

growth in the country at that time). Other areas of high growth rate were the areas around Pazardzhik, Stara Zagora and Haskovo. The rates of population growth of Roma in Southeastern and North Central Bulgaria (70,2 %) were lower than the national average. (Fig. 30; Fig. 31).

During the second part of the discussed period – between the end of WW II and 1989 z., the number of Roma nearly doubled (growth of 92%), but unlike the previous period, the highest growth (by over 120 %) was estimated in Northeastern, Southeastern, South Central, and again – in Southwestern Bulgaria. Insignificant growth (by less than 30 %) was detected in North Central and Northwestern Bulgaria, where most of the municipalities which observed decrease of Roma population number were located. The highest values of average annual growth rate (over 5 %) of the Roma population (Fig. 32) was estimated in the municipalities of Southern Dobrudzha region, the Varna agglomeration municipalities, Burgas region, Yambol region, Stara Zagora region, Plovdiv region, most of the municipalities in the Ludogorie region, Western Stara Planina region and the western parts of the Danube plain.

During the third part of the discussed period – between 1992 and 2011, two subperiods stand out – from the beginning of the 1990s till the end of the 20th century, which period was featured by fast growth of the Roma population in the country, and a second subperiod - overlapping the first decade of the 21st century - when a decrease of the Roma population was detected. Nevertheless, compared to the beginning of that last period (1992 – 2011) in Southern Bulgaria the number of Roma has increased, while in Northern Bulgaria it has decreased. The only municipalities in Northern Bulgaria where the number of Roma has grown were (Application 19) some of the municipalities in Western Stara Planina region, the ones along the main motorway between the cities of Sofia and Pleven, as well as some municipalities in the Ludogorie region. The majority of the municipalities in Southern Bulgaria observe positive growth rates of Roma population number, with the exception of the municipalities in the Central and Eastern Rodopi Mountains, some municipalities in Southwestern Bulgaria and the municipalities located in the area between the cities of Plovdiv and Stara Zagora.

Throughout the whole period between The Liberation (1878) and 2011 – the year of the last census – two areas stand out as areas of highest concentration of Roma population – Northeastern and South Central Bulgaria, where half of the Roma population in Bulgaria is concentrated. The lowest concentration of Roma is measured in Southwestern, North Central and Southeastern Bulgaria, where the share of Roma does not exceed 15 % of the total population. Northwestern Bulgaria occupies an intermediate position in that aspect. Similar to the trends in the development of Roma-inhabited settlements, the development of Roma concentration can also be divided into two periods – till the beginning of the 1990s, and the years after that moment. Up till the beginning of the 1990s, no significant changes in the Roma concentration occurred, with the exception of the lowering concentration of Roma in Northeastern Bulgaria after 1910 as a result of incorporation of territories after the Balkan Wars, and thus achieving more smooth distribution of the Roma in Bulgaria. Since the beginning of the 1990s, a trend of growing