



HUNGARIAN DEMOGRAPHIC
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Attitudes toward unmarried cohabitation and marriage in Hungary

Adél Rohr

Junior Research Fellow

Hungarian Demographic Research Institute

Doctoral Student

Doctoral School of Sociology and Demography - University of Pécs

Prague, 10-11 September 2015

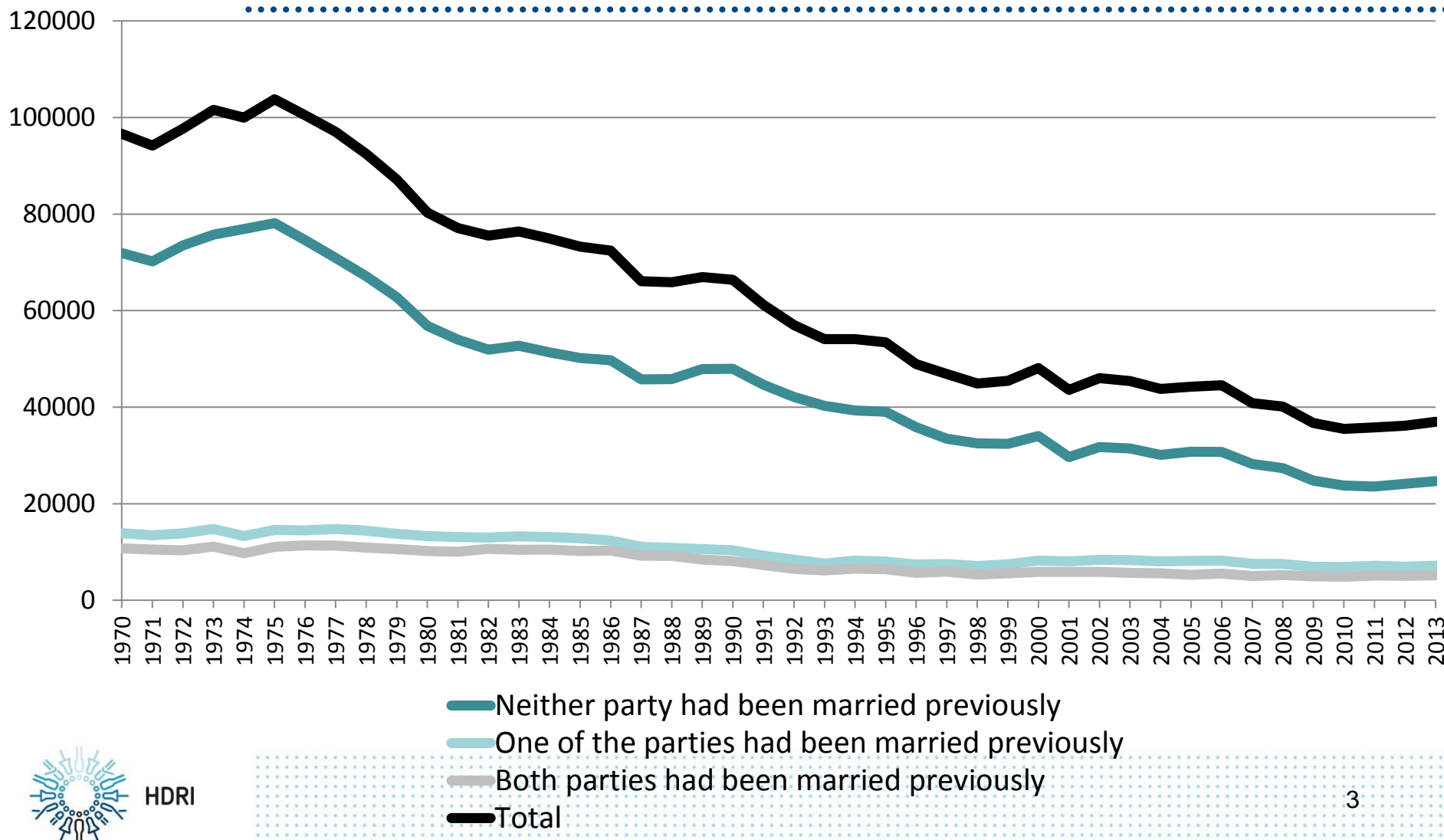


Marriage and unmarried cohabitation in Hungary

