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THE ETHNIC STRUCTURE OF THE POPULATION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KICHEVO AND ITS TERRITORIAL DISTRIBUTION

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ABSTRACT

The municipality of Kichevo, located in the central part of Western Macedonia is one of the 80 municipalities in the Republic of Macedonia. According to the last census data which was conducted in 2002, this municipality had 56 734 residents, which represent 2.8% of the total population in the country, (2 022 547)[4].

Taking in consideration the fact that this region as well as the whole territory of the country passed through many historical events, which more or less reflected the demography movements, this municipality has complex population structure.

One of the main and the specific characteristics of the municipality is its ethnic structure, composed of 35.7% Macedonians, 54.5% Albanians, 5.3% Turks, 2.9% Roma, 0.1% Vlachs, 0.2% Serbian and 1.3% others.

The aim of this paper is to point out the different ethnic structure of the population, its territorial distribution and the influence of such complex ethnicity on the demographic processes that took place on the territory of the municipality of Kichevo.

Key words: ethnic structure, municipality of Kichevo, territorial distribution.

INTRODUCTION

The study of the demographic characteristics of the population in a long period of time lies in the interest in demography, as well as other sciences and scientific disciplines, and the results give us the answer to the question of the extent to which demographic indicators vary in relation to the ethnic characteristics of a particular population. The differences in the demographic indicators at the ethnicity and especially religion, impose the need for examination of their causes, and the dominant factors that have contributed to these differences, ranging from historical and geographical, cultural and civilizational and political, to the biological, ethnopsychological, and other factors affecting the formation and shaping of a nation, (Knežević, 2011). However, the increase or decrease in the number of members of ethnic groups are also

[4]www.stat.gov.mk

a result of the assimilation, the effect of which is difficult to measure by quantitative indicators as well as political circumstances, (Raduski, 2000).

As a result of many historical moments and processes, the Republic of Macedonia is characterized by varying heterogeneous population structure, especially concerning the ethnic origin. The total population consists of a large number of national minorities, regionally settled in different parts of the state, (Daskalovski et al., 2000), both in general and separately in its different administrative-territorial units, where other nationalities also live besides Macedonians, (Madjevikj et al., 2010).

The population in the municipality of Kichevo has a heterogeneous composition and it mostly consists of the Macedonians and Albanians, but also national minorities: Turks, Roma, Serbs, Vlachs and others. Particular national groups have increased their number and proportion in the total population over time, while others had stagnant or negative trends in the population dynamics which influenced the change of the population ethnic structure, (Knežević, 2011). That is why their percentage share changed over the years.

Studying the structure of the population by nationality in terms of spatial distribution is important not only due to the dynamics in the number of nationalities and ethnic groups and their territorial displacement, but also due to the knowledge of their ethnic characteristics (Temjanovski et al., 2000).

RESEARCH AREA AND METHODS USED DURING THE RESEARCH

The present municipality of Kichevo occupies the central part of Western Macedonia. It covers an area of 823.68 km², or 3.2% of the territory of the Republic of Macedonia. According to the last census data since 2002, the municipality was populated by 56 734 inhabitants or 2.8% of the inhabitants in the country. The population density was 68.9 inhabitants/km² which is below the national average of 78.6 inhabitants/km². The municipality consists of an urban settlement, Kichevo and another 79 rural settlements.

The boundaries of the present municipality of Kichevo have changed several times through history. For example, the municipality had today's borders until 1996 when the Law on the new administrative - territorial division of the Republic of Macedonia was adopted, the areas of the Local Government units were determined and 123 municipalities were established.

Then, the municipality was divided into five municipalities, i.e. the Municipality Drugovo, covering the west, southwest and the south part of the present municipality Kichevo, the Municipality Vraneshtica, covering the southeast part, the Municipality Zajas, covering the northern part, the Municipality Oslomej in the northeast part and the Municipality of Kichevo in the central part.[5]

A new territorial reorganization was once again carried out in 2004, where, in accordance with the Law on Territorial Organization of Local Self-Government, the number of municipalities was set at 84.[6] This Law has provided the number of municipalities to be retained until the local elections in 2008 when their number will be reduced to 80, i.e. Vraneshtica, Drugovo, Oslomej and Zajas will once again merge with the municipality of Kichevo.

