

**BULGARIANS IN ROMANIA - GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION,
NUMERICAL EVOLUTION, DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURES**

**BULGARIII DIN ROMÂNIA - REPARTIȚIE GEOGRAFICĂ,
EVOLUȚIE NUMERICĂ, STRUCTURI DEMOGRAFICE**

Costela IORDACHE¹

Abstract: Romania's ethnical entirety is made up of several ethnical minorities, 20 of them being represented in the national parliament. This study aims to present the main demographic aspects which characterize the Bulgarian minority in Romania. We focused on the following elements: territorial distribution of the Bulgarians, numerical evolution during the 1930-2011 period, outlining the number of inhabitants for the future 10 and 25 years, the structure by urban-rural environment, age, gender, the marital status, socio-economic structure, level of education, religion and native language.

Key-words: *Bulgarians, ethnical minority, dynamics, county, Romania*

Cuvinte cheie: *bulgari, etnie, minoritate națională, evoluție, județ, România*

INTRODUCTION

According to the Constitution, art. 1 (1), Romania is a national, sovereign, independent, unitary and indivisible state. Art. 4, paragraph (2) specifies that Romania is the common and indivisible homeland of all its citizens, without distinction of race, nationality, ethnic origin, language, religion, sex, opinion, political affiliation, wealth or social origin. Art.6, paragraph (1) and (2) show that the State recognizes and guarantees to the national minorities the right to preserve, develop and express ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identities. The protective measures taken by the state for the preservation, development and expression of national minorities identity must comply with the principles of equality and non-discrimination in relation to other Romanian citizens (www.cdp.ro).

Besides a majority of Romanians, in Romania there is a number of ethnic/national minorities, including Bulgarians.

Concerning the presence of this minority on the Romanian territory, Șt. Manciu (1943, p.41, cit. Crețan, 1999, p.156) stated that in 1688, during the Rising of Ciprovaț, in order to escape the Turkish slavery, part of the Bulgarians,

¹ University of Craiova, Geography Department, costelaiordache@yahoo.com

especially those living in the small town of Ciprovaț, (the ciprovicens -“the Bulgarians from the mountains”) and from the surroundings, but also those from the area of the Șiștov-Nicopole (pavlichens or the “Bulgarians from the plain”) took refuge over the Danube, in Oltenia (...). Part of these Bulgarians migrated during the 1700 in Transylvania (...). In 1737, a massive group of Bulgarians migrate from Oltenia to Banat.

DATA AND METHODS

The study was realized using statistic data about the Bulgarian minority provided by the National Institute of Statistics in Bucharest. Using the data available, the study shows the numeric evolution of this ethnic group at the county level between 1930 and 2011. The analysis is centered of the demographic status from 2002, as the rest of the censuses those not contain complete data sets to allow analysis and comparisons or to outline the demographic changes registered by this minority. In order to estimate the evolution trend of the demographic potential of the Bulgarians in Romania for the next 10, respectively 25 years, the author makes use of the arithmetical progression to project the trend, as the formula uses the average annual growth: $P_n = P_1 + \Delta n$ (Vert, 1995, p. 57) where: P_n = projected after n years, P_1 =the existing population (registered at the last census), Δ = the average annual growth.

DISCUSSIONS

According to the census in 2011, in Romania were registered 7,336 Bulgarians, representing 0.04% of the total population.

1.Territorial distribution of the Bulgarians

Regarding the *territorial distribution*, at the **county level** we can notice a massive concentration in two counties: Timiș with 61.0% and Dâmbovița with 21.6%. Arad county remarks with 543 Bulgarian ethnics (7.4%) and Bucharest municipality with 296 persons (4.0%). Statistic data show the sparse distribution of Bulgarians in 32 counties and Bucharest, registering different shares (Fig. 1). Remarkably, is, on one hand, the punctual concentration, mentioned previously and, on the other hand, the small number present in the rest of the major administrative territorial units, the number of Bulgarians oscillating between 3 ethnics (in Bacău, Sălaj) and 65 ethnics (Dolj).

The same major discrepancy is also noted at the level of the **development regions**. In the West region are concentrated only 5,069 Bulgarians representing 69.1% from the total number of the Bulgarian ethnics, their share in the total population is 0.3%. To a great distance is South Muntenia, with 1,644 Bulgarians, namely 22.4% from the total number of this national minority and 0.05% from the total population of the region. The next region is Bucharest-Ilfov with 341 Bulgarians representing 4.6% from this ethnic group and about 0.02% from the

population of the region. In the rest of the regions the numeric representation of the studied ethnic group ranges between a minimum of 13 persons in North-Est and a maximum of 85 persons in the South-West region.

