



## ADMINISTRATIVE-TERRITORIAL AND TERRITORIAL DIVISION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2021

As of 31 December 2021, the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria is administratively divided into 28 administrative districts and 265 municipalities, within which there are 3 160 individual mayoralties. In addition, the municipality of Sofia and the cities of Plovdiv and Varna are subdivided into composite territorial administration units (quarters): the capital municipality (Stolichna) - into 24 quarters, Plovdiv - into 6 quarters, Varna - into 5 quarters.

As of 31 December 2021, there were 5 257 settlements in the Republic of Bulgaria, of which 257 towns and 5 000 villages, while the settlement formations were 165 (including 8 of national and 157 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.

**There are no amendments to the Unified classifier of administrative-territorial and territorial units (UCATTU) during the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021.**

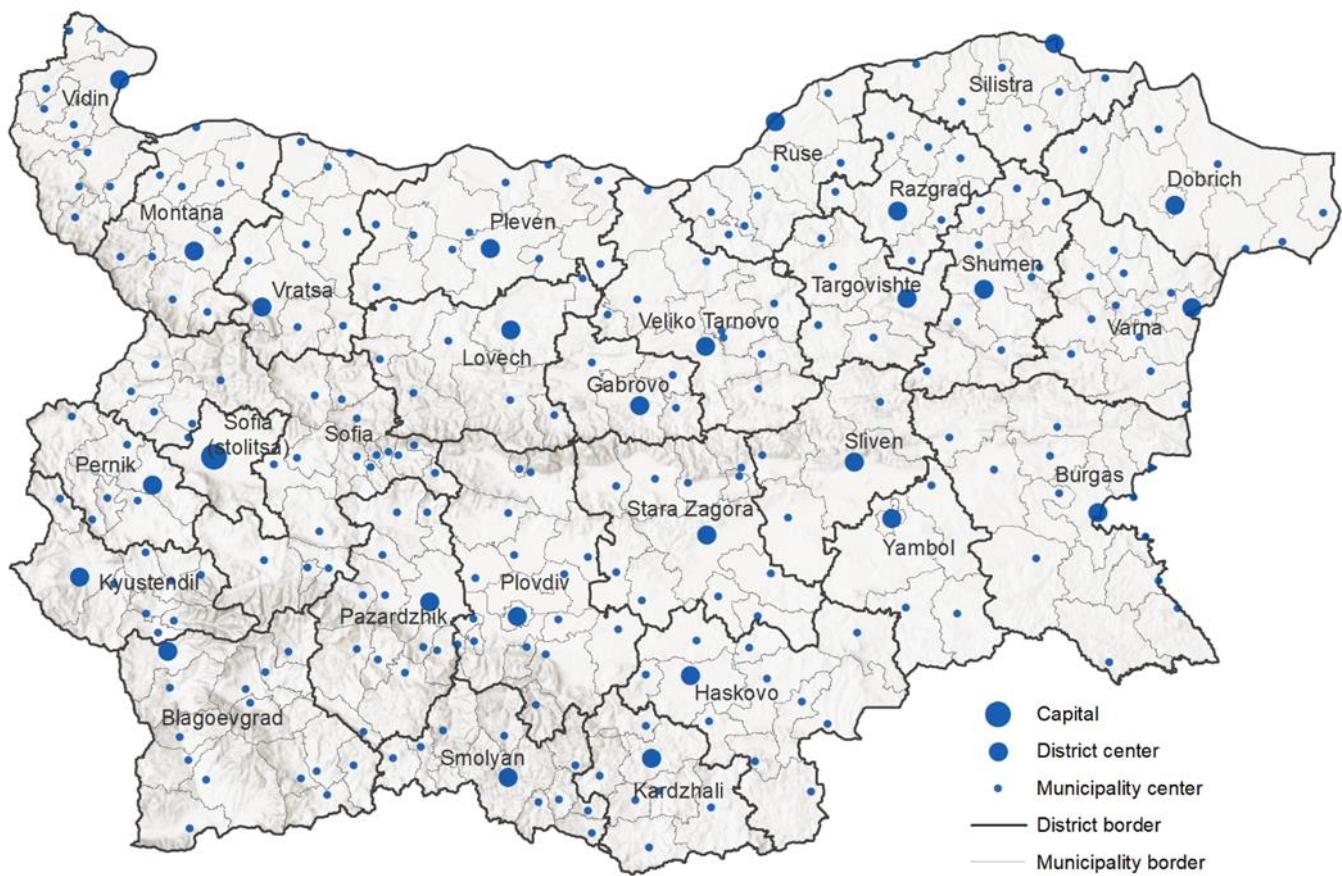
As of 31 December 2021, the following administrative-territorial units exist in Bulgaria:

- Districts - 28;
- Municipalities - 265.

## 1. Administrative districts in the Republic of Bulgaria as of the end of 2021

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 Pernik, Gabrovo and Sofia (stolitsa). The smallest district in terms of territory - Sofia (stolitsa), is also the largest by population with 1 307 439 inhabitants and the only one with more than 1 000 000 inhabitants. The smallest administrative district by population is Vidin, with 78 814 inhabitants.

**Figure 1. Administrative districts in the Republic of Bulgaria as of 31 December 2021<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> 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 2021<sup>1,2</sup>**

№	Districts		Population	Territory	Municipalities	Mayoralties	Towns	Villages
	EKATTE	Name	Number	Sq. km	Number	Number	Number	Number
1	BLG	Blagoevgrad	298251	6449	14	161	13	261
2	BGS	Burgas	408704	7748	13	165	20	230
3	VAR	Varna	468614	3819	12	120	11	148
4	VTR	Veliko Tarnovo	225674	4662	10	114	14	322
5	VID	Vidin	78814	3033	11	67	7	133
6	VRC	Vratsa	153700	3620	10	104	8	115
7	GAB	Gabrovo	103404	2023	4	42	5	344
8	DOB	Dobrich	167314	4720	8	133	6	209
9	KRZ	Kardzhali	161024	3209	7	370	5	463
10	KNL	Kyustendil	113440	3052	9	69	7	175
11	LOV	Lovech	119780	4129	8	80	8	102
12	MON	Montana	122179	3636	11	67	8	122
13	PAZ	Pazardzhik	247360	4457	12	100	13	105
14	PER	Pernik	118023	2394	6	50	6	165
15	PVN	Pleven	228300	4653	11	105	14	109
16	PDV	Plovdiv	662907	5973	18	154	18	194
17	RAZ	Razgrad	107764	2488	7	92	6	97
18	RSE	Ruse	209084	2803	8	67	9	74
19	SLS	Silistra	104869	2846	7	86	5	113
20	SLV	Sliven	180058	3544	4	96	6	104
21	SML	Smolyan	99318	3193	10	117	8	232
22	SFO	Sofia	233607	7062	22	125	18	266
23	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)	1307439	1349	1	32	4	34
24	SZR	Stara Zagora	307140	5151	11	134	11	195
25	TGV	Targovishte	108117	2710	5	130	5	189
26	HKV	Haskovo	220269	5533	11	175	10	251
27	SHU	Shumen	169423	3390	10	129	8	143
28	JAM	Yambol	114361	3355	5	76	4	105

<sup>1</sup> The number of villages includes Rila monastery (in Kyustendil district) and Klisura monastery (in Montana district), which have settlement status.

<sup>2</sup> EKATTE - Unified classifier of administrative-territorial and territorial units (UCATTU).

**2. Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria as of 31 December 2021**

The largest municipality in Bulgaria by population size is Stolichna municipality. Another group of 8 municipalities had a population above 100 000 inhabitants - Plovdiv, Varna, Burgas, Ruse, Stara Zagora, Sliven, Pleven and Pazardzhik. The share of the population in these 9 municipalities represents 41.4% of the total country's population.

