



Demographic Change in North Macedonia as Political Issue

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Abstract

North Macedonia is a multiethnic country and represents a real mosaic of different cultures. This ethnic and cultural diversity will make this small country in the middle of Europe even more beautiful if no demographic battle takes place. Once part of the Yugoslav federation, the Macedonian population had the privilege of being called on behalf of the state, and other ethnic communities remained equal only in the communist documents of the regime, while in practice feeling deeply discriminated against. Now that the state is independent and sovereign, also the Constitution and other legal acts have incorporated the package of laws deriving from the Ohrid Framework Agreement, according to which Albanians are a constitutional category based on the percentage, respectively that over 20% in the state level, as these causes permanent tension in daily politics. As population censuses have been politicized and doubts about the ethnic structure of the state are growing, this study has considered recent demographic changes in the country in order to shed some light on this vague issue.

Keywords: Demographic change, natural increase, birth rate, mortality, census, daily politic

1. Introduction

The Republic of Northern Macedonia is a multiethnic state and is inhabited by Macedonians, Albanians, Turks, Roma, Vlachs, Bosnians and Serbs.

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Macedonians and Albanians are the two largest ethnic communities and the main demographic-political battle

has taken place between them since the establishment of the state as one of the federal units of Yugoslavia in 1944. According to [4] official data from the State Statistics Office, during throughout the communist period, the percentage of Albanians has remained around 20% with a tendency to increase slowly. Yugoslav communist pressure forced a large part of the Albanian population in Yugoslavia / Macedonia to leave the country. The rest who remained in the state continued to live discriminated against in every sphere of life and demonstration of Albanians went on continuously. But the demographic changes in perspective reflected to go in favor of the Albanians despite the repressive measures taken by the government for decades [2].

After the fall of communism and the independence of the state from the Yugoslav federation, the political clash over national statistics steadily increased. Whereas from 1995 the Parliament passed the law on local government and according to which the rights of ethnic communities in municipalities depended on the percentage, respectively if they were over 20%, they could enjoy some basic individual and collective rights [2].

This legal practice was also imposed at the state level in 2001 after the armed conflict between Albanians and state security forces took place. Though the establishment of the percentage of the respective ethnic community as a constitutional category will open the marathon political battle between the two largest communities in the country. Therefore, in this study are taken as a basis some demographic data, in different periods and in different regions of the country, in order to see the demographic changes in what direction they move.

2. Natality, mortality and natural increase of the population during 2008-2014

Since the independence of the country, the first census was not successful, so state institutions were forced to repeat the census in 1994, even though this was not accepted as real by Albanians.

According to [4] There has been no census in northern Macedonia since 2002, and the same was then contested by the right-wing opposition party VMRO-DPMNE. In 2011, while the above-mentioned party was in power, the census of population and property began to be held, but it was stopped on the last day of the census process. Throughout the census process in 2011 there were high political tensions and the biggest clashes occurred mainly between the two largest communities, the Macedonian and the Albanian. Though even if the result of this census was announced it would have been unacceptable to the masses as the suspicions were high that it had been falsified.

According to [1], since 2002 there has been no population census, therefore this study is based on demographic analysis in the period 2008-2014 at the state level, as a medium period (2002-2021) in order to study demographic developments in this period, as it would also be a reference point to the whole frame time 2002-2021.

If we analyze separately the demographic developments on an ethnic basis, starting from the Macedonian one for the period 2008-2014, we will find that for 6 years in a row they have a negative natural increase. For example: in 2014 natural increase of the Macedonian was negative by -2617, in 2013 it was -2669, in 2012 it was -2868, in 2011 it was by -2865, in 2010 there were -1638 less Macedonian, while in 2009 it was -1842 and in 2008 there were -1886 less Macedonian. If we calculate that in total for 6 years the natural increase at the

Macedonian was negative, 84550 were born and 100935 have died, the difference is -16385.

By analysis done, Albanians as figures are shown at Table 1. for 6 years the natural increase in positive and they are grown to 35381 as during this period were born 54458 and 19077 have died.

According to official data, four ethnic communities in the country have marked a positive natural increase during this period of time: Albanians with 35381, Turks with 4627, Roma with 8036 and Bosnians with 777. While the other three communities have marked a negative increase in population: Macedonians with -16385, Vlachs with -224 and Serbs with -1621.

