

Abstract

After the World War II important changes have taken place in the political, economical and social situation as well as the demographic behavior of population has changed in Southern European countries (Portugal, Spain, Greece and Italy). A lot of common features can be found there in spite of dissimilar political development. The countries differ particularly in social and economical features. The main differences can be found in the level and in the structure of economy. The demographic behavior has been showing some differences between the countries for the period under consideration. However, identical development trends lead to converging of demographic characteristics. Differences of reproductive behavior began to show in the eighties of the 20th century. The main features of the new demographic behavior model are following: the mean age at first marriage and the mean age of women at first birth are increasing, the illegitimate births and divorce rate are growing and the expectation of life at birth is going up. There are huge regional distinctions among Southern European countries which are reflected in the economic and demographic indexes.