

Non-marital fertility in Czechia and Slovakia

Abstract

The increasing number and proportion of children born out of wedlock, which Czech and Slovak society has been facing since the 1990s, is not only a sign of the transformation of reproductive behaviour, but also a current sociodemographic topic. Despite the fact that children born out of wedlock have today the same rights and status as children born in marriage, the situation in the past was very different. This bachelor thesis outlines how the perception of children born out of wedlock has developed since the earliest times, and summarizes the shift that has occurred to the present day. In doing so, it focuses specifically on two countries – Czechia and Slovakia. Although these two countries are neighbours and have been one republic since 1918, they have long differed, not only in family and reproductive behaviour. In addition to the differences between the two countries, the theoretical chapters also focus on the development of marital and non-marital fertility in the 20th and 21st century. The subsequent analytical section then describes this development between 1921 and 2020 using selected indicators and provides information on the characteristics of Czech and Slovak women who bear their children unmarried.

Keywords: non-marital fertility, marriage, transformation of reproductive behaviour, characteristics of unmarried mothers, Czechia and Slovakia

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