Family policy and reproductive behaviour in the Visegrad Group states after 1990

Abstract

In post-communist countries, the fertility decline has been already subjected in many researches. Aim of this diploma thesis is to analyse trends in fertility and family policy in the Visegrad countries. The goal was to find out how the post-1990 approach on family policy and response to changing social conditions differed in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. The study describes settings for each family benefits including the changes in the examined period of 1990–2013. On that basis 5-year periods were defined and assessed. The fertility analysis is focused on the total and completed fertility rate and also by parity and age-specific fertility rates. The period effect was estimated using age-period-cohort (APC) models which decompose fertility rates for age, period and cohort effects. Models were based on fertility of women aged 25–49 years in the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia. Results in all three countries suggest that the decline in fertility in 1995-1999 was a reaction to the changing socio-economic conditions in 1990-1994. However, the negative effect of this period was mitigated by changes in the distribution of cohorts. The period 2000-2004 has brought many positive changes that were behind the increase fertility in 2005-2009. The main factor in the fertility decline between 2005–2009 and 2010–2013 was cohorts’ negative change in the fertility distribution of women aged 25-49 years.

Keywords: fertility, total fertility rate, family policy, work-family balance, age-period-cohort model, genmod, The Visegrad Group, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia