

Trends and patterns of reproductive behaviour in Germany, Austria and Switzerland

Abstract

The main goal of this diploma thesis is to analyse fertility trends in the (former) German Democratic Republic, the (former) Federal Republic of Germany, Austria and Switzerland after Second World War to 2010 and attitudes of population of the countries above towards parenthood and the changing roles of men and women. German-speaking countries belong to countries with long-term low fertility level, however each country has its own specific reproductive behavior due to historical development. Analysis of fertility is focused on describing the trends of the number of live births and the proportion of children born outside marriage, total fertility rate, cohort fertility, fertility rates by age and the mean age of women at childbirth. Attitudes of respondents towards parenthood and the changing roles of men and women were analyzed based on international survey, European Values Study 2008, by statistical methods – chi-square test and factor analysis. Further, the thesis deals with family policy in German-speaking countries with a focus on current measures. The main findings of this thesis are summarized in the final chapter.