

# Family policy in the Czech Republic

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# Introduction

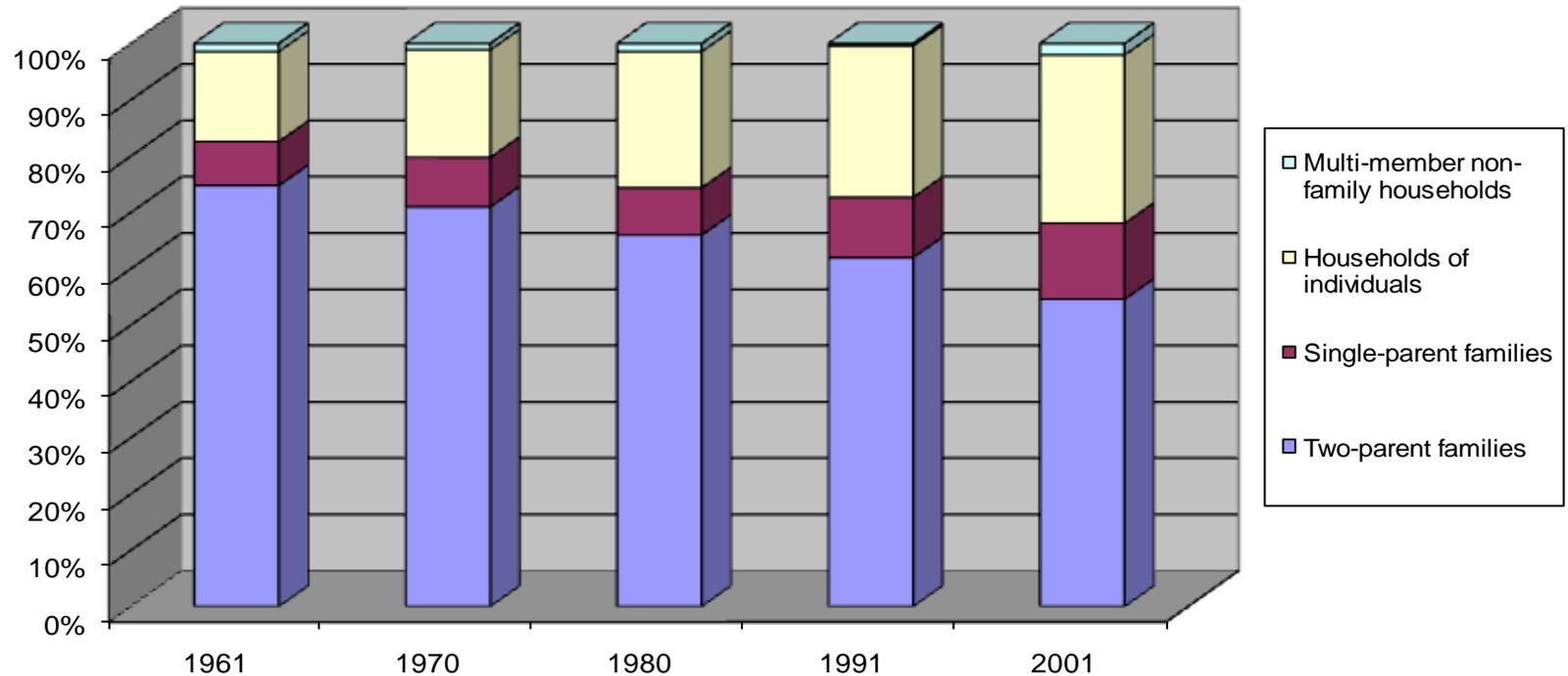
- Czech society transformation in the 1990's – change of priorities;
- Change in the understanding of children's importance to parents;
- Social indifference – families lose social prestige;
- Low compensation of costs, difficult economic and housing situation;
- Long-term unfavourable situation resulting in a decline of natality.

# Introduction – Demographic Analysis

- Phenomenon of living in unmarried couples and postponing marriage in the 1990's ;
- Number of single-parent families (no legal partner) more than doubled since 1961;
- 36% of children born outside of marriage in 2007;
- Single-parent families are very dependent on social transfers which make almost 60% of their net income.

# Introduction – Demographic Analysis

## Family and non-family households



# Introduction – Demographic Analysis

- Increase of mothers' age to 27.2 when giving birth to a child;
- A risk that people won't have as many children as planned because of postponing their decision;
- The average number of children per woman – 1.48;
- 2.1 children per woman necessary for the reproduction of population;
- Growing trend of infertility;
- A decrease in number of abortions in the last years is the only positive aspect.

