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REGIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA ON THE EXAMPLE OF TWO AREAS

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Elka DIMITRIEVA
Institute of Economics - Skopje, Republic of Macedonia

Aleksandra LOZANOSKA
Institute of Economics - Skopje, Republic of Macedonia

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Elka DIMITRIEVA
Institute of Economics - Skopje, Republic of Macedonia
Aleksandra LOZANOSKA
Institute of Economics - Skopje, Republic of Macedonia

Abstract

The development of the population in the Republic of Macedonia is characterized with emphasized regional differences. In such sense, very indicative is the example of the Pelagonia and Polog regions, both areas that outstand with largest decline in the growth of the population. In the period between the Censuses of the population 1994-2002 in the Polog region the population increased for 8,5% and in the Pelagonia region decreased for 1,8%. The analysis showed that there are large differences in the development of the population and its age structure as a result of the natural and mechanical movement, especially of the intensive emigration. The changes in the age structure contributed, the Pelagonia region which used to be in stadium of demographic old age to remain in the same. The Polog region although is a high natality area, yet under the influence of the emigration it is caught in a process of demographic aging. The different stadiums determine the declines in the basic functional contingents.

The regional differences are expected to continue in the future and the same are identified with the projections of the population in the period 2007-2055. They show that the population in the Pelagonia and Polog regions on short and mid term will keep and deepen the differences in the scope and participation of the age contingents, that will result in change of the stadium of demographic age. The first will be in deep demographic age by the end of 2055, and the second in the lower stadium of demographic age, and in the highest will transfer in 2040. It is characteristic that both regions will keep the same distance in the observation period in the concentration of the basic age functional contingents in relation to the Republic of Macedonia, because they are continuously higher in the Polog region, compared with the Pelagonia region. The total population is expected to decrease but with different intensity. In the Pelagonia region the decrease is for 30,5%, in the Polog region for 19,8% and in the country for 22,8%.

Key words: population dynamics, natural population increase, emigration, population aging.

Introduction

This paper is focused on indentifying the regional disparities in size and structural characteristics of the population in the Republic of Macedonia on the level of regions, according the territorial organisation from year 2004[1]. Subject to observation are region Pelagonia and region Polog, the two out of eight regions which are distinguished by major deviations in population growth. In 2002, more than a quarter (26,8%) of the total population belonged to these two areas. These analyses include the changes in population growth and its submission of the natural and migration movements, as well as the age structure of the population during the period of the two censuses, 1994 – 2002. Expected population movement in the short, medium and longer term is also observed.

[1] According the NUTS classification (Nomenclature of Units of Territory for Statistics) today in Macedonia there are eight regions (NUTS 3), 34 groups of municipalities (NUTS 4) which corresponds with the municipalities from the territorial organization from 1965 and 84 municipalities including the tenth municipalities of Skopje (NUTS 5) – territorial organization from 2004.

1. Changes in the extent and the dynamic of the total population

According to the Censuses of the population made in the year 1994 and also in 2002 the alteration of the extent of the population and its intensity in growth in the Pelagonia region and Polog region are illustratively displaying the adjusted regional differences in the development of the population in the Republic of Macedonia. In the observed period in the Pelagonia region the population has decreased by 4.478 people, and in the Polog region has increased for 22.143 people (Table 1). The average annual growth rate of population respectively is -0,23% and 0,95% and deviates significantly from the growth of the population in the country (0, 48%).

Table 1

Scope and dynamics of the population in the Republic of Macedonia, Pelagonia and Polog regions, year 1994 and 2002

Region	Total population		Change (growth) of the population (1994-2002)		Growth rates of the population	Concentracion of the population (RM=100,0)	
	1994	2002	broj	%	1994-2002	1994	2002
Republic of Macedonia	**1945932**	**2022547**	**76615**	**3,9**	**0,48**	**100,0**	**100,0**
Pelagonia	242614	238136	-4478	-1,8	-0,23	12,5	11,8
Polog	281982	304125	22143	7,9	0,95	14,5	15,0

Source: State Statistical Office, Census of the population, households, dwellings and agricultural holdings in the Republic of Macedonia, 1994, Book VI, Skopje, March 1997; Census of the population, households and dwellings in the Republic of Macedonia, 2002, Book IX, Skopje, May 2004.

