

Childbearing behaviour in Hungary: assessing structural and ideational factors
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It is well known, that childbearing behaviour underwent crucial changes after the political regime changes in the former state-socialist countries. Fertility decline (TFR), increasing mean age at births and especially first birth, the rate of non-marital births are clear indices at the macro level. Several approaches emerged to understand the changing childbearing behaviour. The “crisis hypothesis”, the application of the “second demographic transition”, the discontinuity (anomie) hypothesis, the uncertainty hypothesis, the role of partnership-dynamics are the mostly used of them. These and other approaches were the basic theoretical considerations underling the framework of the Gender and Generation Program and for the design, structure and content of the new micro social instrument the GGS survey (Vikat, et.al., 2005). The result: the longitudinal panel design; detailed information about current demographic behaviour; complete structural setting of the respondent (income, assets, education, occupational status, etc.); the description of ideational resources (values, attitudes and intentions), etc. seems to be suitable for understanding many aspects of demographic behaviour.

We intend to use the complete first wave data and some variables from the second wave of the Hungarian Generation and Gender Survey (HGGG), the “Turning Points of the Life Course” in order to understand the structural and ideational factors influencing childbearing behaviour around the millennium in Hungary. We intend to analyse and evaluate the effects of objective factors and ideational features in 2001-2002 (first wave) on child bearing behaviour after the first wave (first and second births until 2004-2005). Among the objective factors we can include partnership status and age, indicators of material well-being (income position, level of living conditions, housing, etc.), occupational status and education and some features of socialisation. Regarding the ideational components the HGGG differ somewhat from the European GGS but includes detailed description of the quality of the partnership, general value orientations (post-materialism, ideas of child raising), general perception of the society (anomie, uncertainty), age norms, gender attitudes and fertility intentions in 2001. We assume that strength of influence and/or significance differs according to the parity of childbirth and according to gender. Therefore we intend to set up models separately for first and second births and male and female. We will use logistic regression for the analysis.

As long the data from the second wave is under cleaning at the end of 2005, we believe to accomplish a temporary data set at the beginning of 2006, and being able to accomplish our multivariate analyse using our limited data-set.