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Title: *The Characteristics of Romanian Minority Policy. From the Unitary to the Pluralistic Fine-Tuning Minority Policy in Romania*

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The authors construct a typology of the principal minority groups in Romania, based on size, territorial concentration, degree of political mobilization, political objectives, historical and socio-economic status, incorporating three types: Hungarian minority, smaller minority groups and Roma minority. They put forth the argument that Romanian policy makers and administrators must take account of the plurality of the country's minority groups and analyze both centrally directed and locally initiated minority policies since 1989.

Ethnic minorities comprise more than 10% of Romania's population. At least 16 different minority groups can be identified exhibiting a great variety of cultural, political and demographic profiles. The bulk of Romania's minority population is concentrated in Transylvania. When looking at the degree in which minority groups have been integrated into the domestic social and political systems we must take into consideration the diverse historical experiences of these groups. There are clear differences between the three minority types in terms of political mobilization. The Hungarian minority is currently attempting to its political status with the Romanian state. The smaller minority communities are dealing with unique problems in preserving their cultural identities largely because of their size; they are integrated in the political system through specific mechanisms of representation. The Roma minority is socially and culturally marginalized, discriminated and sometimes violently aggressed by local majority communities; their concerns are not articulated in a sufficient degree in the political sphere. In several legal documents we can read about the legal framework for minority protection in Romania; but there does not exist a single corpus of regulating the rights of minorities that includes provisions of political participation, language use, education and other relevant issues. The former is analyzed in two dimensions: constitutional provision referring to the status and protection of minority groups; and the discourse surrounding the proposed draft Law on Minorities. The Constitution made the explicit decision to consider minority rights on an individual and not on a community basis. These

legislations could serve as an important political precedent and confidence building between minorities and majority. The minority protection and minority language use in education have a strong institutional framework, but the most pressing issue that needs a legal regulatory framework is the social exclusion and discrimination of Roma population. The institutional framework for minority protection is discussed on two levels: minority representation in the legislature (the Constitution guarantees representation for minorities in the legislature), the means by which minority groups are able to influence decision making in the executive (the Council of National Minorities, protects the basis of equality; the Department for the Protection of National Minorities; and some communities can promote their specific interests in the legislature).

The restructuring of Romania's public administration system began immediately after the December 1989 Revolution. The central public administration develops activities of national interests to be carried out by the executive. Local public administration develops activities of local importance. Another dimension of the reform is that minorities are present in public administration. Minority groups consider language one of the most important aspects of their culture (that is to maintain their specific language). The existence of an official language and minority language use in public administration is one of the most controversial topics related to minority protection. Another important component of public administration and multi ethnic community management is minority language education in public schools. Hungarian language public education has been the most highly charged over the past decade, and this problem remains unresolved and politically. One of the most pressing problems is the low level integration of Romas' into the education system.

The authors' conclusion is that in spite of the political and administrative reforms made since 1989, the general tendency is that central government lump all minorities together ignoring their significant political, demographic and socio-economic differences.