

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC ASPECTS OF THE AGING POPULATION. THE PROBLEM IN BULGARIA.

URSZULA MICHALOWSKA

RESEARCHER ON THE PROBLEMS OF ELDERLY PEOPLE WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION

GERMANY

URSHULA@MAIL.BG

ABSTRACT: THE AGING IS A GLOBAL PHENOMENON THAT MANIFESTS ITSELF IN DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE. IN A REPORT, THE UN WARNS THAT THIS DEGREE OF AGING IS WITHOUT PARALLEL IN HUMAN HISTORY. DISTURBING IS A NEW TREND: IN PARALLEL WITH THE RAPIDLY GROWING NUMBER OF ELDERLY, REDUCING THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 15 YEARS AND THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE OF WORKING AGE (15-59). GLOBALLY, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE OVER 60 WILL EXCEED THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN 2045. IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IT BECAME REALITY IN 1998. THE MAIN REASON FOR THIS PROCESS IS THE DECLINE IN FERTILITY, WHICH HAS BECOME A UNIVERSAL PROBLEM. A BULGARIA ON NEGATIVE DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IS THE NUMBER ONE IN EUROPE. AMONG THE ESTIMATED 285 REGIONS IN THE EU PLUS ICELAND, NORWAY AND SWITZERLAND. AT 284TH PLACE FOR THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION IN BULGARIA AND 285TH FOR THE NORTHWEST REGION IN BULGARIA.

KEY WORDS: AGING, ELDERLY, DEMOGRAPHY, DEMOGRAPHIC DECLINE, STRATEGIES, CONCEPTS

Population aging is a global problem. Therefore, in a report The World Health Organization identifies the following key actions, which must be taken by all governments of the world, in order to strengthen active aging:

1. Promote good health and healthy behaviors at all ages to prevent or delay the development of chronic diseases.
2. Minimize the effects of chronic diseases through early detection and quality care.

CREATE physical and social environment that promotes the health of older people, changing public attitudes to build a society that respects and values health of the elderly.

THE aging is a global phenomenon that occurs even in Africa and in remote areas of Asia, but in this respect, Europe is the undisputed "global leader". And Bulgaria on negative demographic trends is the number one in Europe. To carry out their assessments, scientists have used 24 sustainability indicators (demographic, economic, social and environmental). Evaluated are 285 regions in the EU plus Iceland, Norway and Switzerland. Accordingly 284th place for the North Central Region in Bulgaria and the 285th for the Northwest region in Bulgaria.

THE rate of aging is different for different regions and countries. Europe is among the senescent parts of the world and southern Europe - where Bulgaria - has a significantly aging population compared to the average age for Eastern Europe. In developed countries, one in five has more than 60 years, and by 2050 it will apply to each third. Increasing the number of people over 80 years of age. Currently, their number is growing by 4% a year, the trend is

upward. Between developing and developed countries there are still major differences, but according to demographers mid-century developing world will be just as aging as developed countries are at the moment. The average age of the world's population is currently 28 years old. The youngest country is Niger with an average age of the population 15 years. The oldest is Japan - mean age 44. Over the next four decades the average age of the world's population will rise to 38 years. Since women live longer than men, and they constitute the majority of the aging population. Currently, women over 60 years with 66 million. More than older men, and the group of 80-year-old women are twice more than men. In people over 100 years the number of women is five times higher than the number of men.

IN 10 years the number of people over 60 years old on the planet has increased by 100 million. Currently, the number is 700 million., or 11% of the world population. According to the study old age is on the offensive everywhere - 2050 2 billion. People will have more than 60 years, equivalent to 22% of the world population.

THE new UN report warns that this degree of aging is without parallel in human history. Disturbing is a new trend: parallel with the rapidly growing number of elderly, reducing the number of children under 15 years and the number of people of working age (15-59). Globally, the number of people over 60 will exceed the number of children in 2045.

IN the developed parts of the world this happened in 1998. The main reason for this process is the decline in fertility, which has become a universal problem.

