

ADMINISTRATIVE-TERRITORIAL AND TERRITORIAL DIVISION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2019

As of 31 December 2019, the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria is administratively divided into 28 administrative districts and 265 municipalities, in which there are 3 177 individual mayoralties. Besides that, the municipality of Sofia and the towns of Plovdiv and Varna are subdivided into administrative-territorial regions: The municipality of Sofia - into 24 regions, the city of Plovdiv – into 6 regions, the city of Varna - into 5 regions.

As of 31 December 2019, there are 5 257 settlements in the Republic of Bulgaria, of which 257 - towns and 5 000 - villages, while the settlement formations were 163 (including 8 of national and 155 of local importance).

According to the requirements of the Classification of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS), applied by the European Union, the territory of the country is divided into statistical regions with 3 hierarchical levels.

The upper two levels: NUTS1 – statistical zones, and NUTS2 – statistical regions, are not considered as administrative-territorial units, while the level of NUTS3 - districts, is defined as an administrative-territorial level, which corresponds to the 28 administrative districts. The NUTS3 regions and the 28 administrative districts have the same names.

Amendments to the Unified classifier of administrative-territorial and territorial units (EKATTE) during the period 1st of January 2019 – 31st of December 2019:

- *14.05.2019: The municipality council of Sevlievo changed the boundaries of the following mayoralties: Batoshevo, Dushevo, Stokite and Shumata (State Gazette, Issue 39/2019);*
- *17.05.2019: A new settlement, called Sveti Konstantin village, has been created in the municipality of Peshtera, Pazardzhik district. (State Gazette, Issue . 40/2019);*
- *17.12.2019: The municipality council of Montana has closed down the following mayoralties: Bezdenitsa, Belotintsi, Vinishte, Gorna Verenitsa, Dolna Verenitsa, Dolna Riksa, Krapchene, Lipen, Slavotin i Sumer. (State Gazette, Issue 99/2019)*

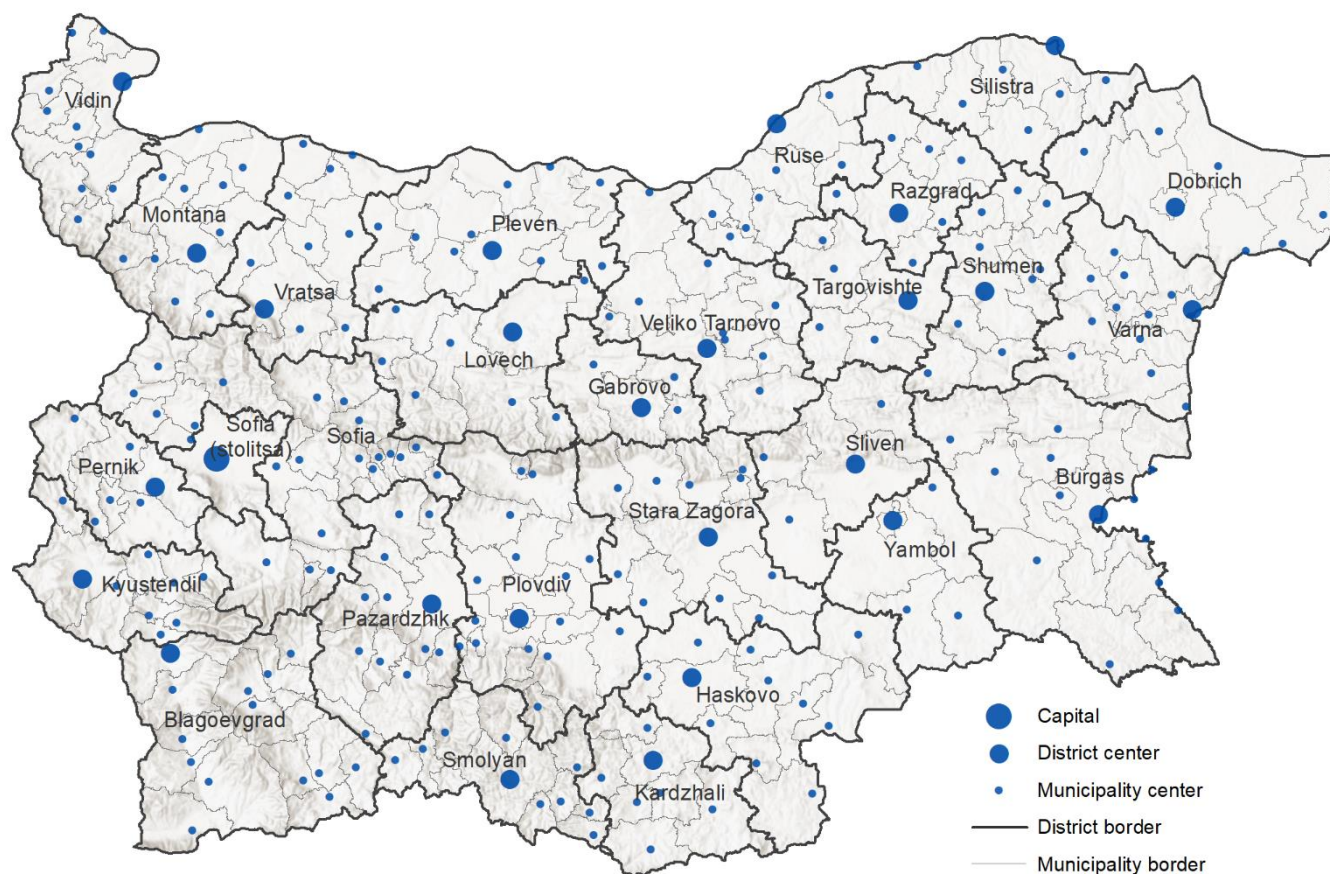
As of 31 December 2019, the following administrative-territorial units exist in Bulgaria:

- Districts - 28;
- Municipalities - 265.

1. Administrative districts in the Republic of Bulgaria as of the end of 2019

The average area of a single administrative district in the Republic of Bulgaria was 3 964 sq. km. The largest administrative districts by territory were Burgas, Sofia, Blagoevgrad and Plovdiv, while the smallest were Gabrovo and Sofia (stolitsa), which at the same time is the only district with a population above 1 000 000. The smallest administrative district by population is Vidin with 82 835 inhabitants. In the administrative district of Smolyan, there were no towns with a population above 30 000.

Figure 1. Administrative districts in the Republic of Bulgaria as of 31 December 2019¹



¹ The city of Sofia (the capital city) is administrative centre of two districts - Sofia (stolitsa) (SOF), composed only by Stolichna municipality and district of Sofia (SFO), composed by 22 municipalities.

1. Population, territory and administrative-territorial and territorial units in the Republic of Bulgaria as of 31 December 2019 ^{1,2}

№	Districts		Population (number)	Territory (sq.km)	Municipalities (number)	Mayoralties (number)	Towns (number)	Villages (number)
	EKATTE	Name						
1	BLG	Blagoevgrad	302694	6449	14	161	13	261
2	BGS	Burgas	409265	7748	13	165	20	230
3	VAR	Varna	469885	3819	12	120	11	148
4	VTR	Veliko Tarnovo	232568	4662	10	117	14	322
5	VID	Vidin	82835	3033	11	67	7	133
6	VRC	Vratsa	159470	3620	10	104	8	115
7	GAB	Gabrovo	106598	2023	4	42	5	344
8	DOB	Dobrich	171809	4720	8	133	6	209
9	KRZ	Kardzhali	158204	3209	7	370	5	463
10	KNL	Kyustendil	116915	3052	9	69	7	175
11	LOV	Lovech	122546	4129	8	80	8	102
12	MON	Montana	127001	3636	11	74	8	122
13	PAZ	Pazardzhik	252776	4457	12	100	13	105
14	PER	Pernik	119190	2394	6	50	6	165
15	PVN	Pleven	236305	4653	11	105	14	109
16	PDV	Plovdiv	666801	5973	18	161	18	194
17	RAZ	Razgrad	110789	2488	7	92	6	97
18	RSE	Ruse	215477	2803	8	67	9	74
19	SLS	Silistra	108018	2846	7	86	5	113
20	SLV	Sliven	184119	3544	4	96	6	104
21	SML	Smolyan	103532	3193	10	117	8	232
22	SFO	Sofia	226671	7062	22	125	18	266
23	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)	1328790	1349	1	32	4	34
24	SZR	Stara Zagora	313396	5151	11	134	11	195
25	TGV	Targovishte	110914	2710	5	130	5	189
26	HKV	Haskovo	225317	5533	11	175	10	251
27	SHU	Shumen	172262	3390	10	129	8	143
28	JAM	Yambol	117335	3355	5	76	4	105

¹ The number of villages includes Rila monastery (in Kyustendil district) and Klisura monastery (in Montana district), which are having settlement's status.

² EKATTE = Unified classifier of administrative-territorial and territorial units.

1. Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria as of 31 December 2019

The largest municipality in Bulgaria by its population is Stolichna municipality. Another group of 8 municipalities had a population above 100 000 inhabitants - Plovdiv, Varna, Burgas, Ruse, Stara Zagora, Pleven, Sliven and Pazardzhik. 41.5% of the country's total population is living in these 9 municipalities.

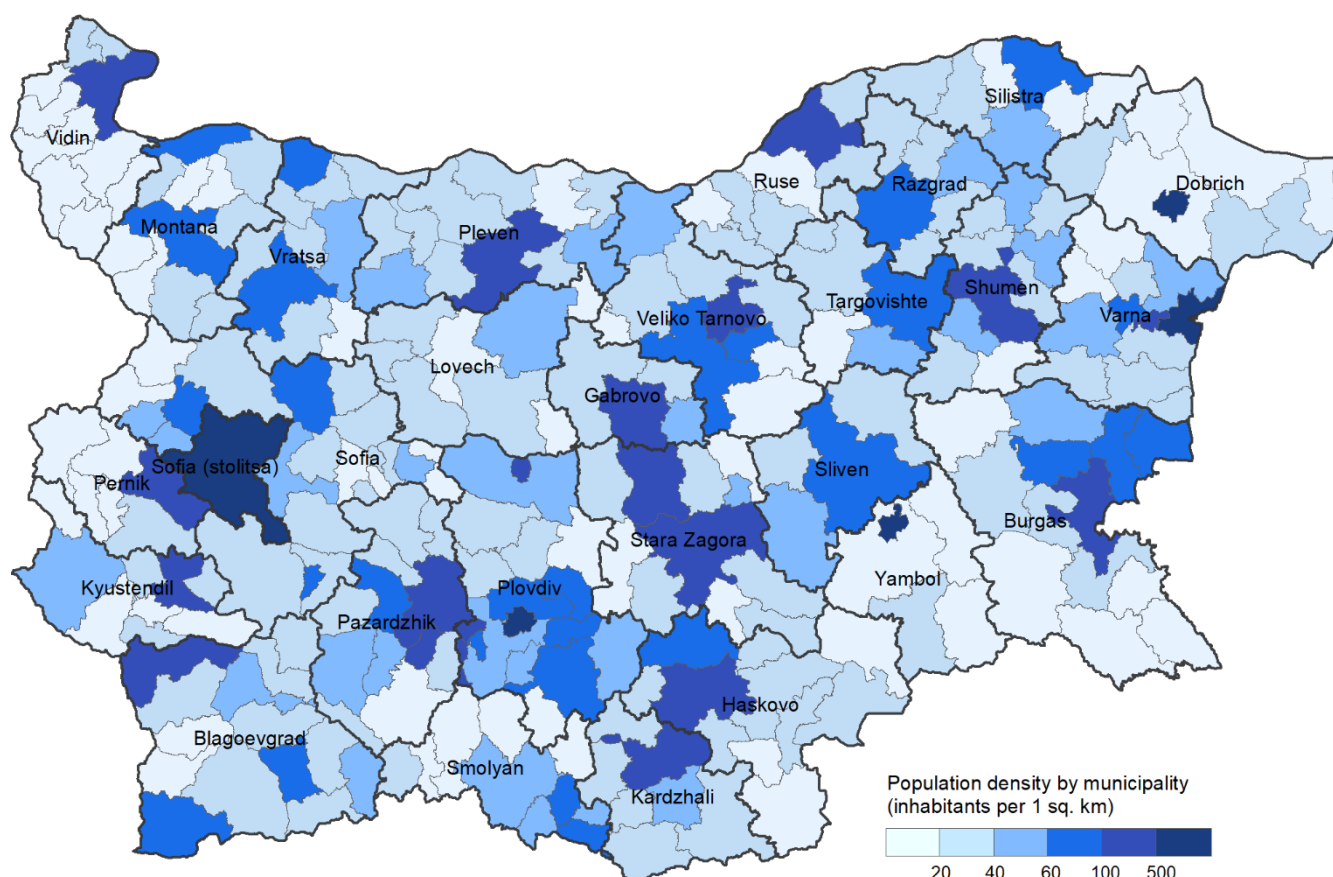
At the end of 2019, 133 municipalities in the country out of 265 (50%) had a population below 10 000. The share of their population was just 10.8% of the total country's population. The smallest municipality was Treklyano (Kyustendil district) with its 815 inhabitants, followed by Boynitsa (Vidin district) with a population of 869.

On average, the area of one municipality in Bulgaria is 419 sq. km. The largest municipality by its area, is the municipality of Sliven. Beside Sliven, there are only 7 more municipalities with territory above 1 000 sq. km. - Stolichna, Dobrich-selska, Tundhza (Yambol district), Samokov (Sofia district), Sredets (Burgas district), Stara Zagora and Karlovo (Plovdiv district).

On the other hand, 10 municipalities have a territory of less than 100 sq. km - Nikolaevo (Stara Zagora district), Yambol, Anton (Sofia district), Chavdar (Sofia district), Dolna Banya (Sofia district), Stamboliyski (Plovdiv district), Beloslav (Varna district), Sopot (Plovdiv district), Krichim (Plovdiv district) and Perushtitsa (Plovdiv district) and Chelopech (Sofia district), which is the smallest municipality in the country.

9 out of the 265 municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria had an only one settlement on their territory, which was also municipal centre.

Figure 2. Population density by municipalities, as of 31 December 2019



2. Municipalities with population over 30 000 as of 31 December 2019

№	Municipality		Population (numbers)	District	
	EKATTE	Name		EKATTE	Name
1	SOF46	Stolichna	1328790	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
2	PDV22	Plovdiv	347851	PDV	Plovdiv
3	VAR06	Varna	345151	VAR	Varna
4	BGS04	Burgas	208235	BGS	Burgas
5	RSE27	Ruse	157577	RSE	Ruse
6	SZR31	Stara Zagora	155426	SZR	Stara Zagora
7	PVN24	Pleven	117984	PVN	Pleven
8	SLV20	Sliven	117579	SLV	Sliven
9	PAZ19	Pazardzhik	106526	PAZ	Pazardzhik
10	PER32	Pernik	87629	PER	Pernik
11	SHU30	Shumen	87152	SHU	Shumen
12	VTR04	Veliko Tarnovo	86516	VTR	Veliko Tarnovo
13	HKV34	Haskovo	85460	HKV	Haskovo
14	DOB28	Dobrich	82240	DOB	Dobrich
15	BLG03	Blagoevgrad	74825	BLG	Blagoevgrad
16	KRZ16	Kardzhali	70097	KRZ	Kardzhali
17	SZR12	Kazanlak	67433	SZR	Stara Zagora
18	JAM26	Yambol	67222	JAM	Yambol
19	VRC10	Vratsa	63473	VRC	Vratsa
20	PDV01	Asenovgrad	60517	PDV	Plovdiv
21	GAB05	Gabrovo	56599	GAB	Gabrovo
22	TGV35	Targovishte	53901	TGV	Targovishte
23	VID09	Vidin	52554	VID	Vidin
24	KNL29	Kyustendil	52460	KNL	Kyustendil
25	BLG33	Petrich	48992	BLG	Blagoevgrad
26	PDV13	Karlovo	47561	PDV	Plovdiv
27	MON29	Montana	47014	MON	Montana
28	HKV09	Dimitrovgrad	46284	HKV	Haskovo
29	RAZ26	Razgrad	45936	RAZ	Razgrad
30	SLS31	Silistra	44940	SLS	Silistra
31	LOV18	Lovech	42318	LOV	Lovech
32	VTR06	Gorna Oryahovitsa	41334	VTR	Veliko Tarnovo
33	KNL48	Dupnitsa	38653	KNL	Kyustendil
34	BLG40	Sandanski	37074	BLG	Blagoevgrad
35	SML31	Smolyan	35829	SML	Smolyan
36	SLV16	Nova Zagora	35290	SLV	Sliven
37	SFO39	Samokov	34735	SFO	Sofia
38	VTR28	Svishtov	34312	VTR	Veliko Tarnovo
39	PAZ08	Velingrad	33529	PAZ	Pazardzhik
40	GAB29	Sevlievo	31757	GAB	Gabrovo
41	PDV17	Maritsa	30834	PDV	Plovdiv
42	SFO07	Botevgrad	30625	SFO	Sofia
43	PDV26	Rodopi	30228	PDV	Plovdiv

Figure 3. Distribution of the number and size of the municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria by population as of 31 December 2019