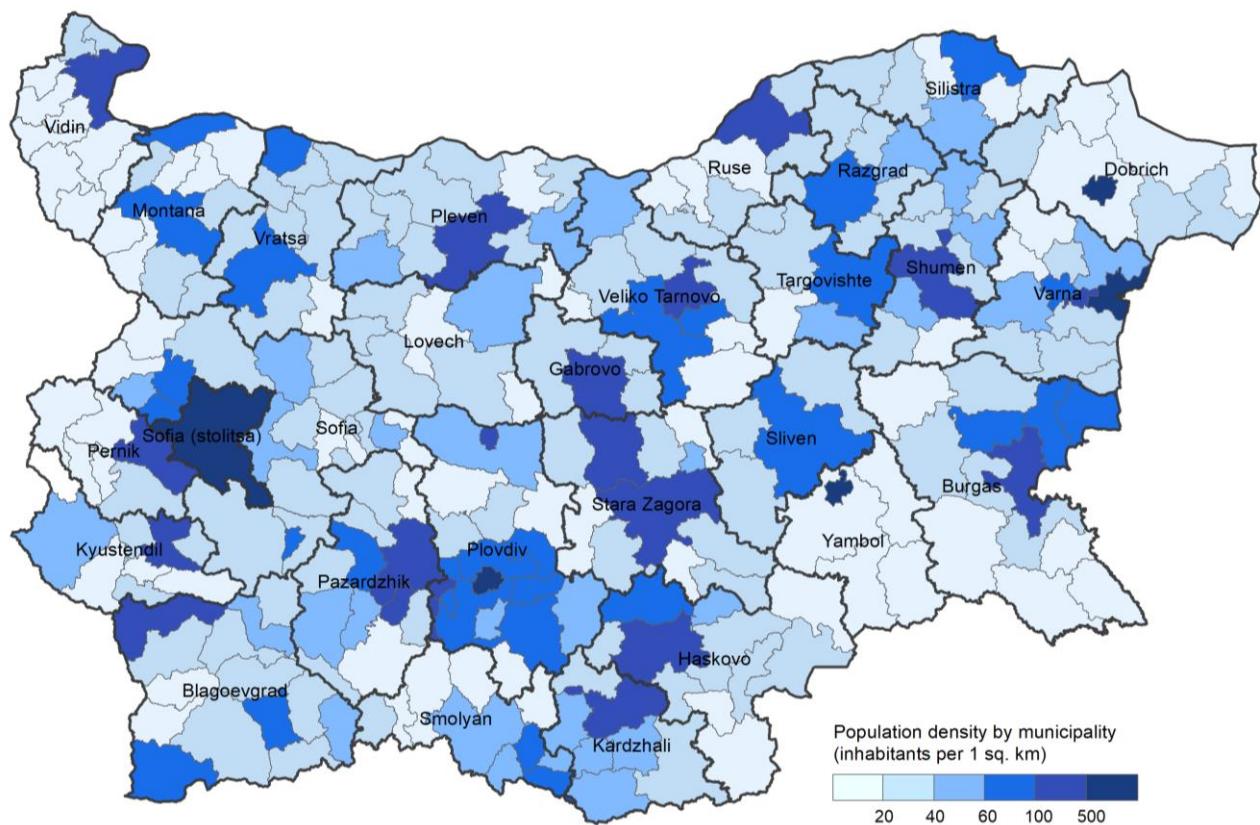
At the end of 2021, 133 out of a total of 265 municipalities in the country had a population of below 10 000 inhabitants. The share of their population was just 10.9% of the total country's population. The smallest municipality was Treklyano (Kyustendil district) with 714 inhabitants, followed by Boynitsa municipality (Vidin district) with a population of 780.

On average, the area of one municipality in Bulgaria is 419 sq. km. The largest municipality by area is the municipality of Sliven. Besides Sliven, there are only 7 more municipalities with a 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, the smallest municipality in the country is Chelopech (Sofia district). Also, 10 other municipalities have a territory of less than 100 sq. km - Nikolaevо (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).

On the territory of 9 municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria - Plovdiv, Dobrich, Yambol, Krichim, Perushtitsa, Koprivshtitsa, Chelopech, Anton, Chavdar - there is only one settlement, which is also the municipal centre.

**Figure 2. Population density by municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria  
as of 31 December 2021**