Despite the fact that each region has nine municipalities, they can be distinguished by several reliable indicators that emphasize their differences, like the intensity of population growth and its extent. In Pelagonia region it is dominant the presence of small municipalities, and Polog region has medium-sized municipalities. Than, there is the presence of urban and rural population, whereas the first region is being distinguished primary by the participation of the urban population (67,6% in 2002), while we have a completely different situation with the second region in which we have participation of 70,8% of the rural population. Pelagonia region has 4 rural municipalities and 5 more with urban and rural population, while in Polog region all municipalities are rural, except Gostivar and Tetovo. From there emerges the different concentration of population, that is balanced more in the Polog region in which in 2002 in the two urban municipalities is registried 55,1% of the total population. Meanwhile in Pelagonia region 72,2% of the population lives in two municipalities with larger urban centres (Bitola and Prilep). In the concentracion of the population in the country, Pelagonia region takes relatively smaller part in these two years, and the region Polog has relatively bigger participation.

1. The natural and the mechanical movement and their impact on population growth

The significant differences of size and dynamics of population in the regions Pelagonia and also, Polog are determined primary of the different natural growth. Also it is important the influence of the migrations, especially the emigration abroad, because these two are extremely conspicuous areas. However, the emigration was not conducted simultaneously and with the same intensity in both regions, therefore its implications on the total population, its reproductive basis, and the number of newborns abroad are different. That is why before and after the analysis we should take in consideration the condition with and without newborns and deceased abroad.

Region Pelagonia is characterised with smaller than the average fertility and higher than the average mortality, compared with the level of the country. Natural growth rate, in the analysed period, shows significant reduction (Table 2) and according to the condition in 2002 it has negative auspice, while the total fertility rate is 1,49, which means that the region does not provide simple reproduction of population. As a traditional area of emigration, the permanent emigration abroad until 1990 has reached huge proportions and significantly affected the age structure and the reduction of reproductive basis of

population. But, because of the relatively smaller extent after the referred year, the number of newborns abroad from 1994 to 2002 is enrolled as small, and does not affect the vital rates of the population.

Table 2

Indicators about the natural movement and net migration in the Republic of Macedonia, Pelagonia and Polog regions, 1994 and 2002

	Republic of Macedonia		Pelagonia		Polog	
	1994	2002	1994	2002	1994	2002
	Without born and death persons from abroad					
Number of livebirths	31260	24154	3264	2404	6020	3827
Livebirths on 1000 citizens	16,1	11,9	13,5	9,9	21,5	12,6
Number of deaths	15649	17866	2543	2961	1860	2282
Deaths on 1000 citizens	8,0	8,8	10,5	12,2	6,6	7,5
Natural increase	15611	6288	721	-557	4160	1545
Natural increase on 1000 citizens	8,0	3,1	3,0	-2,3	14,8	5,1
Total fertility rate (TFR)	2,08	1,59	1,98	1,49	2,43	1,55
Natural increase 1994-2002	86647		126		23089	
Net migration 1994-2002	-10063		-4604		-946	
	With born and death persons from abroad					
Number of livebirths	33487	27761	3390	2495	6727	5401
Livebirths on 1000 citizens	17,2	13,7	14,0	10,5	24,0	17,8
Number of deaths	15771	17962	2563	2973	1897	2323
Deaths on 1000 citizens	8,1	8,9	10,6	12,5	6,8	7,6
Natural increase	17716	9799	827	-478	4830	3078
Natural increase on 1000 citizens	9,1	4,9	3,4	-2,0	17,2	10,1
Total fertility rate (TFR)	2,21	1,60	2,04	1,56	2,69	2,21
Natural increase 1994-2002	107607		819		32420	
Net migration 1994-2002	-30992		-5297		-8472	

Source: From the documentation of the State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia

On the other hand, the region Polog stands out as an area that is with high fertility, even more, higher than the average fertility and smaller than the average mortality. So it covers more than a quarter of the total natural growth of the country in the last period between the censuses. The intensity of emigration, in the last decade, has resulted in a growing number of those born abroad. There is a significant difference between the fertility rates and the natural growth, whether the born/deceased abroad have been taken in consideration. Particularly large deviations of the total fertility rate are estimated in 2002 when this rate is 2,21 including the newborns abroad. Unfortunately if the newborns are not included the rate is only 1,55 and so the region Polog does not provide simple reproduction of population. We believe that the indicators that do not take in consideration the newborns abroad, more realistically reflect the situation of the natural movement of the population, in the country rating as well as regional.

