



Republic of Bulgaria
Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

National Demographic Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria (2006 - 2020)

Dr. Yassen Yanev, Deputy Minister



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**The Demographic policy
is among the highest priorities, set in the
Programme of the Bulgarian government for
the period 2005-2009**

**(by the Council of Ministers' Decision № 916
on November 30, 2005)**



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Negative demographic trends in Bulgaria

Decrease of the number of population

The natural population increase is negative

Decrease of fertility rate

Decrease and ageing of birth contingents

**Decrease of the population under 15 years and the
potential labour force**

Ageing of the population

High overall mortality rate

Low life expectancy

Increase of internal and external migration

Settlements and regions are depopulating



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Negative demographic trends in Bulgaria are more extreme and more influential to social systems compared to other European countries.

That is why the National Demographic Strategy of the country was adopted.



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The Council of Ministers adopted the National Demographic Strategy (2006-2020) with a Decision № 625 on August 22, 2006, and delegated monitoring and control of its implementation to the Minister of Labour and Social Policy.



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Bulgaria is one of the few countries in Europe and among the first of the new member states of the EU to develop a long-term national demographic strategy.

The National Strategy is a fundamental document that formulates priorities and tasks focused on slowing the population decrease rate, bringing about a stabilization trend in the long-run, and making possible the high quality of the human capital.



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Basic principles of the National Demographic Strategy of Bulgaria

Lawfulness
Prevention
Effectiveness
Efficacy
Coherency
Public-Private Partnership
Transparency and control of performance
Sustainability of results



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Specific principles

All couples and individuals have the right to freely manage their reproductive life and behaviour

Family is a basic component of society and has to be supported

Children are a priority of the State and the families

Spouses have equal rights and responsibilities in child-raising and upbringing



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Strategic Aim

The main goal for the period 2006-2020 of the Demographic Strategy is to slow down the rate of decrease of population and achieve its stabilization in the long run; to ensure high quality of the human capital, including people with their health condition, level of education, abilities, and skills.



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Priorities

Slowing down the negative demographic processes and the decrease of population number

Overcoming the negative effects of population ageing and improving the quality characteristics of human capital

Achieving social cohesion and creating equal opportunities for an ample reproductive life for all social groups

Limiting the disproportions in the territorial distribution of the population and the depopulation of some regions and villages



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Basic Directions

- 1. Encouraging the increase of birth rate through the creation of conditions favorable for child-raising and upbringing**
- 2. Increasing the life expectancy**
- 3. Significantly decreasing the number of emigrating young people in reproductive age**
- 4. Elaborating an adequate immigration policy**



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Basic Directions

5. Overcoming the effects of population ageing

6. Improving the reproductive health of the population and preventing infertility

7. Increasing the general educational level and knowledge on population issues, as well as on sexual and reproductive health



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Basic Directions

8. Ensuring equal opportunities for an adequate reproductive life in good health for all social groups

9. Developing solidarity between generations

10. Limiting the disproportions in the territorial distribution of the population and the depopulation in some regions and in rural areas

11. Improving and synchronizing the legal basis of the demographic development



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The National Demographic Strategy of Bulgaria for the period 2006-2020 is being implemented through national annual plans.

Until now there were adopted and implemented three annual plans – for the years 2006, 2007 and 2008.



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**Some of the important
programmes and measures of the
Bulgarian government,
undertaken for the last three years
in response to the demographic
challenges**



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A National Programme "Social Investments in Children";
Increase of the amount of the single allowances for childbirth and upbringing, with a focus on the second childbirth in the family;
Increase of the amount of the monthly allowances for a child until completion of secondary education, but not beyond the age of twenty;
Increase of the paid pregnancy and maternity leave from 135 to 315 days for each child;
Introduction of a paid paternity leave;
A Programme "In Support of Motherhood" was launched – for hiring unemployed child-minders, including retired grandmothers and grandfathers to look after their grandparents;
Development of the measures for protection and of the services for children upbringing, with a focus on responsible parenting;
Preparation of a Concept and a National Programme on "active ageing"



