

Fertility and preschool childcare in the Czech Republic and chosen European countries

Abstract

The objective of this study is to compare level of fertility and accessibility of childcare in the Czech Republic and chosen countries during period 1998–2014, and also to evaluate Czech Republic among chosen states. Furthermore aim of this study is also to evaluate whether the Barcelona Targets in childcare are in the chosen states met. Countries for this study were chosen on the basis of typology of family policy, they include France, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Portugal and Austria. Data used in this study are primarily from the Human Fertility Database, Eurostat Database, and OECD Family Database. For analyzing fertility and accessibility of childcare are used mainly indicators of the total fertility rate, decomposition of general fertility rate and enrollment rates in pre–primary education. Moreover indexes summarizing key features of family policies and preschool childcare are computed for year 2011. In the context of level of fertility two groups of countries are defined. France, the United Kingdom and Sweden are countries with higher level of fertility while Austria, Portugal and the Czech Republic are countries with lower level of fertility. Concerning the level of accessibility of preschool childcare, in France, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Portugal childcare is more accessible for children younger than three years then in other studied countries. The accessibility of preschool childcare for children older than three years is relatively balanced among studied countries with the exception of the Czech Republic. In the computed indexes the Czech Republic falls behind other studied countries in indexes evaluating preschool childcare.

Key words: Fertility, childcare, family policy, the Czech Republic, France, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Austria