The migration balance, calculated according to the vital-statistical method in the time interval 1994-2002 in both regions has a negative auspice and shows that the observed regions are emigration areas. Unlike region Pelagonia where the rating is slightly lower if we exclude those newborn and deceased abroad, in region Polog the rate is almost nine times lower. A situation like this can be explained with the emergence of a substantial amount of settlements in terms of intense immigration.

The lack of relevant data complicates the classification of the external migrations of the observed areas. The data on migrants from abroad are showing an absolute increase in these settlements in the region Pelagonia, and reduction in the region Polog.

As far as this phenomenon of emigration is considered, it should be emphasized that according the data of the Census of 1994 the participation of the migrants in the total population of the region Pelagonia amounts 22,5% and in region polog 12,8%. But several circumstances indicate that in the last period between the two censuses the intensity of emigration abroad is bigger in the Polog region, and among other things this is confirmed with the number of children born abroad.

3. Structure of the population according the age

The age structure of the population allows the recognition of the demographic past and predicts the demographic future on one area. The original vision of the changes in the age structure of the population in the considered areas can be created from the idea of age pyramids in 1994 and 2002 (Chart 1). The region Pelagonia is characterised with a certain reduction of the base of the age pyramid, and with growth of the age groups 40-49 and 60-69. However in the Polog region there is a significant narrowing in the base and growth of the presence of young up to 20 years of age. These age pyramids for the total population together with the both regions, are very illustrative in showing the existing highlighted regional segregations (Chart 2). If we compare them according the situation in 2002, we can see that there are some concessions in terms of higher representation of the youth in the region Polog, and consequently the older population in the region Pelagonia.

Chart 1

Age Piramides of the Population in the Pelagonian and Polog Region, 1994 and 2002

