



Wittgenstein Centre

FOR DEMOGRAPHY AND  
GLOBAL HUMAN CAPITAL

# The non-marital birth ratio on the increase: what is behind?

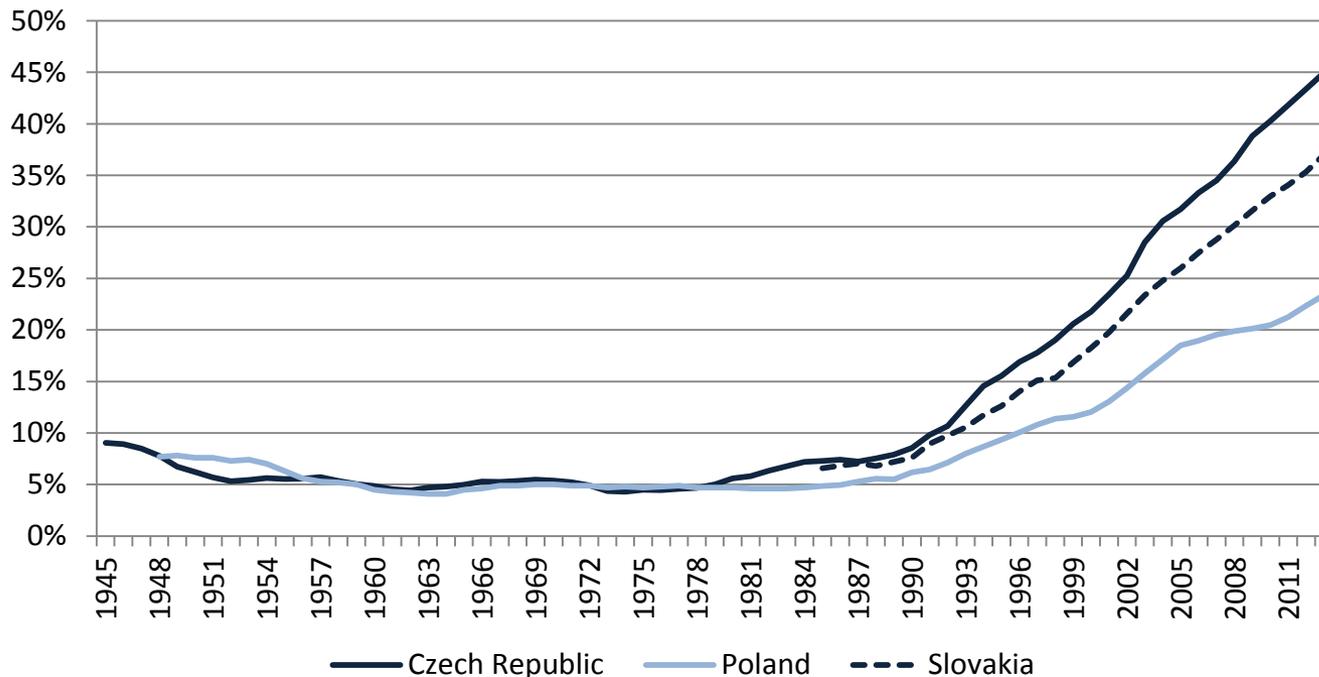
## A comparison of trends in the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia, 1988-2011

