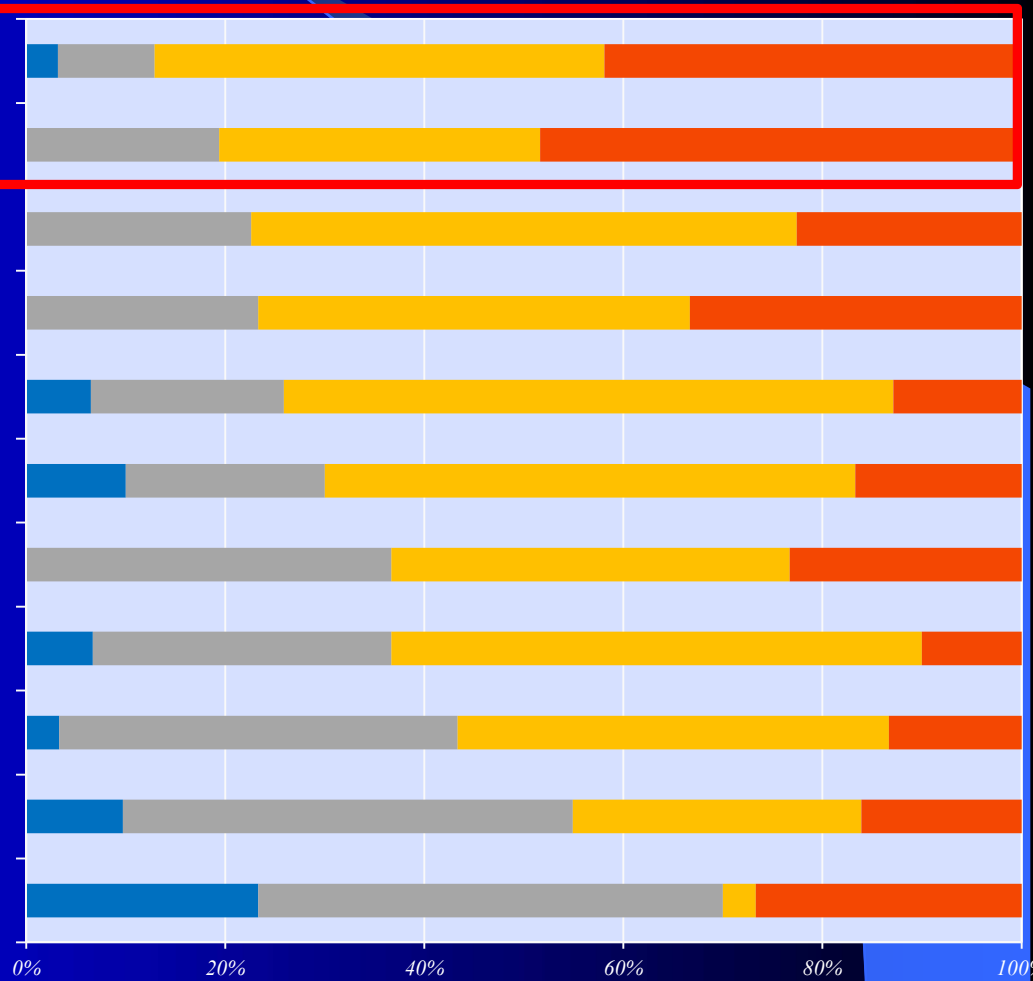
3.3. Ecological problems of Danube river delta

3.5. Prejudices or negative stereotypes towards national minorities

3.10. Misunderstanding of hydrogeographical nature in position of Maikan Island as opposed to claiming territorial rights