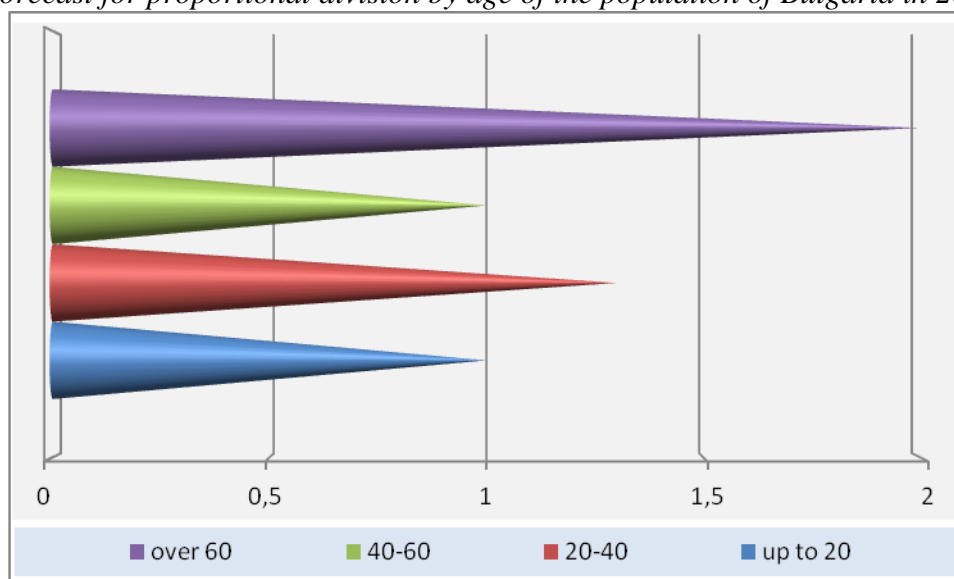
THE demographers believe that birth will hardly ever return to high levels of the past. In this sense, the changes in the demographic structure of the world are irreversible. In the preservation of these trends in 2060 the world will be more grandparents than grandchildren.

THE aging is a process with profound implications. It affects all aspects of economic and social life and will fundamentally change the political structures because it affects political representation. Disturbed demographic proportions lead to changes in the very foundations of society. According to official data of the NSI estimated population of Bulgaria in 2060 will be around 5.3 million. Of these young people up to 20 years will be about 1 million. It is expected that 1.3 million is the number of people in productive age between 20 and 40. Between 40 and 60 years will be about 1 million people. From 60 years old or older will account for nearly 2 million people. The data clearly show that the pyramidal structure of the population turns and approximately two pensioners in 2060 will account for a working (Table 1).

Table 1.
Estimated population of Bulgaria in 2060

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF BULGARIA IN 2060	
AGE	NUMBER
up to 20	1 million
20 - 40	1,3 million
40 – 60	1 million
over 60	2 million

THE expression on Table № 1 is located in the following Figure 1.

Figure 1.*Forecast for proportional division by age of the population of Bulgaria in 2060*

SIMILAR is the structure of the population in the EU, according to Eurostat. In 2000 the EU lived about 480 million people, and today their number reached 500 million, and approximately 100 million live in countries that will join in any new enlargement. According to Eurostat, the EU-27 working age (between 15-64 years) is slightly more than 2/3 of the total population in the EU. Meanwhile, the aging population the Old Continent (over 64 years) was significantly increased in all countries. According to experts, never before the population of Europe was shaped like an inverted pyramid - with the oldest age group at the top. Eurostat data also show that in 1960 pyramid had normal structure - an average of three young Europeans (aged 0-14 years) per adult.

DEMOGRAPHIC model for Central and Eastern Europe shows a significant increase in the population over 65 years of age. The aging will no doubt be a key demographic challenge in many European countries over the next 50 years, according to analyzes of experts. Its consequences for the socio-economic systems, such as public programs for pension, health care or kinship structures can be significant. The latest forecasts from Eurostat show that older people are more than 30% of the population of Bulgaria in 2050

FURTHERMORE, examination of Cambridge University study realized among the 25 European countries, according to placing Bulgaria among the first in percentage of older people who define themselves as lonely. Nearly 19% of people over 60 years in the country indicated that they often feel lonely, compared to 3% in Denmark and 5% in Norway. The loneliness affects the overall health status and independent living. Limiting social contacts opens the way to social institutions for the elderly. Unfortunately, in Bulgaria they are constructed so as to contribute to the sense of detachment from the world, unnecessary life and loneliness.

THE average age in Bulgaria is gradually increasing. In recent years - from 38.9 years in 1995, 40.4 years in 2001 to 41.9 years in 2010. The average life expectancy for the period from 2008 - 2010 is 73.6 years - 0.2 years higher than that for the period 2007 – 2009. For men it is 70 years, and women - 77 2 years. According to estimates of the National Statistical

Institute, in 2050 the proportion of elderly people in Bulgaria will increase to over 30%, which will lead to very serious consequences on many public areas and pressure on public finances (Table 2).

Table 2.

Increase in the average age of the population in the country

INCREASE IN THE AVERAGE AGE OF THE POPULATION IN THE COUNTRY	
YEAR	AVERAGE AGE
1995	38.9
2001	40.4
2010	41.9

IN the context of those data in Bulgaria are accepted National Concept for encouragement the active life of the elderly people in Bulgaria (2012 - 2030) and Plan to implementing the National Strategy for Demographic Development of Bulgaria (2006 - 2020), which will contribute to the achievement of the main strategic policy objective for demographic development – slowing the pace of population decline and stabilize in the long term, and ensuring a high quality of human capital, including people with their health, education, skills and abilities. Measures for quality of life and provides the performance of a number of projects and programs in health, education, agriculture and food security, including relating to the elderly.

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