# Family Policy – Main Objectives

- The main objective is to create better social climate and conditions for families in all aspects;
- Cross-sectional agenda: tax policy, labour policy, educational policy, health policy, housing policy, transport policy, asylum and migration policy;
- Importance of regional and communal policy.

# Financial Support for Families

- Financial support for families is provided through tax measures (tax allowances/relieves) and through the social security system;
- **3 pillars of the social security system:**
  - 1. State social support** : birth grant, maternity benefit, child allowance, social allowance, housing allowance, foster care benefits;
  - 2. Assistance in material need** – depends on family income;
  - 3. Social assistance benefits for people with disabilities.**

# State Social Support – Claimable Benefits

- **Birth grant** – one-off benefit 520 EUR;
- **Maternity benefit** – paid for a maximum of 28 weeks, calculated from mother's income before birth;
- **Parental allowance** – paid on monthly basis, choice of length:
  - faster option – **up to 2 years** of age 460 EUR/month,
  - standard option – **up to 3 years** 300 EUR/month,
  - slower option – **up to 4 years** 300 EUR/month for first 21 months, then only 150 EUR/month;
- **Foster care allowances.**

# Financial Support for Families

Child age	Financial aid given regardless of the economical status
1 day	Birth grant
0 – 0,5 year	Maternity benefit
0,5 year – 2/3/4 years	Parental allowance
0 – 26 years	Foster care allowances
X	Some of social assistance benefits for disabled people

Child age	Financial aid given selectively, depending on the income
0 – 26 years	Child allowance
X	Social allowance
X	Housing allowance
X	Assistance in material need
X	Some of social assistance benefits for disabled people

# State Social Support – Aid Dependent on Income

- Child allowance – for families with an income of less than 2.4 times the family's minimum subsistence level; depends on the child's age:

up to 6 years	20 EUR/month;
from 6 to 15 years	25 EUR/month;
from 15 to 26 years	28 EUR/month.

# Non-financial / Other Support

- Services for families;
- Reconciling professional and family roles;
- Activities provided as a part of social and legal protection of children.

- **Social services** – aimed at assisting and supporting a family or individual members of a family who are in an adverse social situation in order to prevent their social exclusion.
- **Services in support of a functional family**
  - preventative function;
  - support of a family in care of children, support of cohesion of family and support of reconciling work and a functional family.

- **Sources of financing:**

- State budget – subsidies from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs;
- Regional and municipal budgets;
- EU funds in the 2007 – 2013 programming period (OP Human Resources and Employment, OP Education for Competitiveness, OP Prague - Adaptability, Regional Operational Programmes);
- EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms;
- Foundations, donations and public collections.

# Reconciling Professional and Family Roles

- Measures known by the Labour Code – modifications of working hours, part–time jobs, parental leave for fathers.
- Offer of financially and territorially available child care services;
  - Services of child care for up to 3 years of age;
  - Services of child care for pre-school age;
  - Services of child care for primary school age.

- **Audit No. 07/09** – Management of educational facilities for the provision of institutional or correctional education and management of facilities for the preventive educational treatment.
- **Audited bodies:**  
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and subordinated contributory organizations -  
Diagnostic Institutes, Children's Homes with Schools and Institutional Treatment Institutes;
- **Main findings:**  
Deficiencies found in financial management of the Ministry and in a bookkeeping of contributory organizations.

- **Audit No. 08/34** – Financial means provided from the state budget for family support.

- **Subject:**

Subsidies provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs from „Programme of the support for families“ – the basic cover documents are the „National conception of family policy“ and the „Action plan for support for families with children“.

- **Audited bodies:**

The Ministry + 7 NGOs (e.g. Fund for children in need, Association of SOS children's villages, Chain of mother's centers).

- **Main findings:**

- Insufficient fulfillment of the Action Plan;
- Insufficient evidence, processing and archiving of Decisions on Provision of Support → insufficient cover documentation for the financial audit made by the Ministry and for the determination of the actual amount of withdrawal;
- Insufficient financial control by the Ministry;
- Unfulfilled conditions of the Decisions on Provision of Support in case of NGOs and no enforcement of sanctions by the Ministry.

- **Conclusion:**

Corrective measures will be discussed by the government and will be determined by a government resolution.

Preliminary measures of the Ministry are already implemented – updating of the cover documents of the programme for subsidies (the National Conception and the Action Plan).

Thank you for your  
attention!

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