Proposal to Encode a Pridnestrovian Ruble Sign in the Unicode Standard

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1. Introduction

The Pridnestrovian ruble has been the official monetary unit of the Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic (Pridnestrovie) since 1994 and the only means of payment on its territory. This is a proposal to introduce the *Pridnestrovian ruble symbol* ₽ into the Unicode standard.

The symbol of the Pridnestrovian ruble has been introduced by the decision of the Pridnestrovian Republican Bank dated May 31, 2012.[2] The sign represents the cursive Russian letter «Р» with a double vertical line; thus, it combines the letters «П» and «Р». It was proposed and adopted was introduced in order to streamline the designation of the ruble in accordance with international practice for the convenience of citizens and organizations of Pridnestrovie.

This sign is a development of the ruble designation traditions associated with the use of abbreviations for the words «Pridnestrovie» and «Ruble». Also, due to the fact that the Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic today is an unrecognized state entity, its currency does not have an ISO code, but the code RUP is sometimes used instead.

According to the approved rules, the sign of the Pridnestrovian ruble is used as a designation of the national currency in the official printed publications, websites, as well as financial documents, when processing trade transactions, etc. This symbol in its functions is completely similar to the signs of currencies already introduced to Unicode Standard.

2. Context and usage

The proposed symbol is used to indicate monetary amounts in rubles, as well as to identify the Pridnestrovian currency. It is used in scopes related to financial transactions, trade, retail, services, banking, accounting, etc. Currently, due to the lack of standard electronic representation of the ruble symbol, there are significant difficulties in using it in printing, in receipts, cash registers, etc., therefore its main distribution is in handwritten texts or as a graphic image. The importance of including the ruble symbol in the Unicode standard is determined by the needs of its free use in electronic texts, the Internet and print.[2][7]

In the text, when indicating a numerical amount, the Ruble Sign is placed at the end (unlike the dollar and euro symbols, but like the ruble of the Russian Federation) without a space or with a narrow non-breaking space (if part of the amount is indicated in kopecks or if a thousands separator like space or period is used).
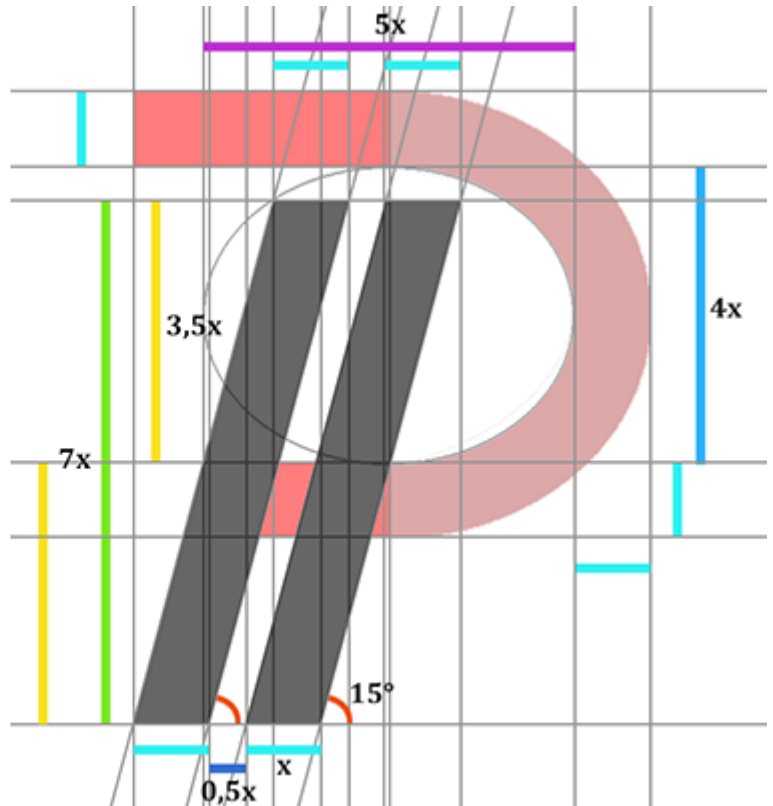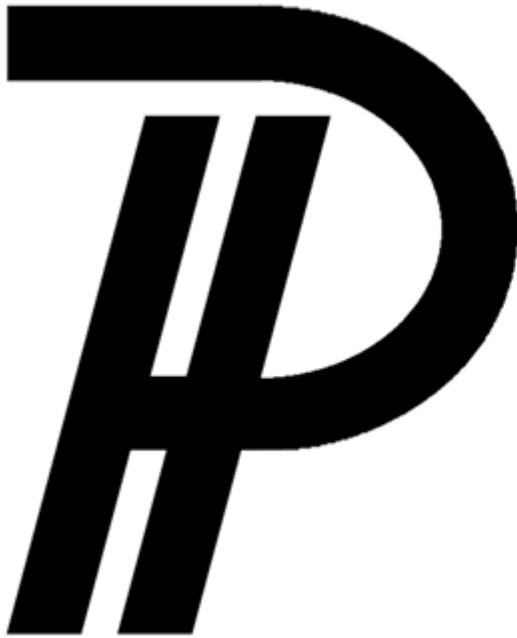
For example: 1000₽, 1 234,56 ₽.

