



ADMINISTRATIVE-TERRITORIAL AND TERRITORIAL DIVISION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2022

As of 31 December 2022, the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria is administratively divided into 28 administrative districts and 265 municipalities, within which there are 3 159 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 2022, there were 5 256 settlements in the Republic of Bulgaria, of which 257 towns and 4 999 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.

Amendments to the Unified classifier of administrative-territorial and territorial units (EKATTE) during the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2022:

- *By Decision No. 432 of July 5, 2022 - the Council of Ministers annexes the village of Kamenar (EKATTE code 35691), Pomorie municipality, district of Burgas, to the town of Pomorie (EKATTE code 57491), Pomorie municipality, district of Burgas (Government Gazette, No. 53/08.07.2022);*
- *By Decision No. 891 of 08.02.2022 - Pomorie Municipal Council closes Kamenar mayoralty (EKATTE code BGS17-10), Pomorie Municipality, district Burgas (State gazette issue No. 72/09.09.2022).*

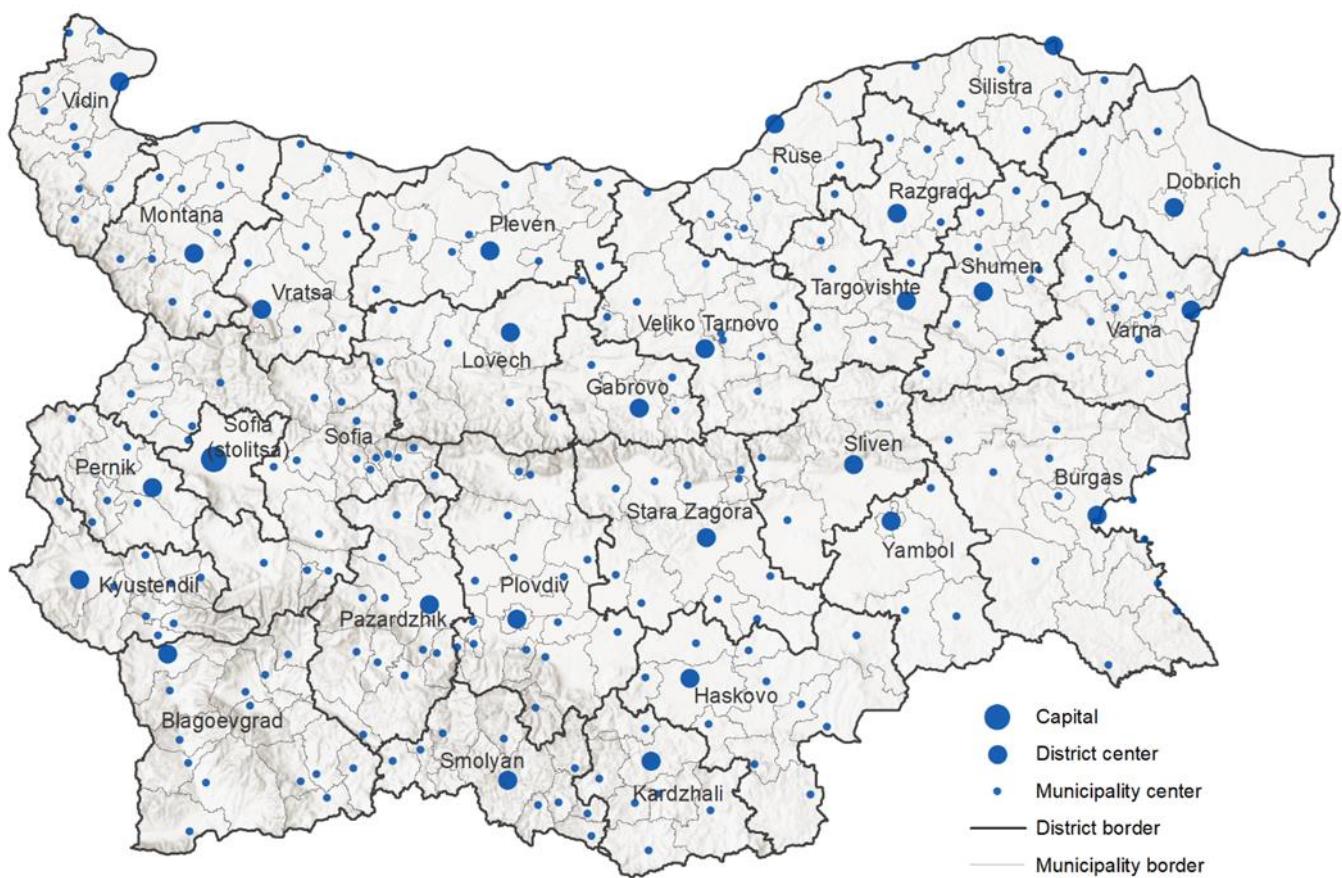
As of 31 December 2022, the following administrative-territorial units exist in Bulgaria:

- Districts - 28;
- Municipalities - 265.

1. Administrative districts in the Republic of Bulgaria as of the end of 2022

The average area of a single administrative district in the Republic of Bulgaria was 3 964 sq. kilometers. 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 2022¹



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 2022^{1,2,3}

№	Districts		Population	Territory	Municipalities	Mayoralties	Towns	Villages
	EKATTE	Name	Number	Sq. km	Number	Number	Number	Number
1	BLG	Blagoevgrad	288161	6459	14	161	13	261
2	BGS	Burgas	378596	7742	13	164	20	229
3	VAR	Varna	430847	3819	12	120	11	148
4	VTR	Veliko Tarnovo	204033	4659	10	114	14	322
5	VID	Vidin	72754	3039	11	67	7	133
6	VRC	Vratsa	148874	3623	10	104	8	115
7	GAB	Gabrovo	95957	2022	4	42	5	344
8	DOB	Dobrich	147208	4714	8	133	6	209
9	KRZ	Kardzhali	142508	3211	7	370	5	463
10	KNL	Kyustendil	108703	3059	9	69	7	175
11	LOV	Lovech	113356	4135	8	80	8	102
12	MON	Montana	116172	3637	11	67	8	122
13	PAZ	Pazardzhik	226209	4458	12	100	13	105
14	PER	Pernik	111746	2397	6	50	6	165
15	PVN	Pleven	220346	4653	11	105	14	109
16	PDV	Plovdiv	631516	5961	18	154	18	194
17	RAZ	Razgrad	101107	2412	7	92	6	97
18	RSE	Ruse	189623	2859	8	67	9	74
19	SLS	Silistra	95614	2845	7	86	5	113
20	SLV	Sliven	170583	3542	4	96	6	104
21	SML	Smolyan	93354	3205	10	117	8	232
22	SFO	Sofia	227610	7071	22	125	18	266
23	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)	1280334	1343	1	32	4	34
24	SZR	Stara Zagora	291852	5148	11	134	11	195
25	TGV	Targovishte	96201	2708	5	130	5	189
26	HKV	Haskovo	207439	5530	11	175	10	251
27	SHU	Shumen	149628	3393	10	129	8	143
28	JAM	Yambol	107379	3353	5	76	4	105

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

² EKATTE - Unified classifier of administrative-territorial and territorial units (UCATTU).

³ Territory - calculated based on the digital cadastral map of the country as of 31.12.2021.

2. Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria as of 31 December 2022

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, Stara Zagora, Ruse, Sliven, Pleven and Pazardzhik. The share of the population in these 8 municipalities represents 40.7% of the total country's population.