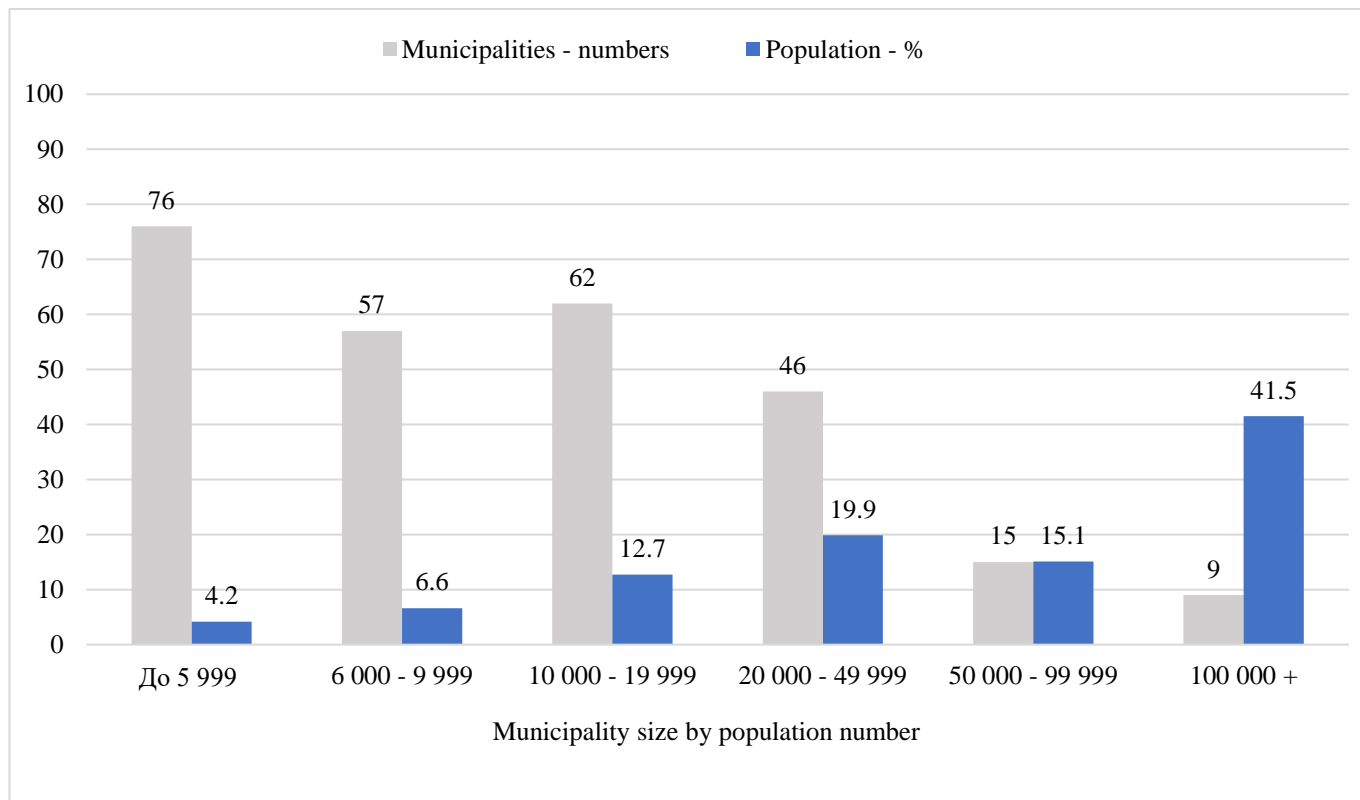


Figure 4. Distribution of the municipalities by districts as of 31 December 2019

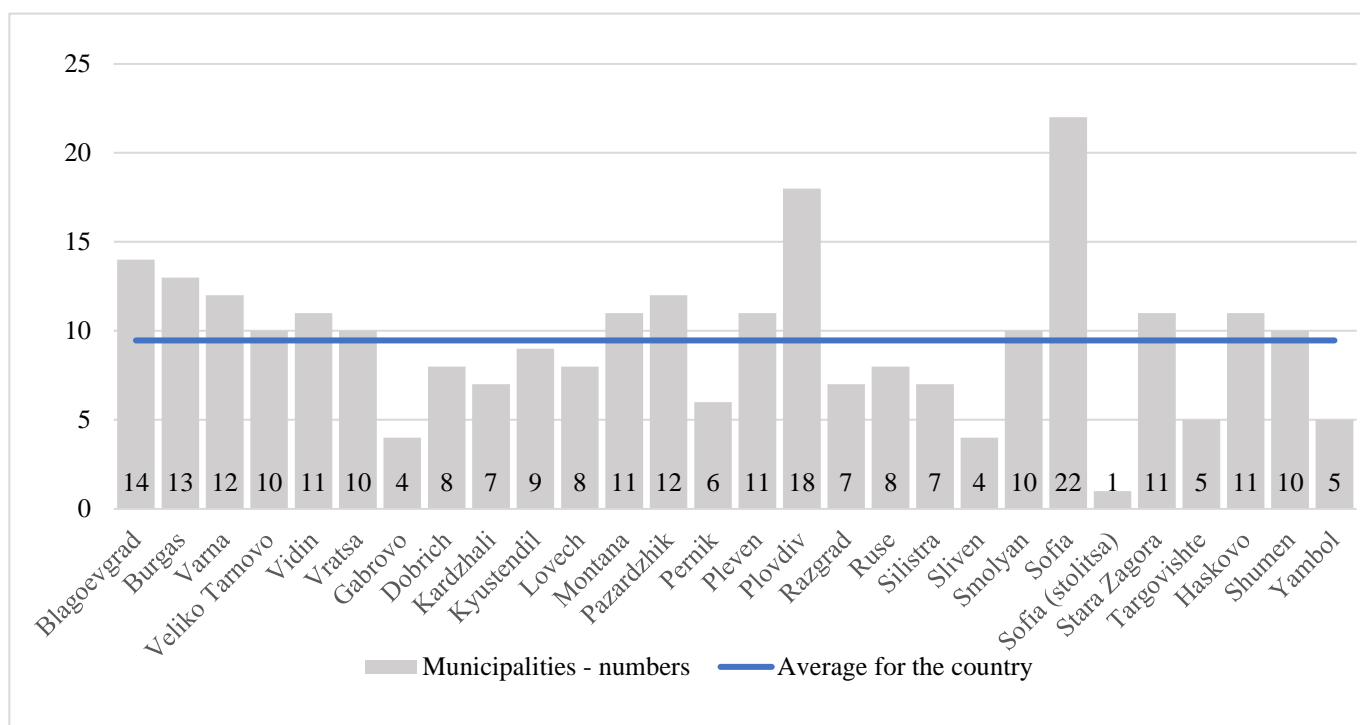
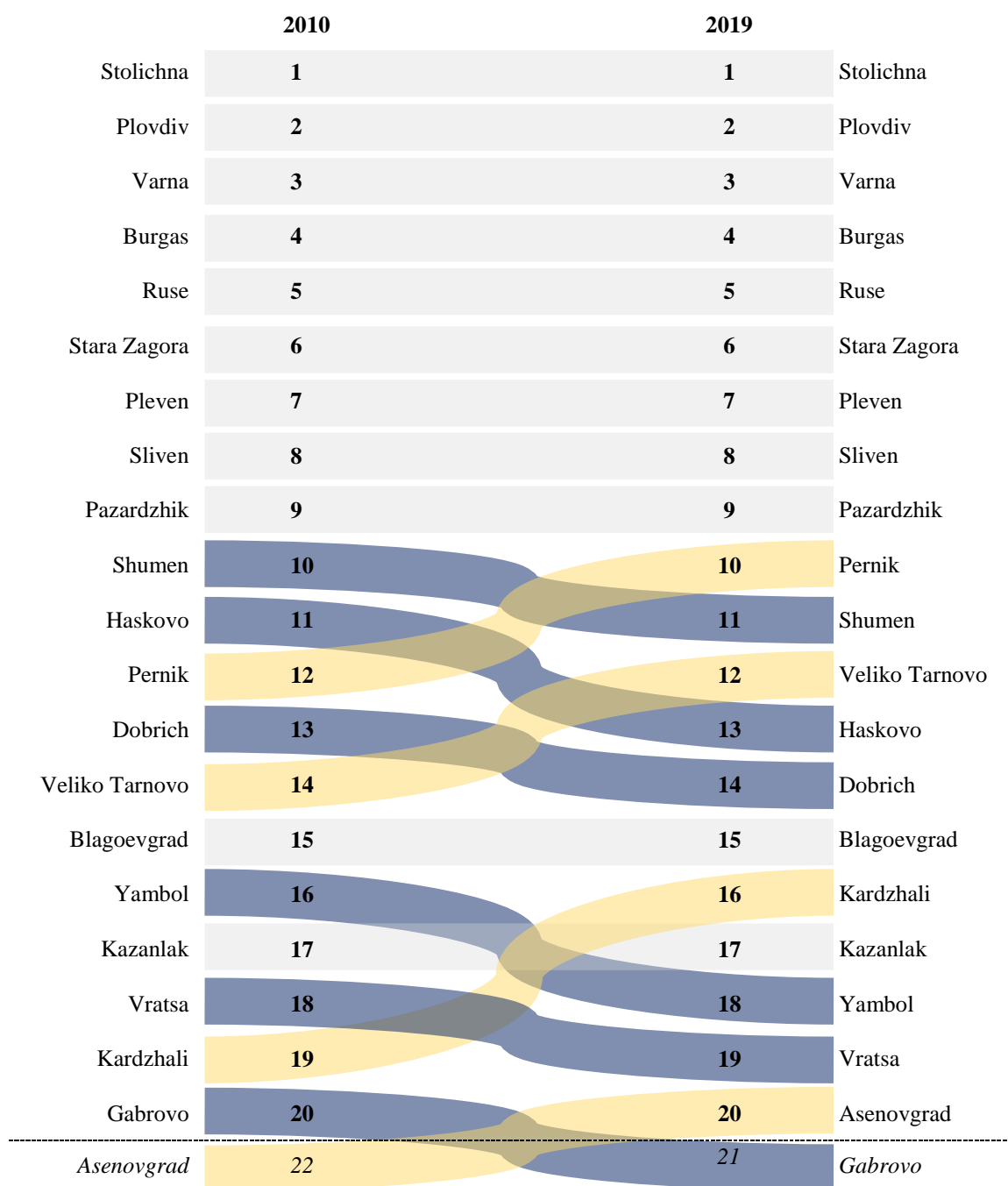


