

## **Is there a Correlation between the Increasing Mean Age of Women at Childbirth and the Declining Total Fertility Rates?**

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The ageing process of the population in developed countries including the Member States of the European Union (EU) is becoming very important at present; the ageing is of vital concern of each of us. The European year of 2012 “European year for Active ageing and Solidarity between generations” indicates the importance of ageing process in Europe. The ageing can be explained by increased longevity that has been evident for several decades as life expectancy has risen and this development is often referred to as ageing at the top of the population pyramid. On the other hand the ageing is related also to the ageing at the bottom, because the levels of the total fertility rates (TFR) has declined and are very low in all of the EU Member States. The TFR in developed countries is far below its replacement level of 2.1. Ageing from the bottom is typical for all of the EU Member States, because the TFR in some of the Member States fell below the threshold of the lowest-low fertility rate of 1.3 live births per woman. Postponement of childbearing to later ages of mothers demonstrated a gradual change in the curve of age-specific fertility rates, which gradually changes its positive asymmetry in relation to the age of the mothers and at the same time the modal age of the childbearing increased. The family structure is also changing; the families have not only fewer children but more and more children are born outside marriage. The mean age of women at childbirth has increased rapidly, especially the mean age of women at first and second birth orders, which has an impact on declining number of children born to one woman during her reproductive period. The article deals with the correlation and linear regression analysis between the mean age of women at childbirth and the TFR. Acknowledgment: the poster was supported by project VEGA 1/0906/11.

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