

and child raising, as well as children value assessment, determine the maintaining of high birth rates and high natural growth of the Roma.

Two periods in the Bulgarian Roma emigration process after 1989 can be clearly outlined: a period of weak emigration mobility till the beginning of the 21st century; and a second period (the first decade of the 21st century) – of increased emigration, as a result of the adoption of Bulgaria in the so-called Schengen “White List” (April 2001) and the EU accession of the country (January 2007) which, together with the socio-economic problems that accompany the transition period, prove to be crucial for the Bulgarian Roma in making a decision to emigrate.

Despite the fact that the Roma ethnic group in Bulgaria is the second largest minority group after the Turkish, very few studies have been made after the Liberation of Bulgaria, as well as in the period between the WWII and the end of 1989. During the entire period following The Liberation, the Roma is the only ethnic group in the country, which was featured by a continuous increase in number (with the exception of the 1920 census when the results were affected by changes in the territory of Bulgaria occurred, the 1975 census – when the results were classified and the ones that were published were not the actual results, and with the exception of the 2011 census - according to official statistics the number of the Roma group has decreased since the previous census, but in fact its increasing continues (Fig. 13, Table 21, Fig. 14). Judging by the analysis of the factors for population number, it can be concluded that the natural growth has been the main factor of the growth of the Roma population in Bulgaria. The ethno-cultural characteristics, the specifics of employment, the impact of the standards imposed in the value system of the Roma group, combined with the specificity of the settlement environment, the young age structure, the deteriorating educational structure and the livelihoods, are the key factors that largely determine the maintenance of high levels of natural growth of the Roma population. Decisive influence on the birth rate decrease, respectively, the natural growth, had the final settling down of the Roma, regulated by Decree № 258 of the Council of Ministers from 17th October 1958, which act coincided with the completion of the land collectivization and with a raise of the educational level of the Roma. The next significant drop in the values of the reproduction indicators was observed in the middle of the first decade of the 21st century, when accelerated rates of transition to the third phase of demographic transition were sensed.

Throughout the whole period after The Liberation, immigration prevails over emigration, which generally has low intensity and hence - little influence on the number of Roma in country, with only few exceptions (for example during the so-called “Big excursion” and the years after 2001). With the change in policy towards the ethnic groups in the country since the mid 1950s, it was concluded that the growing trend of Roma Muslims of Turkish mother tongue declaring themselves as Turks, should be stopped by changing the Turkish-Arabic names to Bulgarian names, which policy began to be applied to Roma people at the end of the 1950s. As a result of that policy, however, the opposite effect was achieved – instead of reducing the existing trends, they were actually amplified – the number of Roma