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Hopes and dreams of Pridnestrovia in new book

For the past 17 years, the people of Pridnestrovia have been building their own country. The rest of the world didn't take much notice. But six years ago, two authors started following the process behind the scenes and the result is now available in a new book from Amazon.

By Times staff, 01/Oct/2007

VIENNA (Tiraspol Times) - Transnistria belongs to the Republic of Moldova, the Moldovans say. Transnistria is independent, the Transnistrians themselves say. Transnistria should not exist, is the current official opinion of policy makers in the Western world.

It is this situation which intrigued two Western photo journalists, photographer Kramar and writer Marcell Nimfuehr, who started to explore the land on the left bank of the Dniester river nearly six years ago.

They both say that almost no one in the West know anything about Transnistria, or Pridnestrovia as it officially called. It is not recognized internationally, has nearly no perceptible voice, and whatever media coverage is available in the West almost inevitable shows a simplified, false, one-dimensional and often very negative image.

After more than five years of research, the result is a new book which the two Austrian citizens hope will show others the good and the bad of Pridnestrovia and how the local population actually lives. They have come to know the land and its people first-hand and have recorded many reports and portraits, and made both interviews and new friends on the way. In the process, they have taken thousands of photographs. Some of these photos have been used in the past by *The Tiraspol Times & Weekly Review* with permission of the authors, but the best of the photos were reserved for publication in the new book.

Hopes and dreams of recognized independence

The new book entitled *Hier Spricht Radio PMR / This is Radio PMR* is a coffee table book with photos from Pridnestrovia (a.k.a Transnistria or Transdniester), located between Moldova and Ukraine. Apart from photos - of which there are more than 150 - the book also has text, interview and personal stories of the lives and dreams of many of those who live in the unrecognized country. The authors have gone behind the scenes to talk to the local population and the hopes that they have that they will one day have their own internationally recognized state. It also shows the attempts of the Pridnestrovians to create such a state of their own.

" - The inhabitants have their own passports with which they can't travel," says one of the authors, Austrian journalist Marcell Nimfuehr. "And they have money which they can't exchange abroad."

This is Radio PMR is published by the German publishing house "Verlag für Bildschöne Bücher". The book is multilingual and written in German, English and Russian. It is currently for sale on Amazon.com's German site for EUR 35. It can also be purchased directly from the authors US\$49 + \$7 for shipping/handling to the United States.

The title, *This is Radio PMR*, is taken from the call sign of Pridnestrovia's state-run propaganda radio which broadcasts every day in five different languages in a public diplomacy attempt to spread information about what goes on inside the new and emerging country, and the aspirations that the population have for joining the international community on an equal basis just like its two neighbors have already done.

The host and presenter of the German-language section of Radio PMR's daily broadcast, Andrey Smolensky, helped put the book together and is one of the co-authors, but the book is not an official publication and does not present Pridnestrovia in an entirely favorable light.

240 pages, 150 photos, large format 210 x 280 mm, hardcover.

See also:

» [Radio PMR expands int'l broadcast schedule](#)

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more about life in Pridnestrovia



UKRAINE MP IN TRANSNISTRIA: "THIS IS JUST LIKE HOME!"

During an official visit with Transdniester's Parliament, Ukrainian MP Ekaterina Samoilik said she "felt like at home, as if there were no borders between us". For centuries, Transdniester was a legal and ethnic part of Ukraine. It has never been part of any independent Moldovan state at any time in history. . .

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EUR	12.0000	11.7500	12.0500
RUB	0.3377	0.3300	0.3410
UAH	1.6390	1.6300	1.6750
HDL	0.6650	0.6900	0.7440

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