

Abstract

The study focuses on leaving parental home in selected Central European countries: The Czech Republic, Poland and former German Democratic Republic (GDR). Women born in 1952–1972/1982 were analysed. The topic is first discussed theoretically and conceptually. It gives the basic overview about the political and social background in Central Europe, about the life course perspective and about the concept of transition to adulthood. The Fertility and Family survey data were analyzed, using survival analysis. The aim of the study is timing of leaving home and analyzing the predictors of leaving home. Although the Central European countries has not offered extreme differences in demographic behaviour, specific similarities and differences in timing, especially in predictors of leaving home has been expected and found afterwards. Findings indicate that the transition to adulthood was concentrated in a short term period and therewithal Poland belongs to “late-leavers”.