Zuzanna Brzozowska, Michaela Potančoková, Martina Štípková

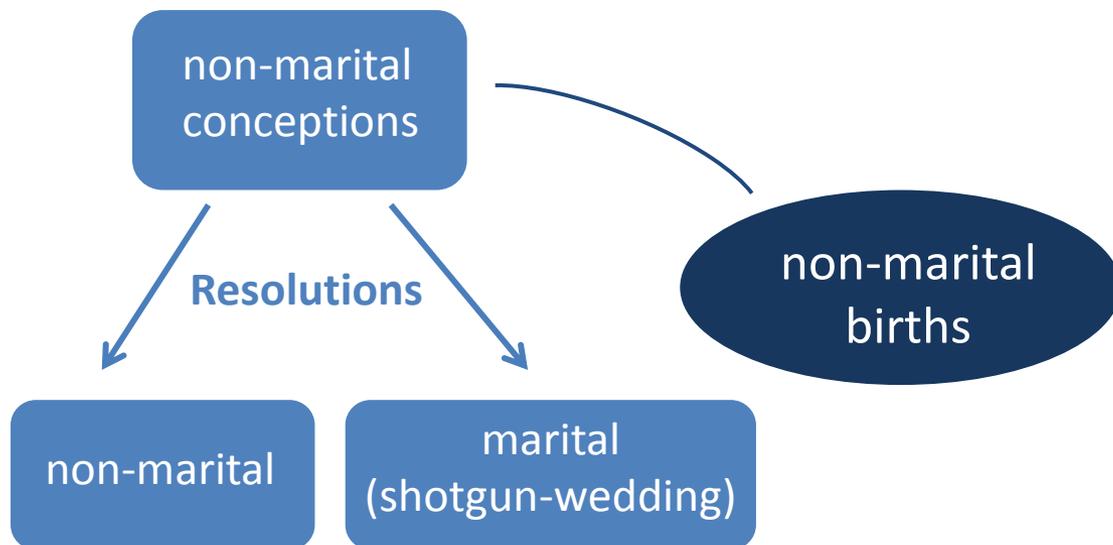
*Prague, 11 September 2015*

# Background

- Throughout the socialist era, the proportion of non-marital births remained stable (5-6%) in all three countries (Kotowska et al. 2008, Potančoková 2008, Štípková 2013 )
- Since the late 1980's: it has been on the increase



# Possible reasons



Fall of the Iron Curtain → westernisation:

spread of cohabitation → non-marital childbearing

more accepted (van de Kaa 2001, Lesthaeghe 2010) →

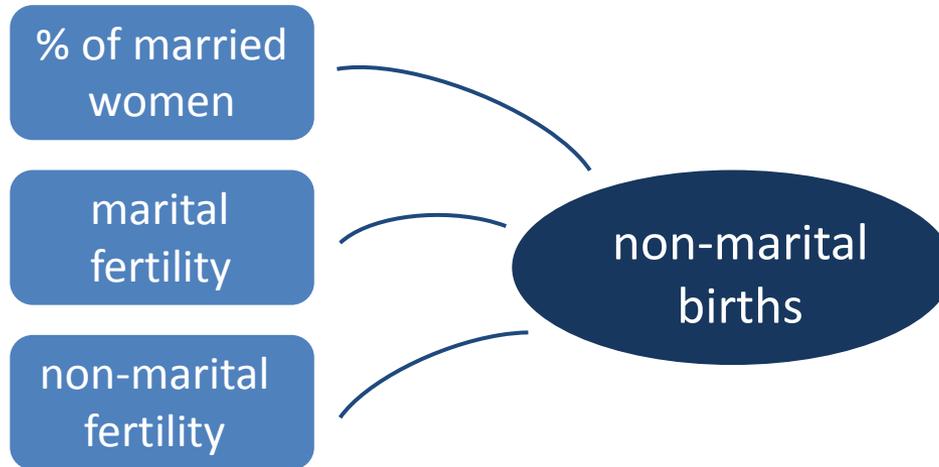
decline in shotgun-weddings (Lesthaeghe & Surkyn 1988, van Iesta 2001, Akerlof et al. 1996, Bachu 1999, Berrington & Diamond 1999) →

rise in % of non-marital births

pre-marital sex more accepted & access to better contraceptives →

pre-marital sex more spread (David & Skilogianis 1999, Frejka 2008) → rise in non-marital conceptions?

# Possible reasons



$\% \text{ nonmar births} =$

$$(1 - \% \text{ married}) * \text{nonmar birth rate}$$

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$$(1 - \% \text{ married}) * \text{nonmar birth rate} + \% \text{ married} * \text{mar birth rate}$$