Table 1: Natality, mortality and natural increase of the population during 2008-2014^a

Year	Total in N. Macedonia	Macedonia n	%o	Albania n	%o	Turkish	%o	Roma	%o
Natal. 2014	23596	12099	51.27564	7908	33.51415	1135	4.810137	1545	6.54772
Mortal.	19718	14716	74.63232	3106	15.7521	523	2.652399	509	2.581398
Natural increase	3878	-2617	-23.3567	4802	17.76205	612		1036	
Natalit 2013	23138	11550	49.91788	8137	35.16726	1080	4.667646	1226	5.298643
Mortalit.	19208	14219	74.02645	3230	16.81591	441	2.295918	493	2.566639
Natural increase	3930	-2669		4907		639		733	
Natalit 2012	23568	11955	50.73	8035	34.09	1092	4.63	1552	6.59
Mortalit	20134	14823	73.62	3416	16.97	486	2.41	533	2.65
Natural increase	3434	-2868	-22.89	4619	17.12	606	2.22	1019	3.94
Natalit 2011	22770	11544	50.7	7727	33.94	1046	4.59	1574	6.91

^a https://www.stat.gov.mk/Publikacii/MakBrojki2014_mk.pdf

Mortalit	19465	14409	74.03	3198	16.43	474	2.44	495	2.54
Natural increase	3305	-2865	-23.33	4529	17.51	572	2.15	1079	4.37
Natalit 2010	24296	12658	52.1	7888	32.47	1080	4.45	1806	7.43
Mortalit	19113	14296	74.8	3073	16.08	450	2.35	457	2.39
Natural increase	5183	-1638	-22.7	4815	16.39	630	2.1	1349	5.04
Natalit 2009	23684	12490	52.74	7454	31.47	1087	4.59	1749	7.38
Mortalit	19060	14332	75.19	3023	15.86	467	2.45	456	2.39
Natural increase	4624	-1842	-22.45	4431	15.61	620	2.14	1293	4.99
Natalit 2008	22945	12254	53.41	7309	31.85	979	4.27	1558	6.79
Mortalit	18982	14140	74.49	3170	16.7	417	2.2	449	2.37
Natural increase	3963	-1886	-21.08	4139	15.15	562	2.07	1109	4.42
Natural increase 2008-2013	Total	Macedon	%o	Albania n	%o	Turkis h	%o	Rom a	%o
Natality	163997	84550	51.55582	54458	33.20671	7499	4.572645	11010	6.713537
Mortality	116729	100935	86.46951	19077	16.34298	2872	2.4604	2974	2.547782
Natural increase 2008-2013	47268	-16385	-34.664	35381	74.85191	4627	9.788864	8036	17.00093

During this period of time 2008-2014, from the total percentage 51.5% of the born were Macedonians, 33.2%, Albanians, 4.57% Turks, 6.7% Roma, 0.93% Bosnians. 0.5% Serbian and 0.1% Vlach. While from the total

death rate were 86.46% Macedonians, 16.34% were Albanians, 2.46% Turks, 2.54 % Roma, 0.64 % Bosnians, 2.1 % Serbs, and 0.2% Vlach.^b

As we can see from the official data, the largest community in the country, the Macedonians, who make up 64% of the country, represent the number of births with only 51.5%, to this if we add the high number of deaths in this ethnic community then it turns out that the number of this ethnic community is reduced every year. If we take this as a guiding figure for the long period of time that there has been no population census, then this reflects in a completely different real situation. For this period of time the Macedonian ethnic community marked a negative increase of 16385 members of the community.^c

On the other hand, Albanians as the second largest ethnic community in the country with 25.17%, during this period of time have marked a constant increase. Of the children born in this time period, 33.2 were Albanian, while they had fewer deaths, which reflects the increase of about 35381 for these six years.

Table 1.1: Natality, mortality and natural increase of the population during 2008-2014

Year	Total in N. Macedonia	Vlach	%	Serbs	%	Bosnians	%	Other	%
Natal. 2014	23596	26	0.11	109	0.46	261	1.10	513	2.17
Mortal.	19718	64	0.32	415	2.10	146	0.74	239	1.21
Natural increase	3878	-38		-306		115		274	
Natalit 2013	23138	24	0.10	119	0.51	234	1.01	388	1.67
Mortalit.	19208	41	0.21	400	2.08	140	0.72	244	1.27
Natural increase	3930	-17		-281		94		144	
Natalit 2012	23568	37	0.16	125	0.53	251	1.07	481	2.04
Mortalit	20134	71	0.35	420	2.09	125	0.62	260	1.29
Natural increase	3434	-34	-0.19	-295	-1.56	126	0.45	221	0.75
Natalit 2011	22770	22	0.1	111	0.49	213	0.94	533	2.34
Mortalit	19465	70	0.36	423	2.17	105	0.54	291	1.49
Natural	3305	-48	-0.26	-312	-1.68	108	0.4	242	0.85

