



Andrei Emilciuc is senior researcher at the Institute of History of the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova. His PhD thesis analysed the role of Odesa seaport in the European grain trade system (1794–1853). He participated in several projects related to the socio-economic development of Bessarabia in the nineteenth century, and led a national project on the First World War. In the 2020–2021 academic year he was Gerda Henkel fellow at NEC (Bucharest). He is the author of 2 books and over 85 articles, researches and book chapters, but also of over 55 smaller publications, as conference abstracts, book reviews etc. His latest book, published in 2021 in Romanian, is entitled *Bessarabia in the Process of Integration of the Russian Empire into the European Trade System (1812–1860s)*.

In this project Andrei Emilciuc aims to investigate the organization of the sanitary system on the Danube border of the Russian Empire in its evolution during the nineteenth century. Special attention is paid to the analysis of the correspondence of Ismail's quarantine officials with the governor of Bessarabia and other imperial dignitaries regarding the quarantine's activity, as well as the plague cases detected on ships bound for the Danube ports of Bessarabia (Ismail, Reni and Chilia), fraudulent crossings of the border by various persons without respect for the quarantine regulations etc. Emilciuc will also analyse various statistics on the transfer of quarantine to Ismail and the number of people with symptoms/illnesses during their quarantine time, the expenses and staff fluctuations of the quarantine system.

A case study will be the establishment and operation of the health control point in Sulina, subordinated to the Ismail Quarantine. Among its declared objectives was the sanitary protection of the Romanian Principalities, from which the plague could enter the Russian Empire overland. Its operation revealed, however, that sanitary instruments were also used as a method of controlling navigation at the mouth of the Danube, which generated a fierce geopolitical conflict, culminating in the outbreak of the Crimean War (1853–1856) and the establishment of the European Danube Commission in 1856.

Andrei Emilciuc's research aims to reveal the institutional responses to epidemiological risks and their correlation with the needs of developing trade relations and increasing cross-border mobility in the region. The author will also follow the comparative evolution of Russian legislation with that of other European countries, in an attempt to establish borrowings of health practices to prevent the spread of the plague and improve prevention methods.