3.4. Rivalry for regional leadership

3.11. Romania's pro NATO position and possible security issues in the region



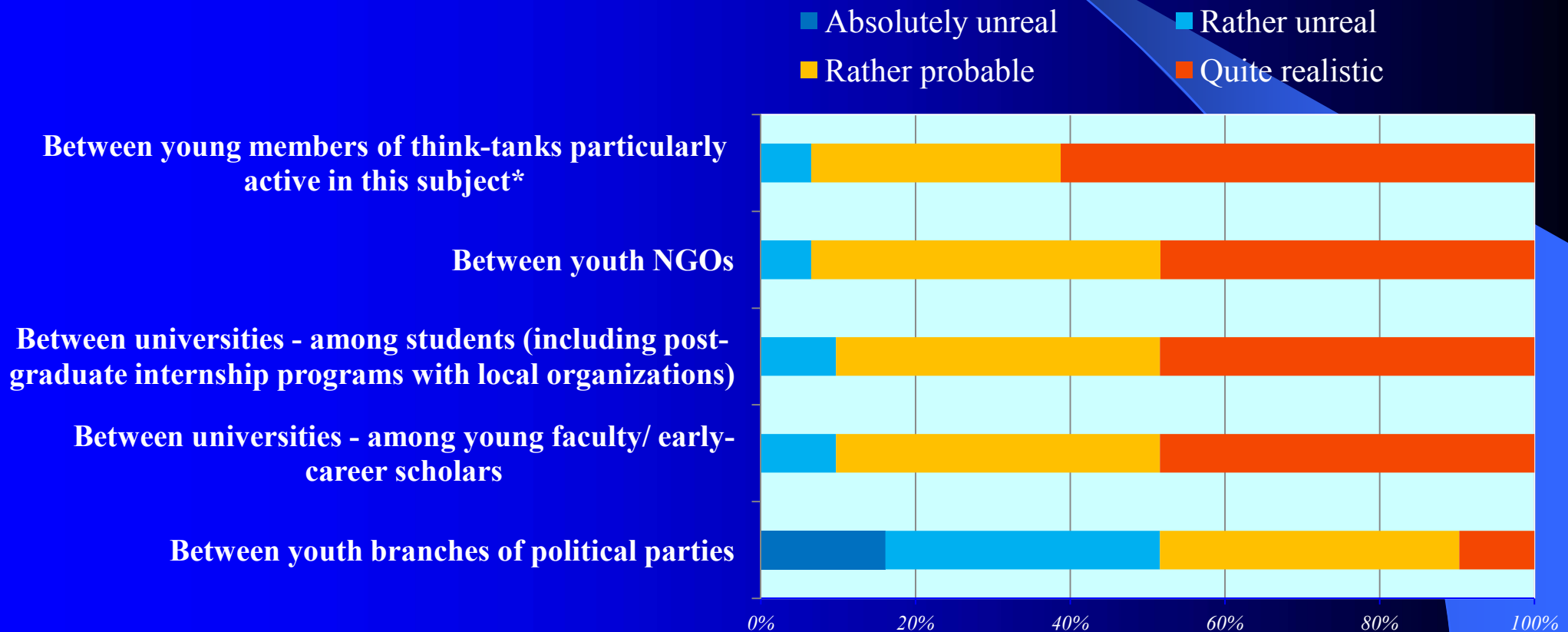
KEY FACTORS FOR ENHANCING BILATERAL COOPERATION

- **Cooperation between governments**
 - *«creating a Top-Level Group for bilateral consultations – for building trust» (P9); «official and informal international policy of both governments» (P11); «intergovernmental cooperation for both countries» (P12)*
- **Cooperation in border regions**
 - *«foster cooperation at the border regions» (P14), «open cooperation at the borders» (P13)*
- **Involvement of supranational/international structures**
 - *«joint actions within international organizations» (P7); «involvement of the EU into ecologic and economic projects» (P2), «cooperation on the EU level» (P19)*
- **Involvement of stakeholders into cooperation**
 - *«students exchange» (P2), «academic community» (P1), «support of research in academia» (P12)*
 - *«development of joint business projects» (P14)*
- **Other factors**
 - *«tourism» (P2)*
 - *«generation change in both countries» (P17)*

