PREDOMINATING RISK GROUPS
IN BULGARIAN SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT: Risks for the society are always interested in terms of social security and social policy. This issue is on the agenda of any government in whose hands the levers and mechanisms for effective management of the state. Exploring strategic documents for Bulgaria the author of the article derives from seeing them the risk groups in Bulgarian society and the reasons for their separation.

KEY WORDS: strategies, strategic documents, the elderly, the unemployed, permanently unemployed, incomplete families, children at risk, birthing underage girls (children born children), single mothers, Roma, Roma children, Roma women

The knowledge and analysis of those groups that are at risk for a society are always interested in terms of social security and social policy. This issue is on the agenda of any government in whose hands are the levers and mechanisms for effective management of the state.

This article analyzes the main, government strategic documents presented statistical data forming an updated overview of the risk groups in Bulgarian society:

1. Analysis of data from the National Strategy for Demographic Development of the Republic of Bulgaria (2006 - 2030) gives the following picture of the risk groups in Bulgarian society [1]:

According to the census of 2011 the population of Bulgaria is 7,364,570 people. Between the last two censuses: in 2001 and 2011, the population decreased by 564,331 people at an average annual rate of decline of 0.7%.

Since 1991, the tendency is to increase wedlock births.

As a result of internal and external migration of the population has decreased in cities with 17,463, and in the villages - by 6727 people. In the cities live 5,339,001 people, or 72.5 percent, while in rural areas live 2,025,569 people, or 27.5 percent of the population. Greatest territorial movement has direction “city - city” (45%).

Bulgaria continues to be leaving by the young and educated people, in which the state has invested and which are more easily adaptable to the requirements of the market.
The emigration of young and highly educated people have serious economic and social consequences for the future development of the country.

There is a steady trend of depopulation of villages. The ongoing territorial redistribution of the population in Bulgaria is an indicator of a widening gap between the conditions of work and life in towns and villages. In the absence of active investment policy in the villages of these differences will deepen. In 181 settlements not enumerated persons, ie no population.

In 2010, the level of economic activity of the population aged 15-64 was 62.3% in women and 70.8% men. The unemployment rate was 9.5% for women and 10.9% of men. The average salary in Bulgaria women were receiving in 2009 with 18 % lower than that of men.

Feminization of poverty as a global problem has its Bulgarian dimensions. It covered: minority women, single women and mothers, older women and women from the villages. In the most serious situation of poverty in Bulgaria are Roma women among them 69% have no profession. Almost half are permanently unemployed (more than 5 years). Reasons that are highlighted no work, rearing children and low education.

The process of demographic aging, evidenced by the reduction in the absolute number and proportion of the population aged under 15 years and increasing the share of the population aged 65 and older, which is a direct consequence of the stage of demographic transition, which is located in Bulgaria. The total age dependency ratio for the country is 46.5%, ie 100 persons in the age group 15-64 years accounted for nearly 47 people under 15 and 65 and older. This ratio is more favorable in cities - 41% compared to the villages - 63.1%. Only less than 20, the ratio between the young (under 15) and those over 65 will deteriorate from 85.6% to 67%.

62.2% of the country's population is of working age, ie these are 4,576,904 people. 52.5% of them are male and the remaining 47.5% women.

The increasing number and proportion of older people (65 +) raises serious challenges to the social security system, social assistance, health and education. In general, social transfers for people aged over 65 will increase.