- Changing partnership behavior
 - Postponement
 - Dropping number of marriages (unmarried cohabitation, singles)
- Different Hungarian and European patterns
- Unmarried cohabitation:
 - Earlier: widowed/divorced
 - Now: single
- In the 1970's - first relationships: cohabitation, but they got married



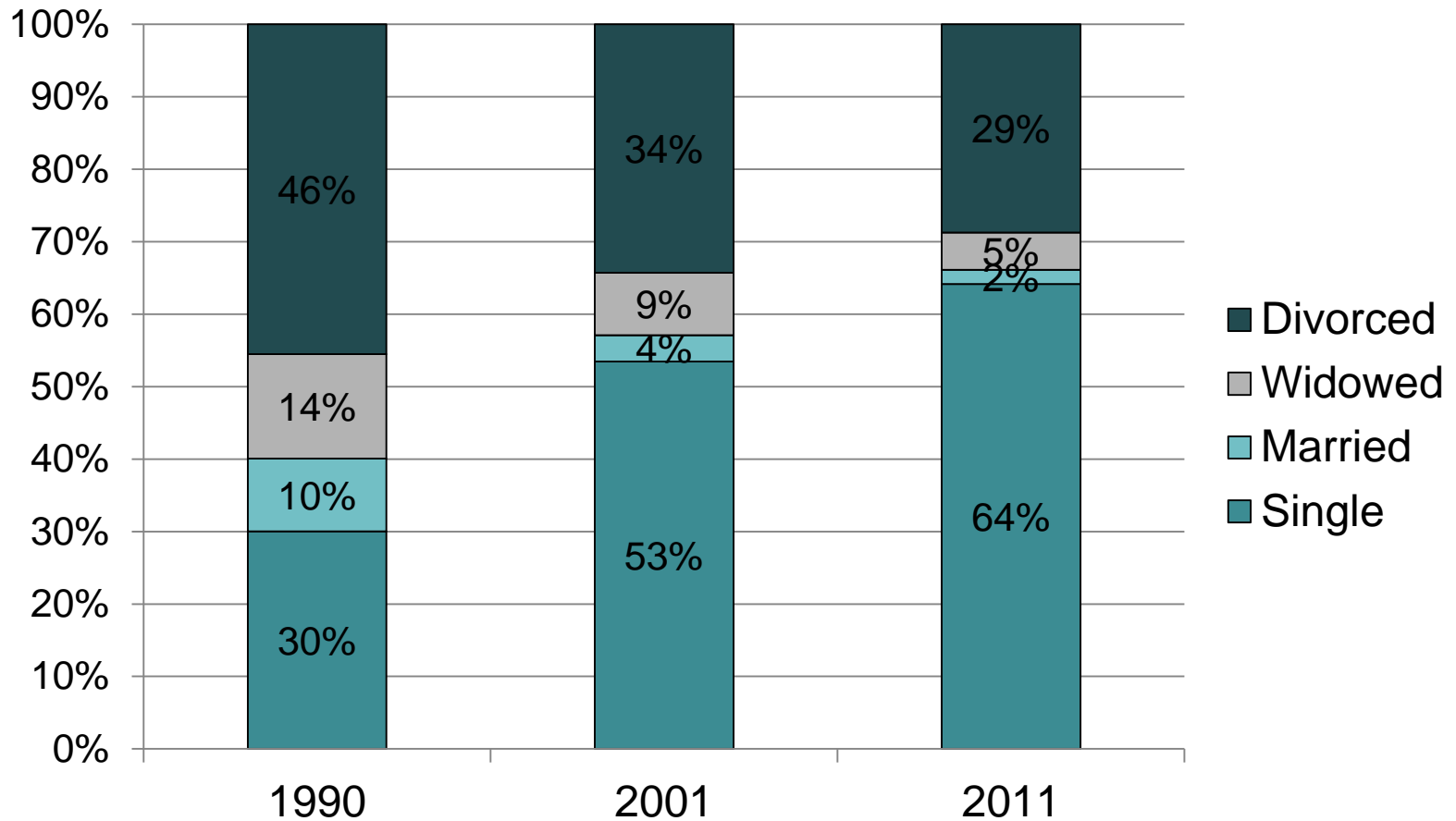
Number of first marriages and remarriages, 1970-2013