At the end of 2022, 142 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 11.9% of the total country's population.

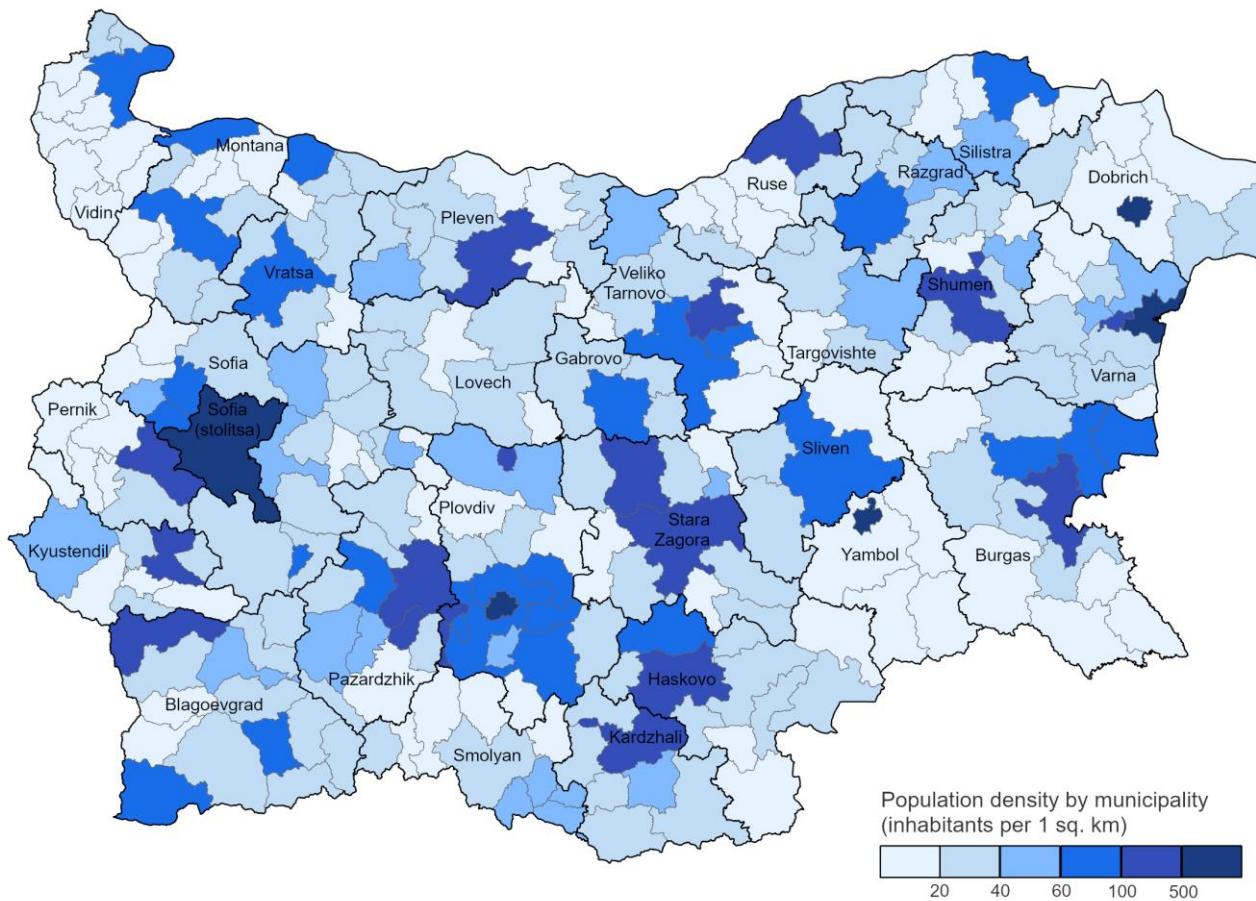
The smallest municipality was Treklyano (Kyustendil district) with 470 inhabitants, followed by Boynitsa municipality (Vidin district) with a population of 740.

On average, the area of one municipality in Bulgaria is 419 sq. kilometers. 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 - Nikolaev (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 2022**





**2. Municipalities with population over 30 000 in the Republic of Bulgaria
as of 31 December 2022**

№	Municipality		Population		District	
	EKATTE	Name	Number	EKATTE	Name	
1	SOF46	Stolichna	1280334	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)	
2	PDV22	Plovdiv	321824	PDV	Plovdiv	
3	VAR06	Varna	319900	VAR	Varna	
4	BGS04	Burgas	194993	BGS	Burgas	
5	SZR31	Stara Zagora	142746	SZR	Stara Zagora	
6	RSE27	Ruse	139226	RSE	Ruse	
7	SLV20	Sliven	111392	SLV	Sliven	
8	PVN24	Pleven	110843	PVN	Pleven	
9	PAZ19	Pazardzhik	90309	PAZ	Pazardzhik	
10	PER32	Pernik	82730	PER	Pernik	
11	HKV34	Haskovo	79939	HKV	Haskovo	
12	SHU30	Shumen	78112	SHU	Shumen	
13	VTR04	Veliko Tarnovo	76834	VTR	Veliko Tarnovo	
14	DOB28	Dobrich	71947	DOB	Dobrich	
15	BLG03	Blagoevgrad	68996	BLG	Blagoevgrad	
16	SZR12	Kazanlak	64558	SZR	Stara Zagora	
17	KRZ16	Kardzhali	62926	KRZ	Kardzhali	
18	JAM26	Yambol	60641	JAM	Yambol	
19	VRC10	Vratsa	60361	VRC	Vratsa	
20	PDV01	Asenovgrad	56950	PDV	Plovdiv	
21	GAB05	Gabrovo	50578	GAB	Gabrovo	
22	TGV35	Targovishte	48302	TGV	Targovishte	
23	KNL29	Kyustendil	47929	KNL	Kyustendil	
24	BLG33	Petrich	46918	BLG	Blagoevgrad	
25	VID09	Vidin	46269	VID	Vidin	
26	PDV13	Karlovo	45897	PDV	Plovdiv	
27	MON29	Montana	44917	MON	Montana	
28	HKV09	Dimitrovgrad	43418	HKV	Haskovo	
29	RAZ26	Razgrad	42778	RAZ	Razgrad	
30	SLS31	Silistra	40686	SLS	Silistra	
31	VTR06	Gorna Oryahovitsa	37475	VTR	Veliko Tarnovo	
32	LOV18	Lovech	37448	LOV	Lovech	
33	KNL48	Dupnitsa	36796	KNL	Kyustendil	
34	BLG40	Sandanski	35266	BLG	Blagoevgrad	
35	SFO39	Samokov	34175	SFO	Sofia	
36	SML31	Smolyan	32776	SML	Smolyan	
37	PAZ08	Velingrad	32457	PAZ	Pazardzhik	
38	PDV26	Rodopi	32235	PDV	Plovdiv	
39	PDV17	Svishtov Maritsa	31637	PDV	Plovdiv	
40	SFO07	Botevgrad	30752	SFO	Sofia	
41	SLV16	Nova Zagora	30081	SLV	Sliven	

Figure 3. Distribution of the number and size of the municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria as of 31 December 2022