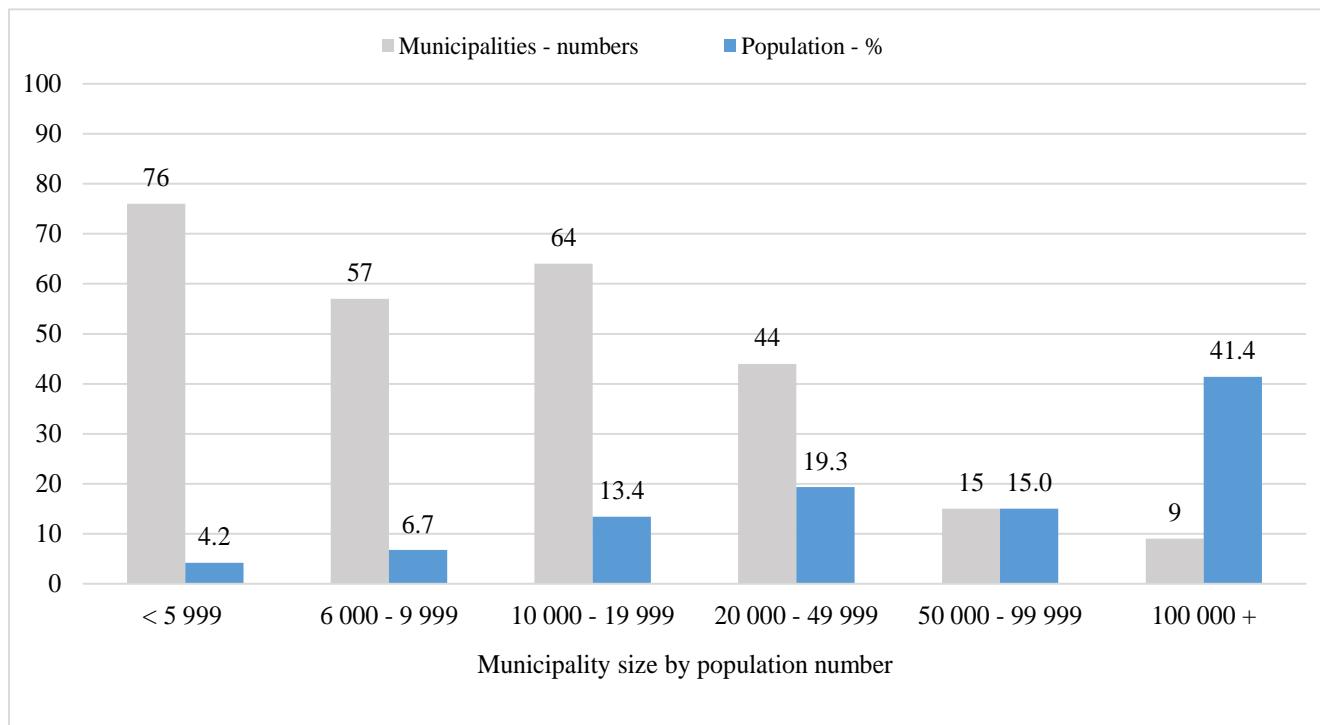




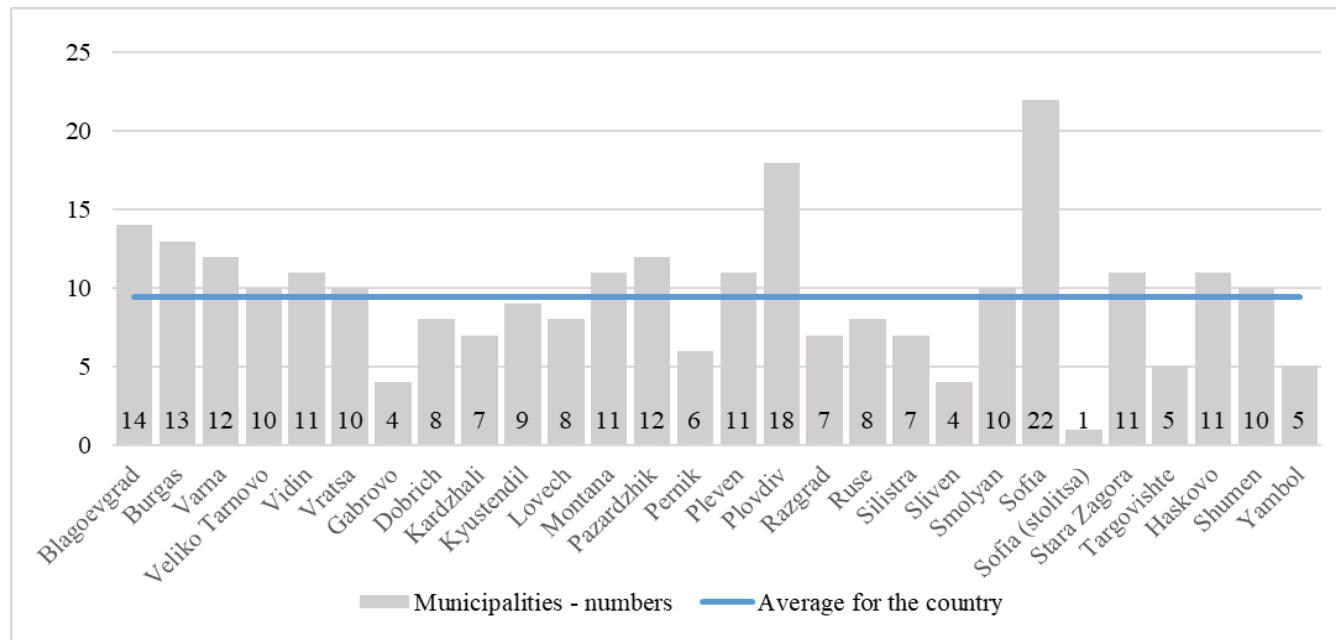
**2. Municipalities with population over 30 000 in the Republic of Bulgaria  
as of 31 December 2021**

№	Municipality		Population	District	
	EKATTE	Name	Number	EKATTE	Name
1	SOF46	Stolichna	1307439	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
2	PDV22	Plovdiv	343070	PDV	Plovdiv
3	VAR06	Varna	341737	VAR	Varna
4	BGS04	Burgas	204804	BGS	Burgas
5	RSE27	Ruse	151754	RSE	Ruse
6	SZR31	Stara Zagora	151096	SZR	Stara Zagora
7	SLV20	Sliven	115241	SLV	Sliven
8	PVN24	Pleven	113464	PVN	Pleven
9	PAZ19	Pazardzhik	103681	PAZ	Pazardzhik
10	PER32	Pernik	86134	PER	Pernik
11	SHU30	Shumen	85410	SHU	Shumen
12	VTR04	Veliko Tarnovo	84801	VTR	Veliko Tarnovo
13	HKV34	Haskovo	83632	HKV	Haskovo
14	DOB28	Dobrich	79269	DOB	Dobrich
15	BLG03	Blagoevgrad	74066	BLG	Blagoevgrad
16	KRZ16	Kardzhali	71404	KRZ	Kardzhali
17	SZR12	Kazanlak	66169	SZR	Kazanlak
18	JAM26	Yambol	63656	JAM	Yambol
19	VRC10	Vratsa	61702	VRC	Vratsa
20	PDV01	Asenovgrad	59934	PDV	Plovdiv
21	GAB05	Gabrovo	54608	GAB	Gabrovo
22	TGV35	Targovishte	53041	TGV	Targovishte
23	KNL29	Kyustendil	51044	KNL	Kyustendil
24	VID09	Vidin	50274	VID	Vidin
25	BLG33	Petrich	47949	BLG	Blagoevgrad
26	PDV13	Karlovo	46437	PDV	Plovdiv
27	MON29	Montana	45229	MON	Montana
28	RAZ26	Razgrad	44894	RAZ	Razgrad
29	HKV09	Dimitrovgrad	44649	HKV	Haskovo
30	SLS31	Silistra	43265	SLS	Silistra
31	LOV18	Lovech	40516	LOV	Lovech
32	VTR06	Gorna Oryahovitsa	39922	VTR	Veliko Tarnovo
33	KNL48	Dupnitsa	37633	KNL	Kyustendil
34	BLG40	Sandanski	36335	BLG	Blagoevgrad
35	SFO39	Samokov	35384	SFO	Sofia
36	SML31	Smolyan	34465	SML	Smolyan
37	SLV16	Nova Zagora	34041	SLV	Sliven
38	PAZ08	Velingrad	33102	PAZ	Pazardzhik
39	VTR28	Svishtov	32275	VTR	Veliko Tarnovo
40	PDV26	Rodopi	32215	PDV	Plovdiv
41	PDV17	Maritsa	31886	PDV	Plovdiv
42	GAB29	Sevlievo	30957	GAB	Gabrovo
43	BGS15	Nesebar	30721	BGS	Burgas
44	SFO07	Botevgrad	30188	SFO	Sofia

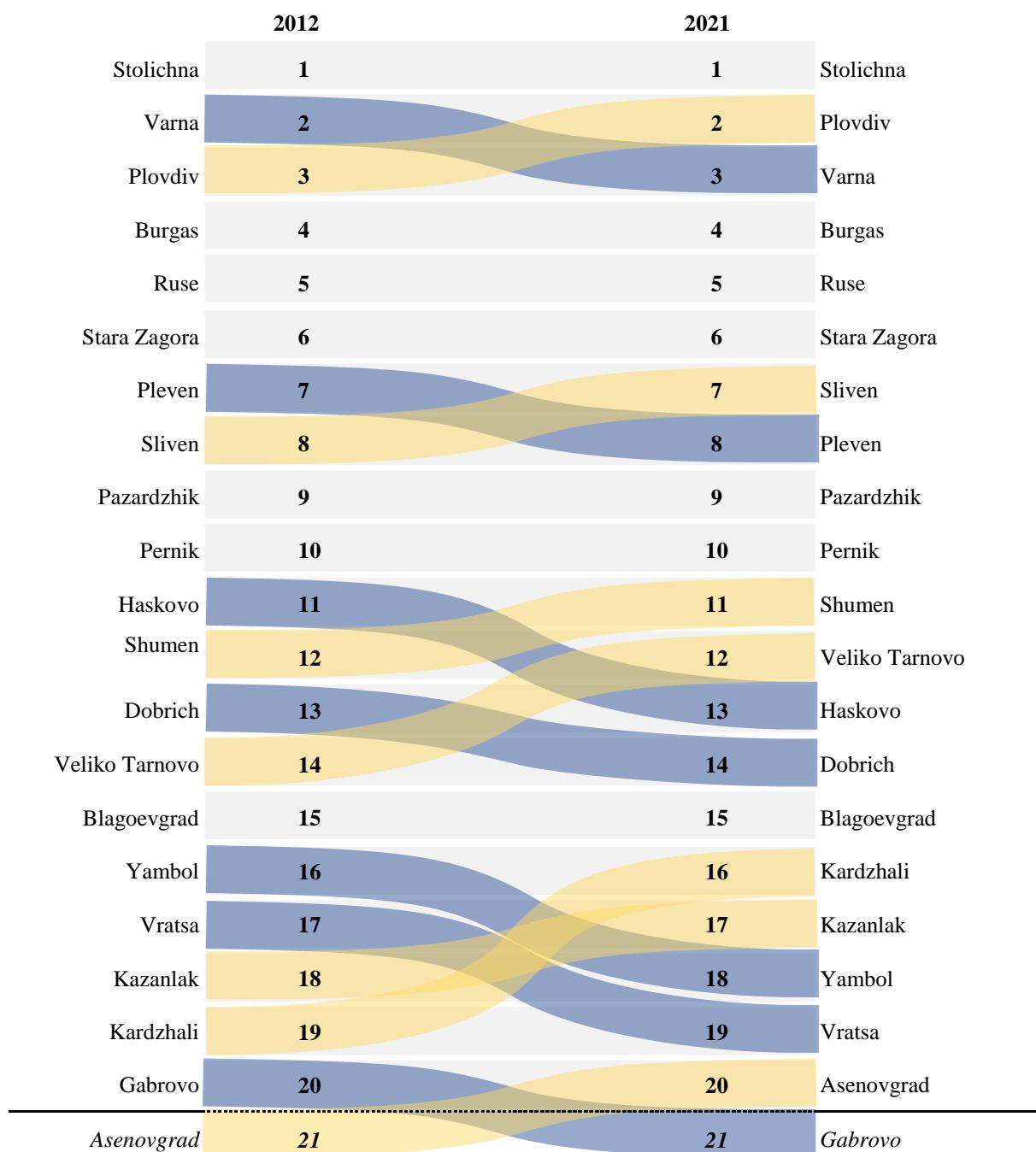
**Figure 3. Distribution of the number and size of the municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria as of 31 December 2021**



