

GENDER VALUES DYNAMICS: TOWARDS A COMMON EUROPEAN PATTERN?

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The paper aims to analyze the dynamics of gender values during the nineties in the European countries. In the context of the changing economic, social, political, and cultural contexts, the gender values are shifting from the traditionalist ones to modern and postmodern ones. The paper tries to explore how the gender values have evolved during the last decade in the Western and Eastern Europe under the influences cultural, economic, political, and socio-demographic of factors. I employ longitudinal analysis performed on the data provided by two waves of European Values Survey (1990 and 1999). The EVS data indicates that Europe tends to a common model of gender equality. In the Western countries, the changes produced by the shift from the industrial to post-industrial society are simultaneous with a cultural move from modern to post-modern culture. The Eastern Europe knows a similar trend under the impact of the globalization and the 'Europeanization'. The latent pattern of the new European society supports the equal involvement for women and men in the paid labour and a new division of gender roles within the household.

The paper aims to analyze the dynamics of gender values during the nineties in the European countries. In the context of the changing economic, social, political, and cultural contexts, the gender values are shifting from the traditionalist ones to modern and postmodern ones. The shifting of gender values on the axis traditionalism – modernism – postmodernism is linked, on the one hand, with the cultural shift that occurred during the last decades, and with the socioeconomic transformation, on the other hand. As Inglehart (1997) points out, the relation between the cultural and socioeconomic changes is a reciprocal one, because the “major socioeconomic changes reshape the culture” and “through processes of random mutation and natural selection, culture adapts to a given environment” (p. 59). Therefore, the changing of the gender values process has multiple determinants, being influenced by cultural, economic, political, and socio-demographic factors. The paper tries to explore how the gender values have evolved during the last decade in the Western and Eastern Europe under the influences of these various factors. I employ longitudinal analysis performed on the data provided by two waves of EVS (1990 and 1999).

The first part of the paper summarizes the main approaches that I used. The second part is dedicated to the data analysis. The last part contains comments regarding the findings and conclusions.

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