

Abstract

The aim of this graduation thesis was to assess and describe risk behaviour in European countries with focusing upon the five countries that experienced a transition process at the end of the last century. Given the ongoing process of socio-economic transformation significant changes in life style and health can be expected in the Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Romania and Slovakia. The graduation thesis compared a situation in the five assessed countries under consideration and other European countries based on risk behaviour indicators.

The first attention was given on a description and a classification of risk behaviour in general during period 1980-2005. The main part includes typology of European countries based on chosen indicators of risk behaviour. The aggregate data was taken over from World Health Organization in case of substance use (smoking and alcohol) and suicide. We decided for the Cluster analysis for the typology purpose and representing years 1985, 1995 and 2002. In case of smoking were selected: % of regular daily smokers in the population age over 15, number cigarettes consumed per person per year and death rate from selected smoking related causes per 100,000 inhabitants. In case of alcohol problems: pure alcohol consumption in litres per capita, road traffic accidents involving alcohol per 100,000 inhabitants and death rate of alcohol related causes per 100,000 inhabitants. The third category was phenomena of suicide: death rate from suicide and self-inflicted injury, the age category 0-64 per 100,000 and over 65 years. The socio-economic situation was assessing from: unemployment rate in %, Human Development Index and Gross National Product in USD per capita. A division of European countries into four or five member groups was a result of Cluster analysis. The number of countries in each group changed in time and depended on developing degree of an individual country situation. In summary it is possible to find that the risk behaviour was higher before the transition in the former communism countries compared with Western-Europe countries. Our five selected countries shared the same development because of a common past in the first two assessed years. Whereas the risk behaviour indicators decreased in Western and Southern Europe during the transition age the five chosen countries showed a significant increase of smoking and alcohol indicators. The five countries under consideration showed different success in the social-economical transition. The frequency of the risk behaviour indicators significantly increased after 2000 in all countries under the consideration. Despite of expectancy the suicide rate decreased regularly during the whole monitored period in whole European countries.