Income Inequalities Within Couples In The Czech Republic And Selected European Countries

On the one hand, many empirical studies examining the gender pay gap and its determinants consider an individual to be the object of the analysis. On the other hand, most of the studies concerning the income distribution take a household as the basic unit. These studies usually examine the redistributive function of tax and social systems and their impact on income inequalities across households. However, the tax and social systems also influence the income distribution within the households. Both these approaches ignore income re/distribution within the household and, therefore, can bias individuals' real position in the society. Recent empirical studies argue that households often do not pool their incomes, thus the wage structure can influence the decision-making power and/or the consumption of particular household members. The relationship between financial and social well-being of individuals can be influenced by their position in the household to a considerable extent. Therefore, the within-household income distribution could be of great importance.

This study focuses on the description of income differentials in couples (both with and without children) and compares the results with selected European countries in particular. The aim of our study is a detailed analysis of income structure in couples according to quantile distributions and individual and household characteristics, which contribute to the gender inequalities within households, and redistributive function of tax and social systems within households.

The dataset applied in this study is the EU-SILC. The selection of compared countries depends on provided gross and net income components in particular. Besides the Czech Republic, the supposed covered countries are Poland as a second new EU member state, Sweden as a representative of Scandinavian countries and Spain as one of southern European country.