Figure 5. Ranking of the top 20 municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria by population in 2010 and 2019



There were no significant changes found in the ranking of the top 20 municipalities in the country according to their population size over the period 2010-2019. In 2013, the municipality of Gabrovo recorded a drop in its population size compared with the population of Asenovgrad. The negative population growth has remained unchanged in most of the municipalities, and the only municipalities among these with a positive population growth were Stolichna with 69 344 inhabitants, Varna with 15 150, Kardzhali with 691, Burgas with 1 535 and Plovdiv with 240.

2. Composite administrative-territorial units:

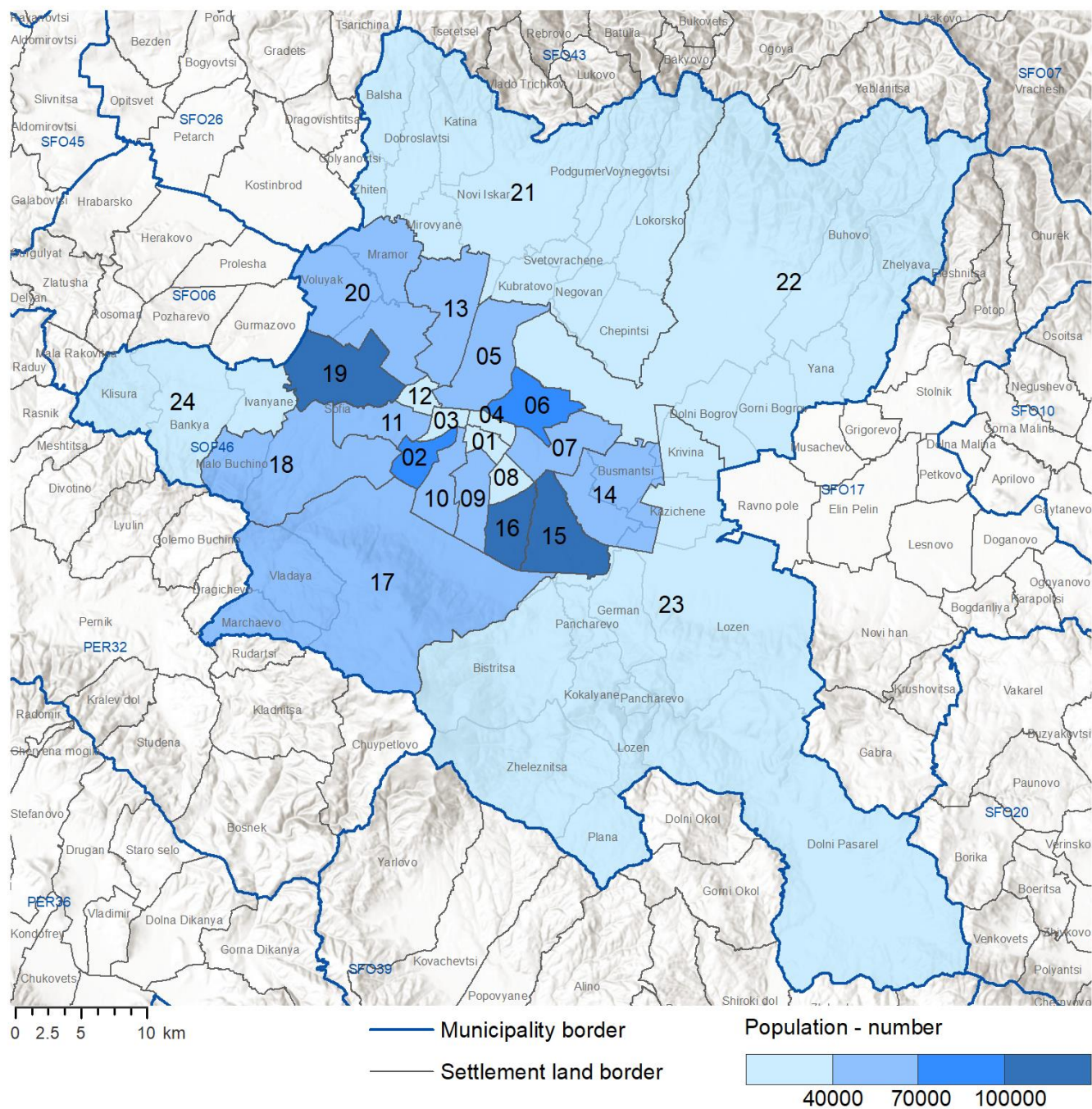
- Regions - 35 (in Stolichna municipality and in the towns of Plovdiv and Varna);
- Mayoralties - 3 177.

Table 3. Regions in Stolichna municipality as of 31 December 2019 ¹

№	Regions in Stolichna municipality		Population (numbers)
	EKATTE	Name	
1	68134-01	Sredets	28805
2	68134-02	Krasno selo	82420
3	68134-03	Vazrazhdane	37919
4	68134-04	Oborishte	30671
5	68134-05	Serdika	44675
6	68134-06	Poduyane	73883
7	68134-07	Slatina	66330
8	68134-08	Izgreve	30970
9	68134-09	Lozenets	55577
10	68134-10	Triaditsa	67503
11	68134-11	Krasna polyana	55705
12	68134-12	Ilinden	32508
13	68134-13	Nadezhda	68398
14	68134-14	Iskar	61932
15	68134-15	Mladost	107249
16	68134-16	Studentski	104157
17	68134-17	Vitosha	67641
18	68134-18	Ovcha kupel	57179
19	68134-19	Lyulin	110194
20	68134-20	Vrabnitsa	45913
21	68134-21	Novi Iskar	27526
22	68134-22	Kremikovtsi	22482
23	68134-23	Pancharevo	26670
24	68134-24	Bankya	11808

¹ As of 31 December 2019, 10 675 people of the total population of the municipality are not assigned to any of the regions due to incorrect or incomplete address information.

Figure 6. Population distribution by regions in Stolichna municipality as of 31 December 2019



4. Regions in the town of Plovdiv as of 31 December 2019 ¹

№	Regions of Plovdiv		Population (numbers)
	EKATTE	Name	
1	56784-01	Tsentralen	75890
2	56784-02	Iztochen	52415
3	56784-03	Zapaden	36253
4	56784-04	Severen	51054
5	56784-05	Yuzhen	75343
6	56784-06	Trakia	55415