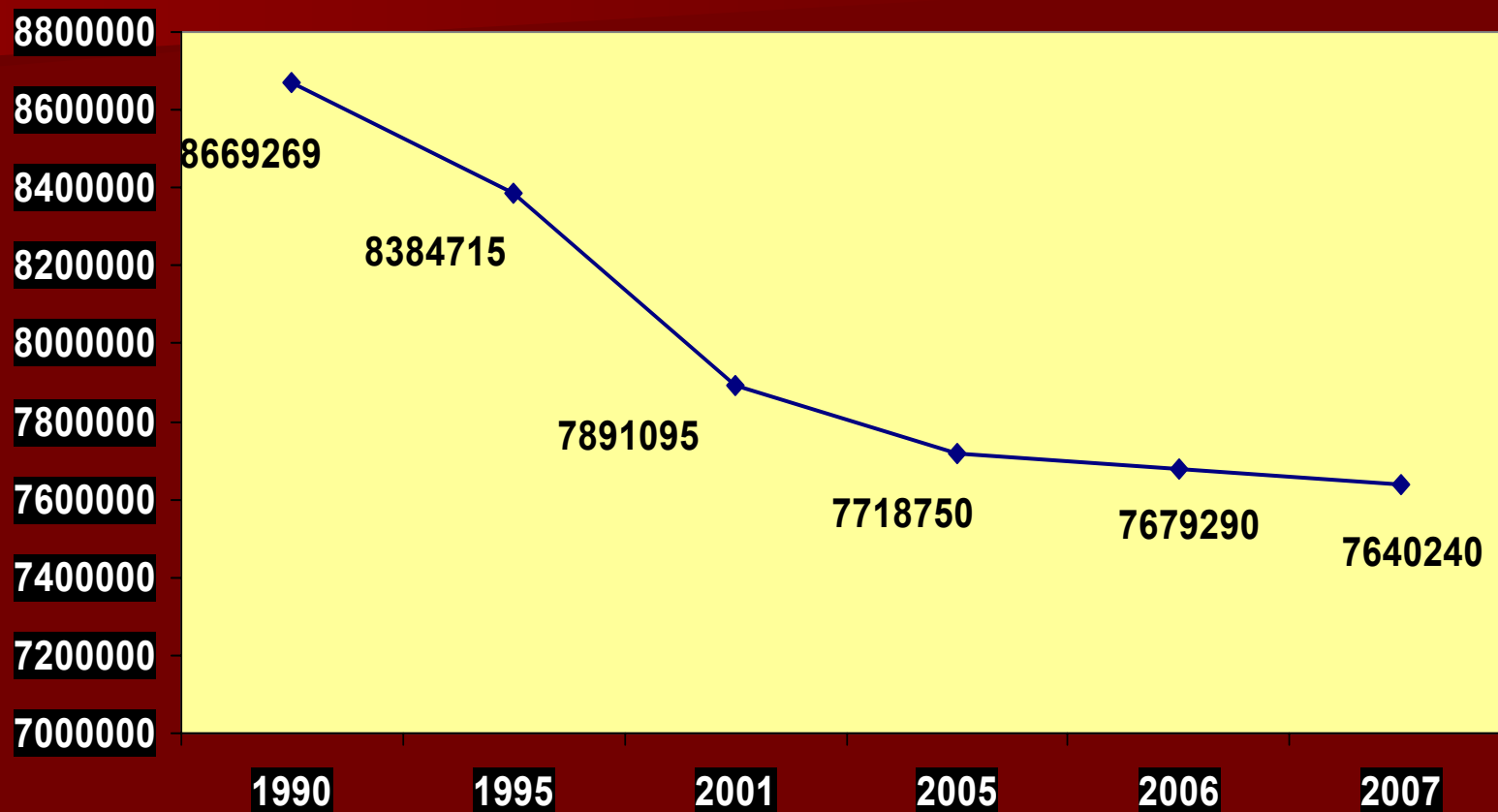
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Achievements

**as a result of the undertaken
integrated demographic policy**



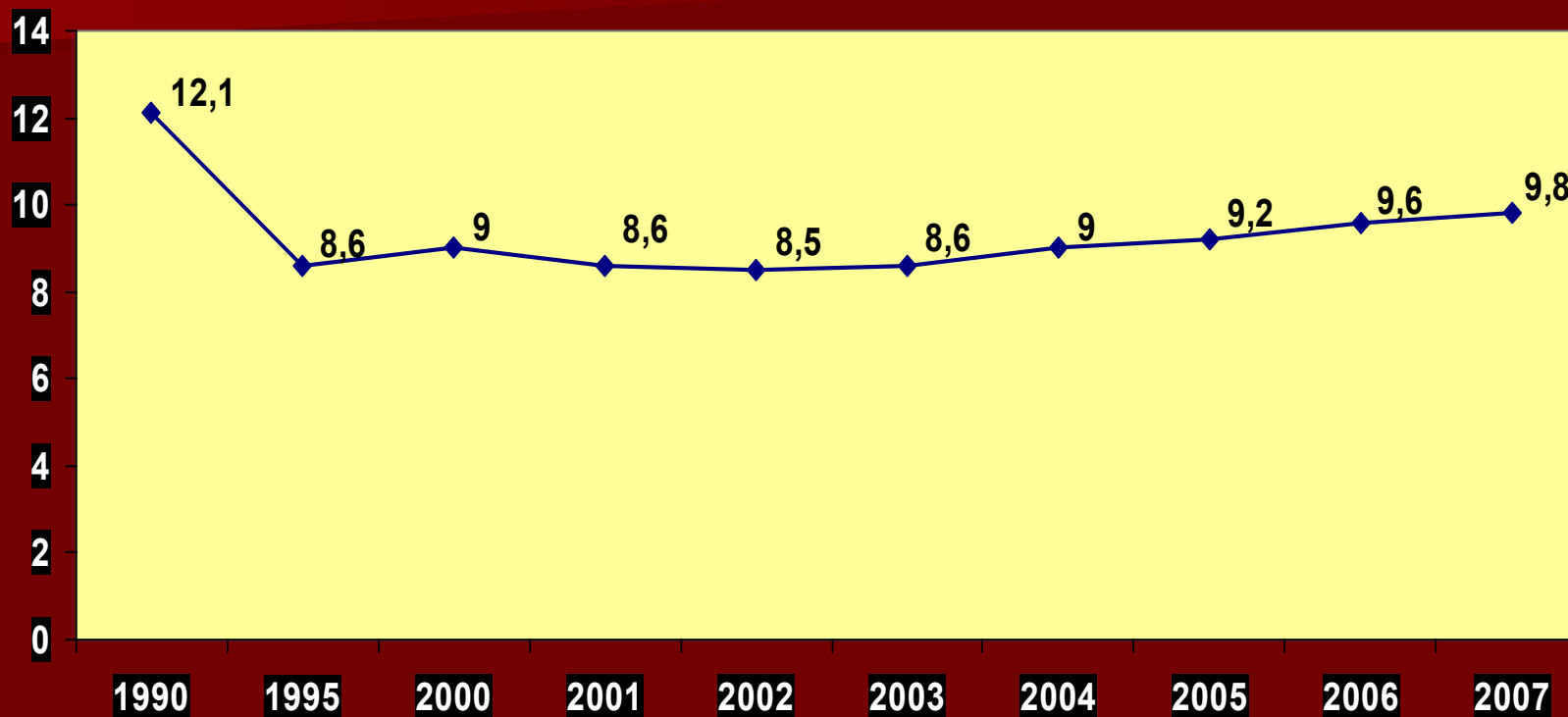
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The decrease of the number of population has been slowed down



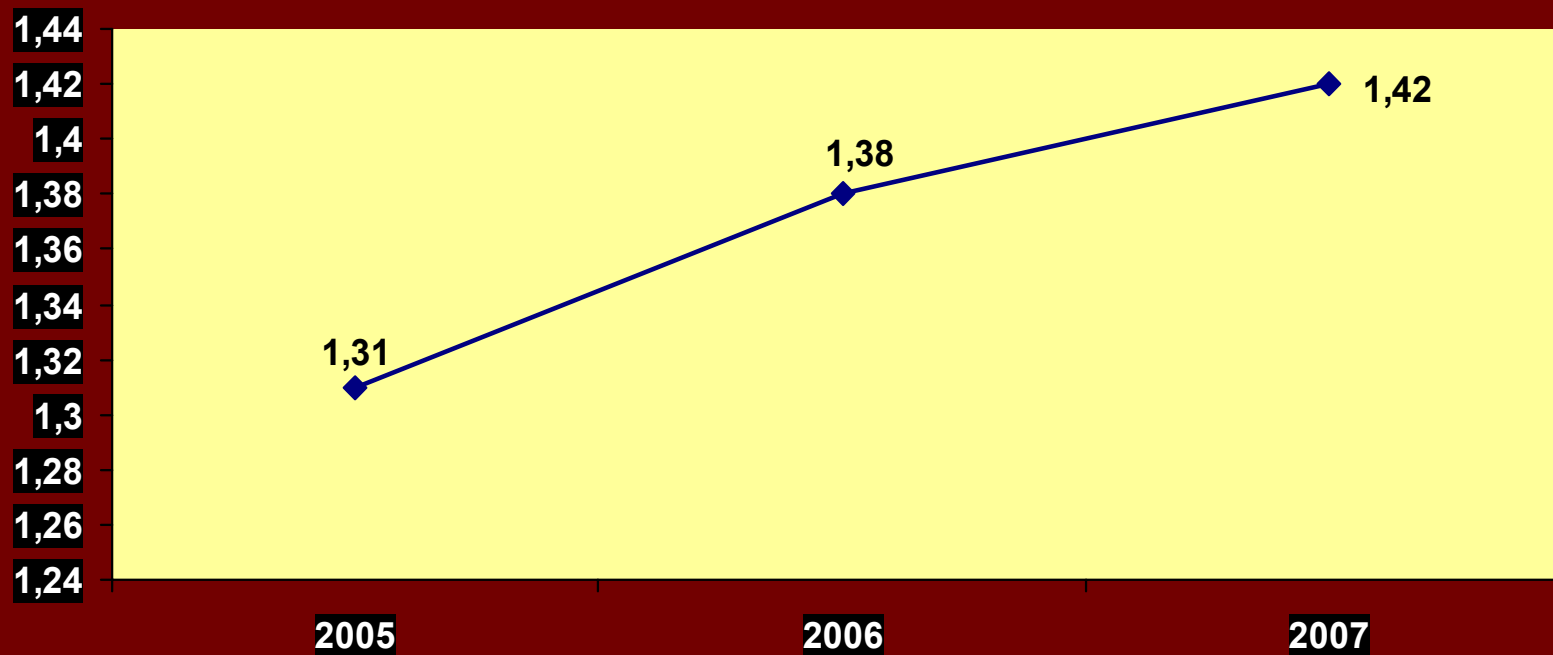
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After the sharp decrease of birth rate in the period 1990 – 1995, a trend of its increase has been registered



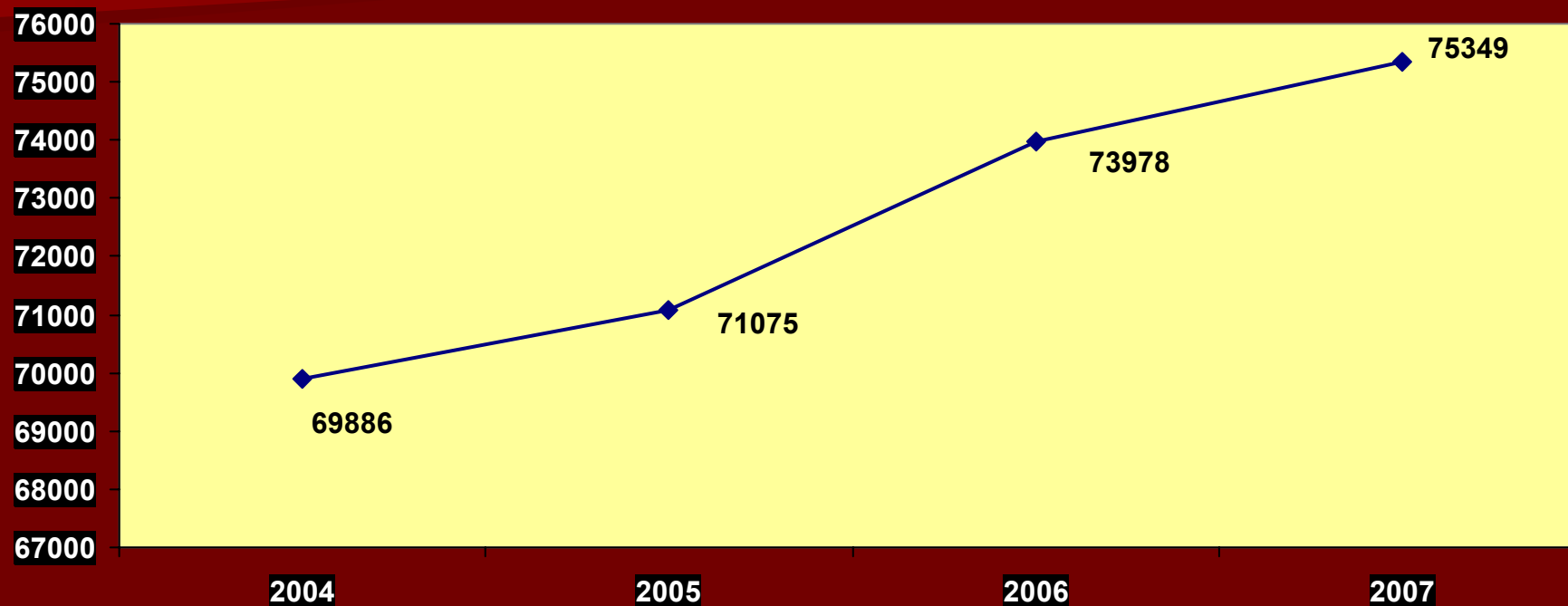
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The fertility rate has increased for the period 2005 – 2007.



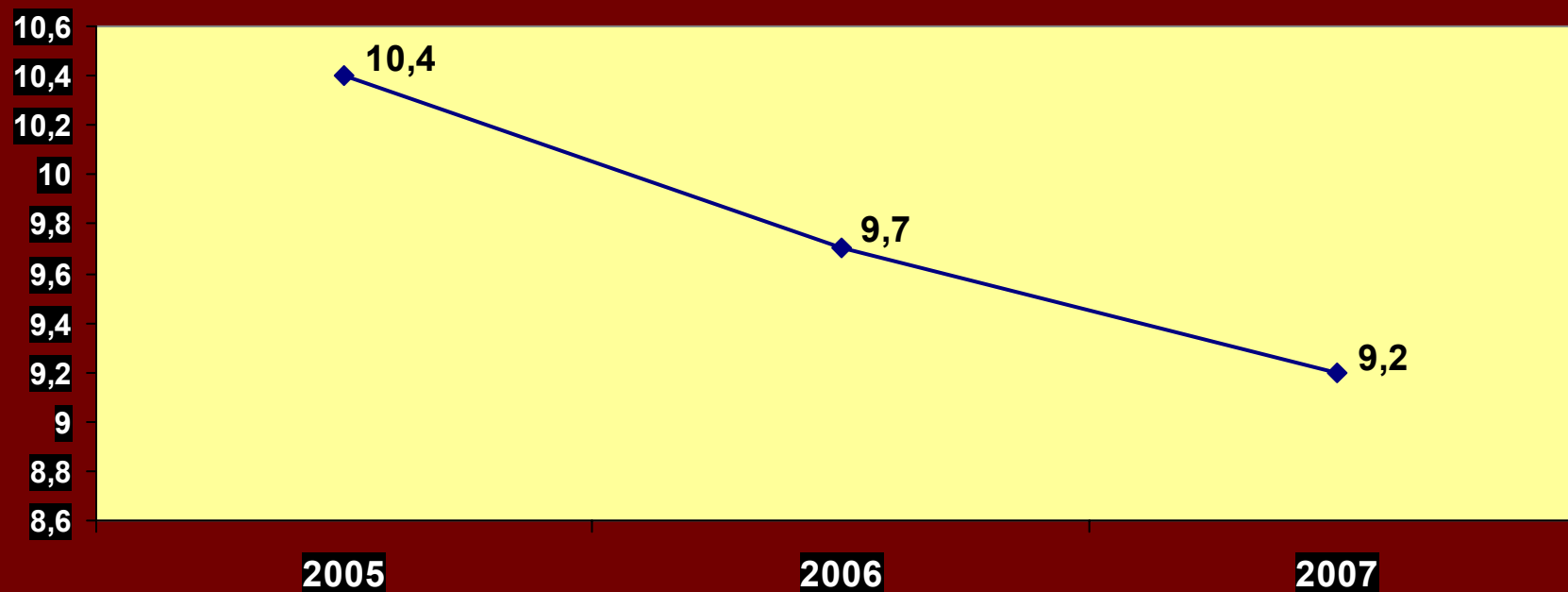
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From 2004 onwards a trend of increase of the number of the children born alive has been registered .



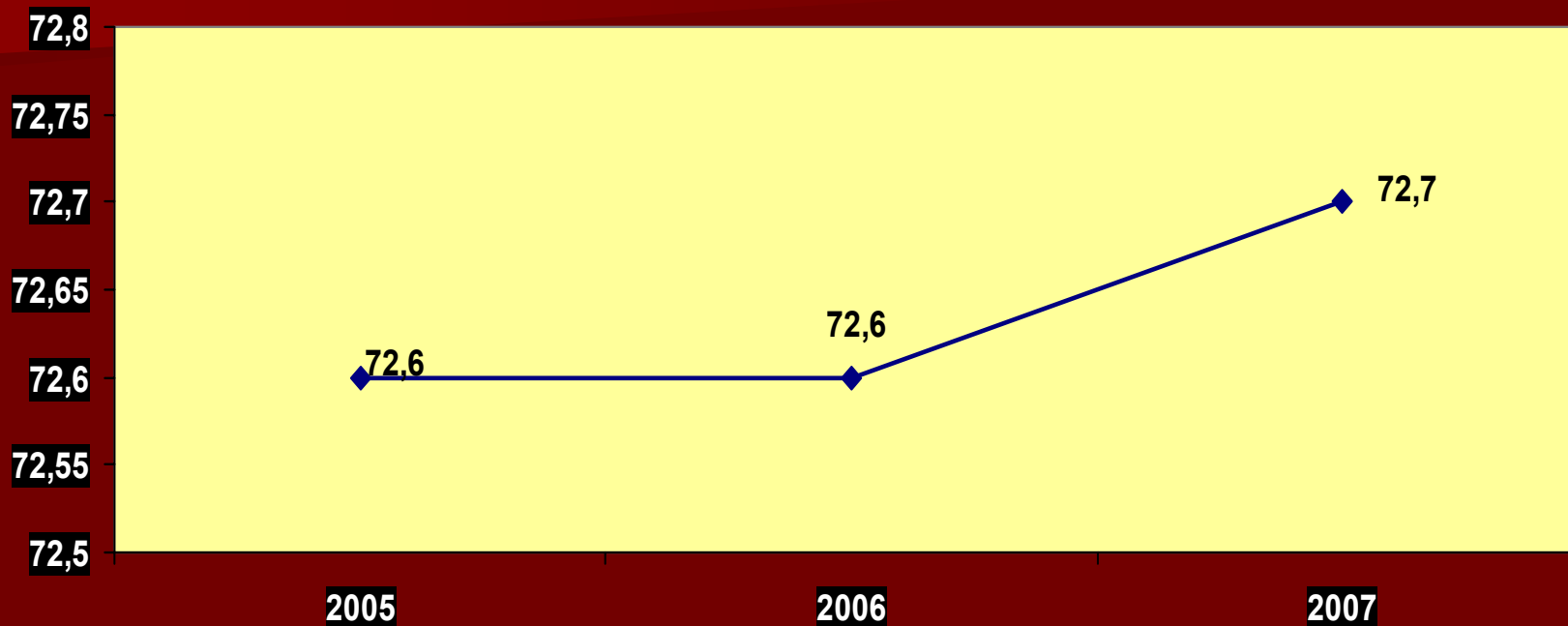
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From 2005 to 2007 a decrease of child mortality rate has been registered.



