

Changes in reproductive behaviour within the second demographic transition in the selected European countries



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▶ **Objective:**

- ▶ To analyze recent changes in values and attitudes in selected European countries: The Czech Republic, Estonia, The Netherlands, Finland, and Portugal
- ▶ Concept of the Second Demographic transition was taken as a frame of reference

▶ **Research question:**

- ▶ Changes in reproductive behaviour that occurred in the 1990s in post-communist countries were similar to those registered in Western Europe since the 1960s: fertility decline, the increase of mother's age at childbearing, increase in unmarried cohabitation, etc.
- ▶ Can we identify the new values among Czechs and Estonians in 2008 as they were found in Finland, Netherlands or Portugal in 1990, i.e. two decades earlier?
- ▶ Are the value changes occurred in Estonia and the Czech Republic consistent with the theory of SDT in which trends towards more individualism, post-materialism, and liberalism are particularly underlined.

Data and methods

- ▶ Data: European Values Study (1990, 1999, 2008)
- ▶ Population 18 years or older
- ▶ Both sexes together
- ▶ Attitudes towards marriage, cohabitation, and parenthood were analyzed
- ▶ Identification of holders of value change by
 - ▶ Age
 - ▶ Education
 - ▶ Size of town
 - ▶ Marital status

Attitudes towards parenthood: the increase in tolerance by 2008 except Finland

Tab.: The proportion of respondents in selected countries agreeing with the statement: „If a woman wants to have a child as a single parent, but she doesn't want to have a stable relationship with a man“ by age in 1990, 1999, 2008 (in %)

	The Czech Republic			Estonia			Finland		
	1990	1999	2008	1990	1999	2008	1990	1999	2008
18 – 29 let	30,0	47,3	60,1	32,9	33	58,3	61,1	57,8	40
30 – 44 let	35,6	40,7	59,6	36,0	33,6	58,7	59,4	56	48,6
45 – 59 let	27,8	40,4	51,4	28	26,5	46,7	58,9	53,1	39,5
60+ let	19,6	28,7	37,7	29,5	21,2	40,3	32,9	47,5	36,9
Total	29,1	39,2	51,9	32,3	28,6	50,7	56	53,6	41,1
Significance	sig.	sig.	sig.	sig.	sig.	sig.	sig.	insig.	sig.
Contingency coefficient	0,2	0,175	0,212	0,150	0,171	0,165	0,195	0,086	0,121

	The Netherlands			Portugal		
	1990	1999	2008	1990	1999	2008
18 – 29 let	48,8	56,7	46	50,5	50,2	50,4
30 – 44 let	48,5	56,7	64,4	46	43,3	46,5
45 – 59 let	36,3	54,2	67,7	30,9	29,7	36,7
60+ let	15,0	29,3	49,4	23	23,9	28,9
Total	38,4	49,7	58,3	39,7	36,7	43,7
Significance	sig.	sig.	sig.	sig.	sig.	sig.
Contingency coefficient	0,323	0,237	0,189	0,280	0,217	0,140

Source of data: European Values Study

Post-materialistic values

- ▶ The process of second demographic transition includes shift to post-materialistic values

Tab.: Development of the share of respondents with postmaterialist, materialist and mixed orientation in selected European countries in 1990, 1999, 2008 (in %)

	The Czech Republic			Estonia			Finland		
	1990	1999	2008	1990	1999	2008	1990	1999	2008
Materialist	32,1	25,3	29,4	32,1	41,2	29,7	7,7	26,0	22,4
Mixed orientation	62,2	64,9	59,7	61,9	56,2	64,2	33,1	63,3	55,5
Postmaterialist	5,8	9,8	10,8	6,4	2,6	6,1	39,9	10,7	22,1



	The Netherlands			Portugal		
	1990	1999	2008	1990	1999	2008
Materialist	11,0	11,8	14,3	33,9	35,6	38,8
Mixed orientation	55,9	66,2	63,3	53,9	51,8	56,8
Postmaterialist	33,1	22,0	22,4	12,2	9,5	4,4

Source of data: European Values Study

Notes: Post-materialist index (4-item battery): Respondents were asked to rank four political goals according to their order of preference. Those who chose reducing inflation and maintaining order as their first two preferences were classified as materialists. Those selecting 'More say in politics', and 'Freedom of speech' as the most important goals were classified as postmaterialists. Respondents with value priorities that mixed the two categories were coded as 'mixed' type, and placed in-between the two former categories on the continuum from materialism to postmaterialism.

The impact of individual characteristics on selected attitude towards marriage

Tab.: Odds ratios for statement: „Marriage is an outdated institution“ in selected countries, 2008

	The Czech Republic	Estonia	Finland	The Netherlands	Portugal
	Exp(B)	Exp(B)	Exp(B)	Exp(B)	Exp(B)
Size of town					
under 4 999	2,249***	1,023	0,235*	0,940	2,066
5 000-19 999	2,458***	0,785	1,540	0,759	1,938
20 000 – 99 999	1,486	1,368	0,919	0,895	2,157
100 000 – 499 999	2,366**	-	1,282	1,234	1,326
500 000 +	1	1	1	1	1
Number of years of education					
- 15 years	1,254	1,787	2,417*	1,237	1,013
16 – 19	1,033	1,535*	1,533*	1,488*	1,480
20 – 23	1,294	1,250	0,604*	0,942	0,799
24+	1	1	1	1	1
Marital status					
Married	0,257***	0,437***	0,238***	0,500***	0,545***
Divorced	0,845	1,104	0,514***	1,272	1,438
Widowed	0,263***	0,978	0,876	0,764	0,534*
Never married	1	1	1	1	1
Age category					
18 – 29	1,855*	2,591***	1,768	0,843	2,134**
30 – 44	1,775**	3,093***	2,770**	1,809**	1,620*
45 – 59	1,521	1,647*	2,529**	1,576**	1,849***
60 +	1	1	1	1	1

Notes: Binary logistic regression; significance: ***0,001, ** 0,01, *0,05

Source of data: European Values Study

Identification of factors with liberal and conservative orientation, the example of Finland

Tab. : Factor analysis, Finland, 2008

	Extracted factors	
	The importance of traditional values	Individualism
A man has to have children in order to be fulfilled	0,799	0,109
A marriage or a long-term stable relationship is necessary to be happy	0,617	0,281
It is a duty towards society to have children	0,611	0,265
When a parent is seriously ill or fragile, it is mainly the adult child's duty to take care of him/her	0,282	0,147
Homosexual couples should be able to adopt children	0,214	0,418
It is alright for two people to live together without getting married	0,190	0,816
People should decide for themselves whether to have children or not	0,183	0,554
The proportion of explained variability	32,5 %	9,0 %

Zdroj dat: European Values Study

Conclusion

- ▶ The importance of value changes behind transformation of reproductive behaviour has been confirmed.
- ▶ Despite similar trends in value changes in five selected countries some differences was identified:
 - As regards the current value orientation the Czech Republic seems to be closer to Finland or Netherlands than Estonia
 - Finnish population have become more conservative
- ▶ Holders of more liberal and individualistic values seem to be of similar characteristics:
 - They are rather young, more educated and living in larger cities

**Thank you for your
attention**