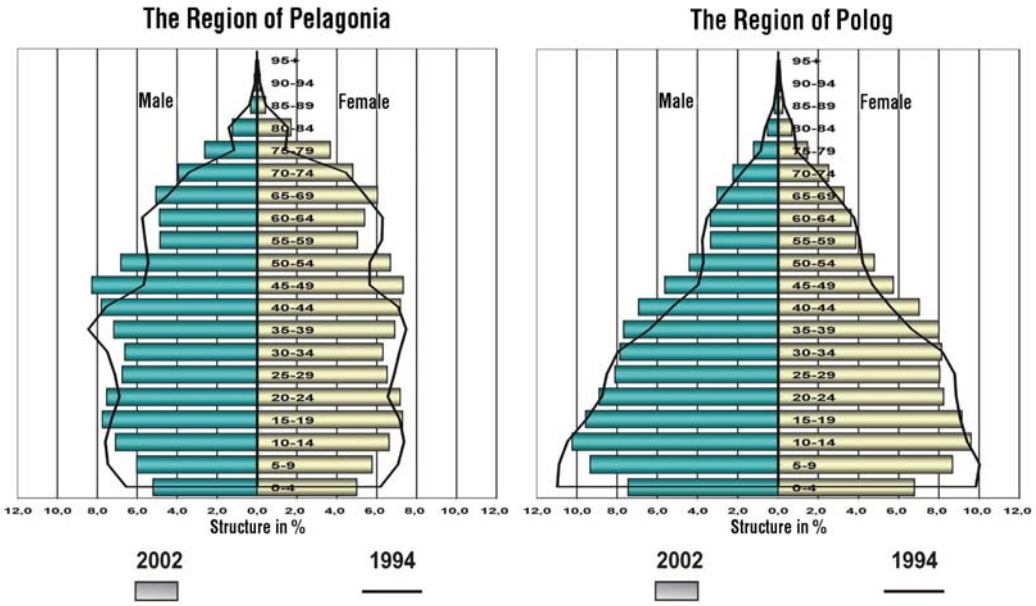
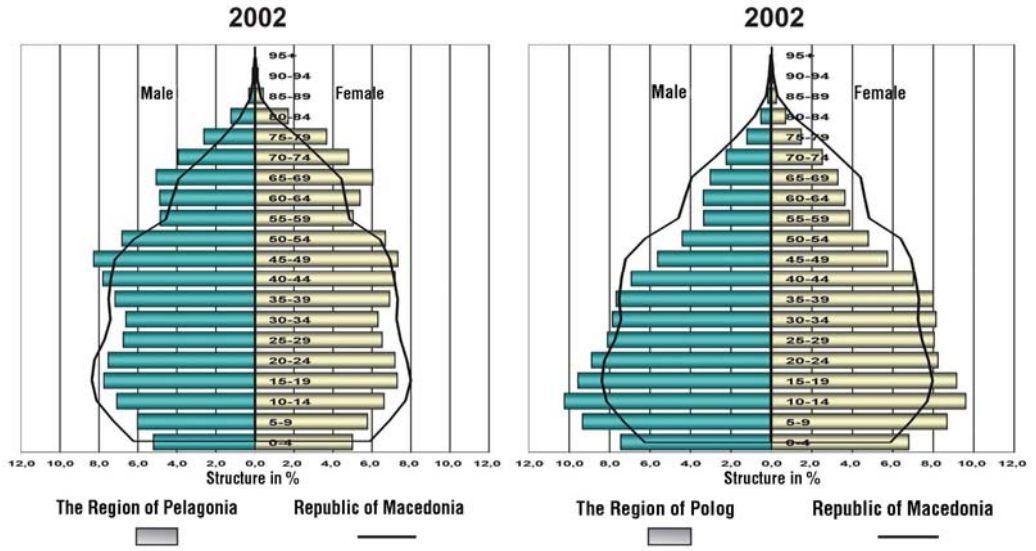


Chart 2

Age Piramides of the Population in the Republic of Macedonia, Pelagonian and Polog Region, 2002



From the point of view of the actual and future demographic and socio-economic growth of the two regions, it is significant to identify the changes in the functional age and gender contingents (Table 3).

Table 3

Number and participation in the total population (%) of the basic functional contingents of the population in the Republic of Macedonia, Pelagonia and Polog regions, 1994 and 2002

Region	Total population	Children on preschool age (0 - 6)	Children on school age (7 - 14)	Working age population (male-15-64 and female-15-59)	Female population		Old population 60 and more years	Old population 65 and more years	Old population 80 and more years
					On fertile age (15-49)	In optimal reproductive period (20-34)			
	Participation in the total population (in %)								
Republic of Macedonia									
1994	**1945932**	11,2	13,7	64,2	25,7	11,5	13,1	8,5	1,3
2002	**2022547**	8,8	12,3	66,0	25,9	11,2	15,0	10,6	1,3
Pelagonia									
1994	**242614**	8,5	12,0	63,7	23,9	10,2	18,8	12,7	2,2
2002	**238136**	7,3	10,6	64,4	24,3	10,0	20,2	15,1	2,0
Polog									
1994	**281982**	13,4	16,2	61,0	26,4	13,1	10,6	6,9	1,1
2002	**304125**	10,5	15,6	64,4	27,0	12,1	11,3	7,8	0,9
	Structure in % (Republic of Macedonia=100,0)								
Pelagonia									
1994	12,5	9,5	10,9	12,4	11,6	11,1	17,9	18,6	21,0
2002	11,8	9,8	10,1	11,5	11,1	10,5	15,8	16,8	17,7
Polog									
1994	14,5	17,4	17,1	13,7	14,9	16,5	11,8	11,8	12,7
2002	15,0	18,0	19,0	14,7	15,7	16,3	11,3	11,1	10,3

Source: State Statistical Office, Censuses of the population 1994 and 2002 godina, Documentation of the State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia

In the period 1994-2002 the Pelagonia region notices absolute decrease of pre-school and school obligated contingent, and the Polog region notices a decrease in the first category. There are great oscillations in the participation of the two regions in the total number of children in the country (19,9%, respectively 37,0%).