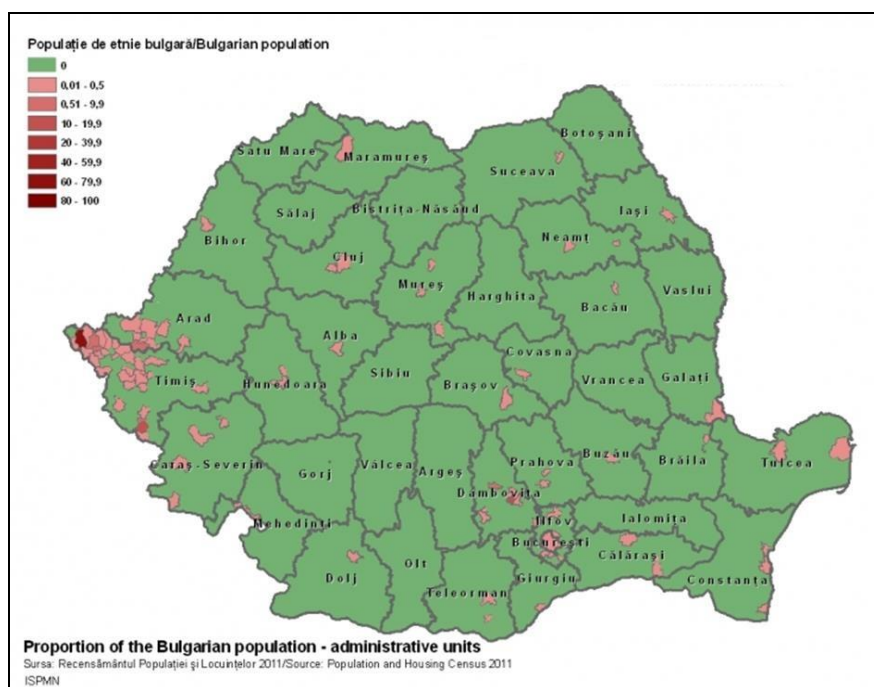


Fig. 1. Proportion of the Bulgarian population-administrative units(2011)

(Source: Kiss, Veress, 2010, p. 32)

The distribution of the Bulgarian ethnics of **historical regions** repeats the previous situations. In Banat is located the majority of this ethnic group, namely 4,505 persons, representing 61.4% from their total number and 0.5% from the population of the region. In Muntenia are concentrated 1,697 Bulgarians, representing 23% from the total number of Bulgarians and 0.04% from the total population of the region. We should mention that in this region, Bucharest is also included with about 300 Bulgarians, representing 4% of the ethnic group and 0.01% from the total population from the capital. In the north-western part of the country, in Crișana-Maramureș historic region had been registered during the census 584 Bulgarians, namely 7.9% from their total number, having a share of 0.03% from the total population of the region. Although the regions vary in territorial extension, population and number of component counties, Oltenia and Transylvania are almost identical regarding the demographic number of the Bulgarian community, 85/88 persons, representing each about 1.2% from the total number of the Bulgarians. The smallest number of the representatives in the Bulgarian community is found in Dobrudja and Moldavia historical regions, where their number is 58 persons (0.8%) and, respectively 23 persons (0.5%).

Regarding the numerical size of this ethnic group at urban level, there were observed the following: Timisoara with 859 persons, Târgoviște with 662 pers., Sânnicolau Mare 367 pers., Bucharest with 296 pers., Arad with 180 pers. and Deta with 121 persons.

Among rural settlements, i.e. communes, there were found: Dudeștii Vechi (Timiș county) which has the largest community of Bulgarians, formed of 2439 pers., representing 58% of the commune's population. In Dâmbovița county, Băleni commune has 895 Bulgarians, representing 10.7% of the total population; in Timiș county there are the communes: Deta with 479 Bulgarians, representing 16.1% of the total population.

2. The numerical evolution of population

The total number of Bulgarians in Romania was determined during the censuses from the 1930- 2011 period and has evolved according to Tables 1-2-3.

In the eight decades (Table no. 1), the numerical size of this minority decreased by 88.9%. It is notable the severe decrease of 54,308 persons representing 81.9% of the first interval. There is an historical explanation and it is due to the fact that the largest Bulgarian communities (representing 74% of all ethnicity) were in the counties of Constanța and Tulcea. As Caliacra and Durostor counties were moved to the Bulgarian territory, there is a transfer of population too, so that between the first two censuses, the Bulgarian minority in Constanța and Tulcea counties drops from thousands of persons to hundreds of persons. This is the reason why our analysis will focus on the 1956-2011 period, during which the Bulgarian population decreased by 39.1% (Table no. 2). The same situation is observed for the numerical evolution of the Bulgarians în Timiș whose number decreased from 7440 persons to 4478 pers.

More evident was the decrease of the Bulgarians in Arad county (70.5%) and Bucharest (62.7%). At the level of the historical province (Table no 3) significant reductions were registered in Dobruja (92.2%) and Crișana (70.4%), while the number of Bulgarians in Banat decreased by 40%.

A positive dynamic can be noted in Dâmbovița county, where the number of the Bulgarians increased significantly from 35 persons to 1,586 persons, which determined an increased by 54.6% of this ethnic group in Muntenia.

From the analysis of the statistical data from the last two censuses, one can notice the increase of the regressive trend, which is expressed at the national level by a decrease of 8.6% of the community under study. The same negative trend was also registered at the communities from the rest of the counties (also the capital registered a decrease by 20%), except those in counties like Dâmbovița, Ilfov, Dolj and Cluj. Notably is the ascending trend in the number of the Bulgarians from Dâmbovița county, which register an increase by 141% at the county level, 113.1% in Băleni commune and even a bigger increase of 193% in Târgoviște municipality.

