

## Natality decline – what can we do ?

### **Abstract**

Birth rates through out Europe have declined to very low levels – currently the majority of countries have total fertility rates below 1.5 children per woman. Once total fertility rate falls below 1.5, bringing it back up will be more difficult. So, many countries, among which Serbia, have developed national strategies for rising natality. Serbian government has eight principles for natality uprising : costs reduction of child breeding ,measurements for promotion child-bearing , decreasing psychological costs of parenthood, preservation and promotion of adolescents reproductive health , measurements for declining sterility, health education of population, convergence of parenthood and working and activation of local governments. Serbia has already implemented some parts of plan into practice. We have free primary health care for all, antenatal and perinatal care, 1 year parental leave (100 % payed), for third child 2 years, dental care 1 year after delivery and publicly funded childcare for the third and fourth child. There are one short cash benefits also: for the first child - 300 €, the 2nd child – 1100 €, the third child - 2000€ and the fourth child - 2700€ and programmes „ baby is coming“, baby friendly and free IVF for women < 40 from 2006 ( financed by Republic Institute for Health Insurance). We (obstetricians) ,as part of this plan, can provide health education for population and health professionals also, antenatal and prenatal care and recognising demographic changes in country and region and , trough our services in primary care, promote child bearing.