The absolute scope of the working age population in the Pelagonia region shows decrease, and in the Polog region very high increase, which contributes to get equal participation of their structure in the total population in 2002 (64,4%).

The number of female population in fertile period and in optimal reproductive period shows different potential of bioreproduction in both areas. The changes go in the direction of absolute decrease in the Pelagonia region, significant increase in the Polog region. In 2002 they participated with 24,3% and 27,0% for the first category, and 10,0%, and 12,1% for the second.

Absolute and relative increase in the population older than 60, respectively 65 characterize both of the regions, but with huge difference in their part of the total population. The contingent of old (80+ years of age), notices absolute and relative decrease. It's participation in total population is double in the Pelagonia region, than in Polog. In 2002 more than one fifth of this contingent belongs to the Pelagonia region.

The presence of the above mentioned contingents points to the fact that the population in these areas is found in different stages of demographic ageing. The ranking considering the frame values of five indicators[2], shows that in the analysed period, the population in the Pelagonia region was in the stadium

[2] Indicators to determine the rang are: average age (in years), the procentual participation of the young under 20 years of age, of the younger than 40 years of age, of the people old 60 and more years and the aging index.

3 According the extreme values of the five indicators there are seven stages of demographic age: 1 – early demographic youth, 2 – demographic youth, 3 – demographic maturity, 4 – threshold of demographic oldness, 5 – demographic oldness, 6 – deep demographic oldness and 7 – deepest demographic oldness.

of demographic oldness[3]. Even though the Polog region is a high-natality area with relatively young population, still manifests a process of demographic ageing. This kind of transition in relatively short period is conditioned by the great emigration.

4. Expected changes in the movement of the total population in the period 2007-2055

The changes in the numerical condition of the total population and its age structure continue also in the period after 2002 and the same can be assessed from the projections (midterm scenario) of the population for the period from 2007 until 2055.[4] With respect of the time scope they give presentation also for the trend of the changes on short, middle and long-term. The data from the projections show continuance, and for some indicators deepening of already manifested differences of the total population, age structure, as well as, separate functional contingents between the two observed regions (Table 4).

Table 4
Number and participation in the total population (%) of some functional contingents of the population in the Republic of Macedonia, Pelagonia and Polog regions, population projections 2007-2055

	Total population			Working age population (male-15-64 and female 15-59)			Female population on fertile age (15-49)			Female population on optimal reproductive period (20-34)		
	Republic of Macedonia	Pelagonia	Polog	Republic of Macedonia	Pelagonia	Polog	Republic of Macedonia	Pelagonia	Polog	Republic of Macedonia	Pelagonia	Polog
2007	2039377	236018	309926	1374205	155414	208575	527410	57186	86222	231982	24566	37915
2010	2038614	232965	310882	1387956	154636	218094	522494	55542	87888	232151	24839	38547
2015	2028961	228400	311965	1369754	149827	222466	504749	52909	85616	226042	23950	39594
2020	2007241	222828	312145	1326370	142290	218907	480896	50353	80417	206037	21272	37055
2025	1972240	216167	309959	1273812	135120	210316	455312	48305	74883	182498	18572	31621
2030	1924113	208560	304552	1220572	129472	200740	427752	45720	70375	162050	17007	25795
2035	1865370	200236	296351	1162831	123625	191364	395586	42063	65387	151910	16406	23123
2040	1799157	191416	286303	1096807	116706	181430	362219	38380	59117	144733	15911	22568
2045	1727812	182344	274934	1019194	107991	168337	330566	35240	52147	136199	14703	22066
2050	1652710	173218	262303	938926	99151	152765	307527	33043	47086	125282	13267	20261
2055	1574817	164112	248449	864584	91506	137022	289108	31321	43911	115131	12127	17839
	Participation in the total population (in %)											
2007	100,0	100,0	100,0	67,4	65,8	67,3	25,9	24,2	27,8	11,4	10,4	12,2
2010	100,0	100,0	100,0	68,1	66,4	70,2	25,6	23,8	28,3	11,4	10,7	12,4
2015	100,0	100,0	100,0	67,5	65,6	71,3	24,9	23,2	27,4	11,1	10,5	12,7
2020	100,0	100,0	100,0	66,1	63,9	70,1	24,0	22,6	25,8	10,3	9,5	11,9
2025	100,0	100,0	100,0	64,6	62,5	67,9	23,1	22,3	24,2	9,3	8,6	10,2
2030	100,0	100,0	100,0	63,4	62,1	65,9	22,2	21,9	23,1	8,4	8,2	8,5
2035	100,0	100,0	100,0	62,3	61,7	64,6	21,2	21,0	22,1	8,1	8,2	7,8
2040	100,0	100,0	100,0	61,0	61,0	63,4	20,1	20,1	20,6	8,0	8,3	7,9
2045	100,0	100,0	100,0	59,0	59,2	61,2	19,1	19,3	19,0	7,9	8,1	8,0
2050	100,0	100,0	100,0	56,8	57,2	58,2	18,6	19,1	18,0	7,6	7,7	7,7
2055	100,0	100,0	100,0	54,9	55,8	55,2	18,4	19,1	17,7	7,3	7,4	7,2