[5] Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia "No. 49/1996 and 59/1996
[6] Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia "No. 55/2004

By the Law amending the Law on the Territorial Organization of the Local Self-Government adopted in August 2008,[7] the merger of municipalities was postponed for 2012. Finally, after the local elections in March 2013, the municipality of Kichevo got the current borders.

The main sources of ethno-statistical data in the Republic of Macedonia are the censuses and the vital (demographic) statistics, and ethnic characteristics that can be obtained from the census such as ethnicity, religion and mother tongue, (Kneževiċ, 2011).

During the creation of this study, published data from the State Statistical Office have been used, data from the research done so far and data from direct field research, (Madjevikj et al., 2010).

With a thorough elaboration of the data using the demographically-statistic methods, we have come to several realizations concerning the changes of the ethnic structure of the population, (Madjevikj et al., 2010). The ethnic structure of the population was analyzed by a simple indicator – the share of a certain ethnic group in the total population of a given spatial unit, (Novotný et. al., 2015). Simultaneously, a comparative analysis has been made to some demographic indicators among the population, (Madjevikj et al., 2010) in the municipality of Kichevo.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

THE ETHNIC STRUCTURE OF THE POPULATION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KICHEVO

According to the census data, except in the period between 1953-1961, when the total number of the population dropped from 39 730 to 38 717 inhabitants, or 2.5% as a result of the migration of Turks towards Turkey, the number of the population in the municipality was continually increasing. The highest increase of the population is recorded in the period 1971-1981, when it was 16%.

If we analyze each of the municipalities separately, we will notice that in the municipalities of Kichevo, Oslomej and Zajas, the number of the population was increasing, while in the municipalities Vraneshtica and Drugovo the number was decreasing. To a large extent, among other factors, this situation was influenced also by: territorial concentration or dispersion of the total population and depending on ethnicity, traditional views and considerations, cultural achievements, the conservative mentality, religious structure in correlation with ethnicity, socio-political situation in the country, interethnic relations, and other, (Madjevikj, 2009b).

In countries with multi-ethnic composition of the population, the question of nationality, mother tongue and religion is one of the fundamental questions in the population censuses, (Dimitrov, 2005). Records on the ethnicity of the population in the municipality began to be managed from the census in 1953 onwards. Since then, significant changes have occurred in the composition of the population, especially by its national affiliation. The shares of some ethnic groups in the total population decreased (Macedonians, Serbs, Turks, Vlachs), while the shares of others increased (Albanians and Romas), (Raduski, 2004). The permanent changes in the number ratio of nationalities is resulting from the population natural increase and migration processes that took place in the past and are occurring today as well as other socio-economic processes, (Madjevikj, 2009b).

[7] Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia "No. 98/2008

Table 1: The population in the municipality of Kichevo, according to ethnicity, during the period 1953-2002.

	Total	Macedonians	Albanians	Turks	Roma	Vlachs	Serbs	Bosniaks	Other
Kichevo Municipality									
1953	11167	4786	761	4781	54	4	484	0	297
1961	11838	7662	1310	2107	0	0	397	0	362
1971	16810	10493	3105	2041	17	0	306	0	848
1981	24207	13893	5446	2189	310	5	203	0	2161
1994	27543	16126	7195	2236	1401	15	99	0	471
2002	30138	16140	9202	2430	1630	76	86	7	567
Municipality Drugovo									
1953	10157	9497	181	443	5	0	8	0	23
1961	8367	8108	52	217	0	0	17	0	9
1971	6431	6082	38	271	0	0	15	0	25
1981	4704	4241	77	218	0	0	11	0	157
1994	3555	3110	131	291	0	0	7	0	16
2002	3249	2784	155	292	1	0	8	0	8
Municipality Vraneshtica									
1953	4146	3793	0	332	0	0	9	0	12
1961	3503	3273	5	215	0	0	4	0	6
1971	2944	2699	9	205	0	0	9	0	22
1981	2287	1998	4	125	0	0	8	0	152
1994	1650	1319	8	315	0	0	7	0	1
2002	1322	1033	10	276	0	0	2	0	1
Municipality Oslomej									
1953	7688	1212	6299	150	0	0	13	0	14
1961	7838	976	6815	11	0	0	12	0	24
1971	8481	622	7828	7	0	0	10	0	14
1981	9144	323	8728	0	6	0	7	0	80
1994	9136	160	8967	0	0	0	2	0	7
2002	10425	110	10257	0	0	0	0	1	57
Municipality Zajas									
1953	6572	969	5544	26	9	0	10	0	14
1961	7171	874	6134	99	0	0	7	0	57
1971	8425	769	6881	21	0	0	8	0	746
1981	9805	613	9082	3	9	0	12	0	86
1994	10055	271	9465	0	0	0	2	0	7
2002	11605	211	11308	0	0	0	6	0	80
The present Municipality Kichevo									
1953	39730	20257	12785	5732	68	4	524	0	360
1961	38717	20893	14316	2649	0	0	437	0	458
1971	43091	20665	17861	2545	17	0	348	0	1655
1981	50147	21068	23337	2535	325	5	241	0	2636
1994	51939	20986	25766	2842	1401	15	117	0	502
2002	56739	20278	30932	2998	1631	76	102	8	713

Source: SSORM, 2002, book X

Macedonian population is still dominant in the former municipality of Kichevo, but, the rise of the Albanian population in the former municipality and in the present municipality of Kichevo is quite large. The Roma population, in 1961 was not even recorded in this area, but in 1994, a great part of the population declared themselves as such. The number of Turkish population marked minor changes, while the number of Serbs in the municipality quite decreased.

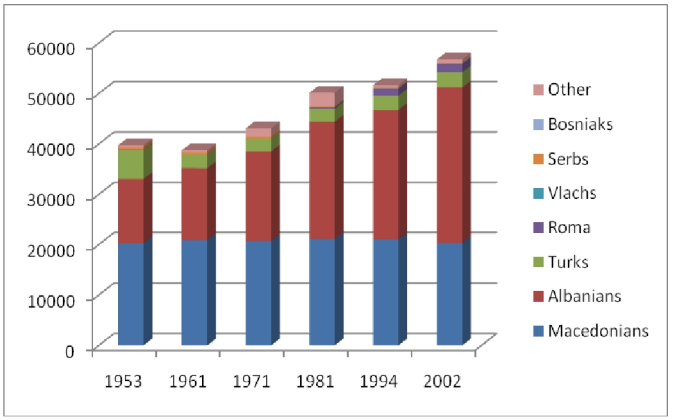


Figure 1: The population in the municipality of Kichevo, according to ethnicity, during the period 1953-2002.

In 1953, out of the total population in the municipality, Macedonians accounted for 50.9%, Albanian population accounted for 32.2%, Turkish population for 14.4% and other ethnic groups for 2.5%.

In 1961 the percentage of the Macedonian population increased to 53.9%, the percentage of the Albanian population increased also and they accounted for 36.9%, while the percentage of the Turkish population decreased to 6.8%. The reduction in the percentage of the Turkish population occurs as a result of the migration of the Turkish population to Turkey. Other ethnic communities are represented by 2.4%.

In the next census years, the percentage of the Macedonian population was continuously decreasing, namely, from 47.9% in the census year of 1971, it dropped off to 42% in 1981; 40.4% in 1994 and 35.7% in the last census year, 2002. On the other hand, the percentage of the Albanian population in the municipality increased from 41.4% in 1971 to 46.5% in 1981 when for the first time, the number of the Albanian population became dominant in the municipality. The percentage share continued to increase further on and in 1994 it reached 49.6%; while in 2002 more than a half of the total population in the municipality were Albanians, 54.5%. The changes in other ethnic groups are insignificant.

However, the ethnic composition of the population is different in different parts of the municipality. That can be best noticed if we make a separate analysis of each of the five municipalities that are now part of the municipality of Kichevo.