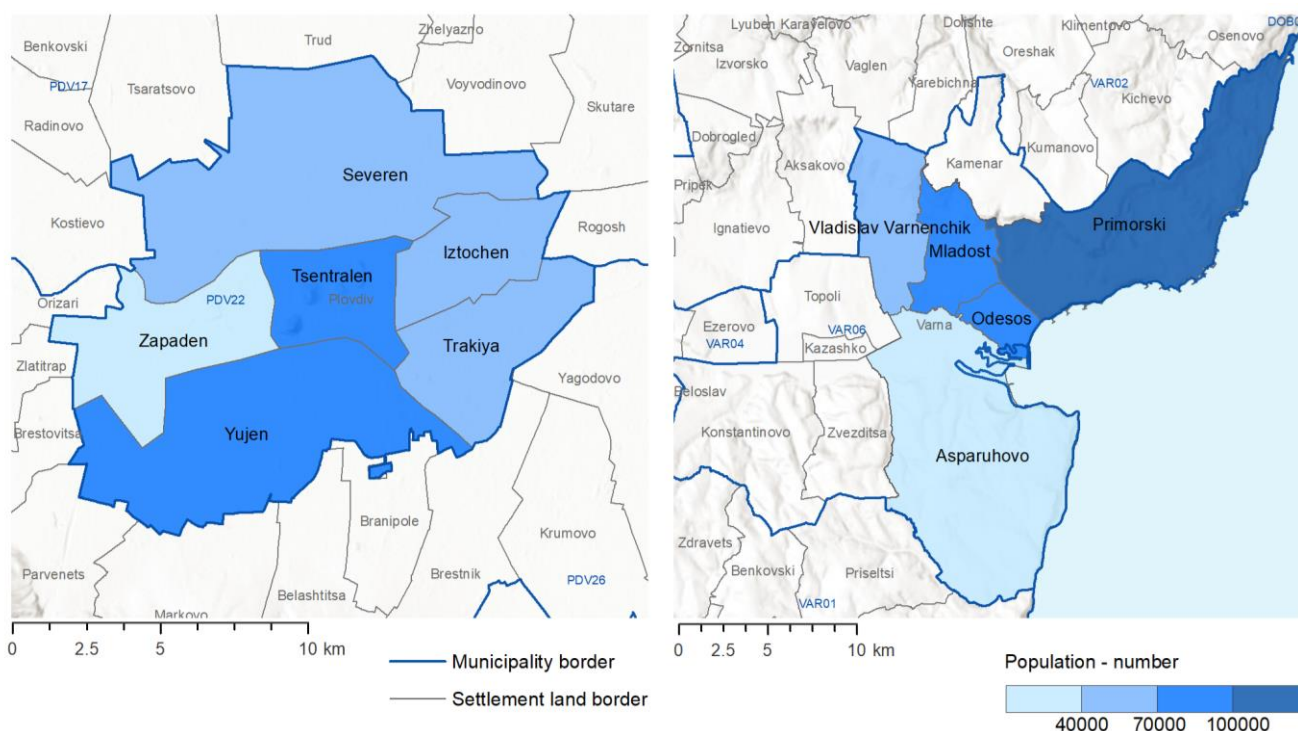
¹ As of 31 December 2019, 1 481 people of the total population of the town of Plovdiv are not assigned to any of the regions due to incorrect or incomplete address information.

5. Regions in the town of Varna as of 31 December 2019 ¹

№	Regions of Varna		Population (numbers)
	EKATTE	Name	
1	10135-01	Odesos	79002
2	10135-02	Primorski	106714
3	10135-03	Mladost	79546
4	10135-04	Vladislav Varnenchik	40541
5	10135-05	Asparuhovo	25231

¹ As of 31 December 2019, 14 117 people of the total population of the town of Varna are not assigned to any of the regions due to incorrect or incomplete address information.

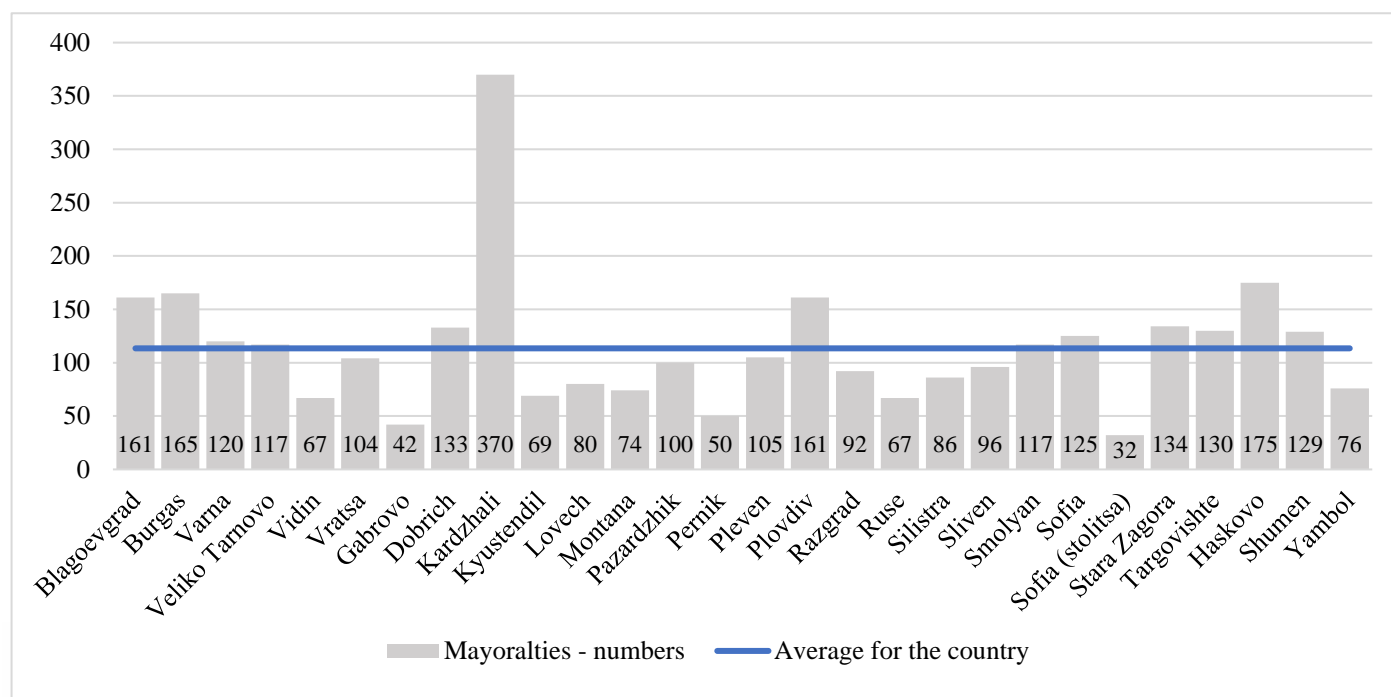
Figure 7. Population distribution by regions in the towns of Plovdiv and Varna as of 31 December 2019



6. Mayoralties with population over 3 500 in the Republic of Bulgaria as of 31 December 2019

№	Mayoralties		Population (numbers)	Municipality		Districts	
	EKATTE	Name		EKATTE	Name	EKATTE	Name
1	SOF46-61	Lozen	6168	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
2	SLS31-01	Aydemir	5465	SLS31	Silistra	SLS	Silistra
3	SOF46-54	Bistritsa	5116	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
4	PAZ08-08	Draginovo	4667	PAZ08	Velinograd	PAZ	Pazardzhik
5	SOF46-58	Kazichene	4545	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
6	PDV13-22	Rozino	4233	PDV13	Karlovo	PDV	Plovdiv
7	SLV11-04	Gradets	4153	SLV11	Kotel	SLV	Sliven
8	BGS15-02	Sveti Vlas	4097	BGS15	Nesebar	BGS	Burgas
9	PAZ24-02	Kostandovo	3992	PAZ24	Rakitovo	PAZ	Pazardzhik
10	PDV17-17	Trud	3961	PDV17	Maritsa	PDV	Plovdiv
11	VAR02-09	Ignatievo	3932	VAR02	Aksakovo	VAR	Varna
12	PVN10-15	Trastenik	3931	PVN10	Dolna Mitropolia	PVN	Pleven
13	PAZ19-15	Malo Konare	3849	PAZ19	Pazardzhik	PAZ	Pazardzhik
14	PVN24-05	Bukovlak	3763	PVN24	Pleven	PVN	Pleven
15	SLS31-10	Kalipetrovo	3709	SLS31	Silistra	SLS	Silistra
16	VTR04-13	Debelets	3689	VTR04	Veliko Tarnovo	VTR	Veliko Tarnovo
17	PDV25-01	Belozem	3673	PDV25	Rakovski	PDV	Plovdiv
18	PDV26-30	Tsalapitsa	3637	PDV26	Rodopi	PDV	Plovdiv
19	SLV24-04	Shivachevo	3628	SLV24	Tvarditsa	SLV	Sliven

Figure 8. Distribution of the mayoralties by districts as of 31 December 2019¹



¹ The number of mayoralties in the Republic of Bulgaria changes every few years due to amendments of Art. 16, paragraph 1 of Territorial Administration of the Republic of Bulgaria Act (requirements for minimum population size and number of settlements needed to define a mayoralty).