**Figure 4. Distribution of the municipalities by districts as of 31 December 2021**



**Figure 5. Ranking of the top 20 municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria by population in 2012 and 2021**





### 3. Composite territorial administration units (quarters):

- Quarters - 35 (in Stolichna municipality and the cities of Plovdiv and Varna);
- Mayoralties - 3 160.

The population of the capital municipality (Stolichna) is unevenly distributed across its administrative quarters. By the end of 2021, three of them - Lyulin, Mladost and Studentski - are home to 24.0% of the population of Stolichna municipality, with over 100 000 people living in each of these quarters. The smallest quarter in Stolichna Municipality is Bankya, with a population of 11 615 people, or 0.9% of the municipality's population.

The population of the city of Plovdiv is spread more evenly by administrative quarters - with 10.6% for the Zapaden and 21.7% for the Yuzhen.

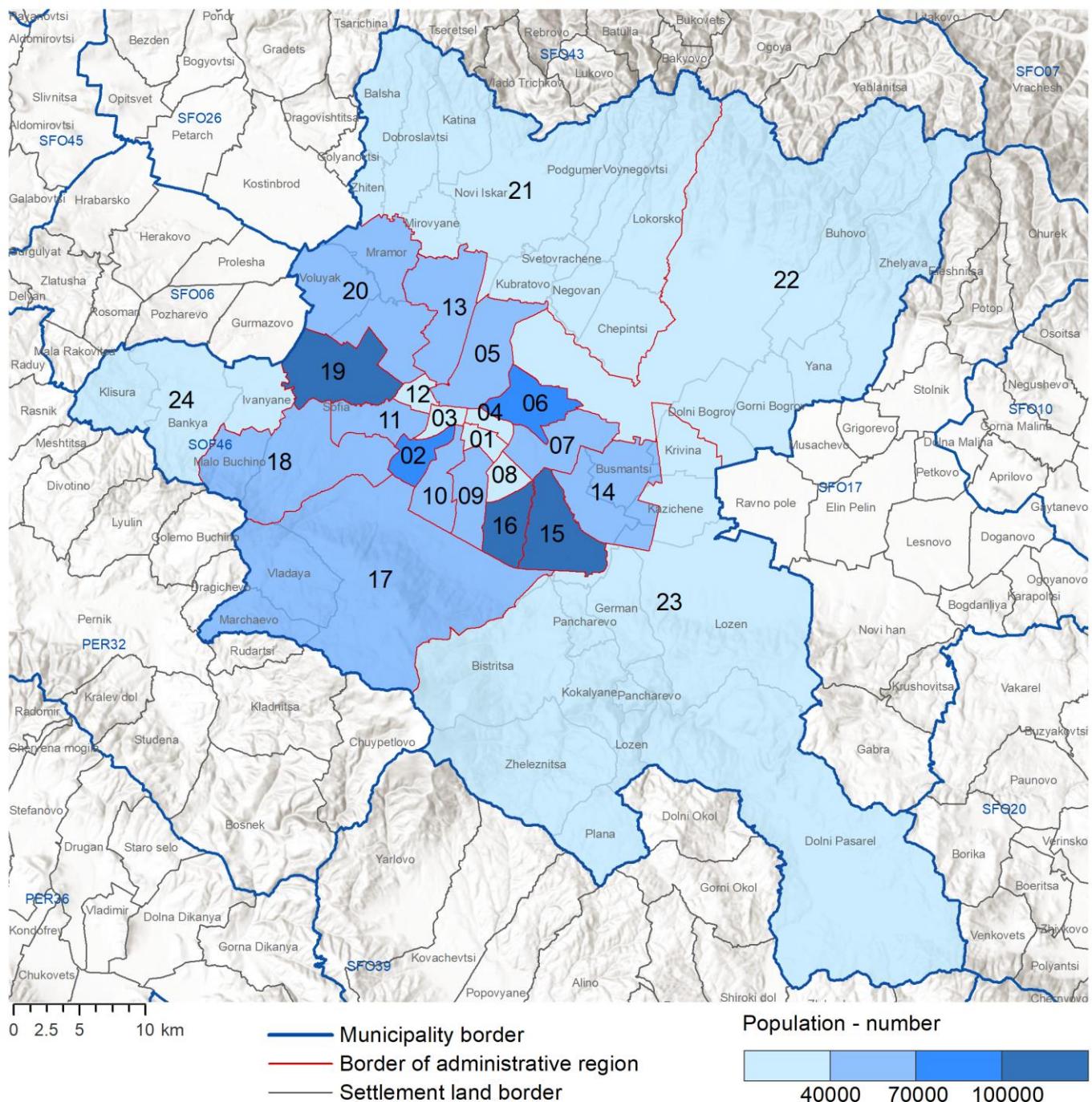
The population distribution in the quarters of the city of Varna ranges from 7.5% for the Asparuhovo quarter to 32.2% for the Primorski - the only quarter of Varna with a population of over 100 000 people.

#### 3. Quarters in Stolichna municipality as of 31 December 2021<sup>1</sup>

№	Quarters in Stolichna municipality		Population	
	EKATTE	Name	Number	%
1	68134-01	Sredets	27737	2.1
2	68134-02	Krasno selo	79608	6.1
3	68134-03	Vazrazhdane	37228	2.8
4	68134-04	Oborishte	29862	2.3
5	68134-05	Serdika	43608	3.3
6	68134-06	Poduyane	71462	5.5
7	68134-07	Slatina	64578	4.9
8	68134-08	Izgrev	30647	2.3
9	68134-09	Lozenets	56465	4.3
10	68134-10	Triaditsa	67273	5.1
11	68134-11	Krasna polyana	54022	4.1
12	68134-12	Ilinden	31087	2.4
13	68134-13	Nadezhda	66423	5.1
14	68134-14	Iskar	59648	4.6
15	68134-15	Mladost	104402	8.0
16	68134-16	Studentski	103336	7.9
17	68134-17	Vitosha	69901	5.3
18	68134-18	Ovcha kupel	56317	4.3
19	68134-19	Lyulin	106553	8.1
20	68134-20	Vrabnitsa	44688	3.4
21	68134-21	Novi Iskar	27050	2.1
22	68134-22	Kremikovtsi	22250	1.7
23	68134-23	Pancharevo	26042	2.0
24	68134-24	Bankya	11615	0.9

<sup>1</sup> As of 31 December 2021 1.2% (15 637 persons) of the total population of the municipality are not assigned to any of the quarters due to incorrect or incomplete address information.