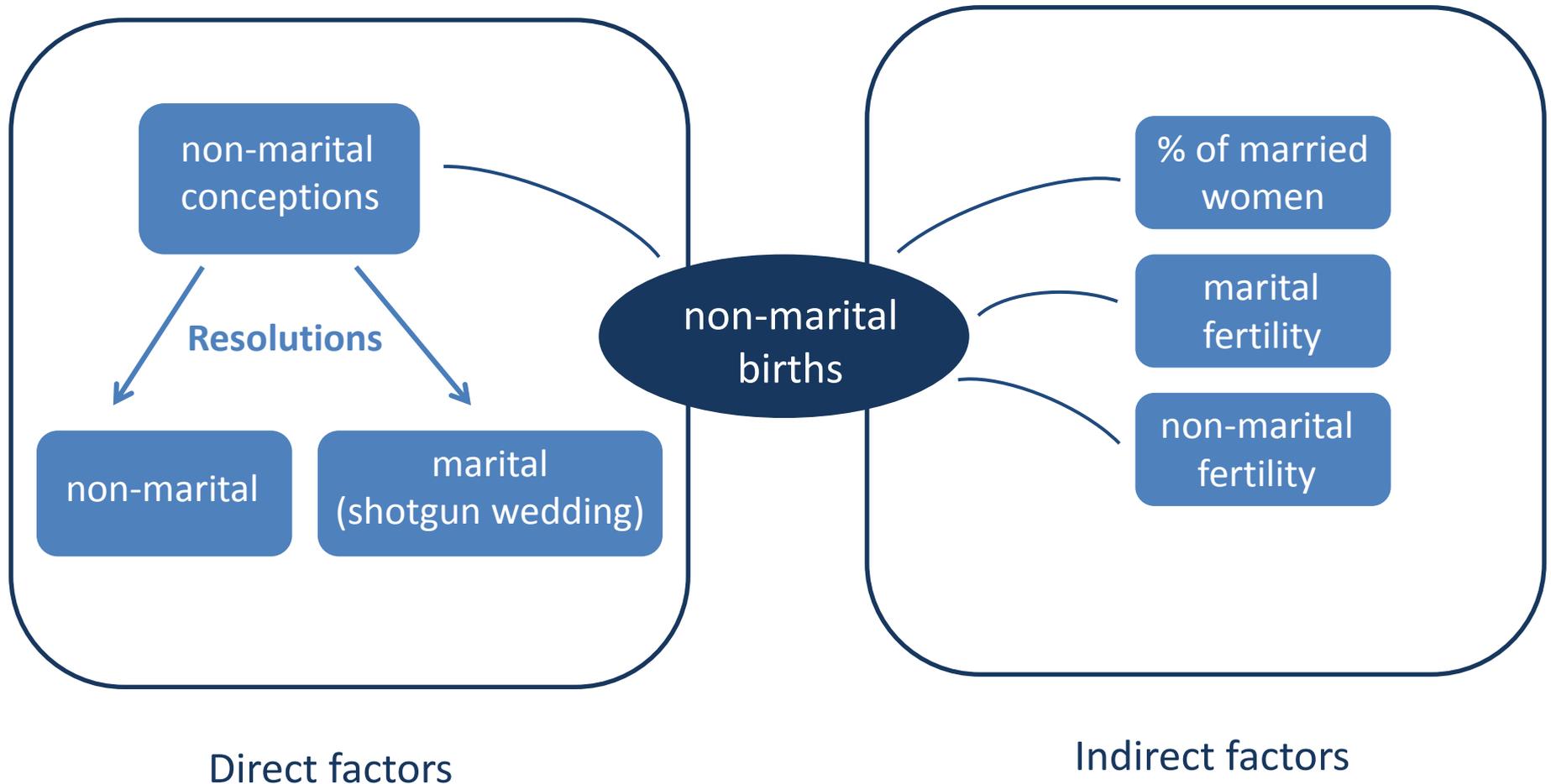
$$\text{nonmar birth rate} = \frac{\text{nonmar births}}{\text{nonmar women}} * 1000$$

$$\text{mar birth rate} = \frac{\text{mar births}}{\text{mar women}} * 1000$$

Since the late 1980s:  
 rising age at 1<sup>st</sup> marriage  
 (22-23 to 26-28) & spreading  
 cohabitation →  
 shrinking proportion of married  
 women →  
 rise in % of non-marital births?  
 (Gray et al. 1996 for the US, Ermisch 2001  
 for GB 1975-1996, Perelli-Harris & Gerber  
 2011 for Russia 1980-2003)

Changes in marital fertility  
 related to non-marital fertility →  
 rise in % of non-marital births?  
 (Smith et al. 1996, Smith & Cutright 1988  
 for the US)