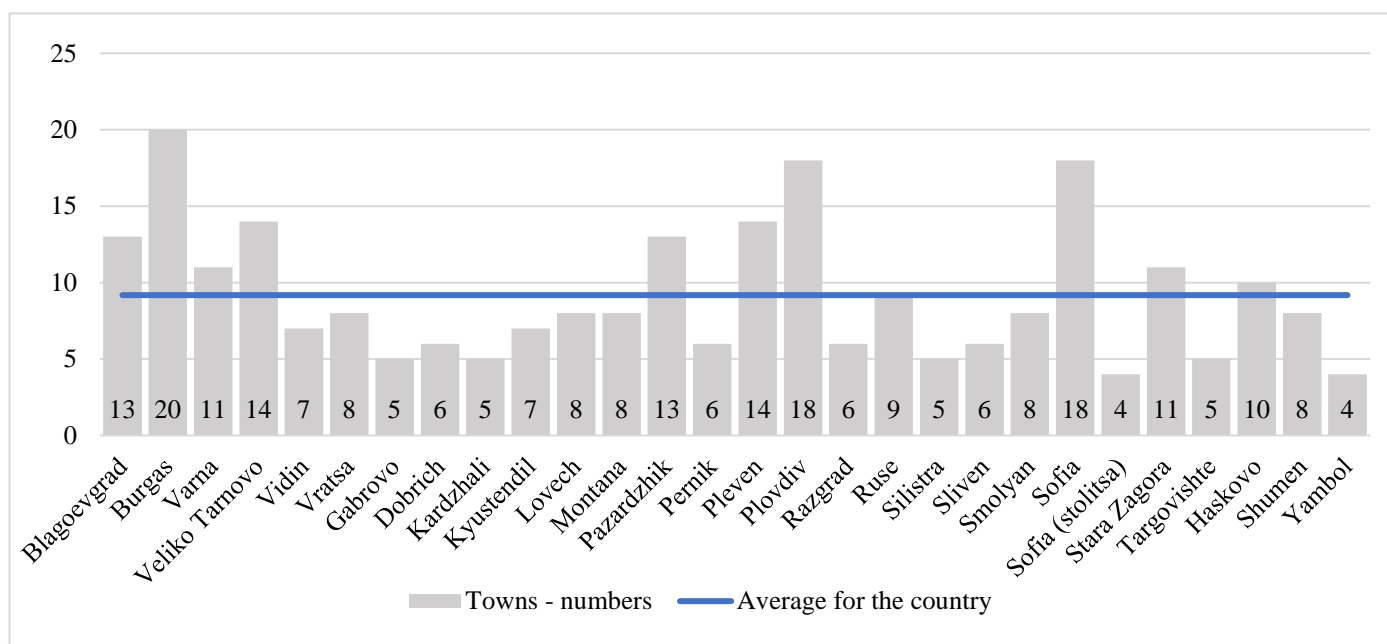
4. As of 31 December 2019, there were the following territorial units in Bulgaria:

- Settlements – 5 257 (incl. 257 towns and 5 000 villages);
- Settlement formations - 163 (incl. 8 of national and 155 of regional/local importance).

**7. Towns with population over 20 000 in the Republic of Bulgaria
as of 31 December 2019**

№	Town		Population (numbers)	Municipality		District	
	EKATTE	Name		EKATTE	Name	EKATTE	Name
1	68134	Sofia	1242568	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
2	56784	Plovdiv	347851	PDV22	Plovdiv	PDV	Plovdiv
3	10135	Varna	336216	VAR06	Varna	VAR	Varna
4	07079	Burgas	201779	BGS04	Burgas	BGS	Burgas
5	63427	Ruse	141231	RSE27	Ruse	RSE	Ruse
6	68850	Stara Zagora	134726	SZR31	Stara Zagora	SZR	Stara Zagora
7	56722	Pleven	95086	PVN24	Pleven	PVN	Pleven
8	67338	Sliven	84985	SLV20	Sliven	SLV	Sliven
9	72624	Dobrich	82240	DOB28	Dobrich	DOB	Dobrich
10	83510	Shumen	75442	SHU30	Shumen	SHU	Shumen
11	55871	Pernik	72241	PER32	Pernik	PER	Pernik
12	77195	Haskovo	69219	HKV34	Haskovo	HKV	Haskovo
13	10447	Veliko Tarnovo	68828	VTR04	Veliko Tarnovo	VTR	Veliko Tarnovo
14	04279	Blagoevgrad	68679	BLG03	Blagoevgrad	BLG	Blagoevgrad
15	55155	Pazardzhik	67650	PAZ19	Pazardzhik	PAZ	Pazardzhik
16	87374	Yambol	67222	JAM26	Yambol	JAM	Yambol
17	12259	Vratsa	51674	VRC10	Vratsa	VRC	Vratsa
18	14218	Gabrovo	51217	GAB05	Gabrovo	GAB	Gabrovo
19	00702	Asenovgrad	48483	PDV01	Asenovgrad	PDV	Plovdiv
20	35167	Kazanlak	44699	SZR12	Kazanlak	SZR	Stara Zagora
21	40909	Kardzhali	43600	KRZ16	Kardzhali	KRZ	Kardzhali
22	10971	Vidin	40620	VID09	Vidin	VID	Vidin
23	41112	Kyustendil	39284	KNL29	Kyustendil	KNL	Kyustendil
24	48489	Montana	38341	MON29	Montana	MON	Montana
25	73626	Targovishte	35344	TGV35	Targovishte	TGV	Targovishte
26	21052	Dimitrovgrad	33088	HKV09	Dimitrovgrad	HKV	Haskovo
27	43952	Lovech	31695	LOV18	Lovech	LOV	Lovech
28	66425	Silistra	30983	SLS31	Silistra	SLS	Silistra
29	61710	Razgrad	30173	RAZ26	Razgrad	RAZ	Razgrad
30	68789	Dupnitsa	29134	KNL48	Dupnitsa	KNL	Kyustendil
31	16359	Gorna Oryahovitsa	28429	VTR06	Gorna Oryahovitsa	VTR	Veliko Tarnovo
32	67653	Smolyan	27092	SML31	Smolyan	SML	Smolyan
33	56126	Petrich	26932	BLG33	Petrich	BLG	Blagoevgrad
34	65231	Samokov	25016	SFO39	Samokov	SFO	Sofia
35	65334	Sandanski	24722	BLG40	Sandanski	BLG	Blagoevgrad
36	65766	Svishtov	24275	VTR	Svishtov	VTR28	Veliko Tarnovo
37	10450	Velingrad	21076	PAZ	Velingrad	PAZ08	Pazardzhik
38	36498	Karlovo	20809	PDV	Karlovo	PDV13	Plovdiv
39	51809	Nova Zagora	20239	SLV	Nova Zagora	SLV16	Sliven
40	65927	Sevlievo	20210	GAB	Sevlievo	GAB29	Gabrovo

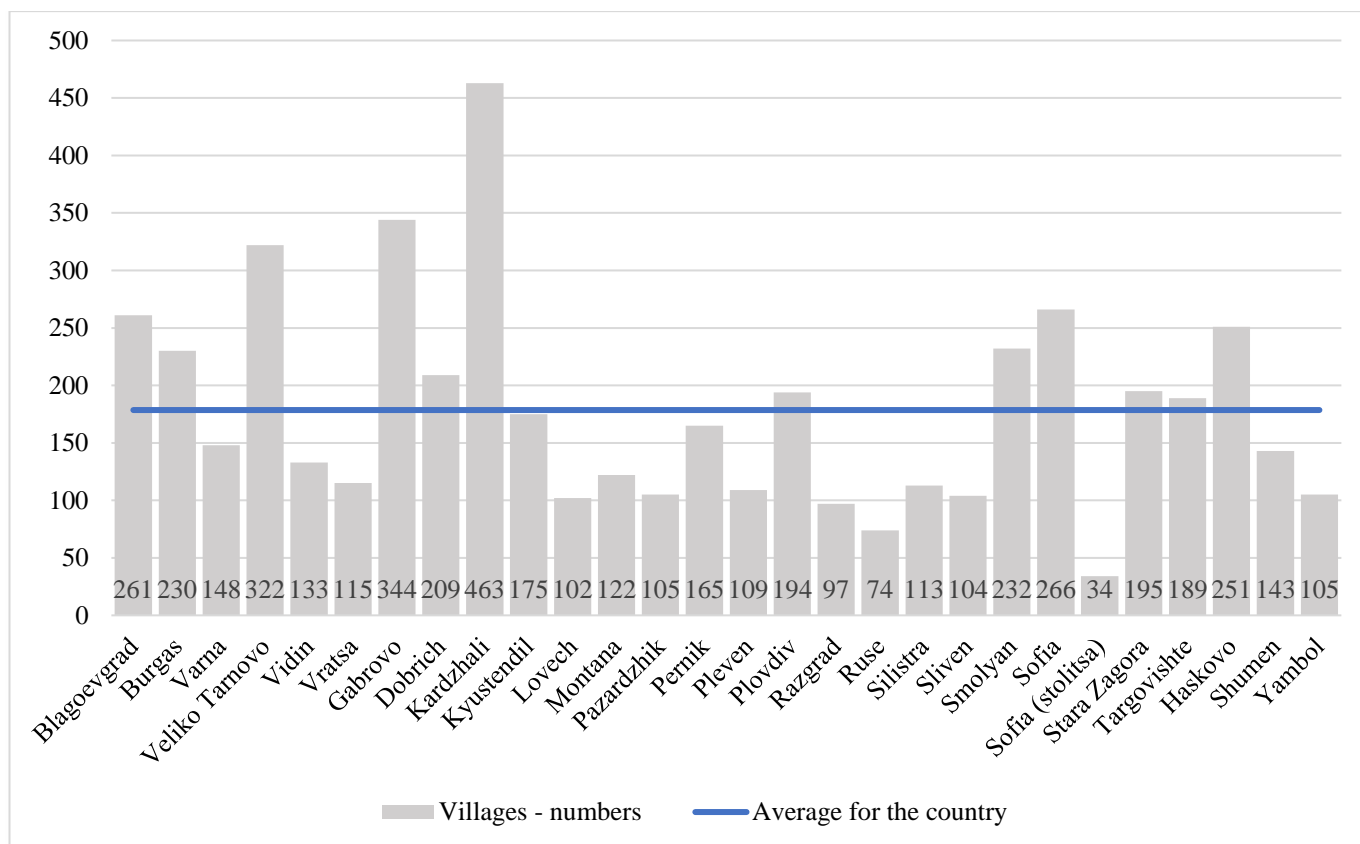
Figure 9. Distribution of the towns by districts as of 31 December 2019