In three out of totally five municipalities, the Macedonian population is dominant, and the Albanian population is dominant in two. The case is the same in all census years. According to the last census in the municipalities with predominantly Macedonian population, the percentage share is as follows: in the Municipality of Kichevo 53.5%, Vraneshtica 78.1% and Drugovo with 85.7%. In the municipalities with predominantly Albanian population, the percentage share is as follows: 97.4% in the municipality Zajas and 98.4% in the municipality Oslomej.

Also, it must be mentioned that in the municipalities in which the Macedonian population is dominant, their percentage share has decreased over the years and the share of the Albanian

population has increased. On the other hand, in the municipalities with the dominance of the Albanian population, their percentage share has increased and the percentage share of the Macedonian population is constantly decreasing.

This clearly shows us that the changes of the municipality`s boundaries greatly affect the changes of the percentage share of ethnic groups. Knowing the characteristics and specifics of ethnic groups or their demographic and structural features has a great importance for the overall development of a society, (Ramchilovikj, 2009). Therefore, of an immense importance is the complex impact of social, socioeconomic, political, security and other circumstances and conditions that have left a strong mark in the past, (Madjevikj, 2009).

In terms of the current political issues and problems in the country, it is very important to pay attention to the manner of grouping and regrouping certain municipalities only according to the subcriterion, national structure of the population, (Markoski, 2004).

THE ETHNIC STRUCTURE OF THE URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION IN THE MUNICIPALITY

In Kichevo, the only urban settlement in the municipality, the total number of population is continually increasing. The number increased the most in the period 1971-1981, which is due to the process of industrialization and urbanization and the beginning of the rural-urban migratory movements that took place in our country. Although the number of the urban population is continually increasing, the percentage share of urban population in the total number of the population in the municipality is lower than the percentage share of rural population.

Although certain changes in the number of the population have occurred in the analyzed period according to ethnicity, in the city of Kichevo in almost all census years, the number of the Macedonian population mostly dominated. Thus, the percentage share of the Macedonian population from 39.2% in 1953 increased to 58.9% in 1981, and 60.7% in 1994, but then decreased to 55.5% in 2002. In 2002, of the total number of Macedonian population in the municipality, 74.1% lived in the city.

The percentage share of the Albanian population in the city was only 2.4% in 1953, then in 1981 the percentage share increased by nearly 10 times and accounted for 20.1%, in 1994 the Albanian population accounted for 23.5%, and in 2002 the percentage increased to 28.2%. In 2002, only 24.7% of the total Albanian population of the municipality, lived in the city.

Table 2: The number of urban population in the municipality of Kichevo, according ethnicity during the period 1953-2002.

Kichevo	Total	Macedonians	Albanians	Turks	Roma	Vlachs	Serbs	Bosniaks	Other
1953	9.567	3.747	232	4.749	54	4	484	0	297
1961	10.324	6.809	681	2.079	0	0	394	0	361
1971	15.393	9.900	2.284	2.041	17	0	305	0	846
1981	22.479	13.236	4.516	2.175	304	5	203	0	2.040
1994	25.129	15.255	5.902	2.175	1.235	15	96	0	451
2002	27.067	15.031	7.641	2.406	1.329	75	82	7	496

Source: SSORM, 2002, book X

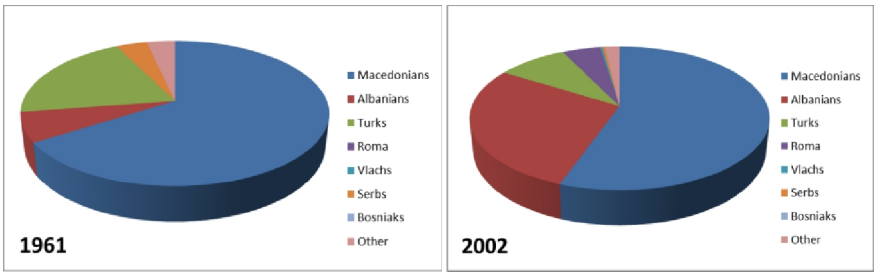


Figure 2 and 3: The percentage share of the urban population in the municipality of Kichevo according to ethnicity, 1961 and 2002.