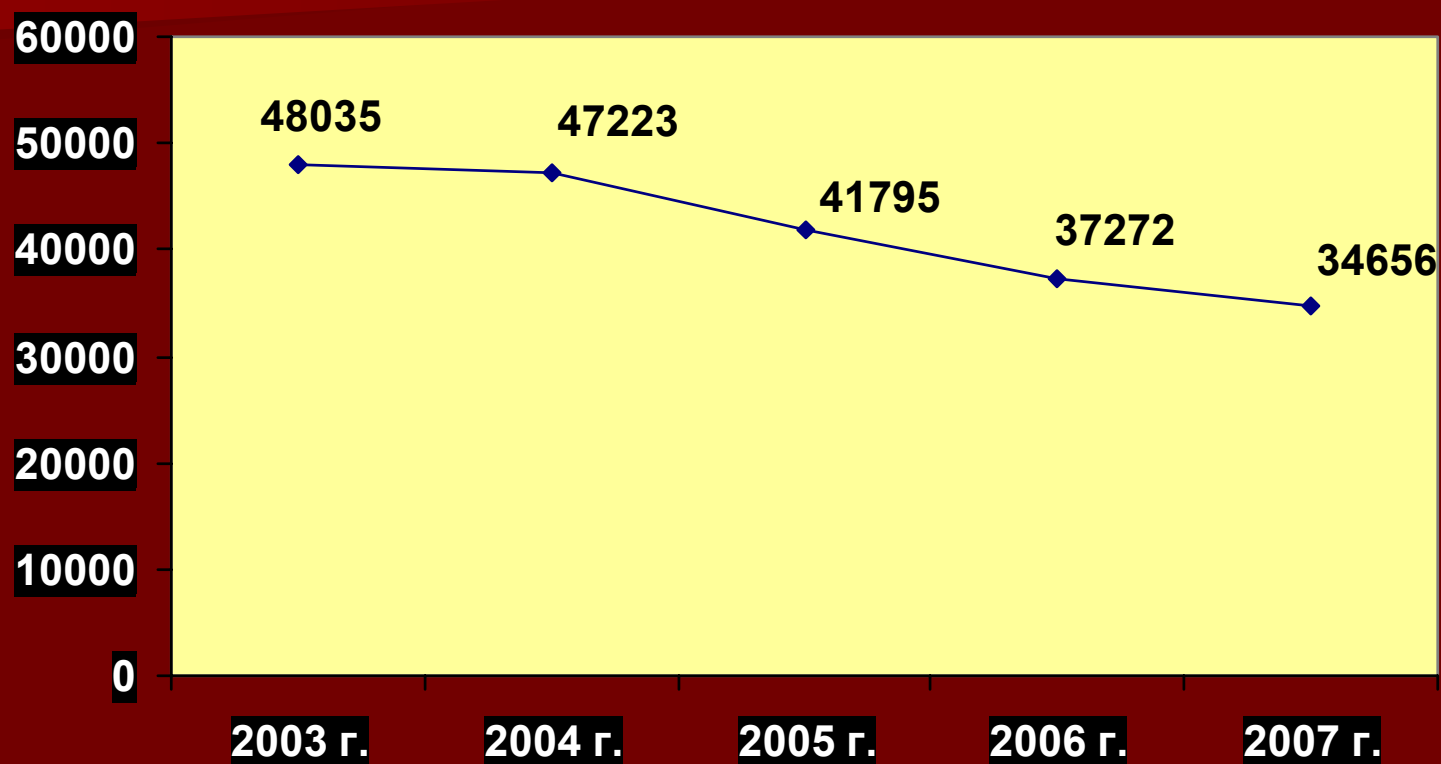
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**Life expectancy for the period 2005 – 2007 is one and the same,
as the increase for 2007 is 0,1 point.**