8. Villages with population over 3 000 in the Republic of Bulgaria as of 31 December 2019

№	Villages		Population (numbers)	Municipality		Districts	
	EKATTE	Name		EKATTE	Name	EKATTE	Name
1	44063	Lozen	6168	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
2	00895	Aydemir	5465	SLS31	Silistra	SLS	Silistra
3	04234	Bistritsa	5116	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
4	23234	Draginovo	4667	PAZ08	Velinograd	PAZ	Pazardzhik
5	35239	Kazichene	4545	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
6	62949	Rozino	4233	PDV13	Karlovo	PDV	Plovdiv
7	17436	Gradets	4153	SLV11	Kotel	SLV	Sliven
8	73242	Trud	3961	PDV17	Maritsa	PDV	Plovdiv
9	46749	Malo Konare	3849	PAZ19	Pazardzhik	PAZ	Pazardzhik
10	06999	Bukovlak	3763	PVN24	Pleven	PVN	Pleven
11	41143	Kalipetrovo	3709	SLS31	Silistra	SLS	Silistra
12	03620	Belozem	3673	PDV25	Rakovski	PDV	Plovdiv
13	78029	Tsalapitsa	3637	PDV26	Rodopi	PDV	Plovdiv
14	59032	Parvenets	3451	PDV26	Rodopi	PDV	Plovdiv
15	11394	Vladaya	3312	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
16	38916	Kostenets	3302	SFO25	Kostenets	SFO	Sofia
17	06306	Breznitsa	3272	BLG11	Gotse Delchev	BLG	Blagoevgrad
18	18490	Elin Pelin	3266	SFO17	Elin Pelin	SFO	Sofia
19	55419	Pancharevo	3235	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
20	06505	Brestovitsa	3178	PDV26	Rodopi	PDV	Plovdiv
21	59077	Parvomay	3166	BG413	Petrich	BLG	Blagoevgrad
22	12283	Vrachesh	3146	SFO07	Botevgrad	SFO	Sofia
23	72816	Topolchane	3118	SLV20	Sliven	SLV	Sliven
24	72709	Topoli	3075	VAR06	Varna	VAR	Varna
25	62858	Rogosh	3012	PDV17	Maritsa	PDV	Plovdiv

Figure 10. Distribution of the villages by districts as of 31 December 2019



9. Settlement formations of national importance in the Republic of Bulgaria ¹

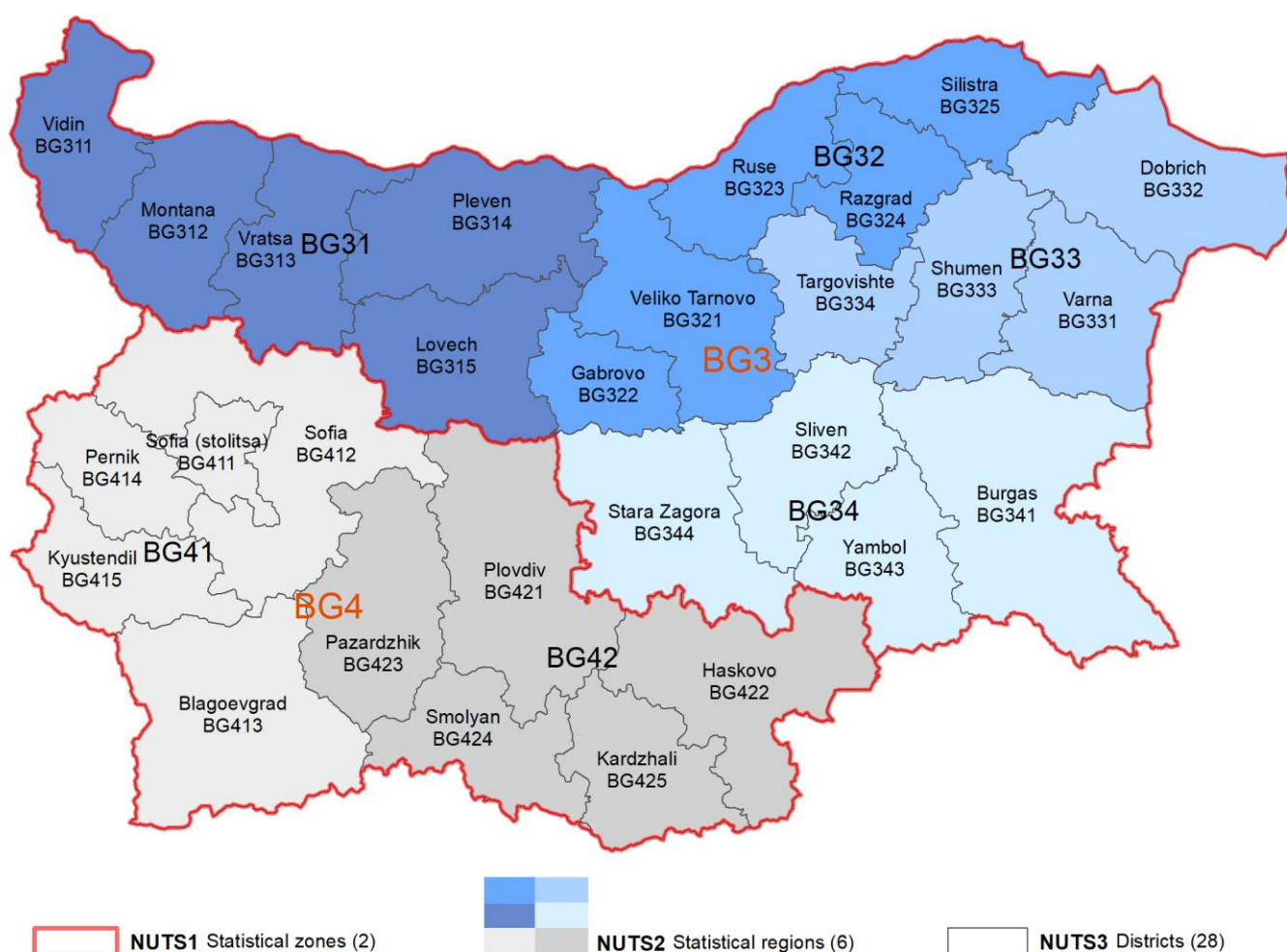
№	EKATTE	Settlement formation	EKATTE	Municipality	EKATTE	District
1	94015	Resort "Zlatni pyasatsi"	VAR06	Varna	VAR	Varna
2	94040	Resort "Sv. sv. Konstantin i Elena"	VAR06	Varna	VAR	Varna
3	99958	Resort "Albena"	DOB03	Balchik	DOB	Dobrich
4	98212	Resort "Slanchev bryag"	BGS15	Nesebar	BGS	Burgas
5	94085	Resort "IYC - Primorsko"	BGS27	Primorsko	BGS	Burgas
6	98260	Holiday village "Dyuni"	BGS21	Sozopol	BGS	Burgas
7	98226	Resort "Borovets"	SFO39	Samokov	SFO	Sofia
8	98230	Resort "Pamporovo"	SML38	Chepelare	SML	Smolyan
			SML31	Smolyan		

¹ IYC = International Youth Center.

According to the requirements of the common Classification of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS), applied by the European Union, the following levels have been defined:

- NUTS0 - the country level;
- NUTS1 - 2 statistical zones;
- NUTS2 - 6 statistical regions;
- NUTS3 - 28 districts.