During the census in 2011 persons who benefited from a voluntary response to the question of ethnic identity are 91% of the population:

- **Bulgarian ethnic group** comprises 5,664,624, or 84.8% of persons voluntarily declare their ethnic self-determination; prevails in all areas with the exception of Kardzhali and Razgrad, where she formed respectively 30.22 and 43.0% ;
- **Turkish ethnic group** is the second largest by 1.02.2011, 588,318 or 8.8%; territorially concentrated in a few areas - Kardzhali, Razgrad, Targovishte, Shumen, Silistra, Dobrich, Ruse, Burgas, where live 63.7% of the population of this ethnic group.
- **Roma ethnic group** - distributed in all districts. The largest share of the Roma ethnic group in Montana 12.7% and Sliven 11.8%, followed by Dobrich 8.8%, Yambol - 8.5%, in total 4.9% for the country.
- **Other ethnic groups** identify themselves 49 304 people, or 0.7%. These include people from other ethnic groups: Russian - 9978, Armenian - 6552 people, Vlach - 3684 people, Greek - 1379, Jewish - 1162 people Karakachan - 2556 people, Macedonian - 1654 people, Romanian - 891, Ukrainian - 1789 people and more - 19,659 people;
Not identify themselves - 53 391 - 0.8%. Among them the largest share of the young to 19 years - 51.7 percent of those who do not identify themselves.

The population with Bulgarian ethnic self-determination is significantly urbanized compared to the other two main ethnic groups. 77.5% of Bulgarian ethnicity live in cities, 37.7% of the Turkish ethnic group and 55.4% of the Roma ethnic group.

The educational structure provides insight into the level of education completed by individual groups. As of 1.02.2011 number of people with higher education is 1 348.7 thousand or one in five (19.6%) is a university graduate. For the first time in the 2011 census included the category "never not attend school." The number of these persons is 81.0 thousand,. Or 1.2% of the population 7 years and over. Worryingly, they never included in the educational system. Illiterates are 112 778 and their share of the population aged 9 and over was 1.7%. There are significant differences in the proportion of illiterate persons in the three main ethnic groups. In defining themselves as Bulgarians 0.5% are illiterate, the Turkish ethnic group - 4.7% and in Roma - 11.8%. The education of men as a whole is slightly higher than that of women - the proportion of women with secondary or higher education is 63.6 against 62.4% in women. However, the females complete significantly more higher education than men at the time of the census graduates are 791.8 thousand. Females (22.3%) and men graduates are 556.9 thousand (16.7%).

2. Analysis of data from the National Strategy for Children for 2008-2018 gives the following picture for the risk groups in Bulgarian society [2]:

It points the unfavorable trend of absolute and relative decline in the child population in the Republic of Bulgaria, which shows a long-established process of aging of the nation. While in 1989 the share of the child population is 25%, in 2006 this share dropped to 18.5%, i.e. 1,420,810 children. From 2001 to 2006 establishes a constant rate of reduction of child population. The main reasons are the low birth rate, significant emigration of children going abroad with their parents, and continuing relatively high infant mortality.

A significant problem is the early birth rate in Bulgaria (under 20 years of age of the mother) - from 25% in 1993, it was 17% in 2000 and decreased to 14.2% in 2005 to in 2005 10 160 children are born to mothers under 20 years of age, 401 of them are children of mothers aged under 15 years. Should also pay attention to the harm of abortion, especially induced sterility them, which has its demographic dimensions. Physical immaturity mothers attempts to induce abortion and problems associated with the birth of the child, leading to various disturbances in the physical and mental development of children. The early motherhood can be a factor of social exclusion of the mother, with consequences for the child.

The poverty rate for children under 15 years is 15.1% on average for the group 16-64, from 12.3 percent. The risk of poverty is highest in children sasamoten parent and children in households with many. Nearly one in three children with a single parent (31.1%) lives in a poor household. The risk of poverty is particularly high for large families - 28.6 percent of households with three or more children living in poverty, and further intensified for children from vulnerable ethnic minority groups, particularly Roma and Turkish.

In 2006, the infant mortality rate remains higher in some ethnic minority communities, especially Roma. Although in recent years the infant mortality rate in Bulgaria is constantly
decreasing, it is still higher than in European countries. The main reasons for the high mortality rate, especially higher in minority groups may be looking at a bad material and economic living conditions, difficult access to health care and health resources, especially for the Roma community, the significantly lower educational level.