^b <https://www.stat.gov.mk/Publikacii/MakBrojkiM2009.pdf>

^c <https://www.stat.gov.mk/Publikacii/MakedonijaVoBrojki2008.pdf>

increase									
Natalit 2010	24296	17	0.07	109	0.45	192	0.79	546	2.25
Mortalit	19113	62	0.32	427	2.23	92	0.48	254	1.33
Natural increase	5183	-45	-0.25	-318	-1.78	100	0.31	292	0.92
Natalit 2009	23684	18	0.08	128	0.54	193	0.81	565	2.39
Mortalit	19060	44	0.23	344	1.8	111	0.58	283	1.48
Natural increase	4624	-26	-0.15	-216	-1.26	82	0.23	282	0.91
Natalit 2008	22945	15	0.07	138	0.6	183	0.8	509	2.22
Mortalit	18982	48	0.25	375	1.98	94	0.5	289	1.52
Natural increase	3963	-33	-0.18	-237	-1.38	89	0.3	220	0.7
Natural increase 2008-2013	Total	Vlach	%	Serbs	%	Bosnians	%	Other	%
Natality	163997	159	0.09	839	0.51	1527	0.93	3535	2.15
Mortality	116729	383	0.32	2460	2.10	750	0.64	1602	1.37
Natural increase 2008-2013	47268	-224	-0.47	-1621	-3.42	777	1.64	1933	4.08

Other smaller communities such as Turks who officially make up 3.85% of the total population, during this period have participated with 4.57% of children born at the state level. The Turks have marked a positive increase with 4627 members of this community.

Of the small minorities, the largest increase was recorded by Roma, who are officially 2.9% at the state level, while during this period 2008-2014 as shown on Table 1 and Table 1.1 they participated with 6.7% of the number of births. Thus 11010 Roma were born while 2974 died, which means that 8036 members of this community were added. Based on this result in the medium term, the prediction is that the Roma will fight politically with swollen muscles for new concessions, while the percentage remains in the country as a constitutional category for the advancement of collective rights.

Nativity, mortality and natural increase of the population during 2013 in all municipalities

Table 2: Nativity, mortality and natural increase of the population during 2013 in all municipalities^d

Municipalities in North Macedonia for the year 2013 -Macedonian and Albanian only											
	Total in N. Macedonia			Macedonian				Albanian			
Year 2013	Natality	Mortality	Natural increase	Maced-Natality	%	Maced-Mortality	Natural increase	Albanian-Natality	%	Albanian-Mortality	Natural increase
RNM	23138	19208	3930	11550	49.91	14219	-2669	8137	35.16	3230	4907
Skopje	6715	4732	1983	3423	50.97	3519	-96	2372	35.32	665	1707
Aerodrom	781	554	227	722	92.44	510	212	27	3.45	5	22
Butel	463	319	144	211	45.57	229	-18	207	44.70	46	161
Gazi Baba	889	679	210	499	#NAME?	546	-47	287	32.28	78	209
Gjorce P	431	387	44	345	80.04	340	5	38	8.81	10	28
Karposh	571	654	-83	504	88.26	582	-78	30	5.25	17	13
Kisella V	612	622	-10	548	89.54	579	-31	10	1.63	4	6
Saraj	609	202	407	16	2.62	12	4	651		173	478
Center	729	625	104	444	60.90	532	-88	191	26.20	40	151
Cair	1071	524	547	117	10.92	172	-55	801	74.78	264	537
Shuto Orizare	478	166	312	16	3.34	17	-1	130	27.19	28	102
Haracine	240	59	181	7	2.91	4	3	232	96.66	55	177
Berove	105	155	-50	96	91.42	149	-53	0	0	0	0
Manastir/Bitola	844	1154	-310	668	79.14	1087	-419	64	7.58	32	32
Bogdance	70	98	-28	64	91.42	87	-23	1	1.42	0	1
Bogovine	360	203	157	0	0	1	-1	347	96.38	193	154