3. Character to be added
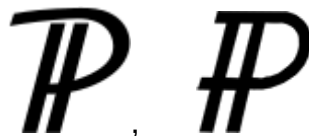
₽ U+20C1 PRIDNESTROVIAN RUBLE SIGN

Properties:

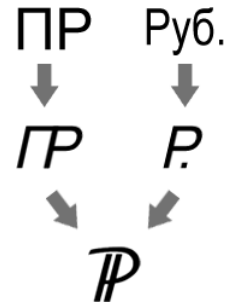20C1;PRIDNESTROVIAN RUBLE SIGN;Sc;0;ET;;;;;N;;;;;

4. Character images

Variants:

5. History of the symbol and currency [3][5]

- <u>Until 1994</u>: Formation of an independent financial system of Pridnestrovie. The Soviet ruble is in use, for which traditional abbreviations are used: «Р.» and «руб.» (from «рубль»).

- <u>1994</u>: The release of the Pridnestrovian currency begins, the tradition of designations is preserved, while at the unofficial level special symbols appear, designed to indicate the difference between the Pridnestrovian ruble and the ruble of Belarus and the Russian Federation, usually formed from the letters «ПР» (Pridnestrovian Ruble), «ПМР» (PMR) or «ПРБ» (PRB).

- <u>2000</u>: The ruble was re-denominated, new banknotes have appeared, the design of which has changed only slightly since then, and metal coins began to be issued. In the vast majority of cases, the ruble is denoted by the letter «P» with a dot. This designation does not have a special official status, but is used in documents as an abbreviation. On banknotes, the name of the currency is written in full words.

- <u>2005</u>: The Tiraspol Mint was opened. Initially, it began to issue coins of kopecks denomination, and later began to mint metal rubles.

- <u>2007</u>: The design of paper bills was updated, which is still in use today.

- <u>2012</u>: On May 31, the Pridnestrovian Republican Bank approved a single graphic image (special sign) of the Pridnestrovian ruble, and the rules for its use were determined on September 24.[2][4] It is noteworthy that the symbol of the ruble of the Russian Federation, which was discussed in parallel at the same time, was approved a year and a half later than the Pridnestrovian one.

- <u>2014</u>: Non-metallic ruble coins made of composite materials were issued.

- <u>2018</u>: A new logo of the Pridnestrovian Republic Bank with the image of the ruble symbol was adopted. At the same time, the symbol begins to appear on commemorative metal coins and banknotes associated with the financial sector and banks of Pridnestrovie. On standard cash, the name of the ruble is written in its entirety.[8]

- <u>Currently</u>: In parallel, several options for denoting the ruble are used: the officially approved symbol ₽ itself, the word «ruble» and its abbreviations рубл[ь/я/ей], р., руб. and the ISO-like code RUP (from *RUble of Pridnestrovie*; previously, the code PRB was also encountered). The Ruble Sign is gradually gaining popularity due to its compactness, clarity and recognition, but difficulties with computer representation of this symbol, in particular its absence in Unicode, prevent its use in electronic texts.