In the two counties located in the west of the country, the Bulgarian community registers a decreasing trend in number, in Arad county the decrease was by 33.7%, while in Timiș by 14.1%.

Table no. 1. The dynamics of the number of Bulgarians in Romania during 1930- 2011

County	CENSUS							
	29.12. 1930	21.02. 1956	15.03. 1966	5.01. 1977	7.01. 1992	18/03. 2002	20.10. 2011	2011/ 1956(%)
Alba	135	27	14	16	12	21	8	-70.3
Arad	2,391	1,842	1,683	1,473	1,122	819	543	-70.5
Argeş	109	26	8	15	16	8	4	-84.6
Bacău	139	11	9	9	8	13	3	-72.7
Bihor	212	96	85	69	43	31	29	-69.8
Bistriţa-Năsăud	39	5	5	2	-	4	-	-100
Botoşani	120	10	6	5	1	2	-	-100
Braşov	108	32	43	36	16	21	18	-43.8
Brăila	364	81	65	38	32	27	12	-85.2
Buzău	89	11	12	10	10	4	-	-100
Caraş-Severin	231	73	108	95	83	52	27	-63.0
Călăraşi	210	66	40	33	55	18	11	-83.3
Cluj	227	38	46	43	18	20	21	-44.7
Constanţa	27,206	361	304	292	184	74	35	-90.3
Covasna	31	9	7	8	2	1	4	-55.6
Dâmboviţa	173	35	25	14	809	658	1,586	+4431.4
Dolj	221	31	23	16	17	51	65	+109.7
Galaţi	625	58	63	50	35	18	7	-87.9
Giurgiu	190	26	6	5	87	3	8	-69.2
Gorj	40	5	2	1	4	3	-	-100
Harghita	12	6	1	6	2	5	-	-100
Hunedoara	83	78	131	86	75	35	21	-73.0
Ialomiţa	126	185	14	19	11	4	-	-100
Iaşi	174	19	9	15	7	8	5	-73.7
Ilfov	-	-	-	-	31	27	45	+100
Maramureş	38	4	3	8	10	21	4	0
Mehedinţi	137	27	31	8	13	4	6	-77.8
Mureş	94	39	25	33	18	14	12	-69.2
Neamţ	132	28	17	6	5	5	-	-100
Olt	263	16	12	7	14	4	5	-68.8
Prahova	236	37	34	24	21	24	17	-54.1
Satu Mare	86	16	13	8	5	5	4	-75.0
Sălaj	121	16	8	1	4	6	3	-81.3
Sibiu	147	40	29	28	10	10	4	-90.0
Suceava	83	16	8	1	4	6	5	-68.8
Teleoman	251	28	20	2	16	19	7	-75.0
Timiş	7,527	7,440	7,509	7,151	6,466	5,562	4,778	-35.8
Tulcea	21,865	388	220	123	127	61	23	-94.0
Vaslui	247	6	8	3	5	1	-	-100
Vâlcea	71	11	5	8	6	4	4	-63.6
Vrancea	177	15	11	2	2	2	-	-100
Bucureşti	1,727	794	534	599	466	370	296	-62.7
România	66,348	12,040	11,193	10,372	9,851	8,025	7,336	-39.1

Source: www.insse.ro

Table no. 2. The evolution of Bulgarians during 1930-2011

Census year	Total Bulgarians	% in Romania's population	Decreasing rate as compared to previous census (%)
1930	66,348	0,5	-
1948	13,408	0.1	-79.8
1956	12,040	0,1	-10.2
1966	11,193	0,1	-7.0
1977	10,372	0,1	-7.3
1992	9,851	0.04	-5.0
2002	8,025	0.04	-18.5
2011	7,336	0.04	-8.6

Source: www.insse.ro; processed data

Table no. 3. The evolution of Bulgarians on historical provinces during 1956-2011

Province	1956		1966		1977		1992		2002		2011	
	Nr.	%	Nr.	%	Nr.	%	Nr.	%	Nr.	%	Nr.	%
Banat	7513	62.4	7617	68.1	7247	70.0	6549	66.5	5614	70.0	4505	61.4
Crişana-Maramureş	1974	16.4	1792	16.0	1559	15.0	1184	12.0	862	10.7	584	7.9
Dobrogea	749	6.2	524	4.7	415	4.0	311	3.2	135	1.7	58	0.8
Moldova	163	1.4	131	1.2	88	0.8	67	0.7	55	0.7	23	0.3
Muntenia	1289	10.7	758	6.8	792	7.6	1534	15.6	1162	14.5	1993	27.2
Oltenia	90	0.7	73	0.5	40	0.5	54	0.5	66	0.8	85	1.2
Transilvania	262	2.2	298	2.7	231	2.2	152	1.5	131	1.6	88	1.2

Source: www.insse.ro; processed data

The analysis of the statistical data for a period of five and half decades allowed the emphasis of the following indicators relevant for the dynamic of the numbers concerning the Bulgarians, as well as for the prognosis of the evolution trend (Vert, 1999, p. 20, 57). Therefore, the absolute growth for the entire period (1956-2011), representing the difference between the number of the population at the end of the period and the one from the beginning, namely – 4,704 persons; the average annual growth, represented by the number showing the increase of the population, as an annual average, is – 85.5 persons; the increasing rate, showing how much the respective community increased in number to 100 inhabitants, is - 39.1%.

