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● Around the year 2000, a mass movement was created in the neighborhood to celebrate the the 100-anniversary with dignity and to renew ties with our brothers from the Bosilegrad region. Relations were established with the municipality of Bosilegrad. It was established from which villages people from Kozloduy came, a book was written, a memorial sign for the teacher Boris Iliev, and memorial plaque with the names of those killed in the neighborhood during the wars and totalitarian regime were erected. The celebrations and customs with which the settlers came here were honoured. They remained popular all over Kozloduy. People from Kozloduy visited Bosilegrad. People from Bosilegrad visited Kozloduy. The two municipalities became twins. Everything that happened in the neighborhood was coordinated by the neighborhood club.

Founded in 1956, it later became club of the party secretary, and now a club of pensioners; it played a huge role in uniting the residency of the neighborhood, to preserve traditions, it is like a small community center for the neighborhood, with its own cultural role among the population.

● All the mayors of the municipality from 2000 to the present days contributed to the great people of the neighborhood in their noble activity!

More and more can be added to these pages: About those who have been coming to Kozloduy for 50 years, to build the power plant, to live here, their children were born here, and Kozloduy became their homeland, as well as the first settlers from Bosilegrad. Everyone has contributed to the looks of the city today!

This obliges us to appreciate what has been achieved in order to make our city even better to live in.

# KOZLODUY HISTORY

## HISTORY OF THE MIGRATORY NEIGHBORHOOD IN KOZLODUY - TOURLAK QUARTERS





After the Liberation of Bulgaria from Turkish slavery in 1878, our country embarked on a painful and slow transition to restore statehood and create better living conditions for its citizens. In the western suburbs of Bulgaria, around the town of Kyustendil, in small villages around mountainous Bosilegrad lived Bulgarians who worked hard to earn their living. The villages consisted of neighborhoods of about 10-15 houses, next to rivers. Their livelihood was animal husbandry and constructions. After the withdrawal of the Turks from Bulgaria, thousands of acres of arable land were vacated in the plains around the Danube, fertile and rich, waiting for farmers to cultivate it and use its benefits. Seeing the conditions in which these Bulgarians live and that they would live better if they settled in the plains, the Bulgarian government decides to relocate 105 poor families from Bosilegrad district to Kozloduy.

**This happened on May 5, 1901 in the National Assembly.**



One month later, on June 5, 1901, Prince Ferdinand signed Decree No. 26, which gave effect to this permit. According to this decree, all families of migrants would receive from the state 80 acres of land for settlement, arable land and pasture. Later, another 30 acres of land were added. Each family was given 4 acres of land for a yard. They had the right to receive interest-free loans and timber from banks for free to build houses. And so this flow of settlers went to Kozloduy, which lasted several years from 1901-1902 to about 1926. Coming here, to their new place of residence, they were fully supported and accepted by the local municipality. For this purpose, at the western end of the village, the vacant lands were parceled out, and a neighborhood was created to welcome the Bosilegrad immigrants. The division of land took place under the leadership of the Czech engineer Buhachek. Land for agricultural use in the field was also distributed. The beginning was very difficult. They lived in dugouts and barracks – with small children. Although they were from different villages, they were very close, helping each other to survive. So they gradually began to build houses. The houses were of 2-3 rooms, made of adobe, and compacted earth. Thus began their life in Kozloduy. They cultivated the land and with their income improved their living conditions here. Some of them returned to their places of birth as they had relatives there, and visited each other. This continued until 1920.

Then suddenly, there was a drastic change: After the end of the First World War in 1918 – Bulgaria was a losing country and under pressure from France and England, 1545 square kilometers were taken from its territory. With a population of 60, 000 people, purely Bulgarian population. They were handed over to Serbia, according to the Neuilly Treaty, and are now 102 years old in the Serbian state.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the mass population of Kozloduy spoke Wallachian. These were people who came to Kozloduy from Romania, fleeing the great oppression and exploitation imposed by the Chocoi. They also found better living conditions in Kozloduy and stayed here.

**Bulgarians and Romanians met in Kozloduy and lived together.**

Decades went by. The settlers took part in the September uprising of 1923, fought in the wars, participated in the construction of socialism and cooperatives. Among them were many communists, founders of the Communist Party in the village. During the socialism regime, contacts were maintained with the clans from the villages in Serbia