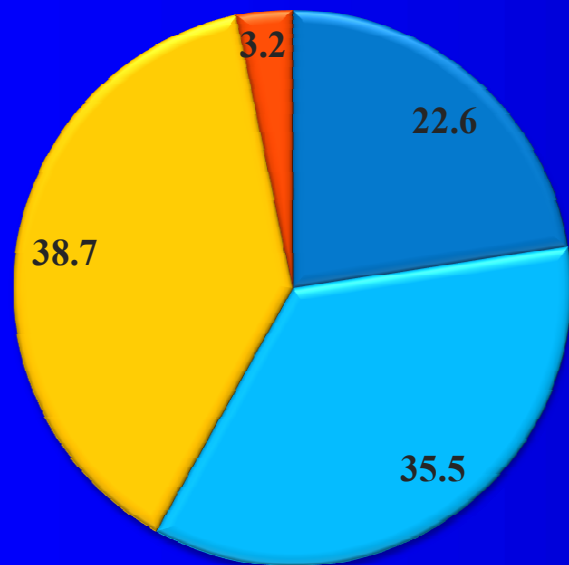
Role of stakeholders in promoting Romania-Ukraine relations

	STAKEHOLDERS	
	Influential, %*	Active, %*
Governments	64,5	23,3
International organizations	45,2	40,0
Local communities (in the border regions)	38,7	43,3
Business community: large national companies UA or RO	35,5	10,0
Business community: large multi-national companies	22,6	10,0
Media observers	22,6	26,7
Non-governmental think tank and NGOs	16,1	56,7
Academic community	12,9	23,3
Business community: small and medium companies	9,7	10,0
Students, young leaders (including diaspora)	6,5	26,7
Criminal groups, illegal traders	6,5	10,0

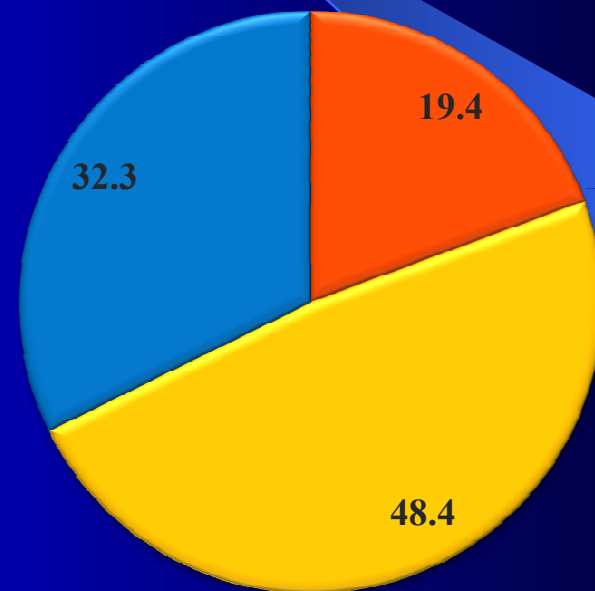
Feasibility perspectives for YOUTH-YOUTH COOPERATION between Romania and Ukraine for the nearest future



Changes in Romania-Ukraine Relations



- Downward stagnation
- Conservation
- Gradual improvement
- Rapid improvement



- In 1-2 years
- In 3-5 year
- In 5 years and later

Summary (I)

- Relations improved during last 1,5 year
 - The share of experts who assessed relations as «rather positive» before February 2009 is 29% - comparing with 45% with regard to current situation
- Comparison with relations with other “neighbours”:
 - Relations between Romania and Ukraine were assessed as ‘rather worse’ than between Ukraine and Poland
 - Relations between Romania and Moldova got most controversial assessment from experts

Summary (II)

- Factors that influence on the current state of relations
 - Common: lack of governmental contacts/co-operation, rivalry for the natural resources in the Black Sea basin, along with the historical problem of Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and its outcome for the borders of the region prevail under other factors
 - Different: Ukrainian experts stress the dissemination of Romanian passports in Ukraine, Romanian experts overestimate Romania's pro NATO position and the question of Maikan Island
- Role of stakeholders
 - Influential + active => international organizations and local communities of border regions
 - Influential but low active => governments
 - Active but low influential => non-governmental think-tanks/NGOs

Summary (III)

- Youth-youth cooperation
 - Most realistic – between experts from think-tanks and youth NGOs; academic collaboration and student exchanges are also probable
- Changes in the nearest future
 - Over 40% of all respondents believe in the possibility of positive changes, however 35% report about «conservation» of relations instead
 - The majority (about 50%) expect changes in 3-5 years

Q & A

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