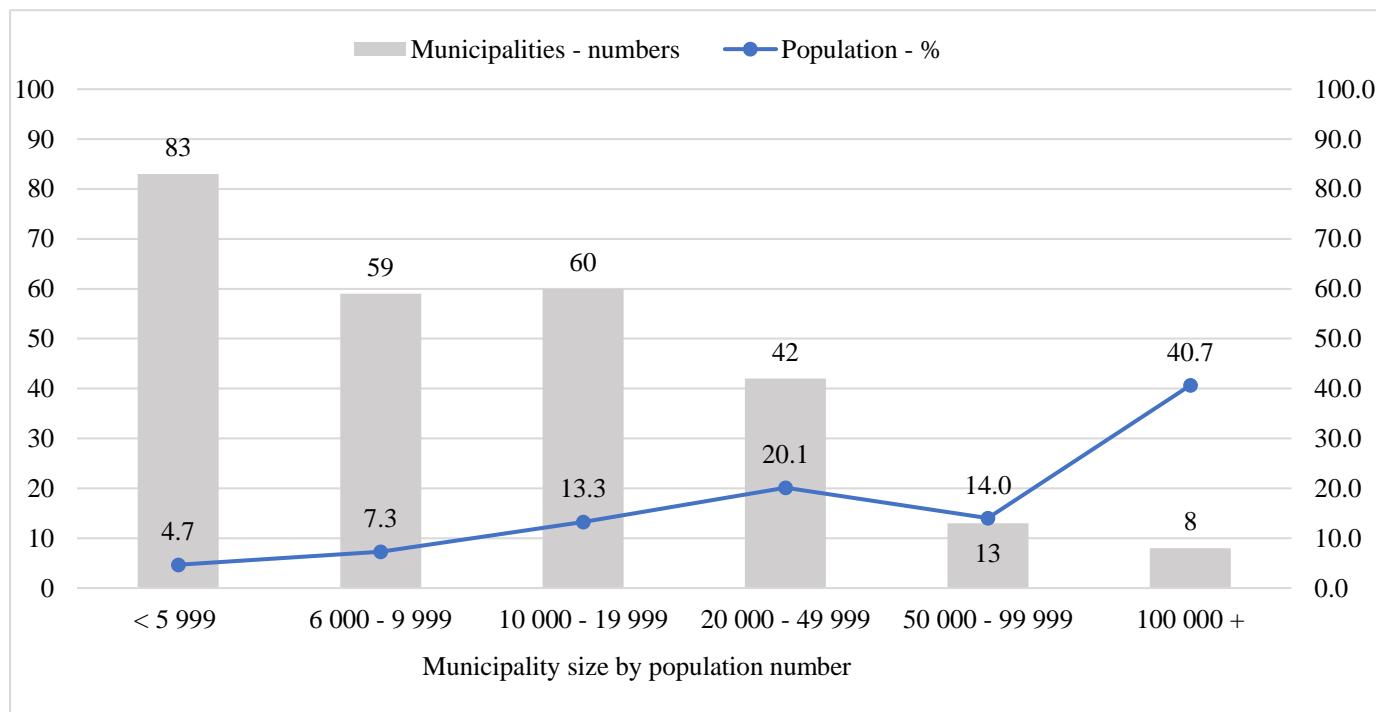
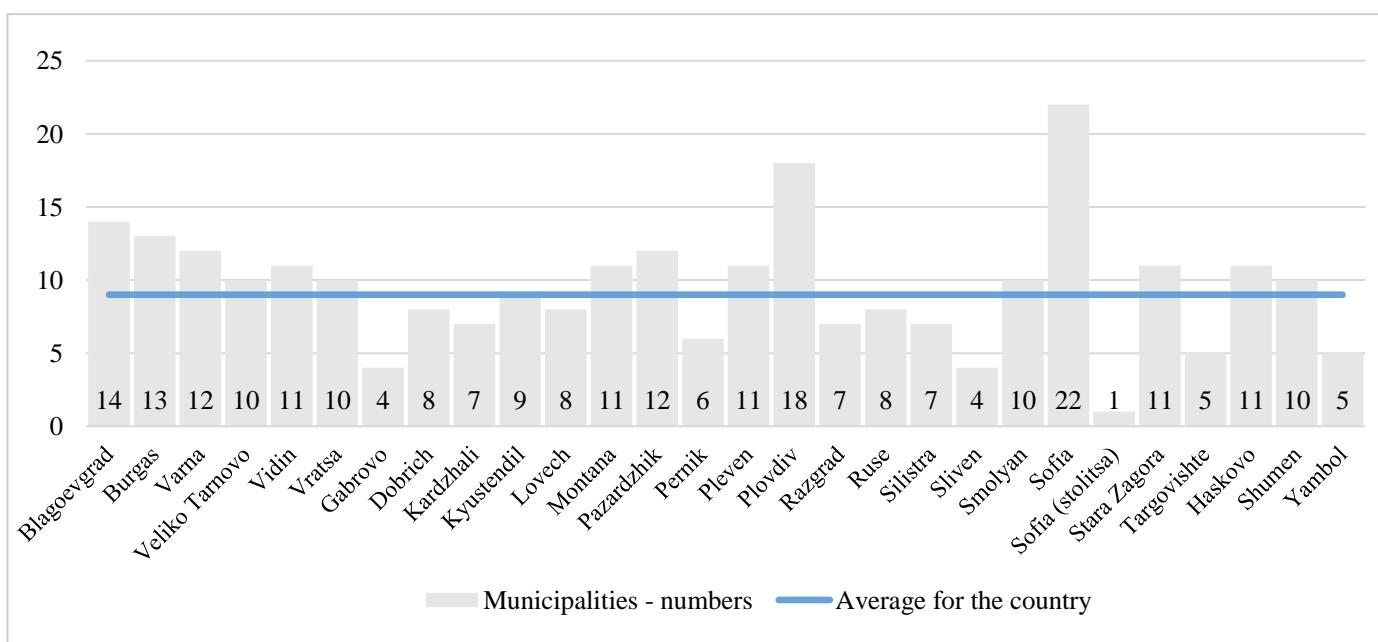
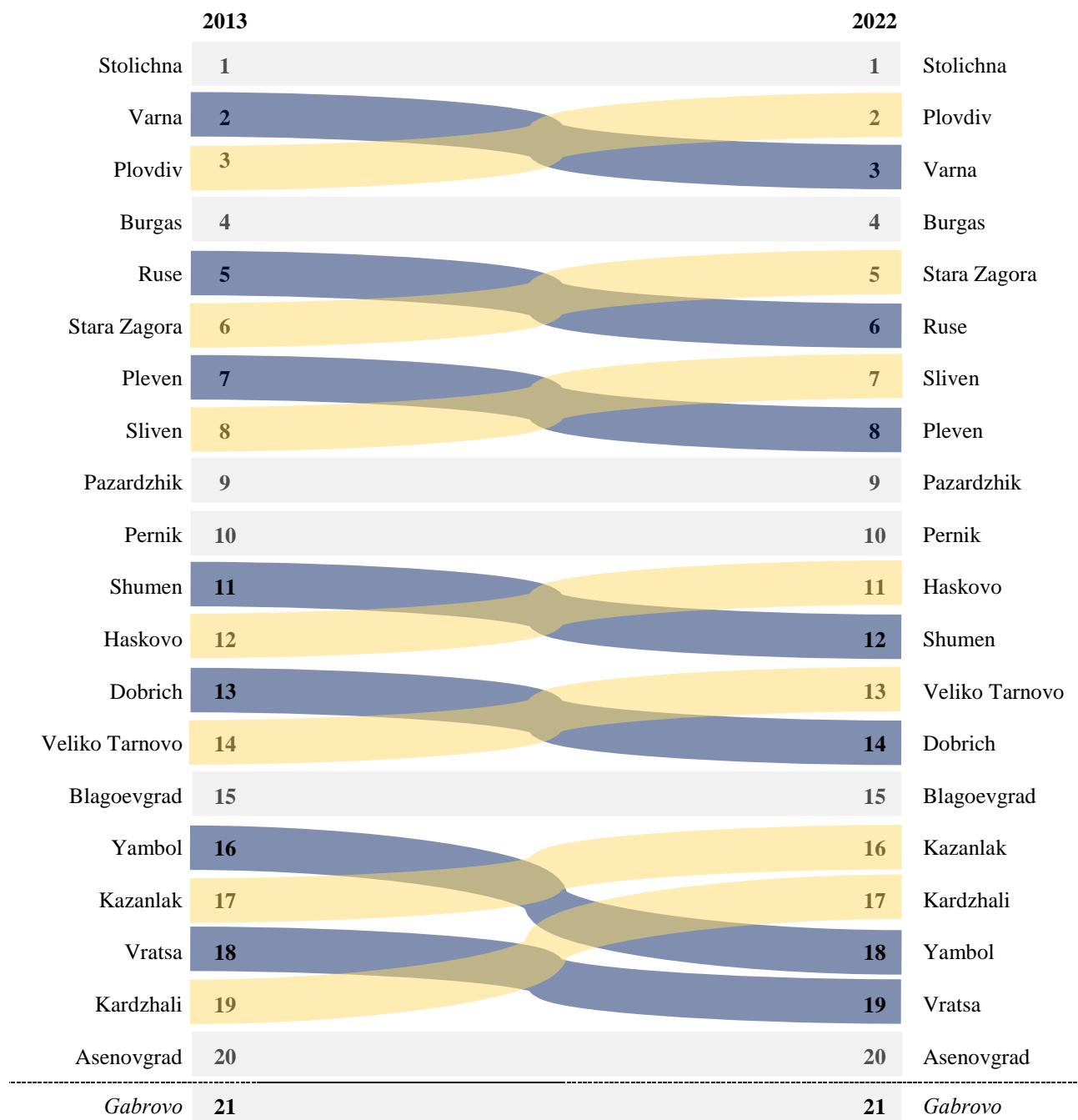