HDRI

Source of data: Hungarian Central Statistical Office, Demographic Yearbooks

The proportion of people who live in unmarried cohabitation by marital status (15 years or older population)

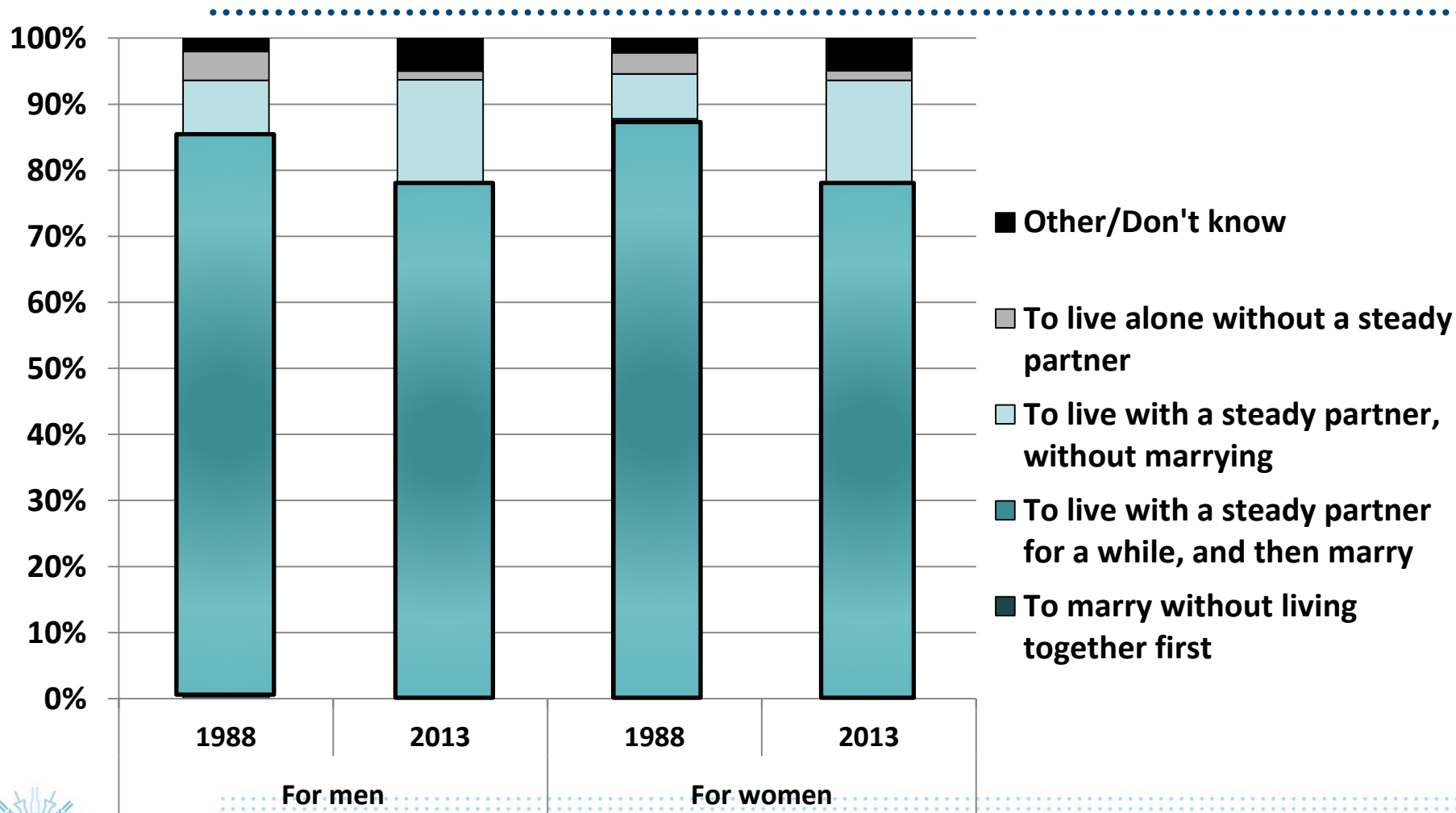


Changing trends – changing attitudes

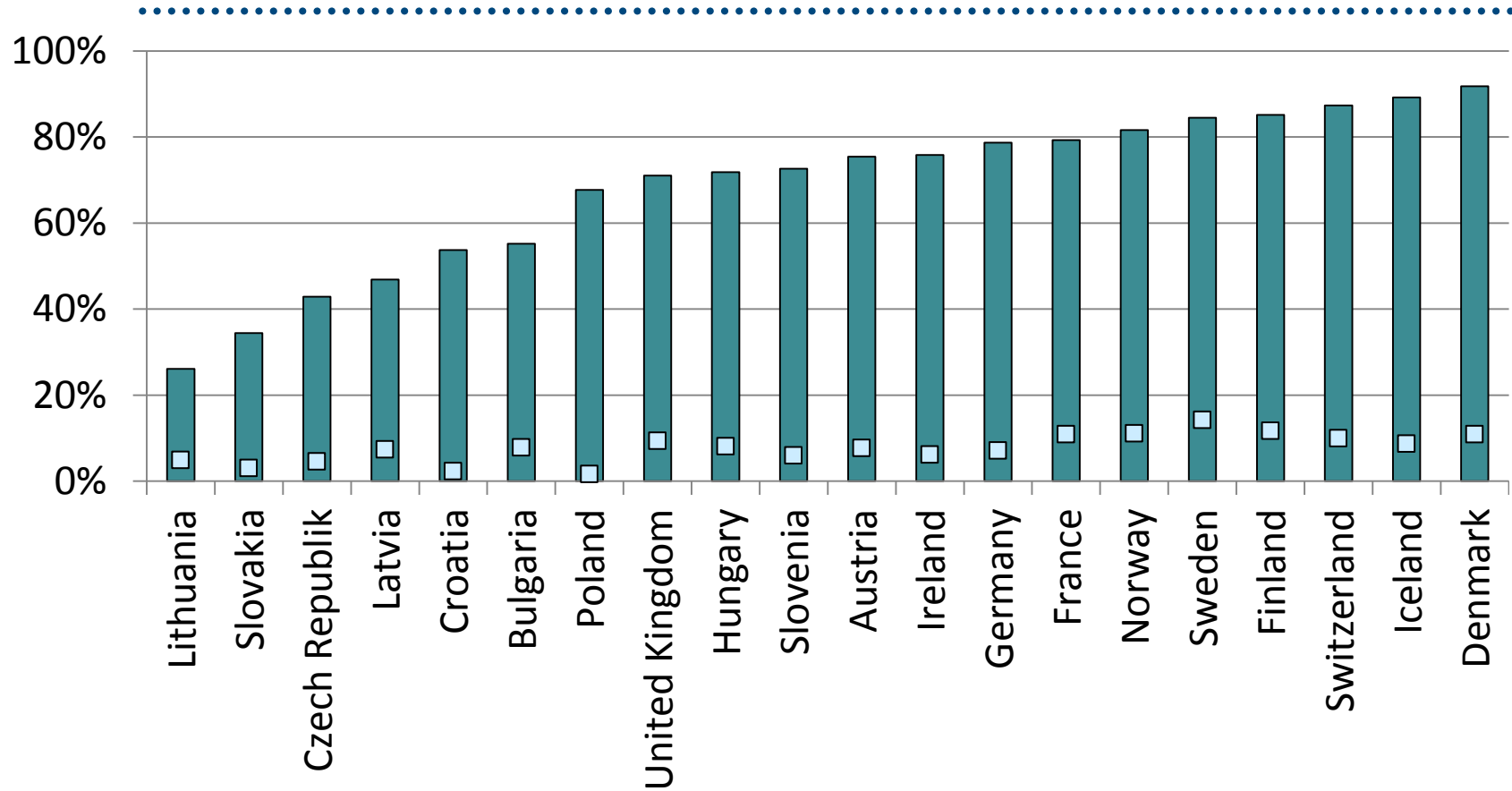
- Information source about attitudes:
 - ISSP (1988, 1994, 2002, 2013)
- Between 1988 and 2013
 - Married people are happier than unmarried people: from 55% to 42%
 - Couples should get married if they want to have children: from 65% to 40%
 - Rate of first births outside marriage: 52%
 - Rate of total births outside marriage: 47%
 - Marriage is an outdated institution: 25%