^d <https://www.stat.gov.mk/Publikacii/2.4.14.09.pdf>

Bosilove	152	118	34	120	78.94	116	4	11	7.23	0	11
Bervenice	188	125	63	53	28.19	66	-13	135	71.8 0	56	79
Vallandove	106	123	-17	79	74.52	106	-27	2	1.88	0	2
Vasileve	191	108	83	124	64.92	91	33	3	1.57	0	3
Vevcan	16	30	-14	16	100	30	-14	0	0	0	0
Veles	568	641	-73	402	70.77	562	-160	72	12.6 7	6	66
Vinice	164	180	-16	124	75.60	176	-52	2	1.21	0	2
Vranesh tice	7	20	-13	5	71.42	17	-12	1	14.2 8	0	1
Vrapcishte	281	178	103	8	2.84	11	-3	242	86.1 2	149	93
Gjevgjeli	212	251	-39	205	96.69	241	-36	3	1.41	1	2
Gostivar	808	595	213	135	16.70	165	-30	504	62.3 7	364	140
Gradsko	44	36	8	27	61.36	31	-4	5	11.3 6	0	5
Diber	235	140	95	23	9.78	22	1	128	54.4 6	82	46
Debarce	39	101	-62	36	92.30	98	-62	3	7.69	3	0
Delceve	111	198	-87	95	85.58	192	-97	5	4.50	0	5
Demir Kapi	45	50	-5	36	80	47	-11	1	2.22	0	1
Demir Hisar	50	137	-87	43	86	135	-92	7	14	1	6
Dojran	38	45	-7	29	76.31	41	-12	2	5.26	0	2
Dolnen	206	146	60	32	15.53	92	-60	92	44.6 6	18	74
Drugove	26	58	-32	18	69.23	55	-37	4	15.3 8	0	4
Zheline	384	152	232	1	0.26	3	-2	381	99.2 8	146	235
Zajaz	66	77	-11	0	0	4	-4	63	95.4 5	73	-10
Zelenikove	74	35	39	20	27.02	23	-3	48	64.8 6	10	38
Zernovce	26	28	-2	24	92.30	28	-4	2	7.69	0	2
Ilinden	156	136	20	140	89.74	122	18	7	4.48	2	5

Jegunovce	110	115	-5	43	39.09	87	-44	66	60	26	40
Kavadarce	368	446	-78	325	88.31	421	-96	11	2.98	1	10
Karbinci	48	44	4	17	35.41	42	-25	1	2.08	0	1
Kercove	276	251	25	120	43.47	145	-25	63	22.8 2	51	12
Konce	33	27	6	21	63.63	24	-3	1	3.03	0	1
Kocan	330	414	-84	263	79.69	392	-129	2	0.60	0	2
Kratove	72	106	-34	64	88.88	102	-38	4	5.55	1	3
Kriva Pallanke	176	190	-14	159	90.34	181	-22	3	1.70	0	3
Krivogasht ani	52	87	-35	39	75	86	-47	13	25	0	13
Krusheve	129	108	21	55	42.63	81	-26	55	42.6 3	11	44
Kumanove	1278	990	288	718	56.18	691	27	432	33.8 0	165	267
Likove	398	144	254	11	2.76	2	9	386	96.9 8	140	246
Llozove	31	33	-2	17	54.83	32	-15	6	19.3 5	0	6
Mavrove Rostushe	80	68	12	16	20	31	-15	22	27.5	7	15
Maked. Kamenice	47	55	-8	44	93.61	55	-11	3	6.38	0	3
Maked. Brod	41	100	-59	36	87.80	97	-61	3	7.31	0	3
Mogile	58	86	-28	44	75.86	84	-40	9	15.5 1	0	9
Negotine	180	173	7	149	82.77	157	-8	2	1.11	0	2
Novaci	32	68	-36	29	90.62	68	-39	3	9.37	0	3
Novo Selle	77	137	-60	72	93.50	135	-63	5	6.49	0	5
Oslomej	61	61	0	0	0	1	-1	60	98.3 6	60	0
Oher	535	589	-54	414	77.38	533	-119	44	8.22	17	27
Petrovec	127	68	59	41	32.28	42	-1	39	30.7 0	11	28
Pehceve	45	66	-21	33	73.33	60	-27	1	2.22	0	1
Pllasnice	70	23	47	2	2.85	0	2	5	7.14	2	3
Prilep	737	832	-95	539	73.13	787	-248	30	4.07	1	29

