

This work deals with assessing the trends and patterns of cohabitation in European countries. On the basis of in depth analysis of available data, the Czech Republic might be classified among countries with similar trends and patterns of cohabitation.

Foreign scientific literature, international surveys, censuses and population registers were used as the source information. This study also addresses family policy and legal regulations, which govern the relationships of cohabitation, have an impact on the context of cohabitation formation and thus create the conditions in which couples decide whether to marry or not.

Cohabitations is a complex and complicated phenomenon so that it is not quite possible to come to definite conclusions. The low frequency of cohabitation and high proportion of divorced cohabitants, ranks the Czech Republic into countries of central and eastern Europe. However, the cohabitation structured according to the highest level of education or other indicators is in this group wholly different.