**Figure 6. Population distribution by quarters in Stolichna municipality  
as of 31 December 2021**



#### 4. Quarters in the city of Plovdiv as of 31 December 2021<sup>1</sup>

№	Quarters of Plovdiv		Population	
	EKATTE	Name	Number	%
1	56784-01	Tsentralen	74118	21.6
2	56784-02	Iztochen	51454	15.0
3	56784-03	Zapaden	36362	10.6
4	56784-04	Severen	50436	14.7
5	56784-05	Yuzhen	74321	21.7
6	56784-06	Trakia	54154	15.8

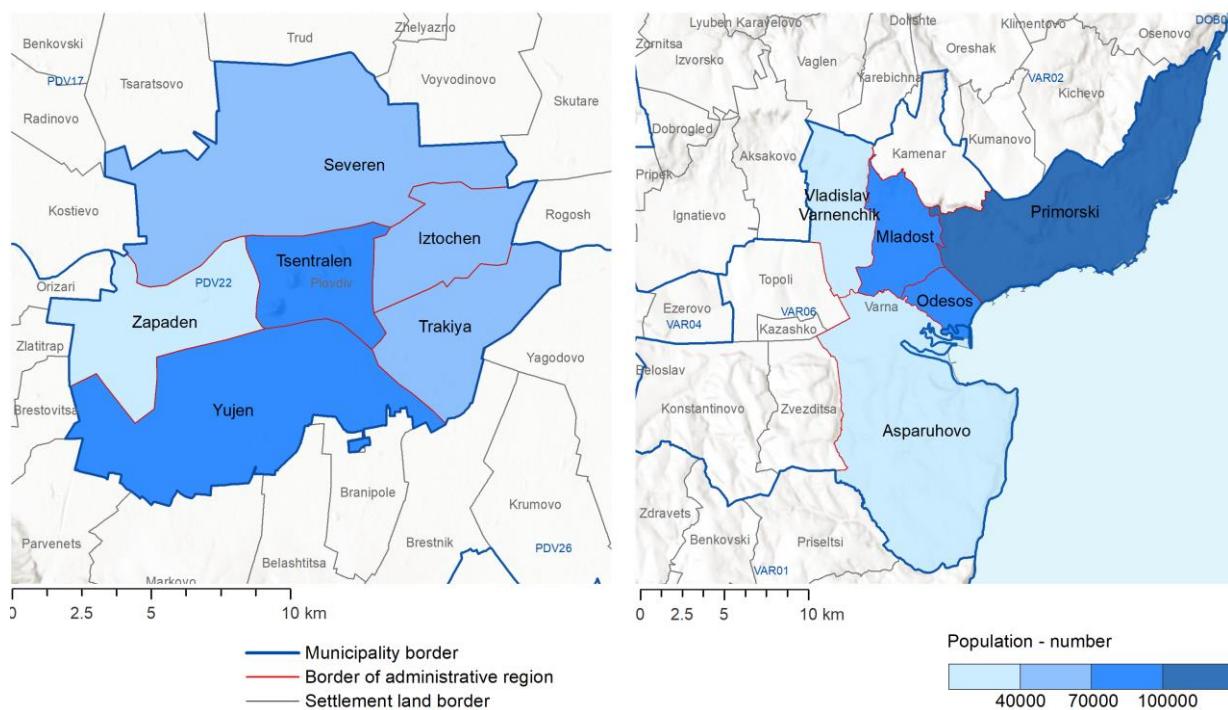
<sup>1</sup> As of 31 December 2021 0.6% (2 225 persons) of the total population of the city of Plovdiv are not assigned to any of the quarters due to incorrect or incomplete address information.

#### 5. Quarters in the city of Varna as of 31 December 2021<sup>1</sup>

№	Quarters of Varna		Population	
	EKATTE	Name	Number	%
1	10135-01	Odesos	77101	23.2
2	10135-02	Primorski	107223	32.2
3	10135-03	Mladost	78030	23.5
4	10135-04	Vladislav Varnenchik	39116	11.8
5	10135-05	Asparuhovo	24959	7.5

<sup>1</sup> As of 31 December 2021 1.9% (6 257 persons) of the total population of the city of Varna are not assigned to any of the quarters due to incorrect or incomplete address information.

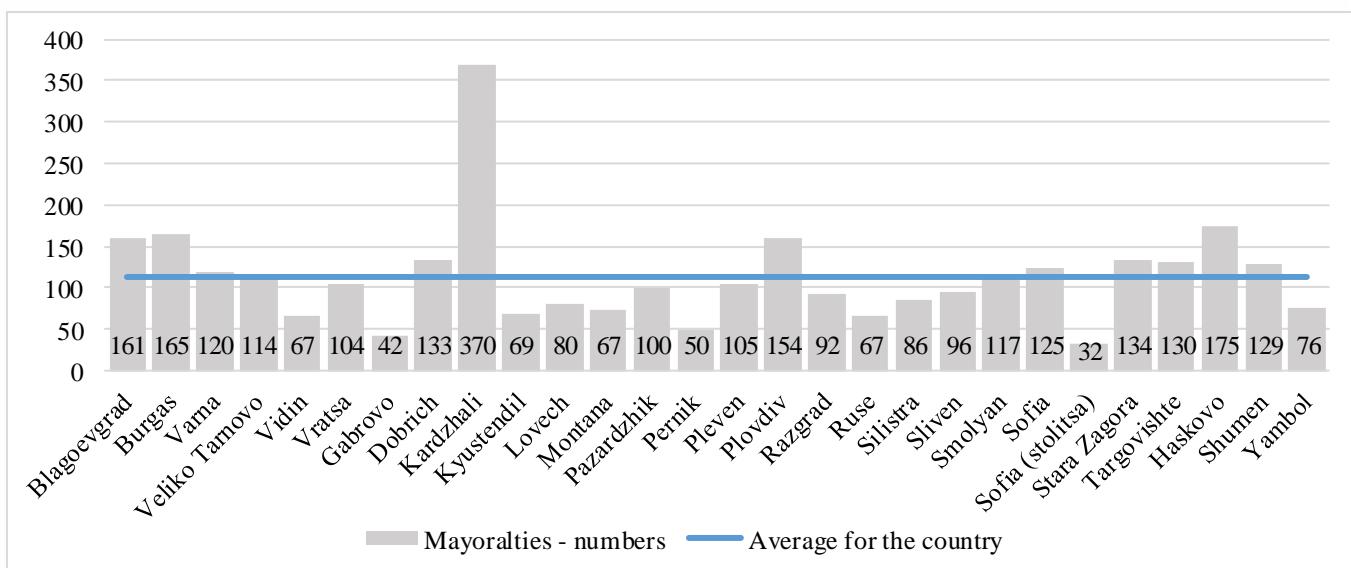
**Figure 7. Population distribution by quarters in the cities of Plovdiv and Varna as of 31 December 2021**



## 6. Mayoralties with population over 3 500 in the Republic of Bulgaria as of 31 December 2021

№	Mayoralties		Population	Municipality		Districts	
	EKATTE	Name	Number	EKATTE	Name	EKATTE	Name
1	SOF46-61	Lozen	6142	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
2	SLS31-01	Aydemir	5295	SLS31	Silistra	SLS	Silistra
3	SOF46-54	Bistritsa	5198	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
4	PAZ08-08	Draginovo	4670	PAZ08	Velingrad	PAZ	Pazardzhik
6	BGS15-02	Sveti Vlas	4523	BGS15	Nesebar	BGS	Burgas
5	SOF46-58	Kazichene	4445	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
7	PDV13-22	Rozino	4228	PDV13	Karlovo	PDV	Plovdiv
8	SLV11-04	Gradets	4150	SLV11	Kotel	SLV	Sliven
9	PDV17-17	Trud	4068	PDV17	Maritsa	PDV	Plovdiv
10	PAZ24-02	Kostandovo	3988	PAZ24	Rakitovo	PAZ	Pazardzhik
11	VAR02-09	Ignatievo	3919	VAR02	Aksakovo	VAR	Varna
12	PVN10-15	Trastenik	3854	PVN10	Dolna Mitropoliya	PVN	Pleven
13	PVN24-05	Bukovlak	3818	PVN24	Pleven	PVN	Pleven
14	RSE27-03	Marten	3720	RSE27	Ruse	RSE	Ruse
15	PAZ19-15	Malo Konare	3706	PAZ19	Pazardzhik	PAZ	Pazardzhik
16	PDV26-30	Tsalapitsa	3682	PDV26	Rodopi	PDV	Plovdiv
17	PDV25-01	Belozem	3661	PDV25	Rakovski	PDV	Plovdiv
18	SLV24-04	Shivachevo	3630	SLV24	Tvarditsa	SLV	Sliven
19	VTR04-13	Debelets	3603	VTR04	Veliko Tarnovo	VTR	Veliko Tarnovo
20	PDV26-23	Parvenets	3576	PDV26	Rodopi	PDV	Plovdiv
21	SLS31-10	Kalipetrovo	3548	SLS31	Silistra	SLS	Silistra