Source: State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia, Population projections 2007-2055

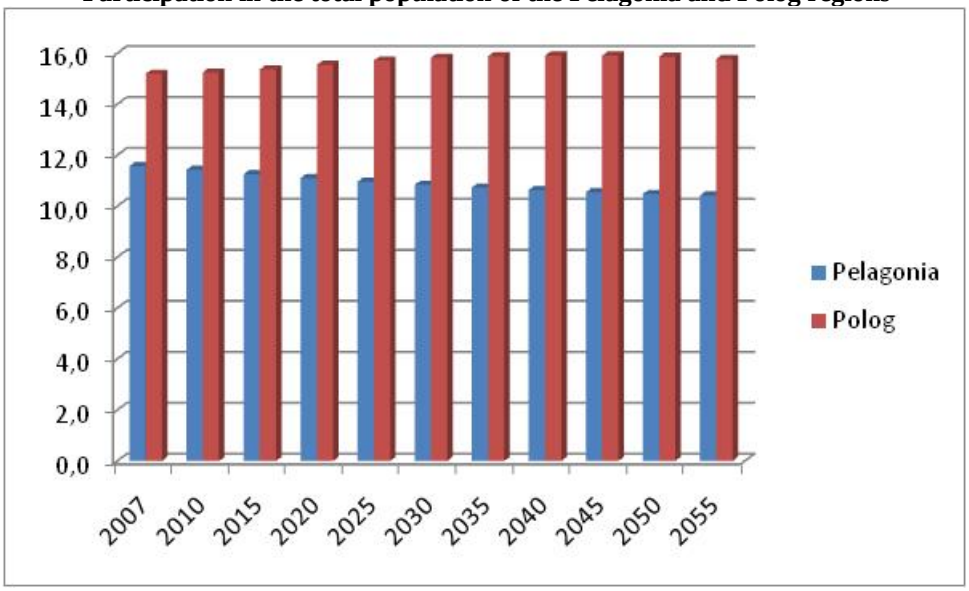
The movement of the total population in the Republic of Macedonia is characterized with constant decline that during the first decade is insignificant, and then shows increase and intensifies after 2040. In such manner, in the fourth decade, the population in the country will reduce for 19.0% (2050), and more than one fifth (22,8%) during the last year. The presented data show continuous significant decline of the population in the Pelagonia region during the complete observation period, especially in the period after 2040. Significantly large decline of the population is expected during the last two years (26,6% and 30,5%). Unlike the Pelagonia region, the Polog region is characterized with growth of the total population until 2020, in 2025 it remains on the same level, and then starts trend of decline which is more emphasized during the last two observation years. Yet, the decline is smaller, 15,4% (2050) and 19,8% (2055) in comparison to the situation in the Pelagonia region.

[4] The projections are prepared based on suitable hypothesis for the expected changes of the components of the natural movement of the population-fertility and mortality, as well as, the influence of the migrations.

The result of such tendencies is the significant changes of the participation of the population from both regions in the total population of the country (Chart 3).

