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**DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTIC OF THE ORE-MINING
POPULATIONS IN THE TOWN OF ELHOVO AND ITS REGION (15TH
– 16TH C.)**

(Summary)

The paper is based on unpublished Ottoman tax registers (*tapu tahrir defteri*) kept at the collections of the Oriental Department of the National Library “St. St. Cyril and Methodius”, the Central State Archives in Sofia and the Ottoman archives in Istanbul. The main goals of the research are: to determine the ethnical and religious structure of the population in the settlement of Kızıl ağac (today the town of Elhovo, Bulgaria) and in the ore-mining settlements in the region during the 15th and 16th centuries; to track demographic trends among Muslims and non-Muslims; to reconstruct the social and professional structure of urban population; to examine the status, migration and ethnical and religious characteristics of the settled slaves and freed slaves in the settlements; to analyze the development of the settlement network in the context of the Ottoman institutions.