The proportions of the Turkish population in the city marked major changes. Thus, from 49.6% in 1953, their number has significantly decreased due to the migrations towards Turkey and in the census conducted in 1981, they were represented by only 9.7%. In 1994 the percentage decreased again, and accounted 8.6%, while in 2002, there was a small increase in the Turkish population, now accounted for 8.9%. In 2002, 80.2% of the total number of the Turkish population lived in the city. The Roma population is also mostly located in the city, thus, even 81.5% of the total number of the Roma population in the municipality. Members of other nationalities are less present and do not mark any emphasized changes in their participation share, (Madjevikj, 2009).

Table 3: The number of rural population in the municipality of Kichevo, according ethnicity during the period 1953-2002.

Kichevo	Total	Macedonians	Albanians	Turks	Roma	Vlachs	Serbs	Bosniaks	Other
1953	30.163	16.510	12.553	983	14	0	40	0	63
1961	28.393	14.084	13.635	570	0	0	43	0	97
1971	27.698	10.765	15.577	504	0	0	43	0	809
1981	27.668	7.832	18.821	360	21	0	38	0	596
1994	26.810	5.731	19.864	667	166	0	21	0	51
2002	29.672	5.247	23.291	592	302	1	20	1	217

Source: SSORM, 2002, book X

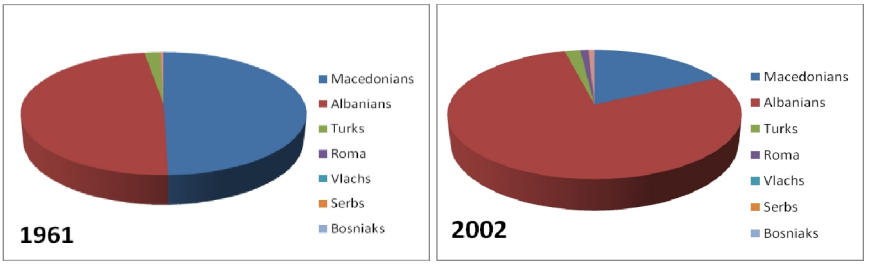


Figure 4 and 5: The percentage share of the rural population in the municipality of Kichevo according to ethnicity, 1961 and 2002.

The number of rural population marked several changes in the period 1953-2002. From 30 163 inhabitants in 1953, the number gradually increased to 26 810 in 1994 and then in 2002 decreased to 29 672. However, the rural population dominates in all census years. In 2002, 52.3% of the population in the municipality lived in the rural areas. Most of the rural population consisted of Albanians, 78.5%, Macedonians 17.7%, while other ethnic groups marked an insignificant participation.

In the period 1953-1981, the percentage share of the Macedonian population in the municipality decreased, but it increased in the city. During the same period, the percentage share of the Albanian population was increasing in the municipality, but in the city it was increasing even more. The percentage share of the Turkish population decreased in the municipality, but more significantly decreased in the city.

During the period from 1981 to 1994, the percentage share of the Macedonian population decreases in the municipality, but continues to increase in the city. The percentage of the Albanian population is growing in the municipality and in the city, but with much lower intensity compared to the previous period. The percentage share of the Turkish population does not notice significant changes in the municipality, but follows further decrease in the city.

Between 1994 and 2002, the percentage of the Macedonian population decreased in the municipality, and the city, the percentage share of the Albanian population is growing in the municipality and the city, while the percentage share of the Turkish population is reduced in the municipality as well as in the city.

With the continued growth in the population number, changes are occurring in the share of the population not only according to the ethnicity, but also according to the mother tongue and religion.

The language and alphabet are the basis of communication between members of an ethnic or political community. Each language is a prism through which, the views of the world, ethnic feelings, a way of reasoning and thinking are reflected, (Grčić, 2009). The language may not always be a sufficient determinant of affiliation with a national group because it is not uncommon for several ethnic groups to speak the same mother tongue, and to declare as different nationalities in the lists, (Kneževič, 2011).

Table 4: The population in the municipality of Kichevo in 2002, according mother tongue .