Figure 4. Distribution of the municipalities by districts as of 31 December 2022



**Figure 5. Ranking of the top 20 municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria
by population in 2013 and 2022**





3. Composite territorial administration units (quarters):

- Quarters - 35 (in Stolichna municipality and the cities of Plovdiv and Varna);
- Mayoralties - 3 159.

The population of the capital municipality (Stolichna) is unevenly distributed across its administrative quarters. By the end of 2022, two of them - Lyulin and Mladost, are home to 15.9% 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 11 635 people, or 0.9% of the municipality's population.

The population of the city of Plovdiv is spread more evenly by administrative quarters - with 10.8% for the Zapaden and 22.6% for the Yuzhen.

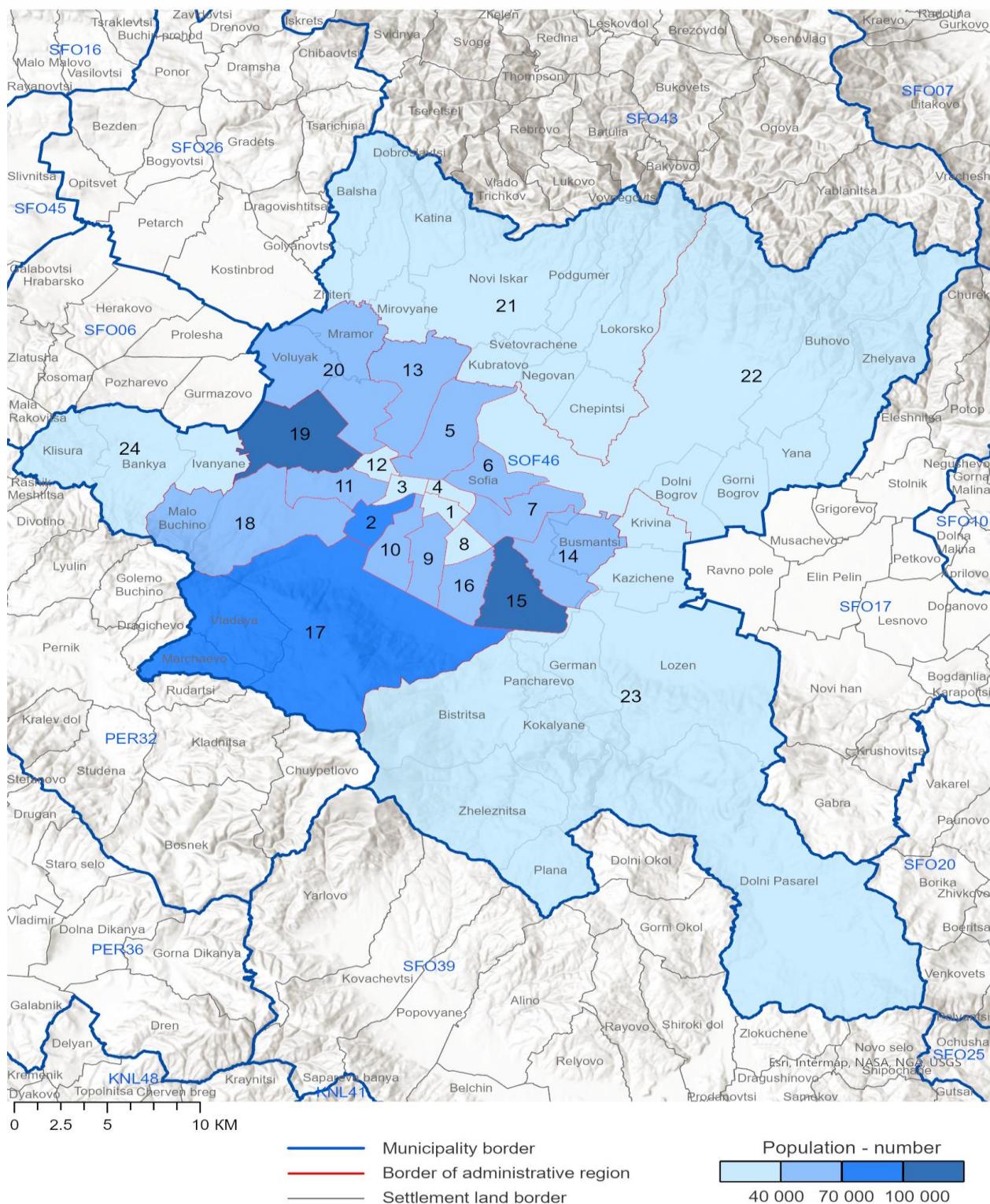
The population distribution in the quarters of the city of Varna ranges from 7.2% for the Asparuhovo quarter to 32.2% for the Primorski - the only quarter of Varna with a population of over 100 000 people.

