

Abstract

The Federal Republic of Germany is among the countries with the lowest birthrates in Europe; Germany's total fertility rate has fluctuated between 1.3 and 1.4 children per woman since the 1970s. Presented thesis „Family policy of the grand coalition in the FRG 2005–2009“ deals with measures taken by the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, headed by Ursula von der Leyen, and their impact on the birthrate and other indicators such as the employment rate among mothers and the risk of poverty. In this period of time, the concept of family policy was changed towards the Scandinavian model, which supports Work-Life-Balance. The effects of the introduction of year-long income-dependent parental benefits, which are extended by two months when the parents alternate in care, are analyzed in this thesis. The second researched measure is the massive support of the expansion of child care opportunities for children under three years of age. The thesis shows that the total fertility rate has not shown any significant change; nevertheless, the decrease in specific fertility rate among highly educated women was halted and the employment rate among mothers increased. The effects will only be able to be complexly assessed after a longer period of time.