Chart 3

Participation in the total population of the Pelagonia and Polog regions



Source: State Statistical Office, Population projections, 2007-2055

The participation of the Pelagonia region in the total population in the country is significantly smaller. At the same time, with small variations, this region keeps the same participation and moves in interval from 11,6% (2007) to 10,4% (the year 2055). The Polog region, yet has relatively larger participation that is especially emphasized in the period from 2035 until 2050 (15.9%).

The changes in the total population are reflected also on the scope and participation of the separate functional contingents in the total population. So, the working age population in the Republic of Macedonia shows continuous decline and in 2055 will be smaller for 37,1% in relation to 2007. Similar tendency is characteristic for the Pelagonia region where the decline is more emphasized (41,1%). In the Polog region yet, this contingent marks growth until 2030 and then comes to its decrease and it declines for 34,3% in 2055. Similar tendencies of decline are characteristic also for the situation with the female population of fertile age. At the same time, on country's level and in both observed regions the decline is of about 50%. In that direction also moves the female population of optimal reproduction period because this contingent during the last observation year decreases for more than half. At the same time, the absolute sizes should be taken to consideration aslo.

The participation of the functional contingents in the structure of the total population also shows existance of regional diffrences. The participation of the working age population has tendency of decline as on country's level also in the two observed regions. But, with relatively higher participations the Polog region differentiates compared with the situation of the Pelagonia region and the country, with exception of the last two years when is expected their equality.

Similar direction is characteristic also for the participations of the female population in their fertile period. They are higher in the Polog region until 2040 when comes to change, that is, relatively larger participation of the Pelagonia region pursuant this indicator in the structure of the total population. In relation of the participation of the female population in optimal fertile period, it markes overturn after 2025 when larger participation of this contingent has the Pelagonia region compared with the movements during the previous years when dominant participation is characteristic for the Polog region.

With lack of data for the average age of the population, for the ranking of the demographic age are taken to consideration only four indicators (Table 5).

Table 5

Indicators about the rang of demographic age of the population in the Republic of Macedonia, Pelagonia and Polog regions, 2010-2050

Region	Young up to 20 years of age (%)	Younger than 40 years of age (%)	Old from 60 and more years (%)	Ageing index	Rang
Republic of					
2010	24,9	55,6	16,9	0,678	**5**
2020	21,4	50,3	21,3	0,996	**6**
2030	19,6	44,3	25,6	1,304	**7**
2040	18,0	40,4	29,6	1,650	**7**
2050	17,5	39,0	34,3	1,961	**7**
Pelagonia					
2010	22,1	50,5	20,7	0,937	**6**
2020	20,4	47,8	24,6	1,203	**6**
2030	19,1	42,6	27,6	1,447	**7**
2040	17,6	40,3	29,8	1,697	**7**
2050	17,5	39,4	33,9	1,941	**7**
Polog					
2010	28,7	61,9	12,3	0,428	**4**
2020	22,4	55,1	16,1	0,718	**5**
2030	20,7	47,0	22,3	1,077	**6**
2040	18,0	40,0	27,6	1,538	**7**
2050	16,9	38,5	33,6	1,991	**7**

Source: State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia, Population projections 2007-2055

They show singificant changes in the age structure of the population in the period 2010-2050. Taking to consideration the starting condition of the separate indicators and their tendency towards decrease and increase they undoubtedly point to continuous aging of the population. The participation of the population younger than 20 years of age declines with smaller intensity in the Republic of Macedonia and the Pelagonia region and with higher intensity in the Polog region. Similar direction and intensity has the population younger than 40. For the elder population of 60 and more, more emphasized are the regional differences. Namely, from 16,9% in the country, 20,7% (Pelagonia region) and 12,3% (Polog region) in 2010, according the projections, in 2050 is expected their participation to equalize at about 34%. The aging indexes also show astonishing decline on regional level and in comparison to the situation in 2002 (Republic of Macedonia 0,513, Pelagonia region 0,797 and Polog region 0,319).

