

## FROM MESKHETIAN TURKS TO UKRAINIAN TURKS

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The article examines the processes of social adaptation and integration of the Meskhetian Turks in the Ukrainian society in the economic, cultural, political, educational and religious spheres. The author suggests that the former territorial (Meskhetian) Ukrainian identity of the Meskhetian Turks, based on the reasons for their return to their historic homeland, under the pressure of external circumstances gradually transforms and fades into the background. This article describes the typical problems that arise during the field phase of the case study of ethnic groups, and provides recommendations how to avoid them, and shows the author's civil reflection on the social policy in the field of ethnicity, ethnic journalism and tolerance formation.

The majority of the Meskhetian Turks arrived in Ukraine during the period from 1989 to 1991. There is a reason to believe that the vast majority settled in Ukraine on their own initiative, using their own resources.

It is commonly known that the vast majority of Ukrainian Meskhetian Turks live in rural areas. The most common type of family is expanded one with the economic division of roles. This cultural difference is one of the most impressive social and cultural markers between the old-timers and the Turks.

The main type of employment of the Meskhetian Turks is rent of land (in households or individuals), used to grow vegetables, melons and gourds. First, the Meskhetian Turks working in the field of the whole family, is now increasingly using hired workers. However, such changes do not speak more than a qualitative transition to the use of hired labour and the expansion of business.

Turkish language among Meskhetian Turks remained as the language of the home and intra-group communication. In most cases, the native language among Meskhetian Turks is used in medium of communication as official channels for its conservation and transmission do not function.

Even in 1999, according to "Turkish-Meskhetian census", which took place appropriate structural units of state administration at the request of the Georgian government, almost all Turks (with several exceptions), who lived in the Kherson Oblast, return to Georgia. Such unanimity in the sociological practice is rather rare phenomenon.

Nowadays, migration sentiment (real and symbolic) of the Meskhetian Turks are beginning to weaken, especially among Turks who were born in Ukraine