If the same decreasing trend is maintained (-39.1%), we estimate that the Bulgarian population shall be reduced to half by 2054. Using the arithmetical progression, as it uses the average annual growth, to project the population trend, in the next decade the Bulgarians shall number 6,481 persons, while in 25 years they shall be reduced to 5,199 persons.

The prognosis or the demographic projection is the probabilistic evaluation of the number (...) of the population for a certain time line (...) starting from the premises that the entire conditions in which the population evolved in the past shall generally remain unchanged in the future (Iosep, 2001, p.149).

3. The urban-rural structure

Regarding the structure on living areas, the Bulgarians live predominantly in the rural area, which concentrate 60.3% from the total number of this ethnic group. In the counties where the biggest part of this minority is concentrated, the Bulgarians living in rural area represent 69.2% in Timiș, 64.5% in Arad and 58% in Dâmbovița.

In Brăila, Covasna, Iași, Mureș and Sibiu counties, the Bulgarians are equally distributed on the two living environments. Predominantly urban are the communities in the following counties: Alba, Bihor, Brașov, Caraș-Severin, Călărași, Constanța, Cluj, Dolj, Galați, Hunedoara, Maramureș, Mehedinți, Prahova and Tulcea.

4. The age and gender structure of the population

The distribution of the Bulgarian minority on sexes is almost similar with the one at the country level, the women as a majority, with a share of 51.1%, while the men represent about 48.9% of the total ethnic group. The maximum value is registered in Bucharest, where the share of women increases at 53.0%, while at the opposite pole is Dâmbovița county with 47.6% for women. In Botoșani, Suceava and Vrancea counties, the population is equally distributed on the two sexes. In oppositions with the counties mentioned before, in Maramureș and Vaslui only feminine population of Bulgarians was registered, while in Covasna, Giurgiu and Gorj only masculine Bulgarian population.

The Bulgarian feminine population represent the majority both in urban areas, with 52.1%, and in rural areas, with a share of 50.4% from the total number of the ethnic group.

The *ratio/feminine rate* is 104.4%, namely 104.4 women to 100 men. This ratio is over unitary in Bucharest (112.6%), Timiș (105.1%), Arad (100.2%), Constanța, Prahova ș.a. In Dâmbovița county, the ratio is 90.7 women to 100 men, the sex distribution showing a share of 52.4% men and 47.6% women. The analysis of this age distribution report evidences values below 100 for the young (95.3%) and adult (92.3%) feminine population, with a different situation for the elders, where the numbers are clearly in favour of the feminine population (135.7%). At the level of living areas, the feminine rate is over unitary both in urban area (108.8%) and in rural area (101.6%). It is under unitary for the young urban (94.4%) and rural (95.8%) population and for the adult women population in the rural area (84.5%).

Regarding the *age structure of the population on major age groups* and the rural-urban structure of the population in 2002, the situation was according to the Table no. 4 and 5.

In order to emphasize the level of demographic ageing, I reported the number of persons of 60 years and over to the number of persons up to 20 years; the resulted value of 195.9% indicate an extremely aged population, a situation that

is also demonstrated by the narrow base and extended peak of the age pyramid (Fig. no. 2).

Table no. 4. The sex and age structure of the Bulgarian minority

Age group (years)	Total		Masculin		Feminin	
	No. pers.	%	No. pers.	%	No. pers.	%
0-14	844	10.5	432	11.0	412	10.1
15-59	4675	58.3	2432	61.9	2,244	54.7
≥60	2506	31.2	1,063	27.1	1,443	35.2
Total	8025	100	3926	48.9	4099	51.1

Source: www.insse.ro; processed data

Table no. 5. The gender, age and rural-urban structure of the Bulgarian minority

Age group (years)	Urban						Rural					
	Total		Masculin		Feminin		Total		Masculin		Feminin	
	Nr.	%	Nr.	%	Nr.	%	Nr.	%	Nr.	%	Nr.	%
0-14	824	7.6	124	7.0	117	7.0	603	12.5	308	12.8	295	12.1
15-59	2168	68.0	1072	66.0	1096	66.0	2507	51.8	1359	56.6	1148	47.1
≥60	778	24.4	330	21.7	448	27.0	1728	35.7	733	30.5	995	40.8

Source: www.insse.ro; processed data

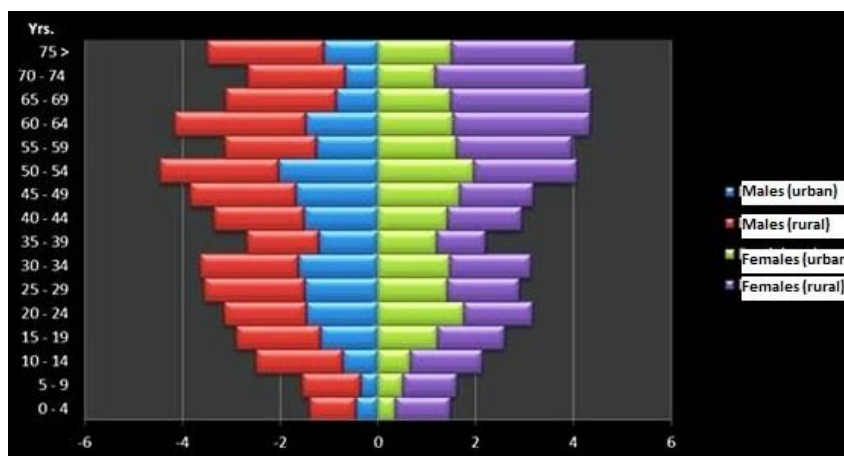


Fig. 2. Age pyramid of the Bulgarian minority

The ratio of demographic dependence (of age) shows the pressure exercised by the groups of young and elders (economically inactive) over the adult population, able to work. At the level of the year that is taken into consideration for our analysis, this ratio is 1,827.6%, meaning that about 1,828 young and old persons are dependent of 1,000 adults.