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The number of abortions decreases



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Development of the demographic policy in two main sub-periods:

Until 2010

The actions and priorities will be targeted to laying the foundations of an active demographic policy, including:

**Amendments and further development of the legislation;
Establishment of new governance structures and strengthening and coordinating the existing ones;
Funding and reforming the systems directly related to demographic development (such as the education system, the healthcare system, the family and children, the social protection system, etc.)**



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From 2010 to 2020

**Gradually will be introduced all components
of the active demographic policy, set in the
Demographic Strategy.**



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The Bulgarian experience from the three years of implementation of the Demographic Strategy shows that the success depends very much on the building of institutional and administrative capacity necessary for the implementation of the demographic policy, that includes:



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**Working national mechanism for planning,
budgeting, monitoring, and evaluation of horizontal
policy implementation**

**Adoption and application of the 'mainstreaming'
approach**

**System of indicators and indexes for the tracking,
monitoring and impact assessment**

**Introduction of a system of electronic registration
of beneficiaries**

**Broad scientific research activity in the field of
demographic development**



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**Criteria and mechanisms for transparency,
accountability, effectiveness and efficacy**

Sustainable social and institutional partnerships

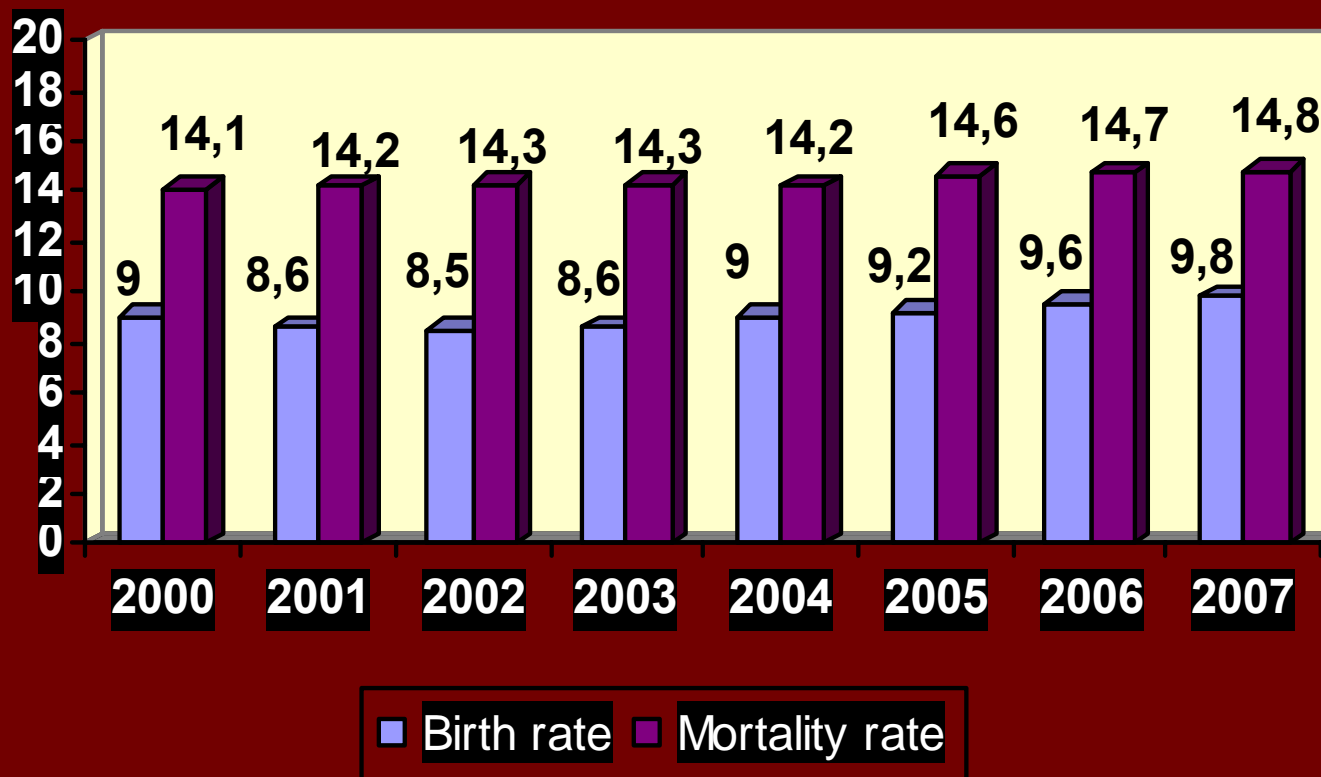
**Mandatory national demographic expertise on the
normative acts**

