

## **Demographic aging by standard and alternative indicators in selected countries of Europe and their regional differentiation at NUTS2 level**

### **Abstract**

Demographic aging is often called a phenomenon of the 21st century. However, it is a natural process, which we more or less consciously influence. Population aging is the result of improving the health status of the population and enhancing the quality of human life that has already begun in the 18th century in the context of demographic revolution. The current concern about the sustainability of national social systems in the context of population aging are obviously reasonable, but these concerns are based on the standard characteristics of the age structure, which often use a fixed age of entry into the final stage of life. However, with the lengthening of human life the natural boundaries of old age changes. Alternative indicators on the basis of the concept of prospective age do not use the number of years a person has already lived, but on the number of years that a person will probably live. Paper compares the development of standard and alternative indicators in the Czech Republic, Sweden and Germany in the years 2000–2013 and focuses also on regional differentiation at the NUTS2 level of selected regions in northern, western, eastern and southern Europe.

**Keywords:** prospective age, alternative indicators, demographic aging, regional differentiation, Europe