Figure 11. Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) in the Republic of Bulgaria



10. Population by Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) as of 31 December 2019 ^{1,2}

№	Code	Level	Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS)	Population (numbers)
1	BG	NUTS0	Bulgaria	6951482
2	BG3	NUTS1	<i>Severna i Yugoiztochna Bulgaria</i>	3450592
3	BG31	NUTS2	Severozapaden	728157
4	BG311	NUTS3	Vidin	82835
5	BG313	NUTS3	Vratsa	159470
6	BG315	NUTS3	Lovech	122546
7	BG312	NUTS3	Montana	127001
8	BG314	NUTS3	Pleven	236305
9	BG32	NUTS2	Severen tsentralen	773450
10	BG321	NUTS3	Veliko Tarnovo	232568
11	BG322	NUTS3	Gabrovo	106598
12	BG324	NUTS3	Razgrad	110789
13	BG323	NUTS3	Ruse	215477
14	BG325	NUTS3	Silistra	108018
15	BG33	NUTS2	Severoiztochen	924870
16	BG331	NUTS3	Varna	469885
17	BG332	NUTS3	Dobrich	171809
18	BG334	NUTS3	Targovishte	110914
19	BG333	NUTS3	Shumen	172262
20	BG34	NUTS2	Yugoiztochen	1024115
21	BG341	NUTS3	Burgas	409265
22	BG342	NUTS3	Sliven	184119
23	BG344	NUTS3	Stara Zagora	313396
24	BG343	NUTS3	Yambol	117335
25	BG4	NUTS1	<i>Yugozapadna i Yuzhna tsentralna Bulgaria</i>	3500890
26	BG41	NUTS2	Yugozapaden	2094260
27	BG413	NUTS3	Blagoevgrad	302694
28	BG415	NUTS3	Kyustendil	116915
29	BG414	NUTS3	Pernik	119190
30	BG412	NUTS3	Sofia	226671
31	BG411	NUTS3	Sofia (stolitsa)	1328790
32	BG42	NUTS2	Yuzhen tsentralen	1406630
33	BG425	NUTS3	Kardzhali	158204
34	BG423	NUTS3	Pazardzhik	252776
35	BG421	NUTS3	Plovdiv	666801
36	BG424	NUTS3	Smolyan	103532
37	BG422	NUTS3	Haskovo	225317

¹ NUTS = Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics.

² For more information on the NUTS please visit [the website of NSI](http://www.nsi.bg).

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Definitions:

The district shall consist of one or more neighbouring municipalities. The territory of the district shall consist of the territory of the municipalities, included into it. The name of the district shall be the name of the settlement, which is its administrative centre (Territorial Administration of the Republic of Bulgaria Act, Art. 4, Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3).

The municipality consists of one or more neighbouring settlements. The territory of the municipality shall consist of the territories of the settlements, included into it. The name of the municipality shall be the name of the settlement, which is its administrative centre (Territorial Administration of the Republic of Bulgaria Act, Art. 7, Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3).

A mayoralty may be established on the territory of the municipality by a decision of the municipal council. A mayoralty shall consist of one or more neighbouring settlements. The territory of the mayoralty shall be the territory of the settlements, included into it. The name of the mayoralty shall be the name of the settlement, which is its administrative centre. The requirements for establishing a mayoralty shall be: existence of a population over 350 people in the settlements, forming the mayoralty and a capability of fulfilment of the functions, assigned by the municipality (Territorial Administration of the Republic of Bulgaria Act, Art. 16, Paragraphs 1 and 2).

A settlement is a historically and functionally separated territory, defined by the presence of permanent resident population, a built-up area or a built-up area and land-use area and the required social and engineering infrastructure. The settlements are specified as towns and villages and shall be subject to registration in the Unified classifier of administrative-territorial and territorial units.

A settlement formation is a territory outside the built-up areas of existing settlements, which does not have a permanent resident population and has specific functions, determined by its construction boundaries. The settlement formations are of national and local importance. The Council of the Ministers shall determine the settlement formations of national importance.

Data sources:

Data source for the administrative-territorial division of the country is the National Register of the Settlements, maintained by the NSI: <https://www.nsi.bg/nrnm/>.

The amendments, related to the establishment of new or administrative closure of existing mayoralties as well as changes in their boundaries or administrative centres should be done by a decision of the relevant municipal council - under terms and procedures, determined in the Territorial Administration of the Republic of Bulgaria Act, Art. 31. The decisions of the municipal councils shall be forwarded to the relevant regional governors, who shall deliver a ruling on its legal conformity. The changes shall enter into force on the date of the publication in the State Gazette.

The population figures at the end of the year are calculated based on the data for the previous year adjusted by the data on the natural population change and the net migration during the reference period of interest. Data source is the Information System „Demography”, maintained by the NSI.

The regional break-down of the demographic events' data is provided according to the administrative-territorial division of the country as of 31 December of the reference year (settlements, municipalities and districts) and according to the statistical regions by the address of the usual residence of the people.

Data on population numbers and structure are available here:
<https://infostat.nsi.bg/infostat/pages/external/login.jsf>

Data source for the territory in sq. km. is the National Agency for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre.

The population density in sq. km. is calculated by the total area of the territory of the administrative-territorial units and the population figures as of 31 December 2019.

Legal basis:

Article 135 of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria (State Gazette, Issue 56/1991) determines that the territory of the country is divided into municipalities and districts.

The Law on Local Self-Government and Local Administration (State Gazette, Issue 77/1991) determines the rules to be used by the citizens to solve different issues through the local authorities.

In 1995, the Territorial Administration of the Republic of Bulgaria Act was adopted (State Gazette, Issue 63/1995). By this legal act, the concept for the administrative-territorial administration was introduced. It covers not only the division of the territory but also the intentionally conducted process of administrative-territorial changes, carried out following the will of the population and the state and local interests.

The text of Art. 12 of the Law on Local Self-Government and Local Administration was amended in 2006 as follows: “The name of the municipality is the name of the settlement, which is its administrative centre, except for the municipalities as found by the law, where the administrative centres are settlements outside their territory, shared as such with other municipalities”. In addition to the case of Dobrich-selska (with administrative centre Dobrich) this amendment also applies to 3 other municipalities in the country - Maritsa and Rodopi (with administrative centre Plovdiv) and Tundzha (with administrative centre Yambol).

The territorial division of the capital municipality and of the towns with a population over 300 000 is established by the Law on the Territorial Division of Sofia Municipality and Large Cities (State Gazette, Issue 66/1995). It provides also the names and the boundaries of the regions of Sofia Municipality, the towns of Plovdiv and Varna.

As defined by the Territorial Administration of the Republic of Bulgaria Act (Art. 37), NSI maintains the Unified Classifier of Administrative-Territorial and Territorial Units (EKATTE) in coordination with the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works. The NSI maintains the

National Register of Settlements, in coordination with the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry. Each of these authorities shall provide free of charge the information necessary for the maintenance of these registers. The content of the classifier and the register, as well as the corresponding criteria and indicators, are approved by the Council of the Ministers based on the proposal of the NSI and the other stakeholders.

EKATTE covers all administrative-territorial and territorial units defined by the Territorial Administration of the Republic of Bulgaria Act. Each of them has an identification code in EKATTE. The codes of the different types of units in EKATTE are exhaustively defined by Decision № 565 of the Council of the Ministers of 10 August 1999 (State Gazette, Issue 73/1999).

The codes of the districts in EKATTE contain three digits. The codes of the municipalities contain five digits, where the first three digits coincide with the code of the district in which the municipality is located, and the last two digits show the running number of the municipality in the district. The codes of the settlements and settlement formations in EKATTE contain five digits and are unique. The codes of the districts in Stolichna municipality and those of the towns of Plovdiv and Varna, as well as the codes of the mayoralties in EKATTE are composite.

Following the change of the administrative-territorial division of the country and the establishment of the current 28 districts, with Decision № 565 of the Council of the Ministers taken on the 10th of August 10, 1999, the new content of EKATTE was approved. This content is currently valid. The content of the National Register of the Settlements was approved by Decision № 695 of the Council of the Ministers, taken on the 29th of September 2006.

The National Register of the Settlements aims to monitor changes in the administrative-territorial and territorial units. The register provides information on the type of the change that occurred (merge, split, separation, accession) and on the types of connections between the affected units, which allows comparability of the data over time.

The territory of the country is divided into 28 districts (according to the amendment of the Territorial Administration of the Republic of Bulgaria Act, State Gazette, Issue. 154/1998). The borders and their administrative centres have been approved by Decree № 1 of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria (State Gazette, Issue 2/1999) following the proposal of the Council of the Ministers.

Regulation (EC) № 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and the Council establishing a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) was adopted on 26th of May 2003. The purpose of the Regulation is to enable the collection, compilation and dissemination of harmonised regional statistics in the Community. Following the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union in 2007, Regulation (EC) № 176/2008 of the European Parliament and the Council amended the Annexes to Regulation № 1059/2003 on 20 February 2008 with the new Member States.

More information on the NUTS is available on the [website of NSI](http://www.nsi.bg).