Compared to the majority, the Bulgarian ethnics have a higher aging index, with a tendency to age even further. Thus, the average age is with 10 years higher, at the last censuses being registered values of 44.3 years (compared to 34.9 years), respectively 47.3 years (compared to 37.4 years). If in 1992, the share of young

population was 14%, in 2002 it decreased to 10.5 %, while the share of elders increased with 2.8 percent, from 28.4% to 31.2%.

5. The structure of population on their civil status

According to the statistic data registered during the census in 2002, from the point of view of the legal civil status, the Bulgarians had the following structure: 51.9% were married, 29.7% not married, 14.1% widowers and 4.3% divorced.

The analysis on age groups shows high discrepancies for the elders, where the share of married men is 70.6% compared to only 41.8% for women. The situation is reversed in case of widowers, where men have 21.9% and women 50.9%. Regarding the divorced and unmarried old persons, the distribution on sexes is equal, 4% in the first case and 3.5% for the second situation.

For adults, the most married persons are included between 45-54 years for men (538 persons) as well as for women (430 persons). For the adult widowers, the age between 50-59 years are better represented, but with high differences on sexes (20 men and 108 women) (Fig. 3).

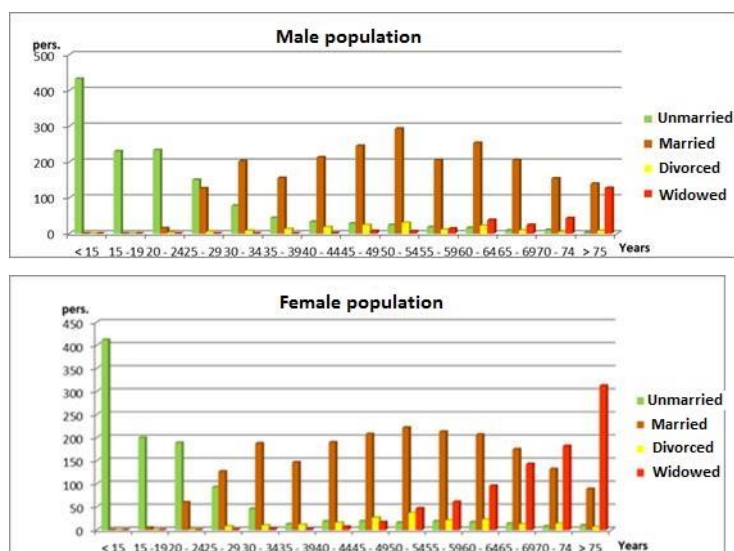


Fig. 3. The structure of the Bulgarian population on civil status and gender (2002)

The analysis of the Bulgarians on living areas and taking into consideration the civil status, shows the dominance of the rural area which concentrated 58.8% of the total married persons, 60.3% of single persons and 69.9% of the total widowers, the urban area which imposes upon the category of divorces with a share of 53.9% from the total number of divorces. The distribution of rural Bulgarian population has the following configuration: 50.7% married, 29.7% single, 3.3% divorced and 16.3% widowers. In the urban area, married persons represent 41.2%,

single persons 29.6%, divorced persons 5.85%, while the widowers represent 10.7%.

Regarding the *family nucleus*, at the last census there were recorded 2258 families, of which 54.4% had children and 45.6% had no children. More than half (56.2%) of the families were homogeneous ethnically, the rest being mixed marriages. From the 989 Bulgarian men who formed mixed families, 75.2% were married with Romanian women, 15.3% with Hungarian women, 3.8% with Germans, 1.9% with Ukrainians, 0.9% with Roma women and 2.9% had wives of other nationality (Fig. 4).

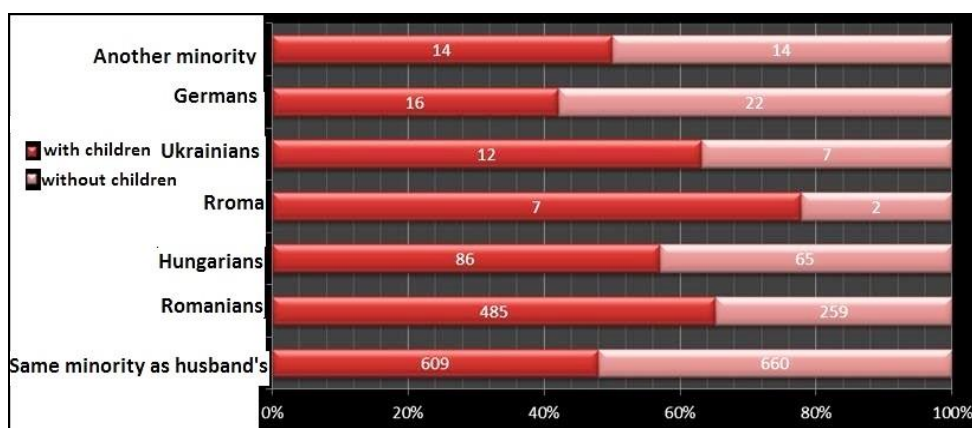


Fig. 4. The structure of familial nuclei on types and members' ethnicity (2002)