**EXTREMELY** negative impact on the future development and have increased illiteracy and the deterioration of the educational structure for young people up to 24 years. Every fifth of them have more than a high school education. Illiteracy in a number of cases together with social risks - unemployment, poverty, lack of or inadequate health care and education of the child deviant behavior.

**The** total number of children in institutions in 2006 was 8653. Compared to 2001 the number of institutionalized children decreased by 31.4% (3956). Can categorically say that is a very strong trend towards reducing the number of children in institutions, but their number is still large. The main factors that determine the placement of children from disadvantaged backgrounds in specialized institutions, the difficulties they face in keeping their (economic, psychological, social), combined with the lack of alternatives to institutional care.

**As** a result, education policy aimed at the development of integrated education in the school year 2006-2007 in kindergartens and general education are taught integrated 4400 children with special educational needs. Have been opened 28 resource centers to support integrated education of children with special educational needs.

**Violence** against children is a current problem for Bulgaria - 77.4% of the registered cases of violence in the family. To age, the largest group of children - victims of violence, between 8 and 14 years (57% of all children - victims of violence); followed by children aged 15-18 years (17%); children 4 to 7 years - 15.8% and those between 0-3 years - 10.6 percent. Stable trend in recent years violence in educational institution is most common after the violence in the family.

**The** children on the street are one of the most vulnerable groups of children at risk. As of April 2007, a total registered in the country begging and working street children 647 children fall into a state of neglect due to lack of control and parental irresponsibility. Street life often replaces problematic family environment and violence in the home.

**The** children - victims of trafficking constitute 69.2% of the victims of trafficking registered in Bulgaria, for begging and other illegal activities. Minority ethnic groups are particularly vulnerable group for trafficking for sexual exploitation, forced labor, begging, and other illegal activities adoption. In 2006 alone, the SACP has coordinated repatriation and taking care of the protection system 35 children - victims of trafficking are recruited into begging, prostitution and sexual abuse.

**The** number of children - victims of crimes decreased from 4187 children in 2005 to 3754 children in 2006, which has 433 children, or 10.34% less than in 2005. Minor and juvenile persons are basically subject to property crimes, and this trend continued throughout the period. Is relatively small share of crimes against the person subject to the minors.

**There** is a tendency to significantly reduce the number and proportion of juvenile crime in the country as a whole. In 2006 they were 9883, which is the lowest level of 6 years. Socio-educational boarding schools and educational schools - boarding in 2006 were accommodated 600 children - almost two times less than in the previous year.
3. **Analysis of the National Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria for Roma integration (2012-2020) gave the following picture of the risk groups in Bulgarian society [3]:**

According to NSI data from the Census of Population and Housing 2011, Roma remain the third largest ethnic group in Bulgaria. As Roma identify themselves 325,343 people or 4.9% of Bulgarian citizens.

A serious problem faced by Roma, is the increase in the spatial differentiation of their community. Concentration of Roma in segregated neighborhoods has increased over the last fifteen years in both urban and rural communities. They live in crowded neighborhoods often outside urban regulation in areas with poorly built or operating water supply and sewerage network, often - with illegally drawn grid or even without electricity.

**Economically** active only 38.8% of the Roma. Are occupied only 50.2% of the economically active population - ie 19.35% of all Roma over 15 years

**Economically** inactive are three fifths of persons over 15 years - 61.2%. Group of pensioners (only generating their own income) here is the smallest - only 23.5%.

The students are extremely low - 7.3% of the economically inactive or 4.4% of all Roma over 15 years. This low share of continuing their education after the age of 15 will predetermines the low education and qualification status of the community in the long run and hence - and the larger share of unemployed dropped out of the labor market and Roma in the coming decades. The hosts in Roma make up a huge proportion - 36.5% of the economically inactive; 22.4% of all Roma over 15 years.

