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DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL – THE ROMA CASE IN BULGARIAN CONDITIONS

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The aim of this article is to reveal the pattern of “dropping out of education” among the Roma children in Bulgaria as serious obstacle for the success of the educational reform that has been launched in the country. This article is a study of the causes and nature of the phenomenon “dropping out of school” and traces its consequences. The analysis offers rich empirical material reflecting the opinions and impressions of schoolchildren, parents and teachers concerning the dropout trend, as well as views shared in the course of different sociological surveys carried out in recent years. The chief tendency toward withdrawal from school consists in the persistent ethnic correlation: the Roma children fill the ranks of those not included in the school system. The other discussed topic is: the social function of secondary Bulgarian schools for maintaining and encapsulating the education of the ethnic minority in the years of transition. The dynamics of development nowadays have provided the education system with a number of solutions and approaches on the political level, with undertaken activities regarding the process going on in schools, which are also analyzed in the article.