**National and international campaigns for improving
the demographic culture of the population**

**Strengthening the capacity of the administration on
central and regional level**

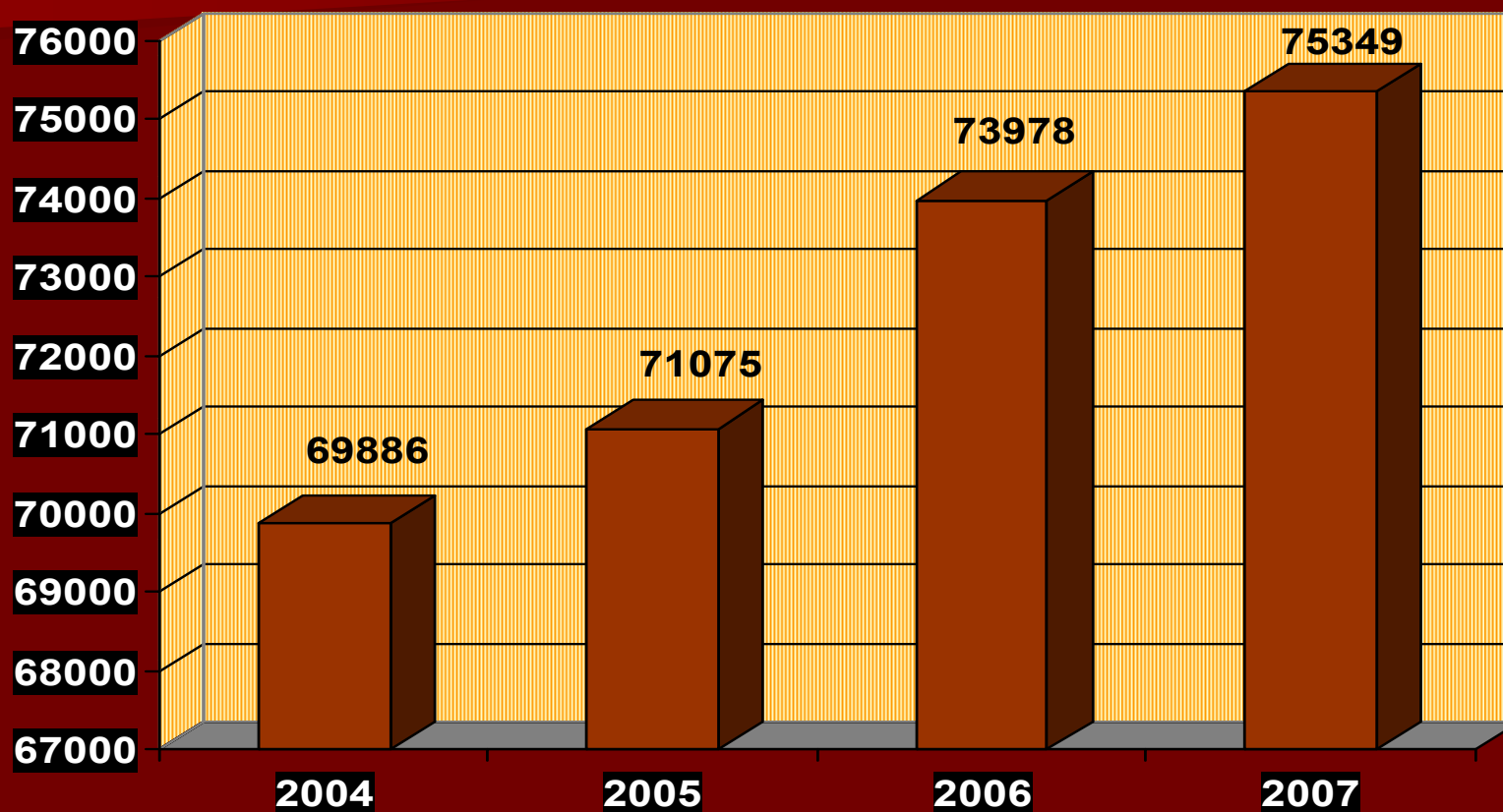


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Number of children born alive for the period 2004-2007

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

DR. YASEN YANEV, Deputy Minister

e-mail: yanev@mlsp.government.bg