I would like to begin by thanking Ardahan University and Turk Dil Kurumu for inviting me to speak here today. It’s a real pleasure to have this opportunity to share my views on documentation and revitalization with you. I represent A. Krymsky Institute of Oriental Studies, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and at the same time National Network organized for the revitalization of the Turkic minority languages in our country.

This initiative of combined efforts of professional linguists, politicians and legislators was demonstrated not at once. It all started years ago with the rare revitalisation attempts and efforts.

All of the Turkic languages in Ukraine (Crimean Tatar, Gagauz, Karaim, Krymchak, Urum) are endangered, notably they are at risk of extinction in the short or in the long terms. According to UNESCO’s “Atlas of Endangered Languages” [http://www.unesco.org/languages-atlas/index.php] the degree of their vitality varies from definitely endangered (Gagauz) to extinct (Karaim) [Czató 2010]. Even the most numerous and demographically sizeable Crimean Tatar population is considered linguistically endangered because the language is spoken mainly by the representatives of the older generation.

The assessment of this language in the Atlas of Endangered Languages has long appeared to be too optimistic and it is necessary to revise it on the basis of a more profound analysis.

First, for the last several years we have spared no effort to collect and preserve the remains of ‘small’ or ‘insular’ Turkic languages in our country [Dryga 2010: 195-200, 220-233, 355-362, 406-419]. In 2006-2007 we conducted a field study in Ukraine and Lithuania in cooperation with the Altaic Society of Korea with a goal to revive, preserve and study the languages and, if possible, cultures of numerically small Turkic language speaking minorities such as Karay, Qrymchak and Urum, residing mainly in rural localities spread...
over the multilingual regions of the Crimea, Trakai and Azov and having no native language education [Author's recordings 2006]. As a result Korean and Ukrainian linguists have collected an invaluable language material given that there was only one speaker of Qrymchak remaining alive, about ten speakers of Qypchaq – Polovets dialects of Urum, eight speakers of the Crimean dialect and two speakers of Halych-Volyn’ dialect of Karaim as of 2008 [Altaic Society of Korea, 2006: 198-203; http://altaireal.snu.ac.kr/askreal_v25/photogroup.html]. The age of all the speakers was over 60, and mostly 80 or more.

Second, Lenara Kubedinova and Radovan Garabik from Slovakia began to develop the corpus of Crimean Tatar Wikipedia as a collaborative free content internet encyclopedia [Yavorska, Dryga 2015: 130-136]. Natural language processing often turns to Wikipedia for the source of material, because it exhibits the content, represents contemporary living language and is a valuable source of texts, for example for Linguistic corpus of Crimean Tatar language. For Crimean Tatar it became a point of grassroot prestige, and a major source of accessible online texts in the language. For comparison, no other Turkic language endangered in Ukraine has a Wikipedia corpus. Crimean Tatar Wikipedia (in Latin script) officially started on 12 January 2008, though the first pilot version dates from September 2006. It contains about 4000 articles, ranking 164th by the number of articles.

Moreover, Miquel Cabal-Guarro on the basis of the data drawn from the sociolinguistic survey that he conducted in 2011 amongst Crimean Tatars across the peninsula of Crimea, provided an analysis of the language uses and transmission [http://ru.krymr.com/a/25467619.html]. Although the Crimean Tatar language was either seldom or never spoken, especially amongst the individuals of the younger generation (that tend to use only or mostly Russian in their everyday communication, even with their relatives), it is still one of the main identification elements of the Crimean Tatar ethnicity and nearly in all cases claimed to be the identity language of the respondents, almost always even their declared native language. Miquel Cabal-Guarro also tried to elucidate the degree of endangerment of the Crimean Tatar language.

Tudora Arnaut organized 3 international symposiums in Kyiv in 2005-2010 [Arnaut 2005, 2010, 2013] on the problems of the Turkic speaking peoples, and it became our initial experience of public collaborative discussions on the endangered Turkic peoples’ linguistic problems. Quite important decisions taken by the symposiums were quite commendable; they were transferred to the relevant governmental departments and commissions but had no effect [Arnaut 2007]. Moreover, the new language law offered in 2010 by