6. Comment about the character name

The name of the proposed symbol, as stated above, is Pridnestrovian Ruble Sign. This corresponds to the official name of this currency in English, used by the bank that issues it, as well as by institutions and citizens of Pridnestrovie who use English. This name directly indicates that the currency belongs to the region and state called Pridnestrovie (the full official name of the state is Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic). The region name is derived from the name of the Dniester river, around which it is located, the common Slavic prefix «pri-» that means «near», «about», and the postfix «-ovie» that gives the word a spatial-local meaning. This name is enshrined in the English translation of the Constitution of Pridnestrovie[9] and is politically neutral in any discourse.

It should be noted that recently in the English-speaking environment, mainly on the Internet, the term «Transnistria» has spread to refer to Pridnestrovie. Therefore, some people may be under the impression that this word could be used to name this symbol, as was already done in proposal L2/23-022. However, this is not a variant of the region's name, but a politically charged

form of hate speech towards Pridnestrovie and is used in the appropriate context. The history of this term is sad and is directly related to the suffering of the people living in Pridnestrovie and its surrounding areas over the past hundred years.[10]

The word «Transnistria» comes from the Romanian language and is formed from the Latin prefix «trans-» (through, behind something) and the Romanian/Moldovan name for the Dniester - Nistru. It appeared in the 1920s, when Romania captured the area between the Dniester and Prut rivers (called Bessarabia). This word denoted the lands beyond the Dniester (from the Romanian point of view), namely, an area roughly corresponding to the modern Odessa region of the Ukraine (including modern left bank Pridnestrovie). In 1941, when Romania, together with Hitler, invaded the USSR, an occupation regime named Transnistria was created on this territory. This regime committed large-scale war crimes and genocide; as a result of the atrocities committed, several hundred thousand civilians were murdered, a network of concentration camps was deployed, people were abducted into slavery, and forced Romanianization was carried out. This continued until 1944, when the so-called Transnistria was destroyed by advancing Soviet troops. Transnistria never used a currency called «ruble», and ₽ is not its symbol.

After the liberation of the lands around the Dniester, the Romanian term was forgotten for many years. However, it was remembered during the next bloodshed, in 1989-1992. When radical nationalist forces came to power in the Moldavian SSR (then still part of the Soviet Union), declaring with their program the annexation of the territory of Moldova to Romania, calls began to be heard at the everyday and official levels to get rid of the population of Pridnestrovie, which was then part of the Moldavian SSR. To add expressiveness to their speeches, Moldovan speakers began to use the long-forgotten Romanian term «Transnistria» to refer to Pridnestrovie, thereby drawing direct parallels with the crimes that were committed by the Romanian Nazis and calling to repeat them (although this is incorrect even geographically, since Pridnestrovie lies on both sides of the Dniester). That is, this word came into use by the most chauvinistically minded layers of Moldovan society as a gross politicized insult to those whom they declared their enemies.

In this form, «Transnistria» appeared in Western media in 1992 during the hot phase of the confrontation. Although the conflict subsided and the offensive name was largely forgotten again, it was «brought back to life» with the massive spread of Internet access and currently dominates the English-language media landscape. However, this is neither the official name of Pridnestrovie in any language, including in the documents of Moldova, nor the established name in English. In official documents of Moldova, Pridnestrovie as a state does not exist for obvious reasons (instead, the administrative unit named «Stinga Nistrului» are mentioned). The official name of Pridnestrovie in Moldovan and Romanian is Nistrenia, as written in its Constitution. In the living English language, whose speakers in the vast majority of cases have never heard of Pridnestrovie and there are a dozen variations of the name of this region, the choice of term is made solely based on the context and political views of the author.

Thus, the use of an «alternative name» for the Pridnestrovian ruble is unacceptable in any form, since in this case this act will take on an aggressive political connotation, which does not correspond to the goals of Unicode, and this will be perceived with regret and bewilderment by the main users of the symbol, which are the population of Pridnestrovie: adding to the Standard a currency symbol whose name is used as an insult to its users just does not make sense. Given the high need of Pridnestrovians to standardize the Ruble Sign, such a contradiction looks doubly inappropriate.