Probishtip	119	148	-29	113	94.95	146	-33	4	3.36	0	4
Radovish	357	246	111	241	67.50	223	18	6	1.68	0	6
Rankovce	42	52	-10	36	85.71	51	-15	0	0	0	0
Resen	138	218	-80	92	66.66	181	-89	10	7.24	13	-3
Rosoman	32	33	-1	28	87.5	31	-3	3	9.37	0	3
Sveti Nikolle	167	180	-13	161	96.40	174	-13	3	1.79	0	3
Sopishte	109	56	53	44	40.36	40	4	56	51.3 7	12	44
Staro Nagorican	40	105	-65	30	75	83	-53	3	7.5	0	3
Struge	682	459	223	234	34.31	227	7	301	44.1 3	181	120
Strumice	685	540	145	505	73.72	511	-6	3	0.43	0	3
Studenican	494	96	398	17	3.44	3	14	371	75.1 0	67	304
Tearce	246	192	54	24	9.75	49	-25	220	89.4 3	140	80
Tetove	1186	734	452	182	15.34	246	-64	917	77.3 1	428	489
Qender Zhupe	64	35	29	4	6.25	0	4	4	6.25	5	-1
Cashke	167	84	83	38	22.75	60	-22	116	69.4 6	18	98
Ceshinove- Obleshev	51	76	-25	49	96.07	74	-25	1	1.96	0	1
Cucer Sandeve	147	77	70	44	29.93	40	4	99	67.3 4	17	82
Shtip	494	487	7	384	77.73	432	-48	4	0.80	0	4
Total	2305 7	19208	3849	1154 9		14228	-2679	8129		3230	4899

Nativity, mortality and natural increase of the population during 2013 in seven peripheral municipalities of
Skopje

Table 3: Natality, mortality and natural increase of the population during 2013 in seven peripheral municipalities of Skopje

Natality, Mortality and natural increase in 7 peripheral municipalities of Skopje in 2013											
	Total Macedonian and Albanian			Macedonian				Albanian			
Skopje	6715	4732	1983	342 3	50.97	3519	-96	2372	35.32	665	1707
Haracine	240	59	181	7	2.91	4	3	232	96.66	55	177
Zelenikove	74	35	39	20	27.02	23	-3	48	64.86	10	38
Ilinden	156	136	20	140	89.74	122	18	7	4.48	2	5
Petrovec	127	68	59	41	32.28	42	-1	39	30.70	11	28
Sopishte	109	56	53	44	40.36	40	4	56	51.37	12	44
Studenican	494	96	398	17	3.44	3	14	371	75.10	67	304
Cucer Sandeve	147	77	70	44	29.93	40	4	99	67.34	17	82
Total	8062	5259	2803	373 6	46.34	3793	-57	3224	39.99	839	2385
Natality, Mortality and natural increase only in Polog Region (North-West of the country) in 2013											
	Total Macedonian and Albanian			Macedonian				Albanian			
Bogovine	360	203	157	0	0	1	-1	347	96.38	193	154
Bervenice	188	125	63	53	28.19	66	-13	135	71.80	56	79
Vrapcishte	281	178	103	8	2.84	11	-3	242	86.12	149	93
Gostivar	808	595	213	135	16.70	165	-30	504	62.37	364	140
Zheline	384	152	232	1	0.26	3	-2	381	99.21	146	235
Jegunovce	110	115	-5	43	39.09	87	-44	66	60	26	40
Tearce	246	192	54	24	9.75	49	-25	220	89.43	140	80
Tetove	1186	734	452	182	15.34	246	-64	917	77.31	428	489
	3563	2294	1269	446	12.51	628	-182	2812	78.92	1502	1310

The capital of the country is Skopje, which is divided into 17 municipalities, of which 10 municipalities are part of the city of Skopje while 7 of them are an integral part of Skopje (suburb) but administratively are outside the city. If we analyze Skopje separately from the periphery, we will find that in both areas we have approximately the same picture of demographic change as at the state level.

In Skopje (17 municipalities) 3423 children were born from the Macedonian community, or 50.97% of the total at the city level, while 3519 died, which means that in the city of Skopje including the suburbs, 96 members of this community have been reduced.

The Albanian community in the city of Skopje participated with 35.32% of births, or with absolute numbers of 2372, while the mortality rate reached 665, which means that 1707 members of this community were added in the city of Skopje, including the suburbs.

This trend of shrinking the Macedonian community in Skopje and increasing the percentage of Albanians dictates political changes in perspective.