Kichevo	Total	Macedonians	Albanians	Turks	Roma	Vlachs	Serbs	Bosniaks	Other
1953	3249	2802	153	275	0	0	8	4	7
1961	30138	18385	9199	2209	114	17	64	7	143
1971	10425	103	10261	0	0	1	0	1	59
1981	1322	1068	10	239	0	0	2	2	1
1994	11605	202	11317	0	0	1	7	0	78
2002	56739	22560	30940	2723	114	19	81	14	288
Urban	27067	16931	7635	2183	114	16	63	7	118
Rural	29672	5629	23305	540	0	3	18	7	170

Source: SSORM, 2002, book X

It can be seen in Table 4 that the structure of the population, according the mother tongue is as complex as the structure by ethnicity. According the census of 2002, there is an interesting fact that the number of people who have treated Macedonian as their mother

tongue is quite higher than the number of people who have declared themselves as Macedonians. The reason for this appearance is the fact that many people who have declared themselves to be Serbians, Vlachs, Bosnians and Roma have accepted the Macedonian language as their own, (Madjevikj et al., 2010). The same situation is noticed among the Roma population. The number of people treating Roma as a mother tongue is much lower than the number of people who claim to be Roma. There are not large differences among other ethnic groups.

Out of the total population in the municipality in 2002, 39.7% declare Macedonian as their mother tongue, while the percentage of people that have Albanian as their mother tongue is 54.5%.

According to the Law on Use of Languages spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic of Macedonia and in the units of the Local-Self Government since 2008, in all of the municipalities, the official language is the Macedonian language and the Cyrillic alphabet is the official alphabet. Alongside Macedonian and its Cyrillic alphabet, the language and alphabet used by at least 20% of the municipality's inhabitants is also considered as official. However, based on the latest Census in 2002 the only ethnicity in the Republic of Macedonia participating with a minimum of 20% of the total population is the Albanian. Accordingly, for the time being, the Albanian ethnicity in the Republic of Macedonia and its alphabet has the status of "another official language". Analogous to this, according the Association of the units of Local Self-Government of the Republic of Macedonia, official languages in the municipality of Kichvo are Macedonian and Albanian, as in the municipalities Oslomej and Zajas. In the municipality Drugovo official language is only the Macedonian, while in the municipality Vraneshtica, Macedonian and Turkish[8]. Today, due to the fact that these five municipalities are merged and only the municipality Kichevo exists as such, the only official languages are Macedonian and Albanian.

Table 5: The population in the municipality of Kichevo in 2002, according to religion.

Municipality	Total	Orthodox	Muslims	Catholics	Protestants	Other
Drugovo	3249	2790	448	2	0	9
Kichevo	30138	16234	13703	36	1	164
Oslomej	10425	98	10260	5	0	62
Vraneshtica	1322	1033	287	0	0	2
Zajas	11605	208	11303	9	0	85
Total	56739	20363	36001	52	1	322
Urban	27067	15139	11759	34	1	134
Rural	29672	5224	24242	18	0	188

Source: SSORM, 2002, book X

The religion in this area was and still is the most important determinant of distinction. Religion is the one factor which has formed the cultural sample of the groups, (Tasheva, 1997).

The religious structure of the Kichevo municipality in 2002 was represented with 63.4% Muslims and 35.9% Orthodox Christians. Other religions participate with an insignificant percentage. Macedonians, Serbs and Vlach and a small part of the Roma people are generally

[8] http://www.zels.org.mk/Default.aspx

Orthodox Christians, whereas Albanians, Turks, Bosniaks and the larger part of Roma population are Muslims, (Madjevikj et al., 2010).

The number of Orthodox Christians is greater in the municipalities Drugovo, Kichevo and Vraneshtica, while the Muslims religion dominates in the other two municipalities. In the city, dominant is the number of Orthodox Christians with a percentage of 55.9%, while the percentage of Muslims is 43.4%.

Ethnic groups are distinguished by language, religion, values and normative standards, so the degree of cultural distance between them may hinder their integration and cooperation, (Golobocić et al., 2004). Although, there are certain segments where the ethnic identity or religion are of essential meaning, for instance, in marriages, it is obviously not an obstacle in the everyday life, (Madjevikj et al., 2010).