Figure 8. Distribution of the mayoralties by districts as of 31 December 2021





#### 4. Territorial units in the Republic of Bulgaria as of 31 December 2021:

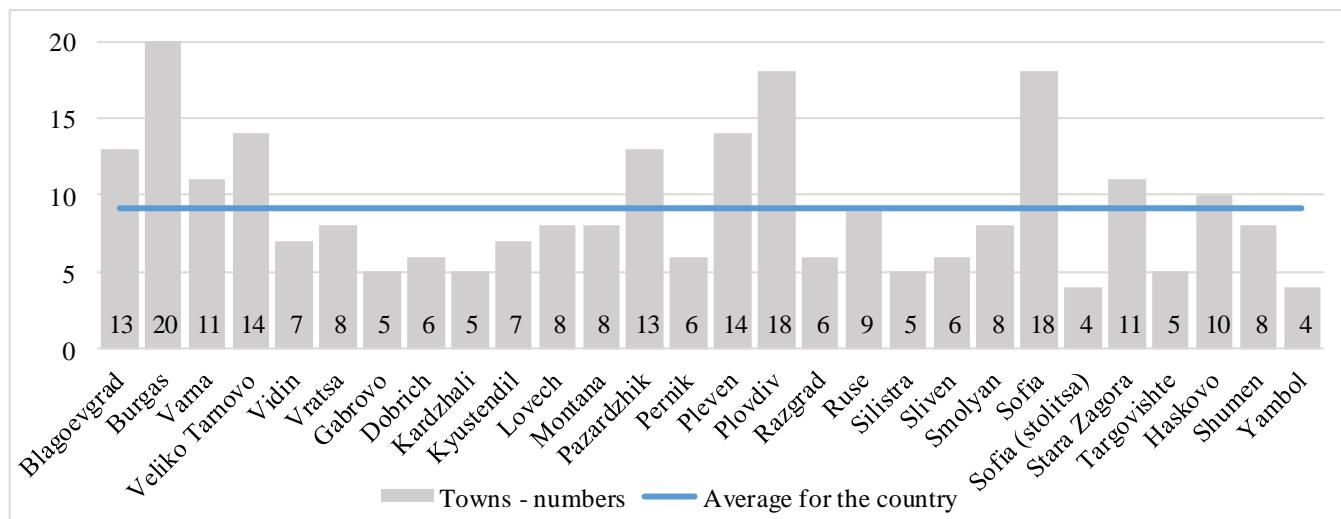
- Settlements - 5 257 (incl. 257 towns and 5 000 villages);
- Settlement formations - 165 (incl. 8 of national and 157 of regional/local importance).

At the end of 2021, there are 167 settlements without a population. The highest number of settlements without population is in the districts of Gabrovo (61), Veliko Tarnovo (50), Kardzhali (12) and Smolyan (10). In 1 173, or 22.3% of the settlements, the population number is between 1 and 49 persons. There are six towns with a population of more than 100 thousand persons, and 34.4% of the country's population lives there.

#### 7. Towns with population over 20 000 in the Republic of Bulgaria as of 31 December 2021

№	Town		Population Number	Municipality		District	
	EKATTE	Name		EKATTE	Name	EKATTE	Name
1	68134	Sofia	1221172	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
2	56784	Plovdiv	343070	PDV22	Plovdiv	PDV	Plovdiv
3	10135	Varna	332686	VAR06	Varna	VAR	Varna
4	07079	Burgas	198035	BGS04	Burgas	BGS	Burgas
5	63427	Ruse	133813	RSE27	Ruse	RSE	Ruse
6	68850	Stara Zagora	124599	SZR31	Stara Zagora	SZR	Stara Zagora
7	56722	Pleven	89823	PVN24	Pleven	PVN	Pleven
8	67338	Sliven	82251	SLV20	Sliven	SLV	Sliven
9	72624	Dobrich	79269	DOB28	Dobrich	DOB	Dobrich
10	83510	Shumen	72342	SHU30	Shumen	SHU	Shumen
11	55871	Pernik	70285	PER32	Pernik	PER	Pernik
12	04279	Blagoevgrad	67810	BLG03	Blagoevgrad	BLG	Blagoevgrad
13	77195	Haskovo	67086	HKV34	Haskovo	HKV	Haskovo
14	10447	Veliko Tarnovo	65793	VTR04	Veliko Tarnovo	VTR	Veliko Tarnovo
15	55155	Pazardzhik	65671	PAZ19	Pazardzhik	PAZ	Pazardzhik
16	87374	Yambol	63656	JAM26	Yambol	JAM	Yambol
17	12259	Vratsa	50012	VRC10	Vratsa	VRC	Vratsa
18	14218	Gabrovo	48133	GAB05	Gabrovo	GAB	Gabrovo
19	00702	Asenovgrad	47815	PDV01	Asenovgrad	PDV	Plovdiv
20	40909	Kardzhali	44071	KRZ16	Kardzhali	KRZ	Kardzhali
21	35167	Kazanlak	43859	SZR12	Kazanlak	SZR	Stara Zagora
22	10971	Vidin	38669	VID09	Vidin	VID	Vidin
23	41112	Kyustendil	37799	KNL29	Kyustendil	KNL	Kyustendil
24	48489	Montana	36455	MON29	Montana	MON	Montana
25	73626	Targovishte	34793	TGV35	Targovishte	TGV	Targovishte
26	21052	Dimitrovgrad	31837	HKV09	Dimitrovgrad	HKV	Haskovo
27	43952	Lovech	29659	LOV18	Lovech	LOV	Lovech
28	66425	Silistra	29498	SLS31	Silistra	SLS	Silistra
29	61710	Razgrad	28931	RAZ26	Razgrad	RAZ	Razgrad
30	68789	Dupnitsa	28333	KNL48	Dupnitsa	KNL	Kyustendil
31	16359	Gorna Oryahovitsa	27317	VTR06	Gorna Oryahovitsa	VTR	Veliko Tarnovo
32	56126	Petrich	26778	BLG33	Petrich	BLG	Blagoevgrad
33	67653	Smolyan	26167	SML31	Smolyan	SML	Smolyan
34	65231	Samokov	24629	SFO39	Samokov	SFO	Sofia
35	65334	Sandanski	24511	BLG40	Sandanski	BLG	Blagoevgrad
36	65766	Svishtov	22917	VTR28	Svishtov	VTR	Veliko Tarnovo
37	10450	Velingrad	20826	PAZ08	Velingrad	PAZ	Pazardzhik
38	36498	Karlovo	20251	PDV13	Karlovo	PDV	Plovdiv