6. The economic structure of the population

In 2002, the *active population* counted 3,192 persons, representing 39.8% from the total number of Bulgarian population. The sex structure showed that, 55.6% were men and 44.4% women. Inside the active population, the highest share is held by the *employed population*, 66.5%, represented the age group between 30-54 years (Fig. 5).

The *activity ratio*, referring to the participation degree of the population to the economic activity is 39.8%. The masculine activity rate, naming the ratio between the total number of men and the number of active masculine population, is 45.2%, and the feminine activity rate is 34.6%.

On *sectors of activity*, the employed active population (3053 pers.) has the following distribution: 1,055 persons, representing 34.6% in the primary sector, 27.7% (846 persons) secondary sector and 37.7% (1,152 persons) in the tertiary sector. In this case, what should be mentioned, is the main share of the masculine population that represents 57.3% in the primary sector, about 55% in the secondary one and 52.9% in the tertiary sector.

On *activities of the national economy*, the employed population is structured as follows: 33.7% in agriculture, silviculture, fishing and hunting; 24.7% in the extractive and processing industry; 9.3% in trading; 6.8% in education; 4.6% in

health sector; 4.4% in administration; 4.1% in transports; 12.4% in other activities. The sex distribution of the Bulgarian population employed in activities of the national economy is highly disproportioned; thus, if on the whole, the share of employed masculine population is 54.96% in administration, 58.90% in trading, and it reaches to 68.7% in transportation and 81.6% in storage and is increases to 85.4% in constructions. The employed feminine population holds significant shares in financial activities 61.1%, education (62.2%) and health sector (75.7%).

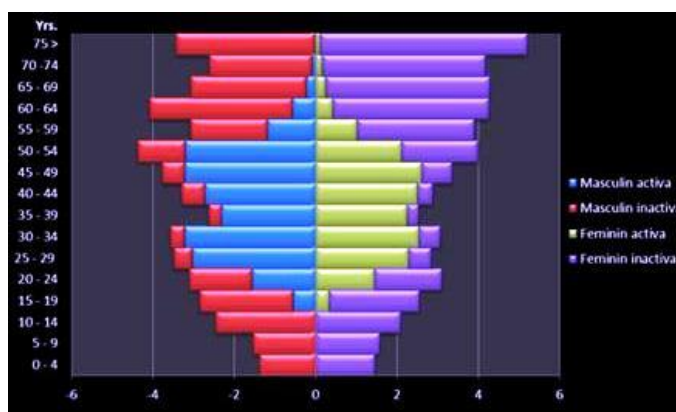


Fig. 5. Active and inactive population regarding their age groups and genders (2002)

The *ration of activity ages* which expresses the ration between the number of active persons of a certain age and the number of population of the respective age is of 70.1% for the population between 20-59 years and 6% for the population with the age of 60 and above. Reported on the sexes, the situations proves to be more favourable to men registering values of 75.1%, namely 7.1% compared to 64.6% and 5.1% for the feminine population.

Index of masculinity of the active population, representing the number of masculine active persons to 100 feminine active persons, is 125.3% with slight variations on age groups (125.6% for 20-59 years and 102.7% for the age group of 60 years and over).

The *report of economical dependency*, given by the ratio between the number of persons financially supported and the number of population economically active, is 151.4%, namely 100 active persons have to support 151.4 persons. On sexes, the value of this index ranges between 121.2% in case of masculine population and 189.3 % for the feminine population.

The mismatch between the jobs demand and economic supply generates unemployment, a socio-economic phenomenon that affects 139 pers., of which 21.1% are unemployed looking for their first job. It is more pronounced for the male workforce (69.8% of the total unemployed persons) and in the urban environment (52.5%). Regarding the duration, most of the unemployed (62.6%) are

included in the interval of 6-27 months, 19.4% exceeding 27 months, and 18% are less than six months in this situation (Fig. 6).

In terms of *professional status*, most of the employed population (65.7%) was formed of employees, followed by family workers in their household (24.5%), self-employed (6.7%), the share of owners and private entrepreneurs being of only 2.4%. Concerning the differences between the two environments in terms of family workers in their household and self-employed the rural has a share of 92.7%, respectively 70.1%. (Fig. 7).

