

This thesis deals with the development of fertility in countries and regions of the European Union in the context of convergence and divergence trends. The goal is to analyze and evaluate the basic trends in international and regional differentiation of fertility by studying the literature and by my own analysis trying to explain the observed spatial differences and to identify problems in methodology and data collection. The European Union is for the purpose of analysis divided into western and eastern part in order to respond better to the hypothesis defined in the introductory chapter. First, the analysis of the regional differentiation of fertility rate is made. Variability in fertility at the regional level is consequently successfully explained by international differences which allow you to move the analysis at the state level. International differentiations of fertility rate are then explained by the different position of states in the process of second demographic transition. Despite the expectations, a clear trend towards convergence in fertility levels was not observed in the western part of the European Union and its spatial patterns remained stable. The eastern part experienced a significant decrease in the intensity of fertility which caused its convergence and overshadowed the ongoing changes in spatial image of fertility.