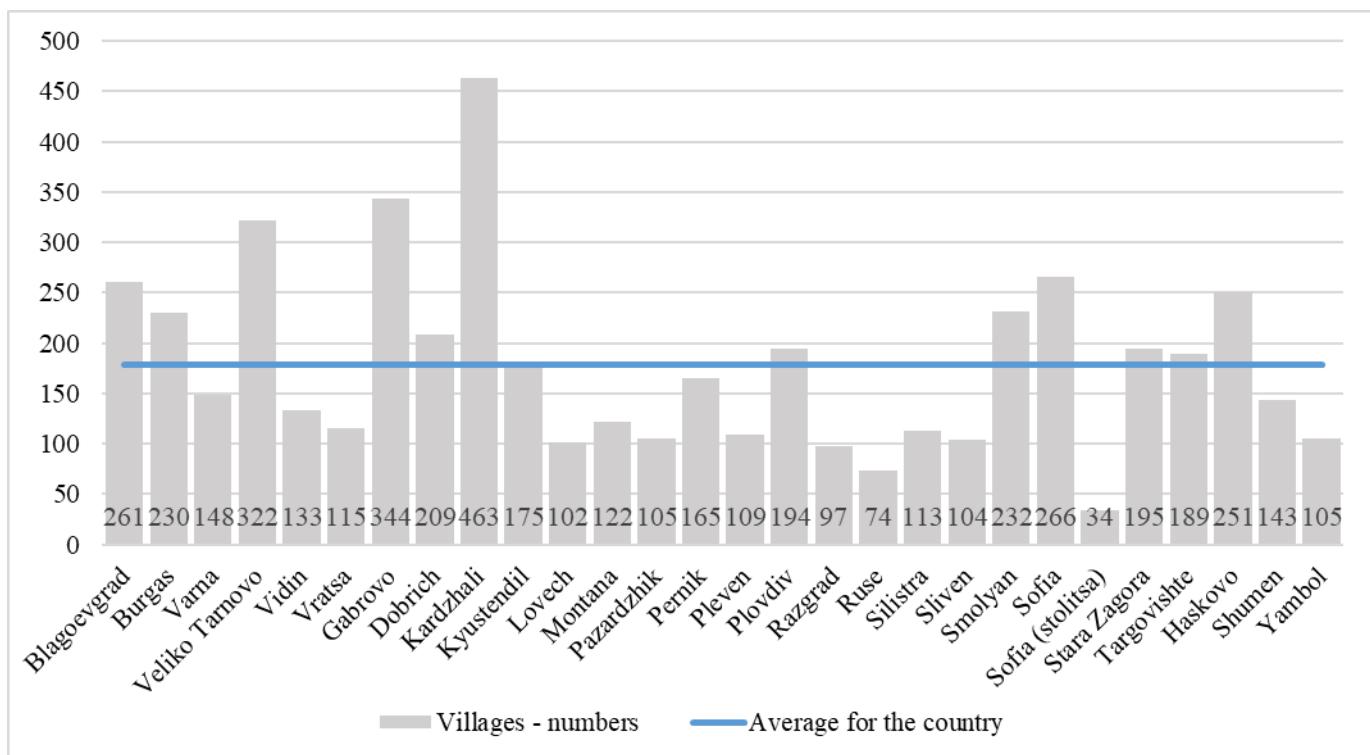
**Figure 9. Distribution of the towns by districts as of 31 December 2021**



## 8. Villages with population over 3 000 in the Republic of Bulgaria as of 31 December 2021

№	Villages		Population	Municipality		Districts	
	EKATTE	Name		Number	EKATTE	Name	EKATTE
1	44063	Lozen	6142	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
2	00895	Aydemir	5295	SLS31	Silistra	SLS	Silistra
3	04234	Bistritsa	5198	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
4	23234	Draginovo	4670	PAZ08	Velingrad	PAZ	Pazardzhik
5	35239	Kazichene	4445	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
6	62949	Rozino	4228	PDV13	Karlovo	PDV	Plovdiv
7	17436	Gradets	4150	SLV11	Kotel	SLV	Sliven
8	73242	Trud	4068	PDV17	Maritsa	PDV	Plovdiv
9	06999	Bukovlak	3818	PVN24	Pleven	PVN	Pleven
10	46749	Malo Konare	3706	PAZ19	Pazardzhik	PAZ	Pazardzhik
11	78029	Tsalapitsa	3682	PDV26	Rodopi	PDV	Plovdiv
12	03620	Belozem	3661	PDV25	Rakovski	PDV	Plovdiv
14	59032	Parvenets	3576	PDV26	Rodopi	PDV	Plovdiv
13	41143	Kalipetrovo	3548	SLS31	Silistra	SLS	Silistra
16	11394	Vladaya	3373	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
18	55419	Pancharevo	3331	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
15	18490	Elin Pelin	3305	SFO17	Elin Pelin	SFO	Sofia
20	06306	Breznitsa	3274	BLG11	Gotse Delchev	BLG	Blagoevgrad
19	38916	Kostenets	3270	SFO25	Kostenets	SFO	Sofia
17	06505	Brestovitsa	3256	PDV26	Rodopi	PDV	Plovdiv
21	47295	Markovo	3232	PDV26	Rodopi	PDV	Plovdiv
27	61056	Ravda	3177	BGS15	Nesebar	BGS	Burgas
22	72816	Topolchane	3168	SLV20	Sliven	SLV	Sliven
26	52012	Novi han	3114	SFO17	Elin Pelin	SFO	Sofia
23	62858	Rogosh	3109	PDV17	Maritsa	PDV	Plovdiv
24	12283	Vrachesh	3058	SFO07	Botevgrad	SFO	Sofia
25	59077	Parvomay	3056	BLG33	Petrich	BLG	Blagoevgrad
28	72709	Topoli	3054	VAR06	Varna	VAR	Varna

**Figure 10. Distribution of the villages by districts as of 31 December 2021**



## 9. Settlement formations of national importance in the Republic of Bulgaria as of 31 December 2021

№	Settlement formation		Municipality		District	
	EKATTE	Name	EKATTE	Name	EKATTE	Name
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“ <sup>1</sup>	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		

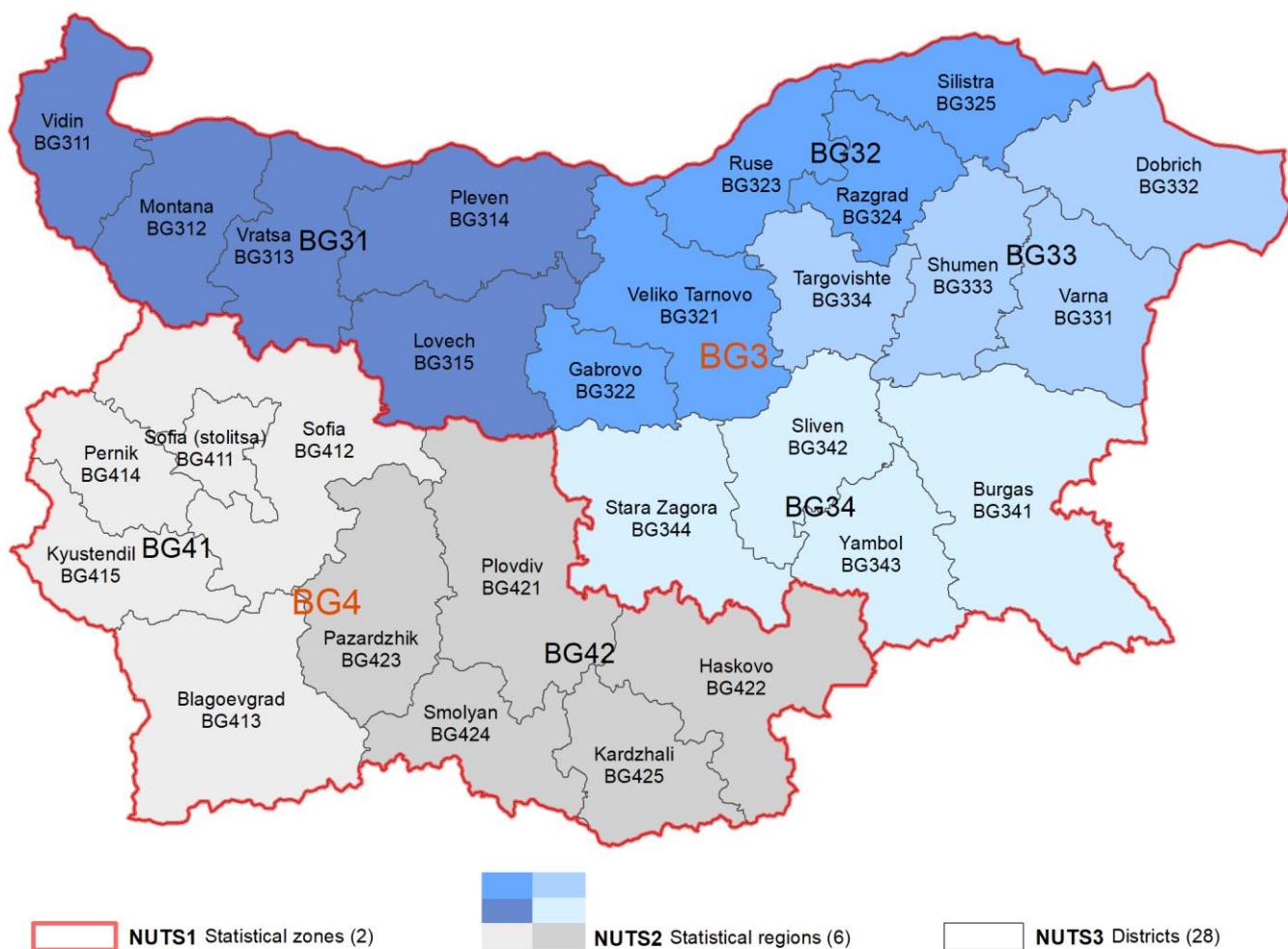
<sup>1</sup> IYC - International Youth Center