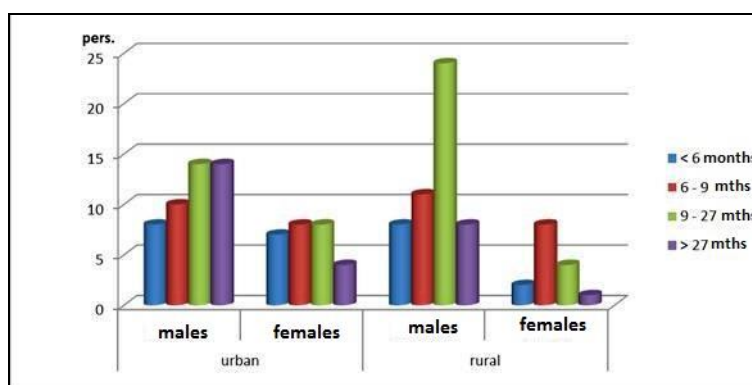


Fig. 6. Unemployed persons on duration of unemployment, gender, urban-rural (2002)

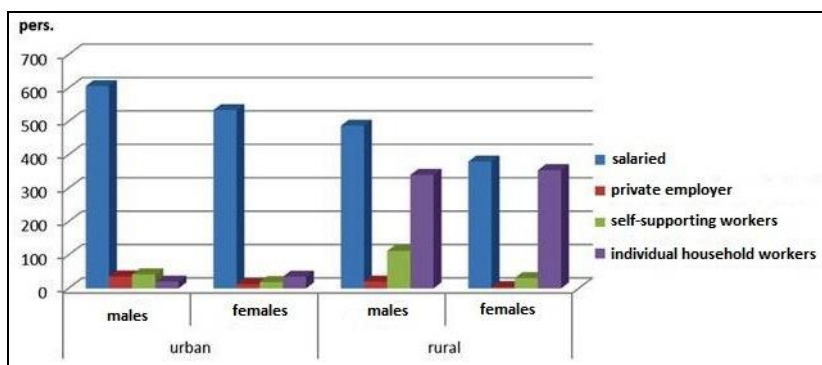


Fig. 7. The employed population on professional status, gender and rural-urban (2002)

In terms of the *groups of occupations*, the employed population is structured as follows: 29.5% farmers and skilled workers in agriculture, forestry and fishing, 16.1% craftsmen and skilled workers, 10.6% specialists with intellectual and scientific occupations, 10, 6% technicians, foremen and assimilated, 10.5% plant and machines operators, 6.5% operative workers in services, trade and assimilated, 6.1% unskilled workers, 5.0% administrative officials, 4.9% legislators, members

of the executive, heads of public administration and socio-economic and political units etc.

Regarding the *location of the workplace*, it is worth mentioning that 80.1% of the employed population had work in the same locality, 18.6% in another locality within the county (from which 85.8% in municipalities and cities), 1.0% in another county and 0.3% in another country, with no significant differences by gender.

The *inactive population* accounts for 60.2% of the Bulgarian ethnic group, more than half (55.5%) being represented by the feminine population. The majority (73.6%) of this demographic category consists of retired population (2977 pers.), students (844 pers.) and housewives (226 pers.).

7. Population structure by the educational institution graduated

According to statistical data, at the 2002 census there were recorded 7547 persons aged 10 years and above (51.0% being women), meaning 94.0% of the total Bulgarians. Depending on the level of the graduated school they were distributed as follows: 62.2% secondary school graduates, 21.4% primary education graduates, 9.2% higher education graduates, 3.5% post-secondary education and apprenticeship graduates, while 3.6% had no education (Fig. 8). Within the secondary education graduates, 44.9% of them had completed the secondary school, 34.9% the highschool and 20.2% vocational and apprenticeship schools.

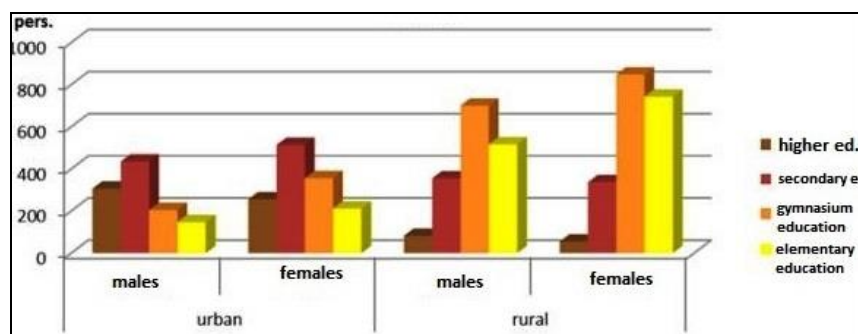


Fig. 8. Level of education within the 10 years old and above population, by gender and rural-urban environment (2002)

The analysis of the *distribution by gender and urban-rural environment* highlights the higher number of the male population in the case of graduates of vocational and apprenticeship education with 75.1%, and higher with 55.7% from the total. The urban environment recorded the highest number of higher education graduates (80.5%) and post-secondary school graduates (51.5%). When the level of completed education decreases, the rural environment share increases: 59.2% of the secondary school graduates, 77.9% of the primary education graduates, 82.8% of those with no degrees.

Within the demographic segment aged 10 and above there are 97 illiterates, representing 1.3% of this population contingent. The rural environment and female population has the most number of illiterates, holding 91.8% respectively 65.0% of this demographic category (Fig. 9).

