

years of WW II, in relation with the worsening situation of the ethnic groups in the country. Regardless of government policy, the Roma people seemed to have found favorable conditions for life in Bulgaria, which was demonstrated by the directions of migration and by the positive migration balance. All these processes promoted growth of the Roma ethnic group throughout that first part of the discussed period.

The second period in consideration coincides with the years of the so-called socialist development of the country (**since the end of WW II till the end of 1989**) and could be characterized as a period of deepening differences in the demographic indicators between the Roma ethnic group and the other ethnic communities in the country. In each ethnic community the different stages of demographic transition are characterized by different intensity, duration and features, depending on the specific influence of the historical, socio-economic and ethno-cultural features. From the detailed analysis of the natural and the migration movement of the Roma ethnic group in Bulgaria, between WW II and the end of the 1980s, the following conclusions can be formulated:

- *The first phase of the demographic transition* of the Roma ethnic group, which was featured by moderate natural growth (up to 20 ‰) (Fig. 12) as a result of high birth rates (around and over 40 ‰) (Fig. 7) and high mortality rates (20‰) (Fig. 11), continued till the beginning of the 1950s. These years coincide with the first phase of demographic transition of the Turkish ethnic group, whereas for the Bulgarian population this phase ceased with the end of WW I (First World War).

- *The second phase of the demographic transition* of the Roma population was featured by a quick increase of the natural growth (Fig. 12) as a result of the rapid reduction of the mortality rate (Fig. 11), combined with the relatively slow decrease in the birth rate (Fig. 7). By contrast, the Bulgarian population was featured in that phase by a quick decrease of both – mortality and birth rates, hence – no such sharp increase of the natural growth was observed. The second phase of the demographic transition of the ethnic Bulgarians ended by the beginning of the 1950s – the time when it had only just began for the Roma and the ethnic Turks in Bulgaria. High values of natural growth of Roma population were typical till the end of the 1990s, while for the Turks – they were only typical till the end of the 1970s – by the time when the second phase of the demographic transition of the ethnic Turks in Bulgaria ended.

- *The third phase of the demographic transition* of the Bulgarians was characterized by a continuous decline of the birth rate, combined with increasing of the mortality rate, which resulted eventually in changing the values of the natural growth from zero to negative. This was a sign of going into the fourth phase of the demographic transition, which occurred in the beginning of the 1980s. For the Bulgarian Turks the third phase had just began at that time, and a specific feature of that phase was the lack of rapid increase of mortality rate, due to the retained younger age structure of that population group.

- The policy towards ethnic groups in the country was characterized again by too much inconsistency regarding their status. In the beginning of that period the Bulgarian authorities established a number of rights of the ethnic groups in