

Life on the Border
(Golo Brdo, Gora and Mala Prespa, the Republic of Albania)

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(Summary)

Three local borderland communities in Albania are represented in the text, though in a different degree of comprehensiveness. The border is in the focus of the paper – its historical significance, its perception and legitimatization in folklore conceptions of those communities. Three local communities under research have individual looks and paths of development but their general typology is based on a set of problems which sprang up when new state borders were outlined and some ethnic and national communities were separated from their motherland and remained within the boundaries of another state. Such is the case of the Bulgarian communities in Golo Brdo, Gora, Mala Prespa (and Korcha region). The emphasis in the text is put on the constitution of the new border; on its function – eventually imposed from the “outside” – to serve as a “separator” of territories and communities; on border’s representation in narratives and in folklore knowledge.