

Abstract

The diploma thesis, *Family Policy of Scandinavian Countries: Similarities and Differences*, is focused on comparison of family policy, fertility development and public opinion on family support in Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland. The thesis follows up development of family policy from the first half of 20th century and sets it into the historical context. It aims the attention to measurements related to pre-school children. Fertility is analysed by mean age of mother at birth, birth order and marital status of mother. Public opinions of family are based on International Social Survey Programme and analysed using chi-square test and binary logistic regression. We focused on differences among citizens by demographic characteristics in each state as well as among the states. The purpose of the thesis is to analyse development of family policy of Scandinavian states, discover the main similarities and differences, and decide whether countries meet the requirements of Scandinavian model by Esping-Andersen's typology (1990).

Despite of the differences in development of family policy, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland represent Scandinavian model. Fertility postponement, later start of family, and increasing proportion of children born outside marriage is characteristic to all of the states. As analysis of survey shows, there is a lot of differences among respondents of different demographic characteristics as well as among the states. The analysis proved the current system of family policy was sufficient in every state.

Key words: family policy, Scandinavian model, change in reproductive behaviour, fertility analysis