3. Quarters in Stolichna municipality as of 31 December 2022¹

№	Quarters in Stolichna municipality		Population	
	EKATTE	Name	Number	%
1	68134-01	Sredets	24382	1.9
2	68134-02	Krasno selo	76832	6.0
3	68134-03	Vazrazhdane	35686	2.8
4	68134-04	Oborishte	27442	2.1
5	68134-05	Serdika	41162	3.2
6	68134-06	Poduyane	68999	5.4
7	68134-07	Slatina	63367	4.9
8	68134-08	Izgrev	30825	2.4
9	68134-09	Lozenets	54539	4.3
10	68134-10	Triaditsa	67249	5.3
11	68134-11	Krasna polyana	51372	4.0
12	68134-12	Ilinden	29394	2.3
13	68134-13	Nadezhda	63602	5.0
14	68134-14	Iskar	58698	4.6
15	68134-15	Mladost	101310	7.9
16	68134-16	Studentski	56416	4.4
17	68134-17	Vitosha	71103	5.6
18	68134-18	Ovcha kupel	54350	4.2
19	68134-19	Lyulin	102021	8.0
20	68134-20	Vrabnitsa	42312	3.3
21	68134-21	Novi Iskar	27453	2.1
22	68134-22	Kremikovtsi	21815	1.7
23	68134-23	Pancharevo	27144	2.1
24	68134-24	Bankya	11635	0.9

¹ As of 31 December 2022, 5.6% (71 226 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 2022**



4. Quarters in the city of Plovdiv as of 31 December 2022¹

№	Quarters of Plovdiv		Population	
	EKATTE	Name	Number	%
1	56784-01	Tsentralen	64735	20.1
2	56784-02	Iztochen	41074	12.8
3	56784-03	Zapaden	34613	10.8
4	56784-04	Severen	45490	14.1
5	56784-05	Yuzhen	72826	22.6
6	56784-06	Trakia	50771	15.8

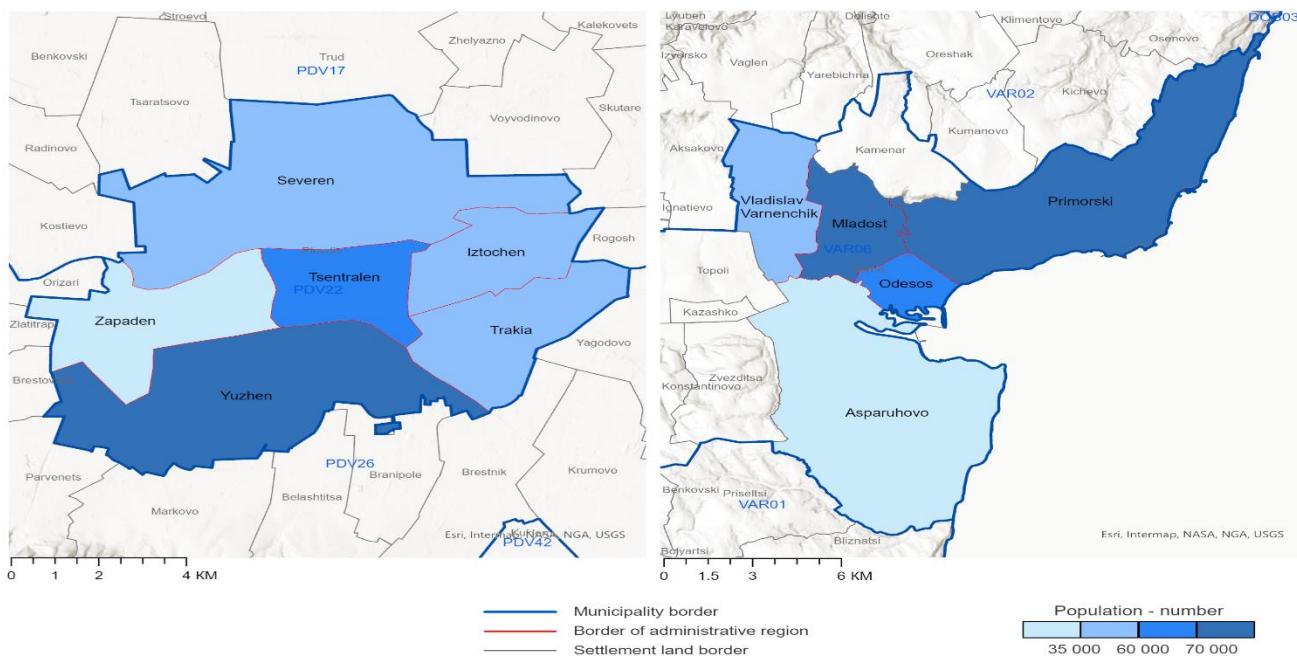
¹ As of 31 December 2022, 3.8% (12 315 persons) of the total population of the city of Plovdiv are not assigned to any of the quarters due to incorrect or incomplete address information.

5. Quarters in the city of Varna as of 31 December 2022¹

№	Quarters of Varna		Population	
	EKATTE	Name	Number	%
1	10135-01	Odesos	68685	22.1
2	10135-02	Primorski	100201	32.2
3	10135-03	Mladost	74766	24.0
4	10135-04	Vladislav Varnenchik	35568	11.4
5	10135-05	Asparuhovo	22465	7.2

¹ As of 31 December 2022, 3.0% (9 408 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.

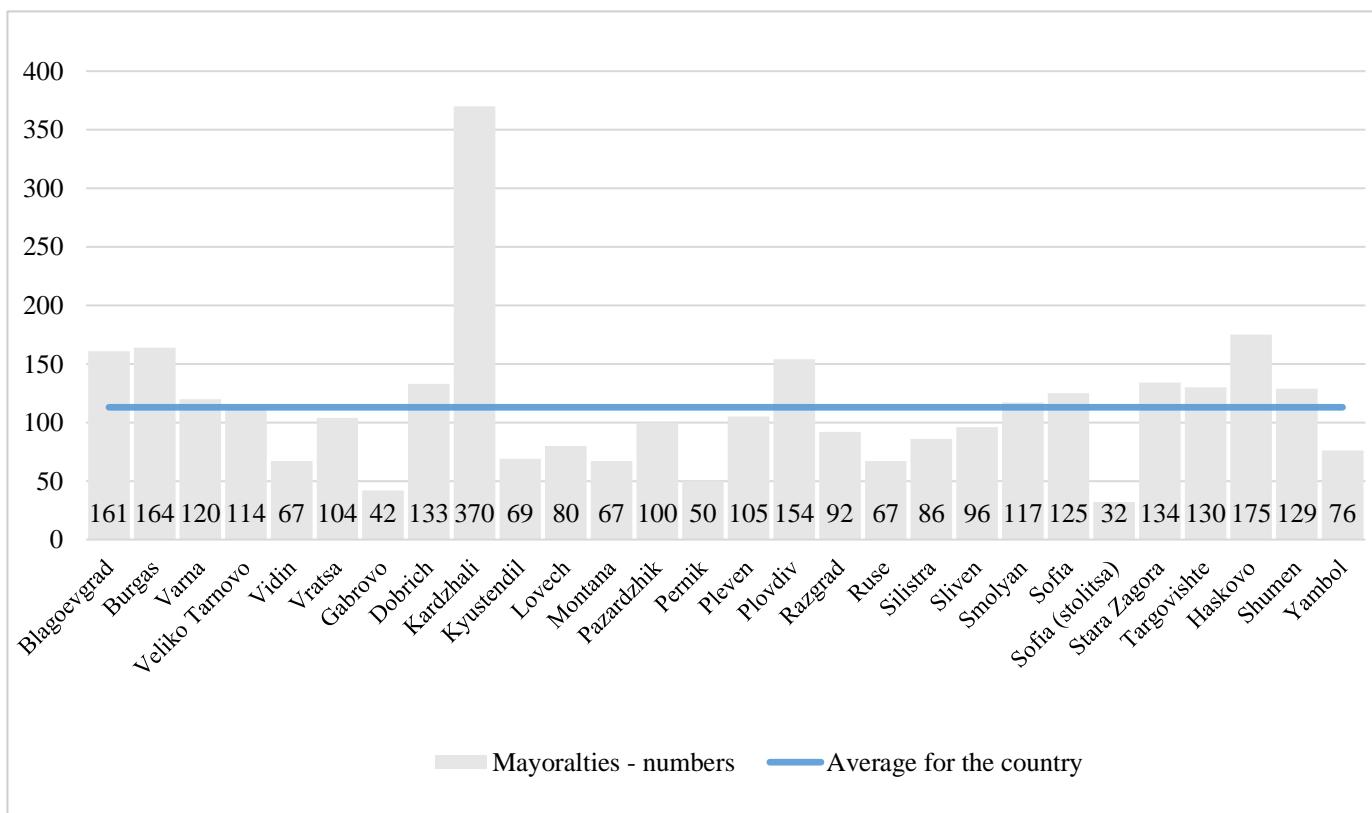
Figure 7. Population distribution by quarters in the cities of Plovdiv and Varna as of 31 December 2022



6. Mayoralties with population over 3 500 in the Republic of Bulgaria as of 31 December 2022

№	Mayoralties		Population		Municipality		Districts	
	EKATTE	Name	Number	EKATTE	Name	EKATTE	Name	
1	SOF46-61	Lozen	6593	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)	
2	SOF46-54	Bistritsa	5953	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)	
3	SLS31-01	Aydemir	5159	SLS31	Silistra	SLS	Silistra	
4	SOF46-58	Kazichene	4988	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)	
5	PAZ08-08	Draginovo	4694	PAZ08	Velingrad	PAZ	Pazardzhik	
6	PDV13-22	Rozino	4316	PDV13	Karlovo	PDV	Plovdiv	
7	PDV17-17	Trud	4111	PDV17	Maritsa	PDV	Plovdiv	
8	PAZ24-02	Kostandovo	3999	PAZ24	Rakitovo	PAZ	Pazardzhik	
9	PDV25-01	Belozem	3787	PDV25	Rakovski	PDV	Plovdiv	
10	PDV26-30	Tsalapitsa	3710	PDV26	Rodopi	PDV	Plovdiv	
11	SLV24-04	Shivachevo	3705	SLV24	Tvarditsa	SLV	Sliven	
12	PVN10-15	Trastenik	3639	PVN10	Dolna Mitropoliya	PVN	Pleven	
13	PDV26-23	Parvenets	3533	PDV26	Rodopi	PDV	Plovdiv	

Figure 8. Distribution of the mayoralties by districts as of 31 December 2022





4. Territorial units in the Republic of Bulgaria as of 31 December 2022:

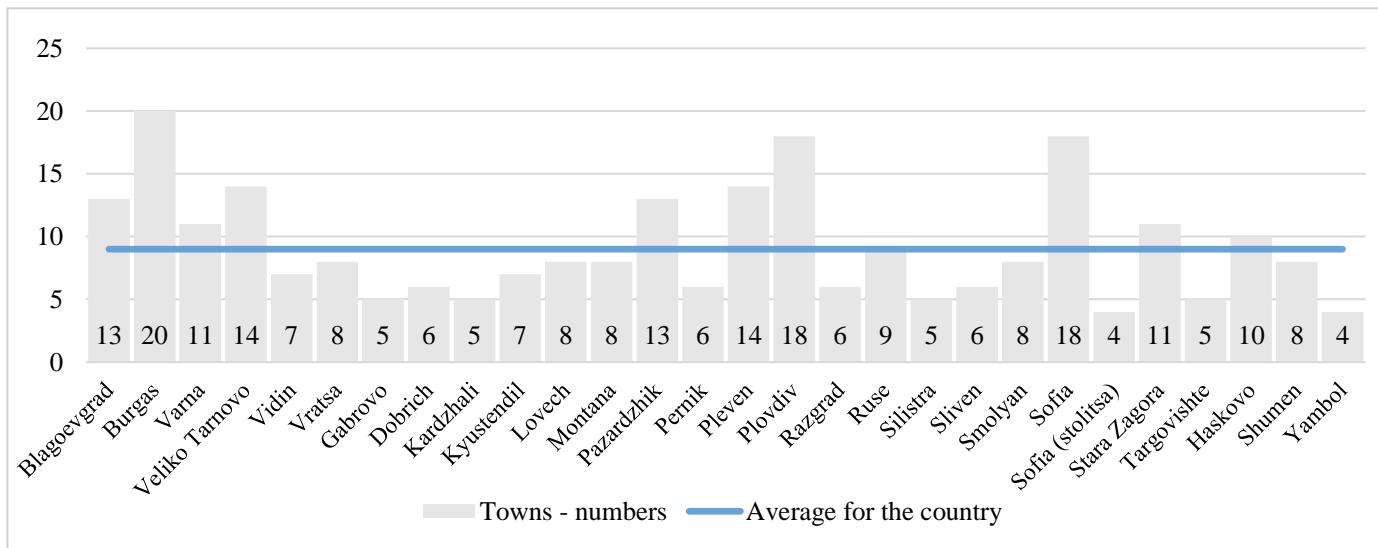
- Settlements - 5 256 (incl. 257 towns and 4 999 villages);
- Settlement formations - 165 (incl. 8 of national and 157 of regional/local importance).

At the end of 2022, there are 205 settlements without a population. The highest number of settlements without population is in the districts of Veliko Tarnovo (69), Gabrovo (68), Kardzhali (9), Smolyan (9) and Kyustendil (9). In 1 249, or 23.8% 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 35.0% of the country's population lives there.

7. Towns with population over 20 000 in the Republic of Bulgaria as of 31 December 2022

№	Town		Population Number	Municipality		District	
	EKATTE	Name		EKATTE	Name	EKATTE	Name
1	68134	Sofia	1190256	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
2	56784	Plovdiv	321824	PDV22	Plovdiv	PDV	Plovdiv
3	10135	Varna	311093	VAR06	Varna	VAR	Varna
4	07079	Burgas	188242	BGS04	Burgas	BGS	Burgas
5	63427	Ruse	123134	RSE27	Ruse	RSE	Ruse
6	68850	Stara Zagora	121582	SZR31	Stara Zagora	SZR	Stara Zagora
7	56722	Pleven	90209	PVN24	Pleven	PVN	Pleven
8	67338	Sliven	79362	SLV20	Sliven	SLV	Sliven
9	72624	Dobrich	71947	DOB28	Dobrich	DOB	Dobrich
10	83510	Shumen	67300	SHU30	Shumen	SHU	Shumen
11	55871	Pernik	66991	PER32	Pernik	PER	Pernik
12	77195	Haskovo	64564	HKV34	Haskovo	HKV	Haskovo
13	04279	Blagoevgrad	62524	BLG03	Blagoevgrad	BLG	Blagoevgrad
14	87374	Yambol	60641	JAM26	Yambol	JAM	Yambol
15	10447	Veliko Tarnovo	59166	VTR04	Veliko Tarnovo	VTR	Veliko Tarnovo
16	55155	Pazardzhik	55220	PAZ19	Pazardzhik	PAZ	Pazardzhik
17	12259	Vratsa	49569	VRC10	Vratsa	VRC	Vratsa
18	00702	Asenovgrad	45473	PDV01	Asenovgrad	PDV	Plovdiv
19	14218	Gabrovo	44786	GAB05	Gabrovo	GAB	Gabrovo
20	35167	Kazanlak	41768	SZR12	Kazanlak	SZR	Stara Zagora
21	40909	Kardzhali	40937	KRZ16	Kardzhali	KRZ	Kardzhali
22	48489	Montana	36633	MON29	Montana	MON	Montana
23	41112	Kyustendil	35100	KNL29	Kyustendil	KNL	Kyustendil
24	10971	Vidin	34797	VID09	Vidin	VID	Vidin
25	73626	Targovishte	32957	TGV35	Targovishte	TGV	Targovishte
26	21052	Dimitrovgrad	31187	HKV09	Dimitrovgrad	HKV	Haskovo
27	61710	Razgrad	28509	RAZ26	Razgrad	RAZ	Razgrad
28	43952	Lovech	27910	LOV18	Lovech	LOV	Lovech
29	66425	Silistra	27727	SLS31	Silistra	SLS	Silistra
30	68789	Dupnitsa	26973	KNL48	Dupnitsa	KNL	Kyustendil
31	56126	Petrich	26093	BLG33	Petrich	BLG	Blagoevgrad
32	16359	Gorna Oryahovitsa	25764	VTR06	Gorna Oryahovitsa	VTR	Veliko Tarnovo
33	67653	Smolyan	24920	SML31	Smolyan	SML	Smolyan
34	65231	Samokov	24186	SFO39	Samokov	SFO	Sofia
35	65334	Sandanski	23844	BLG40	Sandanski	BLG	Blagoevgrad
36	10450	Velingrad	20031	PAZ08	Velingrad	PAZ	Pazardzhik