**Socialization** patterns in many Roma groups, especially in neighborhoods with predominantly Roma population creates additional difficulties for the adaptation of Roma children in school if they went to preschool settings. Patriarchal norms over-control the behavior of girls and women also lead to early failure of some girls from Roma subgroups of school. Despite all the difficulties in the period 2001 - 2011, it increased the number of young Roma graduates in the country, received specialized or higher degree abroad.

The study of the health status of Roma suggests that a third of men and two-fifths of women aged 45-60 years have already lost part or all of their ability to work due to ill health. It is bad for the health and 10% of children under the age of 9 years. The survey showed that 12.6% of the total Roma population in the country, including children, is invalid or has a serious chronic disease.

**Very** serious problem in the Roma neighborhoods in Bulgaria are infectious diseases. Overcrowding of neighborhoods and housing very difficult isolation of virus carriers and diseases often take endemic.

4. **Analysis of data from Updated Employment Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria 2013 – 2020 give the following picture of the risk groups in Bulgarian society [4]:**

**Impact** of the global financial and economic crisis on the Bulgarian economy is reflected in negative impacts on the labor market. Reduction and the economic slowdown and its low levels do not favor the creation of new jobs.
For the period 2008 - 2011 the number of economically active population decreased by 200.8 thousand. During 2012 the activity rate is 67.1% less compared to 2008 in the period 2008 - 2012 the rate of economic activity decreased for men in 2012 was 71%. For the same period the index for women increased in 2012 it reached 63.2%.

The significant reduction in labor demand and job losses as a result of the crisis led to a significant decline in employment. For the period 2008 - 2012 the number of employed persons aged 15-64 decreased by 411.3 thousand, While the number of employed aged 20-64, with a 393.6 thousand. During 2012, the employment rate for the age group 20-64 was 63%.

The successful implementation of the labor market is largely determined by the level of education and qualification. Employment of persons with primary or lower education decreased more than the employment of those with higher education. There is a correlation between education and employment, resulting in the employment rate of persons with higher education is more than four times higher than that of persons with primary or lower education. In 2012, the employment rate of people with higher education (25-64 years) is 81.8%, of those with secondary education 69.1%, those with primary education and 41.6% of those with primary or lower education 18.3%.

The registered unemployment rate increased from 6.3% in 2008 to 11.1 percent in 2012 unemployed women retain its dominant share in the total number of unemployed registered in labor offices of 54.6%: 45.4%.

The youths are one of the groups most affected by the crisis. From 2008 to 2012 the number of unemployed young people aged 15-24 increased by 31.4 hilyasi people annually. In some of the lower youth work activity combined with lower activity in their participation in education and training. Bulgaria compared to other Member States with the highest share of young people aged 15-24 who are not working and not studying.

The number of unemployed persons with disabilities registered in labor offices grew in 2008-2012 In 2012 they were 15,100.

At the same time, funds for salaries in the public sector remain unchanged in the crisis, it was not allowed to reduce.

From the analysis of the reduced statistics of the target strategic documents can explicate the following conclusions:

1. The emerging risk groups in Bulgarian society are: the elderly, the unemployed, long-term unemployed, incomplete families, children at risk, birthing underage girls (children born children), single mothers, large parts of the Roma ethnic communities - of them mainly Roma children and women.
2. These groups are formed as a result of inefficient transition of Bulgarian society from a totalitarian kav democratic country, when they were released key levers to regulate social inequalities.
3. The global economic crisis which appeared in 2008 and signs of fading after 2010 contributing to the further deterioration of the parameters but on established risk groups in Bulgarian society.
4. Urgent and radical measures by the ruling political elite to limit the growth of these groups. Otherwise, they can have a catastrophic effect social security top of society as a whole and on its functioning.
5. The presence of these risk groups put Bulgarian society in the "backyard" of the European Union, which undermines confidence in the political and economic power of the supranational organization.

**References**