# Components of non-marital births

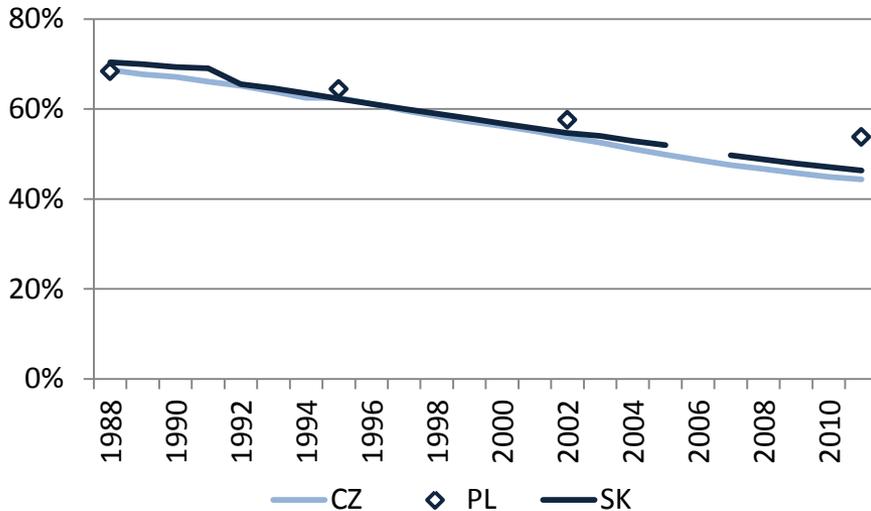


# Data

- Birth registers 1992-2010
- Polish population censuses 1988, 1995, 2002 & 2011
- Czech Demographic Yearbooks
- Slovak Republic Population Information 2003 & Eurostat for Slovakia after 2003

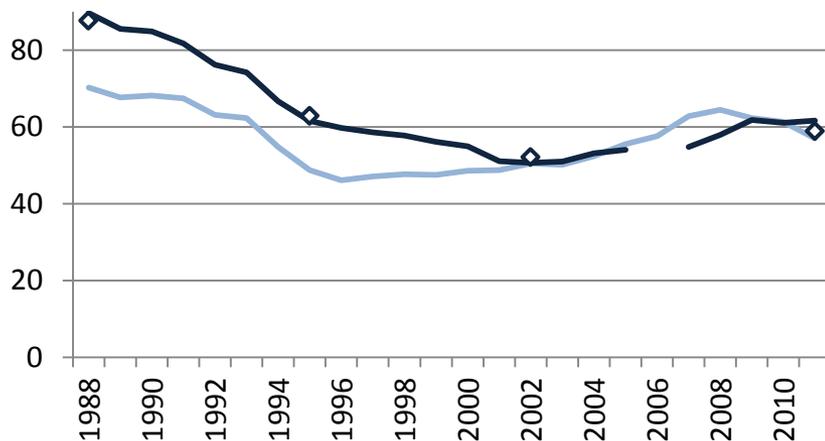
# Indirect factors

Proportion of married women

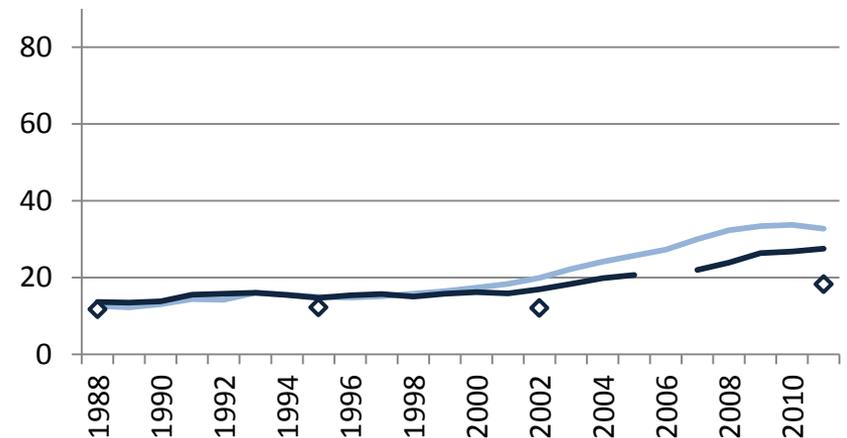


- the share of married women was linearly decreasing from 70% to 55% in PL and 45% in CZ & SK
- marital fertility was declining until the mid-1990s in CZ (from 70 to 45 per 1,000) and the early 2000s in PL and SK (from 80 to 50), then it started to increase (up to 60)
- non-marital fertility remained at about 10 per 1,000 until the early 2000s when it began to rise reaching in 2011 20 in PL and 30 in CZ & SK