7. Illustrations

Image	Description or comments
	Current logo of the Pridnestrovian Republican Bank (PRB). On Pridnestrovian banknotes, the design of which was developed in 2000 and slightly modified in 2007, the Bank's monogram is depicted from the letters ПРБ:[1][8]
	Sculptural installation in front of the PRB building depicting this symbol. Established in 2014 in honor of the 20th anniversary of the introduction of Pridnestrovian currency.[6]

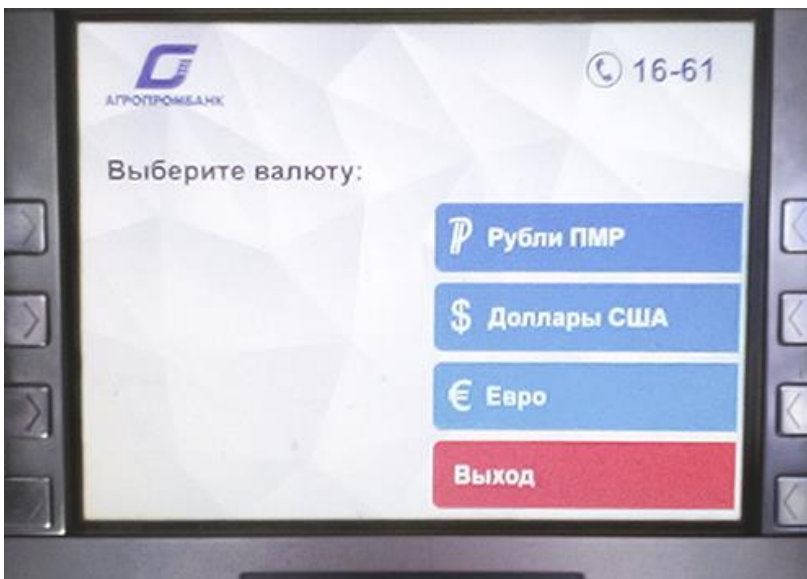|	
	Since the end of the 2010s metallic rubles, issued in a limited edition, are beginning to be introduced into circulation (paper banknotes currently form the basis of the cash supply). This also includes commemorative and anniversary coins. From this moment on, we can observe the appearance of the Ruble Sign on the money. Coins in the image: 1 ruble «Ruble symbol», 25 rubles «25 years of the Republican Bank» and 25 rubles «30 years of the financial system of Pridnestrovie».
	Anniversary 1 ruble banknote in vertical design, dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the introduction of the currency of Pridnestrovie. There is a bank emblem with the image of the Ruble Sign. It should be expected that with a possible change in the design of standard banknotes, this symbol will appear on them.
	Folded coin booklet with description and case. Such booklets are used to sell commemorative and special coins and are intended for the numismatist community.

Street billboards in Tiraspol.

The first offers the services of an insurance company, reporting that it paid out almost 9.5 million rubles for October 2019.

On the second, one of the local commercial banks offers loans up to 100 thousand rubles.

ATM of one of the commercial banks, the currency selection menu. Pridnestrovian rubles, US dollars and euros are offered.

A sign for a currency exchange office showing the relevant symbols.

On local tables of exchange rates, currency symbols are not used; the flag and ISO code are usually indicated.

An example of a menu from one of the local cafes.

It should be noted that all internal trade in Pridnestrovie is carried out in rubles, therefore the ruble designation is rarely indicated on price tags and receipts, usually in cases where it is necessary to indicate specifically the currency or that this number is the price (and not, for example, weight, volume or some other parameter).

A sticker on the coffee machine at the local supermarket indicating the type of cash it accepts.

	A receipt for payment of services, on which the amount is indicated in rubles.
	An example of handwritten use of the Ruble Sign.
	One of the pages of a corporate application interface for accounting cash flows.