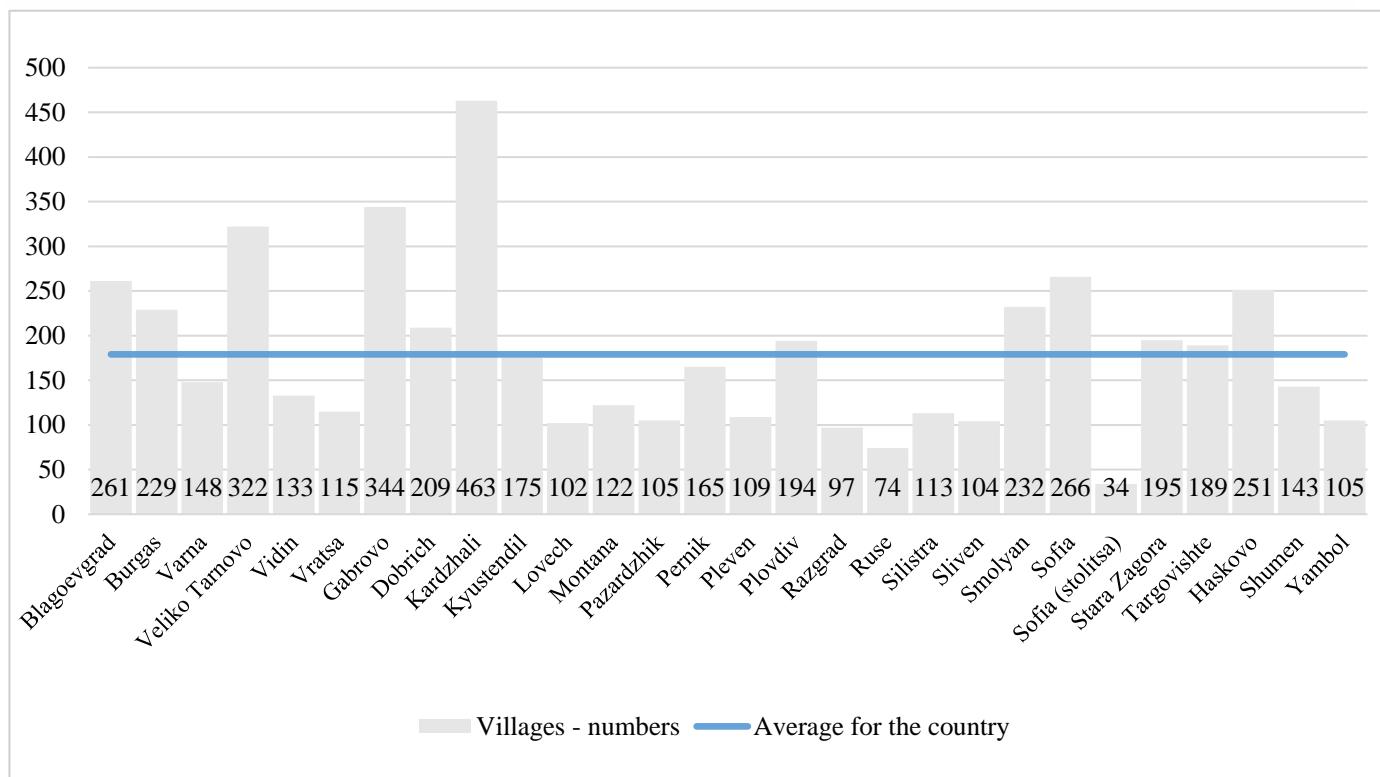
Figure 9. Distribution of the towns by districts as of 31 December 2022



8. Villages with population over 3 000 in the Republic of Bulgaria as of 31 December 2022

№	Villages		Population	Municipality		Districts	
	EKATTE	Name		Number	EKATTE	Name	EKATTE
1	44063	Lozen	6593	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
2	04234	Bistritsa	5953	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
3	00895	Aydemir	5159	SLS31	Silistra	SLS	Silistra
4	35239	Kazichene	4988	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
5	23234	Draginovo	4694	PAZ08	Velingrad	PAZ	Pazardzhik
6	62949	Rozino	4316	PDV13	Karlovo	PDV	Plovdiv
7	73242	Trud	4111	PDV17	Maritsa	PDV	Plovdiv
8	03620	Belozem	3787	PDV25	Rakovski	PDV	Plovdiv
9	78029	Tsalapitsa	3710	PDV26	Rodopi	PDV	Plovdiv
10	59032	Parvenets	3533	PDV26	Rodopi	PDV	Plovdiv
11	11394	Vladaya	3404	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
12	72816	Topolchane	3374	SLV20	Sliven	SLV	Sliven
13	12283	Vrachesh	3344	SFO07	Botevgrad	SFO	Sofia
14	52012	Novi han	3343	SFO17	Elin Pelin	SFO	Sofia
15	06306	Breznitsa	3326	BLG11	Gotse Delchev	BLG	Blagoevgrad
16	41143	Kalipetrovo	3293	SLS31	Silistra	SLS	Silistra
17	47295	Markovo	3248	PDV26	Rodopi	PDV	Plovdiv
18	18490	Elin Pelin	3214	SFO17	Elin Pelin	SFO	Sofia
19	38916	Kostenets	3154	SFO25	Kostenets	SFO	Sofia
20	62858	Rogosh	3154	PDV17	Maritsa	PDV	Plovdiv
21	55419	Pancharevo	3133	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
22	12084	Voluyak	3124	SOF46	Stolichna	SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)
23	59077	Parvomay	3106	BG413	Petrich	BLG	Blagoevgrad
24	06505	Brestovitsa	3089	PDV26	Rodopi	PDV	Plovdiv
25	72709	Topoli	3088	VAR06	Varna	VAR	Varna
26	06999	Bukovlak	3069	PVN24	Pleven	PVN	Pleven
27	17436	Gradets	3023	SLV11	Kotel	SLV	Sliven

