

## **Fertility timing across the Czech women, the 1966–1990 generations**

Abstract:

The mean age of women at the first and second childbirth in Czechia is growing since the beginning of the 90s. The aim of this doctoral thesis is therefore to analyse the intensity and causes of the unplanned postponement of childbirth, mainly from the individual perspective of Czech women. The main sources of data used in the thesis are from the *Ženy 2016* survey and the *Ženy 2019* survey, that gather data about the women born in Czechia between the years 1966 and 1990. The research contribution of the thesis is twofold. Firstly, the separation of postponement into two phases - planned postponement and unplanned postponement, as both of them contribute to the growing mean age at first childbirth. Secondly, the finding of the sequential nature of fertility timing. First stage of postponement is related to the unfulfillment of defined prerequisites for the first childbirth, such as completion of education, stable position on the labour market or the overall material security. The second stage of the postponement is related to the unsatisfactory partnership situation and the third stage to the health problems. The results show that about one third of Czech women relate themselves to the issue of the unplanned postponement of the first childbirth. The unplanned postponement of the second childbirth is relatable to the same amount of women (about one third).

**Key words:** reproductive behaviour, fertility, planned and unplanned postponement, Czechia