8. References

1. The Pridnestrovian Republican Bank *(En.)*
   https://www.cbpmr.net/?lang=en

2. About the Pridnestrovian Ruble Sign *(Rus.)*
   https://www.cbpmr.net/content.php?id=79

3. History of the PRB and Pridnestrovian Currency *(Rus.)*
   https://www.cbpmr.net/content.php?id=1

4. The Central Bank of Pridnestrovie has chosen a graphic symbol to represent the ruble *(Rus.)*
   https://www.rbc.ru/spb_sz/04/06/2012/55929bdb9a794719538c42f4

5. How did the Pridnestrovian ruble appear *(Rus.)*
   https://history.gospmr.org/kak-poyavilsya-pridnestrovskij-rubl-istoriya-otechestvennogo-goznaka/

6. A monument to the Pridnestrovian ruble was unveiled in Tiraspol *(Rus.)*
   https://tiraspol.ru/ru/news/v-tiraspole-otkryit-pamyatnik-pridnestrovskomu-rublyu/

7. Symbol of the Pridnestrovian ruble: image, description, rules of use *(Rus.)*
   http://rarik.ru/articles/simvol-pridnestrovskogo-rublya.php

8. Logo and style of the Bank of Pridnestrovie *(Rus.)*
   https://ilogik.com/design/brandbook/logotip_i_stil_banka_pridnestrovya.html

9. The Constitution of Pridnestrovie *(En.)*
   https://mid.gospmr.org/en/constitution

10. The President of Pridnestrovie about the offensive term *(En.)*
    https://novostipmr.com/en/news/19-04-18/president-pmr-term-transnistria-occupational-concept-offensive

9. Proposal Summary Form

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2" align="center">ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646[1]
Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.
Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html for guidelines and details before filling this form.
Please ensure you are using the latest Form from http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html.
See also http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html for latest <i>Roadmaps</i>.</td></tr>
</table>

A. Administrative

1. **Title:**	*Proposal to encode a Pridnestrovian Ruble Sign*
2. Requester's name:	*Ivan Adrianov*
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution):	*Individual contribution*
4. Submission date:	*February 28, 2024*
5. Requester's reference (if applicable):	
6. Choose one of the following:	
This is a complete proposal:	*Yes*
(or) More information will be provided later:	

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:	
a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters):	*No*
Proposed name of script:	
b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block:	*Yes*
Name of the existing block:	*Currency Symbols*
2. Number of characters in proposal:	*1*

3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):

A-Contemporary **X**	B.1-Specialized (small collection)	B.2-Specialized (large collection)
C-Major extinct	D-Attested extinct	E-Minor extinct
F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic		G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols

4. Is a repertoire including character names provided?	*Yes*
a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document?	
b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?	*Yes*
5. Fonts related:	
a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard?	
Pridnestrovian Republican Bank	
b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.):	
https://www.cbpmr.net/data/ArialPRB.zip	
6. References:	
a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?	*Yes*
b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?	*Yes*
7. Special encoding issues:	
Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?	*No*

8. Additional Information:

Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at http://www.unicode.org for such information on other scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database (http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr44/) and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

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[1] Form number: N4502-F (Original 1994-10-14; Revised 1995-01, 1995-04, 1996-04, 1996-08, 1999-03, 2001-05, 2001-09, 2003-11, 2005-01, 2005-09, 2005-10, 2007-03, 2008-05, 2009-11, 2011-03, 2012-01)

C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? *Yes*
   If YES explain *L2/23-022 (not this, but about this symbol; with an incorrect symbol name)*
2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body,
   user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)? *No*
   If YES, with whom?
   If YES, available relevant documents:
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example:
   size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included? *Yes*
   Reference: *Residents and banks of the Republic of Pridnestrovie*
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare) *Common*
   Reference: *Used as a currency symbol of the Pridnestrovian ruble*
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community? *Yes*
   If YES, where? Reference: *In financial calculations and trade in Pridnestrovie*
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely
   in the BMP? *Yes*
   If YES, is a rationale provided? *Yes*
   If YES, reference: *The Currency Symbols block located in the BMP*
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)? *N/A*
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing
   character or character sequence? *No*
   If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
   If YES, reference:
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either
   existing characters or other proposed characters? *No*
   If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
   If YES, reference:
10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function)
    to, or could be confused with, an existing character? *No*
    If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
    If YES, reference:
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? *No*
    If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?
    If YES, reference:
    Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?
    If YES, reference:
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as
    control function or similar semantics? *No*
    If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)

13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters? *No*
    If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified?
    If YES, reference: