

DEMOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVES OF THE CITY OF VARNA /RESEARCH ESSAY/

KALINKA LYUBENOVA, LUCHEZAR SABOTINOV, IVAYLO POPOV
KALINA0722@ABV.BG VARNA78@ABV.BG IVAYLO_POPOV@ABV.BG

STUDENTS IN SOCIAL ACTIVITIES,
SHUMEN UNIVERSITY "KONSTANTIN BISHOP OF PRESLAY"

BULGARIA

ABSTRACT: THE LOCATION THE CITY OF VARNA ON THE BLACK SEA DETERMINES ITS DEVELOPMENT AS A NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT AND TRADE CENTER, THANKS TO WHICH ITS POPULATION NARASTVAI CONTINUOUSLY EVOLVE IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION. IN HIS ESSAY INDICATING THE TRENDS OF THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

KEY WORDS: MUNICIPALITY, DISTRICT, ECONOMY, FOREIGN INVESTMENT, POPULATION GROWTH, DEMOGRAPHIC PROBLEMS, LOW BIRTH RATE, HIGH BIRTH RATE, MORTALITY, FUTURE

VARNA is a town in northeastern Bulgaria, situated on the shores of the Black Sea and VarnaLake. It is also the administrativecentre of the municipality and district bearing the same name.

VARNA covers an area of 238 km and has a population of 334,870 people, which makes it the third largest city in Bulgaria and the Bulgarian coast.

VARNA is often called the sea capital of Bulgaria "and it is an important tourist and cultural center, the starting point for the other resorts along the seaside".

DURING the first census polling 1887 in the Municipality of Varna the population of the city was 25,256 people. For the period up to1892 the population increased by 23.95% and reached 34,912 people. Compared to 1910 the population of Varna increased by 45.52 percent, reaching 50,819 people.

ACCORDING to the official national census of 2011about 5% of the population of the country lived in Varna. Its population is 334,870 people which makes the city the third largest in Bulgaria. Varna is one of the few Bulgarian cities with a positive population growth.

THE most significant share in the structure of the economy in 2006 was given to large enterprises which were 17,614 in number and represented 90% of the total number of companies. The small business was represented by 1,651enterprises.The production cost realized by the big companies in 2006 was at the amount of 3,767,547 leva.

THE city ranks second in the country in foreign investments.

GEOGRAPHIC location and existing infrastructure have predetermined the favourable development of the city for ages. Well-arranged water and cargo transport determined the image of the city as a crossroads between the East and the West. Maritime industry is a

specific sector characteristic of the city. It combines companies from various sectors related to sea activities. They realize about 14-15% of the sales revenue of the municipal economy.

WHAT are the demographic characteristics of Varna?

IT is difficult to state the exact number of Bulgarians during the Liberation. For the first city elections in November 1878 based on the "Provisional Rules for the election of city and county councils" there had been conducted a counting of the yards. According to paragraph 25 one vote should be elected out of 50 yards. On November 14, 1878 the Greeks challenged the right of Bulgarians to have 12 votes, because there were not 500 Bulgarian houses in Varna. According to A. Ishirkovat the time of the Liberation there were not more than 3500 Bulgarians living in Varna. These 3000 – 4000 Bulgarians represented an insignificant number in the general population of 21000. On January 1st, 1881 the number of Bulgarians was 6714 (4478 men and 2236 women). Of these 4478 men 2 057 were soldiers, therefore, there were around a thousand more Bulgarians who had moved to Varna by 1st January 1881. Their number was not so significant but the majority of them were very well educated or highly ambitious. The age structure of population hinted on intense migration processes in the city of Varna. On average about 30% of the population was aged between 15 and 30 years. Statistics showed that the number of people born outside the country was very large, which was accounted for by the influx of many people as seasonal or permanent workers for longer period of time. The share of foreign nationals which is also something characteristic of a maritime trade center was also significant. Comparing the number of foreign nationals in Ruse, Varna, Shumen and Sofia based on the census of January 1st 1881, M. Stefanov pointed out that their number was highest in Varna – 10%.

FOR a period of 30 years (1879-1911) the town population doubled in size. From 21000 people at the time of the Liberation Varna rose to 41000 inhabitants in 1911. The stages of this growth are explicated by the table below:

Year	Residents	Buildings
1879	21 000	
1881	24 555	3 740
1888	25 256	
1893	28 174	4 640
1901	34 922	6 351
1906	37 417	
1911	41 560	7 325

CURRENTLY the population which lives in Sofia (Bulgaria's capital), Plovdiv and Varna, is one third of the population of the country. During the period between the two censuses it was only the population of the districts Sofia (capital) and Varna that increased respectively by 120,749 people (10.3%) and 13 061 people (2.8%). 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 these differences will deepen. There is a clear trend of aging of the population in Bulgarian villages. In 2010 every fourth rural resident was over 65 years old. The average age of people living in the villages is with 6 years longer than that of urban residents – 44,6 years of age vs. 38,6 years of age for the urban population.

THE future demographic situation in Varna is predetermined by:

1. The process of demographic aging, exemplified by the reduction of the absolute number and proportion of the population under 15 years of age and the increase in the share of the population aged 65 and older. The population in rural areas is much lower than that of the urban ones.
2. The population in the age group of 15-64 has the highest share in Sofia (the capital) - 72.1%, followed by Smolyan – 70.7%, and Blagoevgrad and Varna– with 70% each. Less than 20 years would pass before the ratio between the young (those younger than 15 years of age) and those over 65 years of age will drop down from 85.6% to 67%.
3. Having laid out all of the above facts (or even a part of them) we can only believe that Roma's high birth rate and the emigration of every third Bulgarian will not affect the decline in population.
4. In Varna and in the tourist resorts one could observe the trend of increase in number of those who would temporarily work there. Experts estimate outbound labor migration from the city of Varna is currently around 10 thousand people, 15 thousand incoming migration while in-season employment reaches approximately 30,000.
5. The census data of February 2011 showed that over the last 20 years the population of Bulgaria has decreased by 1.1 million people. The number of residents in Varna was 475,074 people. It is expected that by 2050 the population of the city will have been 424,320 inhabitants. According to UN the population of Bulgaria melts the fastest in comparison to all the other countries in the world. Bulgaria is among the five countries in the world with aging population. It is expected that by 2050 the people in the age group of 25-70 years will drop down with the staggering 875,000 people and it has fewer working Bulgarians who will have to take care of the ever increasing number of pensioners –every two people of working age will have to take care of a pensioner.
6. The stimuli to increase the birth rate in Bulgaria as well as in Varna up to this moment remain uncertain as the authority is even trying to lay hands on some of the privileges of mothers in order to facilitate budget. The practice of paying child benefits only to those who are considered poor is highly controversial. At the same time it is a prerequisite for ethnic inequality, which harms the working mothers of Bulgarian ethnic origin at the expense of Roma women who support their families through multiple births.
7. The demographic problem in Varna is generally expressed with a relatively low birth rate on the one hand. On the other hand, it changes the structure of the population. Part of the new member states of the European Union have an outflow of labor, including the city of Varna as part of the union.
8. Nature abhors empty spaces, and in demography the statistical projections are too often confused by the movement of the flow of people across borders. News for the purchase of Bulgarian sacred land in Varna by Englishmen, Turks, Jews, and recently of Chinese start popping up more often.

TRANSLATED BY: TEZDJAN MEHMED
Student in applied Linguistics (English and Russian)
Shumen University "Konstantin Bishop of Preslav"
e-mail: tedi_mehmed@abv.bg