Family formation and dissolution in some European countries at the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries

Abstract
The main aim of this thesis is to analyze the regional differences of the level of marriage and divorce rate in Europe at the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries. Six states were chosen, each of them represents one of the specific models of family policy in Europe. The study focuses not only on the development of individual indicators of nuptiality and divorce rate and actual level of them, but also possible causes of changes in marriage behavior and increasing of divorces. The first part of the study describes the characteristics of family and marriage, including changes of looking at attitude to these two institutions over time. Next, family policy is mentioned as well, because its financial or other measures could have impact on the processes of formation and dissolution of families. Theories explaining the attitudes of contemporary society to different family institutions are also presented as well as factors that affect the marriage and divorce rate. The recent changes of family patterns can be explained mainly by postponing marriage to higher ages, reducing the intensity of nuptiality, family forms pluralization and constant increasing of divorce rate. Economic factors related with family policy are described in last part of this study because they influence family formation and dissolution.

Keywords: family, marriage, nuptiality analysis, divorce analysis, family policy, Europe