## 5. Territorial Units for Statistics as of 31 December 2021

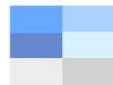
According to the requirements of the common Classification of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) applied by the European Union, the following levels have been defined:

- 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**



 NUTS1 Statistical zones (2)



NUTS2 Statistical regions (6)

 NUTS3 Districts (28)



## 10. Population by Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) as of 31 December 2021<sup>1,2</sup>

№	Code	Level	NUTS	Population		Territory Sq. km
				Number	%	
1	BG	NUTS0	Bulgaria	6838937	100.0	111001
2	BG3	NUTS1	Severna i Yugoiztochna Bulgaria	3377299	49.4	68330
3	BG31	NUTS2	Severozapaden	702773	10.3	19071
4	BG311	NUTS3	Vidin	78814	1.2	3033
5	BG313	NUTS3	Vratsa	153700	2.2	3620
6	BG315	NUTS3	Lovech	119780	1.8	4129
7	BG312	NUTS3	Montana	122179	1.8	3636
8	BG314	NUTS3	Pleven	228300	3.3	4653
9	BG32	NUTS2	Severen tsentralen	750795	11.0	14822
10	BG321	NUTS3	Veliko Tarnovo	225674	3.3	4662
11	BG322	NUTS3	Gabrovo	103404	1.5	2023
12	BG324	NUTS3	Razgrad	107764	1.6	2488
13	BG323	NUTS3	Ruse	209084	3.1	2803
14	BG325	NUTS3	Silistra	104869	1.5	2846
15	BG33	NUTS2	Severoiztochen	913468	13.4	14639
16	BG331	NUTS3	Varna	468614	6.9	3819
17	BG332	NUTS3	Dobrich	167314	2.4	4720
18	BG334	NUTS3	Targovishte	108117	1.6	2710
19	BG333	NUTS3	Shumen	169423	2.5	3390
20	BG34	NUTS2	Yugoiztochen	1010263	14.8	19798
21	BG341	NUTS3	Burgas	408704	6.0	7748
22	BG342	NUTS3	Sliven	180058	2.6	3544
23	BG344	NUTS3	Stara Zagora	307140	4.5	5151
24	BG343	NUTS3	Yambol	114361	1.7	3355
25	BG4	NUTS1	Yugozapadna i Yuzhna tsentralna Bulgaria	3461638	50.6	42671
26	BG41	NUTS2	Yugozapaden	2070760	30.3	20306
27	BG413	NUTS3	Blagoevgrad	298251	4.4	6449
28	BG415	NUTS3	Kyustendil	113440	1.7	3052
29	BG414	NUTS3	Pernik	118023	1.7	2394
30	BG412	NUTS3	Sofia	233607	3.4	7062
31	BG411	NUTS3	Sofia (stolitsa)	1307439	19.1	1349
32	BG42	NUTS2	Yuzhen tsentralen	1390878	20.3	22365
33	BG425	NUTS3	Kardzhali	161024	2.4	3209
34	BG423	NUTS3	Pazardzhik	247360	3.6	4457
35	BG421	NUTS3	Plovdiv	662907	9.7	5973
36	BG424	NUTS3	Smolyan	99318	1.5	3193
37	BG422	NUTS3	Haskovo	220269	3.2	5533

<sup>1</sup> NUTS - Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics.

<sup>2</sup> For more information on the NUTS, please visit [the website of NSI](#).



## 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).

**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).

**A mayoralty** is a settlement with a population of over 100 permanent residents. The territory of the mayoralty shall be the territory of the settlement. The name of the mayoralty shall be the name of the settlement, which is its administrative centre (Territorial Administration of the Republic of Bulgaria Act, Art. 14 and Art. 15).

**A settlement** is a historically and functionally separated territory, defined by the presence of a 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 that 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 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/>.

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

Source of data on population number is the Information System Demography of the NSI.

### Computation Methods

The number of administrative-territorial and territorial units is calculated based on the data in the National Register of the Settlements as of 31 December of the reference year. The data is entered into the Register after the promulgation of a decree by the President of the Republic of Bulgaria related to administrative-territorial changes in the country.

The population density per square km is calculated by the total area of the territorial administration units and the population number as of 31 December 2021.



The population number as of 31 December is calculated based on the population data for the previous year, adjusted by the data on the natural population change and the net migration during the reference year. 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. More data on population numbers and structures are available here: <https://infostat.nsi.bg/infostat>.

According to the current Demography statistics data, the population of the country as of the end of 2021 is 6 838 937 persons. Compared to the previous year, it has decreased by 77 611 persons, or by 1.1%. The 18<sup>th</sup> Census of the population and housing fund was conducted in 2021. According to the preliminary assessment<sup>1</sup>, the expected number of the usual resident population of Bulgaria, **as of 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021, is 6 520 314.**

Difference between data for the population number and its structure from the current Demography statistics and censuses is mainly due to the unregistered international migration during the ten-year period between the censuses.

One of the main tasks of the censuses is to determine the real number of the persons who are usual residents of the territory of the country. That is why recalculations of the population based on the results of the census and natural and migration change, calculated from the demography statistics for the respective years, in the census years are made.

After final data entry and processing of the data from Census 2021, the population number will be revised based on the counted population. The procedure will cover a 10-year period as main demographic indicators will be revised.

According to the National Statistical Programme project, the final data from Census 2021 will be presented and published after 1 October 2022.

## Legal basis

Article 135 of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria (State Gazette, No. 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, No. 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, No. 63/1995).

The territorial division of the capital municipality and of the cities with a population over 300 000 is established by the Law on the Administrative Division of Sofia Municipality and Large Cities (State Gazette, No. 66/1995). It provides also the names and the boundaries of the quarters of Sofia municipality, the cities of Plovdiv and Varna.

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<sup>1</sup> [Preliminary assessment of the expected number of the population who is usual resident of the territory of Bulgaria of 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021](#) (Bulgarian version only).



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, No. 154/1998). The borders and their administrative centres have been approved by Decree № 1 of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria (State Gazette, No. 2/1999) following the proposal of the Council of Ministers.

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).

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 (UCATTU) and the National Register of Settlements. The content of the UCATTU and the Register, as well as the corresponding criteria and indicators, are approved by the Council of Ministers based on the proposal of the NSI and the other stakeholders.

The content of the UCATTU was approved by Decision № 565 of the Council of Ministers of 10 August 1999 (State Gazette, No. 73/1999) and it 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 UCATTU.

The content of the National Register of the Settlements was approved by Decision № 695 of Council of Ministers, taken on 29 September 2006. The National Register of the Settlements aims to monitor the development and changes in the administrative-territorial and territorial units (establishing, merging, division, accession, closing down).

Regulation (EC) № 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and the Council establishing a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) was adopted of 26 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 of 20 February 2008 with the new Member States.

More information on the NUTS is available on the [website of NSI](#).