Taken as a whole, according to the last official data, the Albanian population is dominant in the municipality, then comes the Macedonian population and then the Turkish population. The percentage of other ethnic groups is insignificant. In the city, the Macedonian population is still dominant, followed by the largest percentage of Albanian population and than, the Turkish population. In the city, the percentage share of other ethnicities is insignificant also.

If we take into account the ethnicity of the population by municipalities or settlements, we will notice that the settlements with predominantly Macedonian population, are located in the central, western, southern and southwest part of the municipality and mostly in the city, whereas the settlements with predominantly Albanian population are located in the northeast, north and northwest parts of the municipality. The Turkish population is mostly located in the central part, than in the western, southern and southwest part of the municipality.

Our prediction is moving along the line that this trend of contrasts in the population contrasts, with the reduction of Macedonian population and increase of the Albanian population will continue until any population policy with several models of population balance begins to be implemented (Dimitrov, 2005).

CONCLUSION

The issue of ethnic identity as an ethnic category is an extremely complex and complicated problem that has been interpreted differently during different historical periods, by different authors in science (Mirchevska, 2005). In the statistical documentation, as well as in scientific and professional literature, there are gaps in using the term by which these communities are called: ethnic minorities, national minorities, ethnic groups, nationalities, ethnicities, (Knežević, 2011).

Language is one of the essential indicators of every nation. It is certainly one of the characteristics, perhaps the most significant, which makes the distinction among nations. People communicate and understand each other by means of languages. Language makes daily life easier and enables citizens to achieve their essential freedoms and rights. In the Republic of Macedonia the right of using a language is a constitutional and legal category. This means that anything related to languages is regulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia and the legislation adopted by the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, (Janevski, 2008).

For multinational countries such as ours, studying the ethnic structure of the population is of an important meaning. Knowing the peculiarities that characterize the people in the country

and every individual ethnic group as nationality, mother tongue, religion, traditions, customs, etc., has major implications for the demographic development, (Stojmilov, 2005).

The demographic criterion is a criterion that determines the minimum number of people required for a separate municipality to be organized. It is its essence, but this criterion contains a certain demographic structure of the population as is the national, educational, economic and others. In addition, although scientifically inadequate, it seems that, it is politically favorable to take into account to the maximum the structure of the population by nationality, (Markoski, 2004).

It is essential to emphasize that for a detailed study of this issue statistical and demographic data are not enough, but an additional research that leads to significant results and awareness is also highly important, (Madjevikj, 2009b).

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ЕТНИЧКАТА СТРУКТУРА НА НАСЕЛЕНИЕТО ВО ОПШТИНА КИЧЕВО И НЕГОВА ТЕРИТОРИЈАЛНА РАЗМЕСТЕНОСТ

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ИЗВОД

Општина Кичево, сместена во средишниот дел на Западна Македонија претставува една од 80-те општини во Република Македонија.

Според последниот Попис на населението, домаќинствата и становите во Република Македонија кој беше спроведена во 2002 година, оваа општина брои 56.734 жители, што претставува 2,8% од вкупното население во Република Македонија, (2.022.547).

Ако се земе во предвид фактот дека општината, како и целата територија на Република Македонија поминале низ многу историски настани, кои повеќе или помалку влијаеле врз демографските движења, оваа општина има сложена структура на населението.

Една од најважните и специфични карактеристики на општината е етничката структура на населението која ја сочинуваат 35,7% Македонци, 54,5% Албанци, 5,3% Турци, 2,9% Роми, 0,1% Власи, 0,2% Срби и 1,3% останати.

Границите на денешната општина Кичево се менувале неколку пати низ историјата што во голема мера се одразило врз промените во процентуалното учество на секоја од етничките групи.

Изучувањето и познавањето на националноста, мајчиниот јазик, религијата, традицијата и обичаите на секоја етничка група е многу важно ако сакаме да го предвидиме идниот тренд на демографски развој.

Целта на овој труд е да се нагласат разликите во етничкиот состав на населението, неговата територијална разместеност, како и влијанието на вака сложената етничка структура врз демографските процеси кои се случувале и се случуваат на територијата на Општина Кичево.