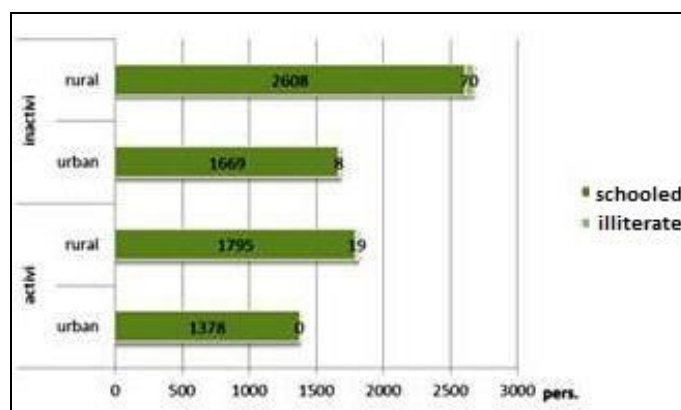


Fig. 9. Proportion of illiterate persons within the 10 years old and above population, by urban-rural environment

8. Religious structure

The Romano-Catholic religion holds the highest number of adepts, their share being 77.2% from the total number of population; in the rural area, this cult has 86.4% from the population, while in the urban area 63.2%. The orthodoxies represent 18.5% with an unequal distribution of the two areas: 11% in rural area and 29.9% in urban area. The rest of the confessions have a more reduced frequency: 1.1% Greek-Catholics, (2.8% in urban area), 0.9% Evangelic (1.4% in rural area), 0.6% Christians-Evangelic.

9. Maternal language structure

From point of view of the maternal language structure of the population, most of the ethnic group (81.3%) declared Bulgarian language as their maternal language; 17.4% chose Romanian, 0.7% Hungarian, while 0.6% had other maternal language. The presence of Bulgarian speakers was registered in 20 counties, the highest concentration (5,841 persons, representing 72.8% in the overall ethnics) being in Timiș and Arad counties. In Timiș, there were 5,155 persons who declared Bulgarian as maternal language (92.7% of Bulgarians in Timiș), settled in 19 administrative units.

CONCLUSIONS

From the ethnic point of view, Romania is a highly homogenous state, a fact that is also emphasized by the last census, where Romanians represented 88.9% of the total population. Along the history, under the influence of certain political and

historical conditions, on the present Romanian territory, certain minorities have settled, among which the Bulgarians. They migrated in several stages from the south of the Danube inside the Romanian territory at the end of the XVIIth century, thus in the present day one can speak about punctual locations, where two territorial concentration can be noted (which hold 82.6% from the total number of the Bulgarians): one in the western part of Romania – in Timiș county, and the other one in the southern part, in Dâmbovița county.

Regarding the numeric evolution, as most of the minorities in Romania, during the XXth century and nowadays, the Bulgarian community decreased, important regressions being registered at the censuses between 1930-1948, by approximately 89%, (from strictly historical reasons – The Treaty from Craiova from 1940, which regulated the status of the Southern Dobruja - Cadrilater) and between 1992-2002 by approximately 19% (because of the migrations and negative birth rates).

From the point of view of the demographic structure, the Bulgarians are an ethnic group where women are predominant (with a share of 51.1%), as well as the rural population (60.3%), the aging of the population is accentuated, where 33.7% of the active population works in the agricultural sector and 77.2% are Romano-Catholics.

We can generally say that the Bulgarians in Romania have certain demographic similarities with the majority, but also some specific features which come to diversify the demographic picture of our country.

REFERENCES

BĂLAN, D., (2006), *Etnie, etnicitate, națiune și naționalism*. Câteva precizări terminologice, Codrul Cosminului, nr. 12, Edit. Universității „Ștefan cel Mare”, Suceava.

CREȚAN, R., (1999), *Etnie, confesiune și comportament electoral în Banat. Studiu geografic*, Edit. Universității de Vest, Timișoara.

IOSEP, I., (2001), *Tendențe ale dinamicii populației în Obcinele Bucovinei. Prognostic demografic*, Analele Universității „Ștefan cel Mare”, Suceava, Secțiunea Geografie, Anul X, Edit. Edit. Universității „Ștefan cel Mare”, Suceava.

IORDACHE, COSTELA, TRUȘCĂ, LILIANA, (2008), *Changes in the ethnic structure of the urban population within Oltenia South-Western Development Region during the 1930-2002 period*, in Arhivele Olteniei, Nr. 22, Serie Nouă, Edit. Universitaria, Craiova.

IORDACHE, COSTELA, (2009), *Geografia populației și așezărilor umane din România*, Edit. Universitaria, Craiova.

IORDACHE, COSTELA, AVRAM S., VÂLCEA, CRISTIANA, (2013), *Mutations in the ethnic structure of the Romanian population in the post-communist period*, Revista de Științe Politice. Revue des Sciences Politiques, No. 37-38, Edit. Universitaria, Craiova.

KISS T., VERESS, ILKA, (2010), *Minorități din România: dinamici demografice și identitare*, Working Papers, Nr.30, Edit. ISPMN, Cluj-Napoca.

VERT, C., (1995), *Analiza geodemografică. Manual practic*, Edit. Mirton, Timișoara.

***(1984), *Geografia României, vol. II, Geografie umană și economică*, Edit. Academiei R.S.România, București.

*** (2003), Anuarul Statistic al României, I.N.S., București.

***www.ispmn.gov.ro

***www.insse.ro