If it is taken as a middle period 2007-2013 to analyze the issue of migration of Macedonian citizens, as in Tables 4 and 4.1 we will notice that the largest percentage of those leaving the country belong to the Macedonian ethnic community with 66.75% out of the total, while the Albanians who left represent 20.76% of the total number.

Table 4. Migrated Citizens of N. Macedonia during 2007-2013

Migrated Citizens of N. Macedonia during 2007-2013										
Year	Total	Macedonian		Albanian	%	Turkish	%	Roma	%	Vlach
2013	945	613	64.86	152	16.08	48	5.07	7	0.74	1
2012	1330	987	74.21	228	17.14	69	5.18	6	0.45	
2011	1143	853	74.62	163	14.26	53	4.63	8	0.69	2
2010	923	545	59.04	272	29.46	55	5.95	9	0.97	
2009	769	523	68.01	149	19.37	40	5.20	9	1.17	
2008	740	417	56.35	214	28.91	64	8.64	12	1.62	
2007	224	117	52.23	83	37.05	1	0.44	6	2.67	
Total	6074	4055	66.75	1261	20.76	330	5.43	57	0.93	3

Table 4.1 Migrated Citizens of N. Macedonia during 2007-2013

Migrated Citizens of N. Macedonia during 2007-2013										
Year	Total	Serbian	%	Bosnians	%	Other	%	Unknown	%	

2013	945	7	0.74	2	0.21	27	2.85	88	9.31
2012	1330	7	0.52	2	0.15	29	2.18	2	0.15
2011	1143	7	0.61	4	0.34	48	4.19	5	0.43
2010	923	13	1.40	3	0.32	20	2.16	6	0.65
2009	769	13	1.69	2	0.26	28	3.64	5	0.65
2008	740	6	0.81	6	0.81	25	3.37	6	0.81
2007	224	5	2.23	7	3.12	5	2.23		0
Tota l	6074	58	0.95	26	0.42	182	2.99	112	1.84

3. Conclusions

Regarding the migration of the citizens of Northern Macedonia, we can probably not rely only on official data from state institutions as there are indications that the number of people leaving the country is very large but a real figure is hidden from citizens for political purposes. A part of the citizens that have fled through illegal channels and settled in different western countries, while a considerable number of citizens have managed to obtain mainly Bulgarian citizenship and have fled legally, a part of them has already settled in EU countries.

Since the population and property census in 2002 was contested by the Macedonian opposition party (Macedonian Secret Revolutionary Organization - Democratic Party for Macedonian Unity), the 2011 census also failed as the aforementioned party which was in power this time stopped it, meaning that for almost 20 years there is no population census that gives the opportunity to constantly speculate about the percentage of the population. Nationalist extremists of Macedonian community insist that Albanians are below 20% by alluding to the Ohrid Peace Accord which has as a precondition the constitutional category of at least 20% for an ethnic community to advance its collective status.

The main results of this study:

1. The number of births in the Macedonian ethnic bloc decreases every year. The death toll rises and the natural increase reflects to be negative and this implies that the Macedonian ethnic community has a decrease in their members.
2. The ethnic Albanian community participates by birth at the state level with constant numbers for the period of time. The number of deaths in this community is also constant. The natural increase of Albanians at the state level marks a positive increase.
3. The Roma ethnic community in this period for each year marks an increase in the total number of births. The number of deaths of the Roma population remains constant. This ethnic community marks an increase in the

total number of this community at the state level. The Roma community is mainly experiencing a positive natural increase in Skopje.

4. The ethnic Turkish community marks a positive natural increase by keeping the number of births and deaths constant in this given period in a tendency to increase the number of births.

5. Bosnians as a small community also remain stable in the number of births and deaths, marking a positive natural increase in them.

6. While the other two minorities, the Serb and the Vlach, show a decrease in the number of births and an increase in the number of deaths in this time period, which means that they reflect a negative natural increase and their number decreases every year.

The general conclusion is that the Macedonians, Vlach and Serbs ethnic communities are experiencing a negative natural increase, reducing the percentage of representation at the state level. While on the other hand other ethnic communities such as Albanians, Turks, Roma and Bosnians mark a positive natural increase for each year during the period in question and reflect on the increase of their percentage at the state level.

Since demographics are a political issue in the Republic of Northern Macedonia, this demographic change will be reflected in the creation of new state policies related to the division of political power between ethnic communities. Political decision-making will also probably need to be decentralized, adapting to the ethnic mosaic of the state. If these demographic changes continue on this path of change, perhaps for a short time no ethnic community will be above 50% at the state level.

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