Figure 10. Distribution of the villages by districts as of 31 December 2022



9. Settlement formations of national importance in the Republic of Bulgaria as of 31 December 2022

№	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“ ¹	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		

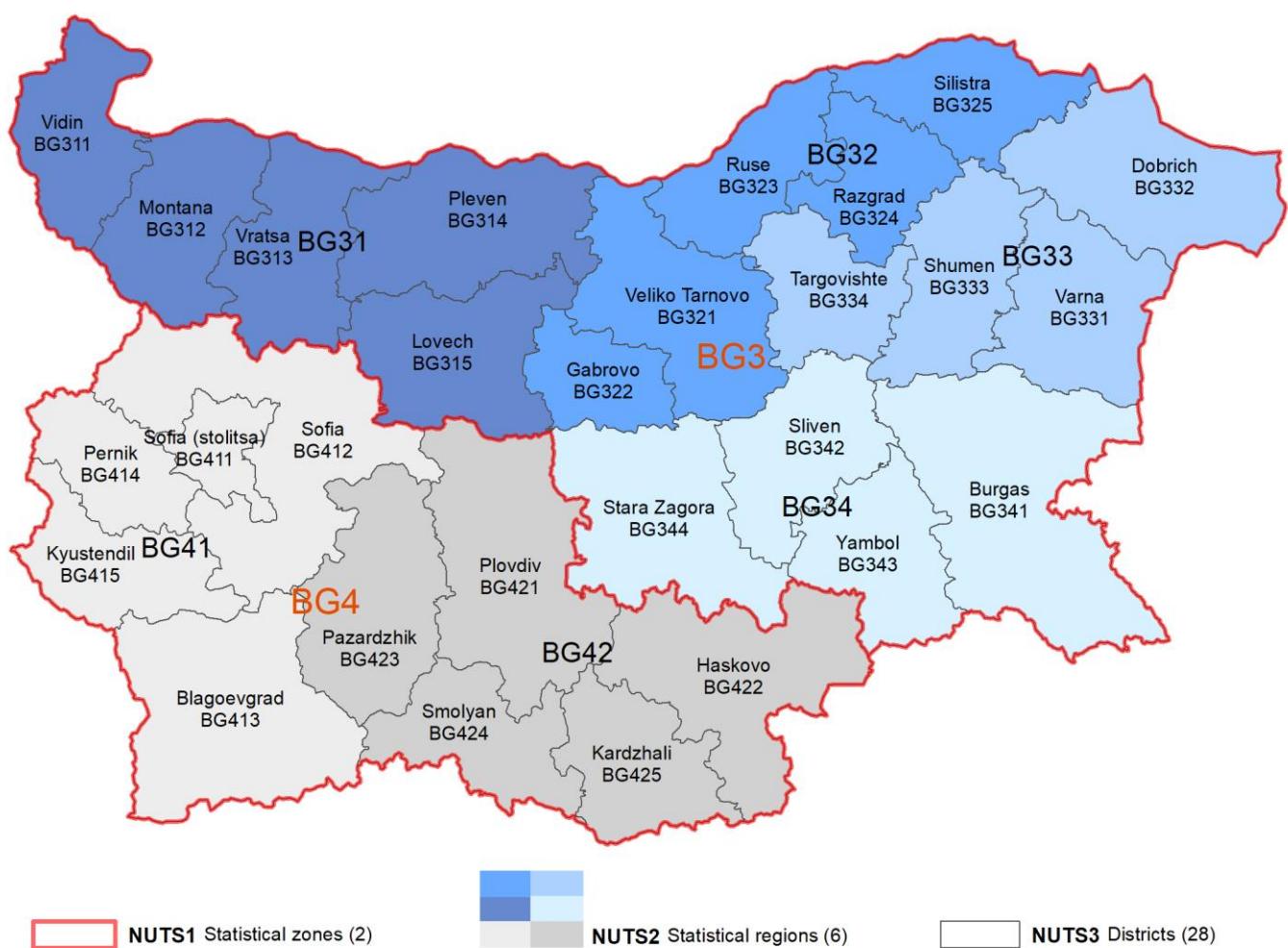
¹ IYC - International Youth Center.

5. Territorial Units for Statistics as of 31 December 2022

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 2022^{1,2}

№	Code	Level	NUTS	Population		Territory
				Number	%	
1	BG	NUTS0	Bulgaria	6447710	100.0	110997
2	<i>BG3</i>	<i>NUTS1</i>	<i>Severna i Yugoiztochna Bulgaria</i>	3130130	48.5	68303
3	BG31	NUTS2	Severozapaden	671502	10.4	19087
4	BG311	NUTS3	Vidin	72754	1.1	3039
5	BG313	NUTS3	Vratsa	148874	2.3	3623
6	BG315	NUTS3	Lovech	113356	1.8	4135
7	BG312	NUTS3	Montana	116172	1.8	3637
8	BG314	NUTS3	Pleven	220346	3.4	4653
9	BG32	NUTS2	Severen tsentralen	686334	10.6	14797
10	BG321	NUTS3	Veliko Tarnovo	204033	3.2	4659
11	BG322	NUTS3	Gabrovo	95957	1.5	2022
12	BG324	NUTS3	Razgrad	101107	1.6	2412
13	BG323	NUTS3	Ruse	189623	2.9	2859
14	BG325	NUTS3	Silistra	95614	1.5	2845
15	BG33	NUTS2	Severoiztochen	823884	12.8	14634
16	BG331	NUTS3	Varna	430847	6.7	3819
17	BG332	NUTS3	Dobrich	147208	2.3	4714
18	BG334	NUTS3	Targovishte	96201	1.5	2708
19	BG333	NUTS3	Shumen	149628	2.3	3393
20	BG34	NUTS2	Yugoiztochen	948410	14.7	19785
21	BG341	NUTS3	Burgas	378596	5.9	7742
22	BG342	NUTS3	Sliven	170583	2.6	3542
23	BG344	NUTS3	Stara Zagora	291852	4.5	5148
24	BG343	NUTS3	Yambol	107379	1.7	3353
25	<i>BG4</i>	<i>NUTS1</i>	<i>Yugozapadna i Yuzhna tsentralna Bulgaria</i>	3317580	51.5	42694
26	BG41	NUTS2	Yugozapaden	2016554	31.3	20329
27	BG413	NUTS3	Blagoevgrad	288161	4.5	6459
28	BG415	NUTS3	Kyustendil	108703	1.7	3059
29	BG414	NUTS3	Pernik	111746	1.7	2397
30	BG412	NUTS3	Sofia	227610	3.5	7071
31	BG411	NUTS3	Sofia (stolitsa)	1280334	19.9	1343
32	BG42	NUTS2	Yuzhen tsentralen	1301026	20.2	22365
33	BG425	NUTS3	Kardzhali	142508	2.2	3211
34	BG423	NUTS3	Pazardzhik	226209	3.5	4458
35	BG421	NUTS3	Plovdiv	631516	9.8	5961
36	BG424	NUTS3	Smolyan	93354	1.4	3205
37	BG422	NUTS3	Haskovo	207439	3.2	5530

¹ NUTS - Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics.

² 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.



Territory by sq. km is calculated based on the digital cadastral map as of 31.12.2021 using GIS tools and the BGS2005 UTM35N coordinate system.

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. The estimation of the population as of 31.12.2022 reflect changes in the number and structure of the population registered during Census 2021.

More data on population numbers and structures are available here: <https://infostat.nsi.bg/infostat>.

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.

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.