„What kind of partnership do you suggest for a young, single man/woman?”



The proportion of people who accept unmarried cohabitation and prevalence of cohabitation in Europe



■ Agree: 'It is all right for a couple to live together without intending to get married.'

□ Proportion of people who live in cohabitation union (2011)



HDRI

Research question

- How do the main sociological and demographical factors influence the attitudes toward cohabitation as a stable and durable partnership form?
- Binary logistic regression
- Dependent variable: 'It is all right for a couple to live together without intending to get married.' (5-point scale – accept: 4-5)
- Independent variables:
 - Sex
 - Age
 - Education level
 - Place of residence
 - Religiousness (Attendance of religious service)
 - Children
 - Real partnership status and earlier cohabitation
 - Bad marriage experience



Results	
	Exp. (B)
Sex of the Respondent (Reference group: Male)	
Female	1.127
Age of the Respondent (Reference group: 65 years old or older)	
18-24 years	2.152 **
25-34 years	3.020 ***
35-44 years	2.725 ***
45-54 years	2.076 **
55-64 years	2.119 ***
Education level (Reference group: Primary school)	
Secondary school	1.102
University/collage degree	1.034
Place of residence (Reference group: Capital city and its agglomeration)	
City and the agglomeration	2.118 ***
Town	2.208 ***
Village	1.660 **

Results	
	Exp. (B)
Religiousness (Reference group: Attendance of religious service: at least once in a month)	
Attend religious service less frequently than once in a month	2.416 ***
Never attend religious service	4.452 ***
Children (Reference group: Have/had children)	
Never had children	0.999
Partnership status and earlier cohabitation (Reference group: live in cohabitation)	
Married and lived together before the marriage	1.317
Married, did not lived together before the marriage	0.442 **
Live alone, earlier was married	0.465 **
Single, earlier lived in cohabitation	1.345
Single, never lived in cohabitation	0.550
Bad marriage experience (Reference group: Never had a divorce and do not live separately)	
Divorced earlier or married but live separately	1.940 ***

Summary

- Cohabitation is usually the first stable partnership for young and single people
- Popular among divorced or widowed people
- The acceptance is growing – also births outside marriage and cohabitation union as a stable and durable partnership form
- BUT: most of the Hungarian people think that marriage is the ideal partnership form for young people and marriage is not an outdated institution
- Important factors: age, place of residence, religiousness, partnership status and partnership history
- Later...
 - How did these factors change in the last decades?
 - How do they work in other countries?



Thank you for the attention!

Contact:

Adél Rohr

E-mail: rohr@demografia.hu

