

## **Nuptiality in some european countries at the end of the 20th century**

### **Abstract**

The aim of this study is to analyze the regional differences of nuptiality in Europe in the last part of the 20th century and at the beginning of the 21st century. Six states were chosen, each of them should represent specific marriage pattern and area of Europe. It focuses not only on the development of individual indicators of nuptiality, but also causes of changes in marriage behavior and factors that affect the marriage rate. The first part of the study describes the characteristics of family and marriage, including changes of looking at these two institutions over time. Next new theories explaining the attitudes of contemporary society to institution of marriage are presented. The recent changes of marriage patterns can be explained mainly by postponing marriage to higher ages and reducing the intensity of nuptiality.