The analysis shows that the process of aging of the population in the Republic of Macedonia and the observed regions is intensifying and the differences among them will decline during the next four decades. Republic of Macedonia acording the situation during the first decade remains in the same 5 stadium (demographic age) as in 2002. During the next decade proceedes in the 6 stadium (deep demorgaphic age). The process of aging continues and in the period 2030-2050 it proceedes in the 7 stadium (the deepest demographic age).

As about the regions, it can be stated that there is significant difference that manifestes in relatively lower stadium of age in the Polog region that is still at the threshold of demographic age-4 stadium. In 2020 proceedes in 5 stadium-demorgafic age, then continues the process of aging and in 2030 gets in the next stadium- deep age (6) and in the last two decades it should be in the 7 stadium-the deepest demographic age. The Pelagonia region in 2010 first enteres in stadium of deep demographic age in relation to Macedonia and Polog region, while in 2030 simultaneously with the country proceedes in the stadium of the deepest demographic age.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of the scope, dynamics and characteristics of the age structure of the population in the Pelagonia and Polog regions, pursuant the data from the Censuses of the population 1994 and 2002, showed the extreme regional deviations in the development of the population that are manifested in the Republic of Macedonia. They were conditioned from the natural and mechanical movement of the population, while enormus influence had the intensive emigration from those regions, known as expressively emigration areas in the country. It contributed for the significant changes in the age structure of the total population and intensification of the process of demographic aging, and with that decline of its reproduction base in the country and the observed regions.

The existing age structure of the population will influence differently the future demographic, economic and social development of these areas and with that, of the country in complete. Regarding the emphasized differencies in the concentration of the total population and in the participation of the young people, especially of the female population of fertile and optimum reproduction age, the demographic consequences will manifest in the further deepening of the regional differences in the development of the population. Thereat, the Pelagonia region will face intensification of the process of demographic aging, following decline of the total and working effective population. The Polog region on the other hand, will continue to have relatively large growth due to still relatively wide reproduction base of the population and larger participation of the young people in the total population.

Many of these presuppositions today are evident, especially in the Pelagonia region, which much earlier start the emigration abroad, compared to the Polog region. In such sense, the data from the projections (mid scenario) of the total population and the age structure for the period 2007-2055, which can be considered for realistic achievement, confirmed all the unfavorable influences from the previous movements in the development of the population. They implicate continuance, and according some indicators also deepening of the regional differences and their reflection on the conditions in the regions and the country as complete. On shorter term, the differences in respect of the dynamics of the total population, the aging process and the changes in the age structure and certain functional contingents are larger. On mid term, they decline, and on longer term, especially during the last years it would come to equalizing of the relative relations. None the less, the concentration of the population and the separate age contingents in these regions in relation to the Republic of Macedonia, will continuously remain significantly higher in the Polog region.

Pursuant the projections it is expected decline of the total population with different intensity in certain time intervals. The differences of the intensity of decline of the total population are significantly large between the Pelagonia and Polog regions on short, mid and longer term. In such manner, the total population in the country in 2055 is expected to decline for 22,8%, in the Pelagonia region for 30,5% and the Polog region for 19,8%.

The process of aging is significantly emphasized in the Pelagonia region and the country in complete, and less in the Polog region, but in long term it is expected this region to transfer on higher stadium of demographic age. Thereat, it can be concluded that the Republic of Macedonia and both observed regions will face seriously the problem of demographic aging although in different time intervals. It implicates problems connected to the process of regeneration of the population today and the next decades. The intensive decrease of the fertility rate caused by many economic and social factors will contribute for exceptionally unfavorable conditions-insufficient generation recovery of the total population, that is, process of negative natural depopulation. If the current trend of emigration continues, inevitably follows total depopulation. Such condition today is reality in the Pelagonia region. The Republic of Macedonia also approximates such possibility and the Polog region although later, also will face this problem.

Numerous will be the consequences and implications from the growth, that, the decline of the population and the different process of demographic aging, on the economic and social development of both areas and the country in complete. Such condition implies the necessity of more suitable activities and measures on wider scope-stimulation of the fertility and natural growth of the population, with certain measures and consistent population policy, decline of the intensity of the emigration and others. Anyway, without creation of suitable preconditions necessary for dynamising of the economic growth and development, the development of the population could not be balanced.

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