

riod in focus. In that part of the country, the concentration of Roma in settlements with high relative share of Roma remains low. Northwestern Bulgaria has specific features in that aspect – as early as the 1960s, changes in concentration of Roma in settlements with high relative share of that ethnos began to occur: the concentration of Roma in settlements with the highest share of Roma, gradually increased during the last two decades, and by the end of the discussed period more than half of the Roma population in Northwestern Bulgaria lives in such settlements (Fig. 34, 39, 42, 45, 50, 54).

A complex methodology is made to delineate the areas, remarkable for their high concentration of Roma population. Five areas with high concentration was separated – Northeast, Northwest, Zadbalkanski, Maritsa and Burgas (Fig. 56, table 23). Regions are formed due to a combination of a set of interrelated factors - historical, political, socio-economic, demographic determinants. In different periods factors occur in different proportions and intensity and determine changes in the territories. The main factors for the emergence of areas with a high concentration of Roma population are:

- The increase in the absolute number and relative share of the Roma population.
- High levels of population growth, which, despite the trend of reductions remain high at the beginning of the XXI century is estimated at around 18 %.
- The change in the ethnic structure of the settlements and the significant increase of the settlements with a high share of Roma population in them (Fig. 15, 16);
- Increasing the spatial dislocation of Roma settlements, especially high share;
- Reduction of the Turkish ethnic group, particularly in areas of compact settlement of Bulgarian Turks as a result of emigration;
- High rates of decrease of the Bulgarian population in the villages as a result of substantial aging age structure and the ongoing migration to cities.

In the future, taking into account the peculiarities of the demographic processes of Roma with those of the Bulgarians, the Turkish ethnic group and smaller ethnic groups will continue the upward trend in the geographical area and changes in their structures.