

# **Minority Fertility**

## **Fertility of minorities in Eastern and Central European countries: similarities or dissimilarities?**

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Minorities are significant and manifest components of European populations. Although minority status in modern societies is produced usually by migration processes, they are also consequences of historical events, legal changes, shifts of borders. When focusing on minorities' fertility of selected Central European countries, we will investigate the behaviour of ethnicities they are living together since hundreds of years. As a starting point, we assume that these minorities do not have crucial differences in their fertility behaviour, since they are integrated in societies and have the same societal and institutional context since a long time. However, their strong national/ethnic identities, the ethnic differences of religiosity, their possible differing structural positions may produce differences. Accordingly, our question of interest is if the fertility pattern of different ethnic minorities converge or diverge, according to their very specific cultural and structural characteristics in the selected neighbouring Eastern and Central European countries? In order to get a closer look on this issue we use the 2011 National Censuses from Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Serbia for our comparisons, since vital statistics usually do not include ethnicity in these countries. Our preliminary results tend to suggest that the societal transition had and has such a strong effect, that even the Roma population, it overrides the minority status effect on fertility behaviour.