

Bulgaria, the Central Sub-Balkan valleys and the Maritza River valley eastwards of Plovdiv (Applications 21, 25, 30, 33, 36, Fig. 17, 18, 19).

For a long period of time (until the beginning of the 1990s) the settlements with very high relative share of Roma (over 30% of the total population) constituted an insignificant share of the total number of settlements with Roma presence, and concentrated less than 5 % of the total number of Roma in the country. Since the beginning of the 1990s, however, the share of such settlements in the structure of Roma populated settlements grew up to 18 % by 2011. Till the beginning of the 1990s, 80 % of those settlements were located in Northeastern Bulgaria (mainly in South Dobrudzha region). Since then, the territorial distribution of those settlements has been expanding in the Eastern Sub-Balkan valleys region, Haskovo region, Stara Zagora region and Burgas region (fig, 20, 21, 22, 23, Applications 23, 26, 28, 34).

Until the beginning of the 1990s, the structure of settlements according to their share of Roma in the different parts of the country was similar to the structure of those settlements on a national level. Since then, however, as mentioned above, changes in that structure have been occurring and the territorial differentiation has been growing, especially according to the last two censuses (2001 and 2011). The smallest changes in the structure of Roma populated settlements have been observed in North Central Bulgaria and in Southwestern Bulgaria, where the share of settlements with high (10-30 %) and very high (over 30 %) share of Roma, remains small. With a settlement structure similar to that of the country as a whole are Northwestern, South Central and Southeastern Bulgaria, where smooth trend of growing number of settlements with high and very high share of Roma has been detected. The most significant changes and the largest deviation from the Roma settlement structure are being observed in Northeastern Bulgaria. As early as 1992, a sharp increase of the share of settlements with high and very high share of Roma has been occurring (both groups constitute more than half of all settlements with Roma population in that part of the country), and unlike the rest of the country in Northeastern Bulgaria that settlement structure remains stable till the end of the discussed period (Fig. 33, 38, 41, 46, 49, 53).

The majority of the Roma population in the country is concentrated in settlements, where they form up to 10 % of the total population. However, similar to the changes occurring in the structure of Roma populated settlements, the share of Roma living in that group of settlements (share of Roma up to 10 %) has been decreasing for the last two decades, and by the end of the discussed period less than half of the Roma in the country live in that type of settlements. According to the last three censuses, a gradual increase of the number of Roma living in settlements with very high share of Roma (30-40%, 40-50 % and over 50 % of the total population), has been observed. The structure of settlements with Roma presence is most similar to that of the country as a whole in Southeastern, South Central and until the end of the 1980s – in North Central Bulgaria. (as though since the end of the 20th century the concentration of Roma in settlements with low relative share of that ethnos, remains unchanged). Southwestern Bulgaria stands out as the region with the smallest changes in the settlement structure through the whole pe-