Marital births per 1,000 married women 15-49

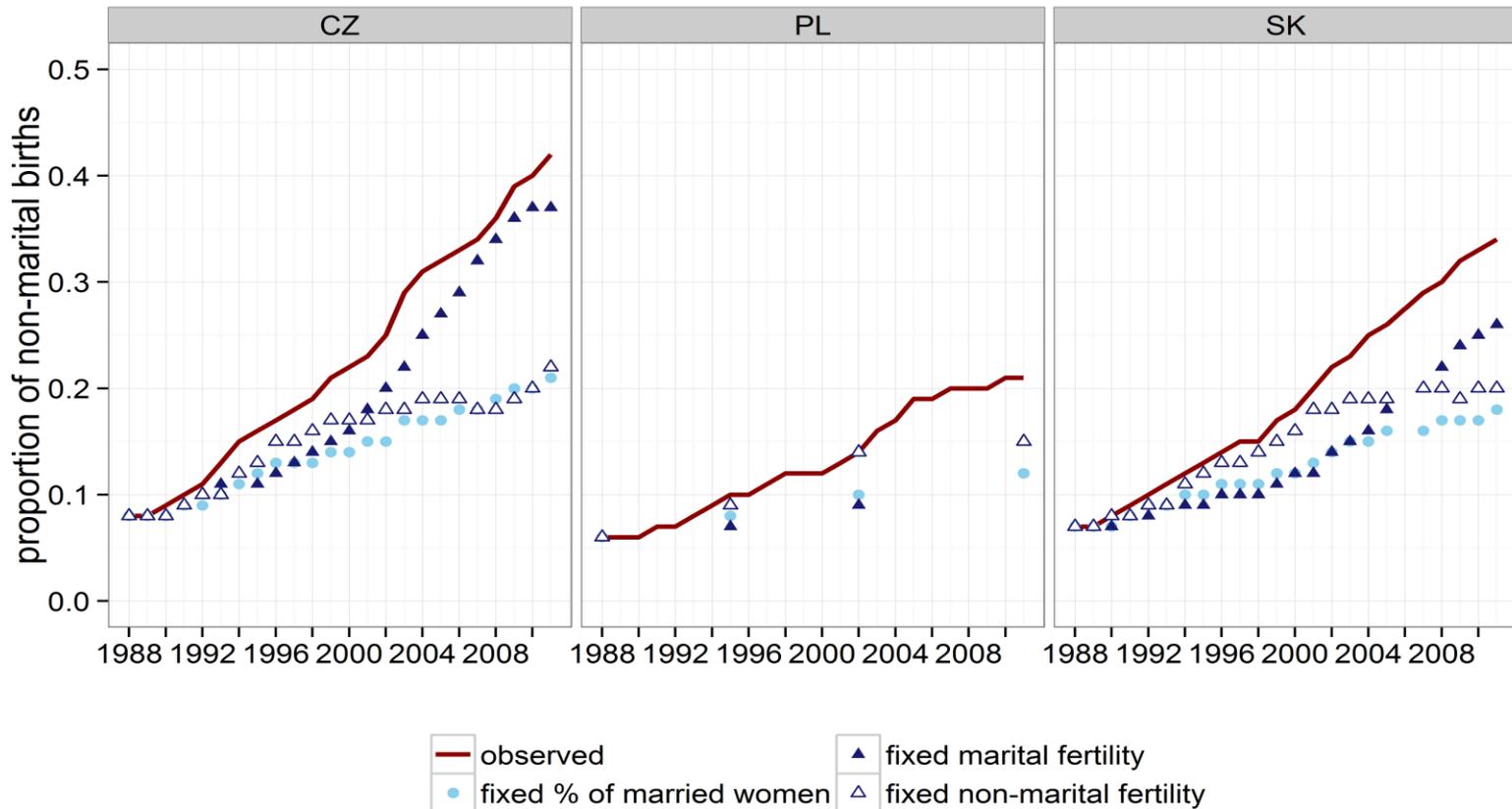


Non-marital births per 1,000 unmarried women 15-49



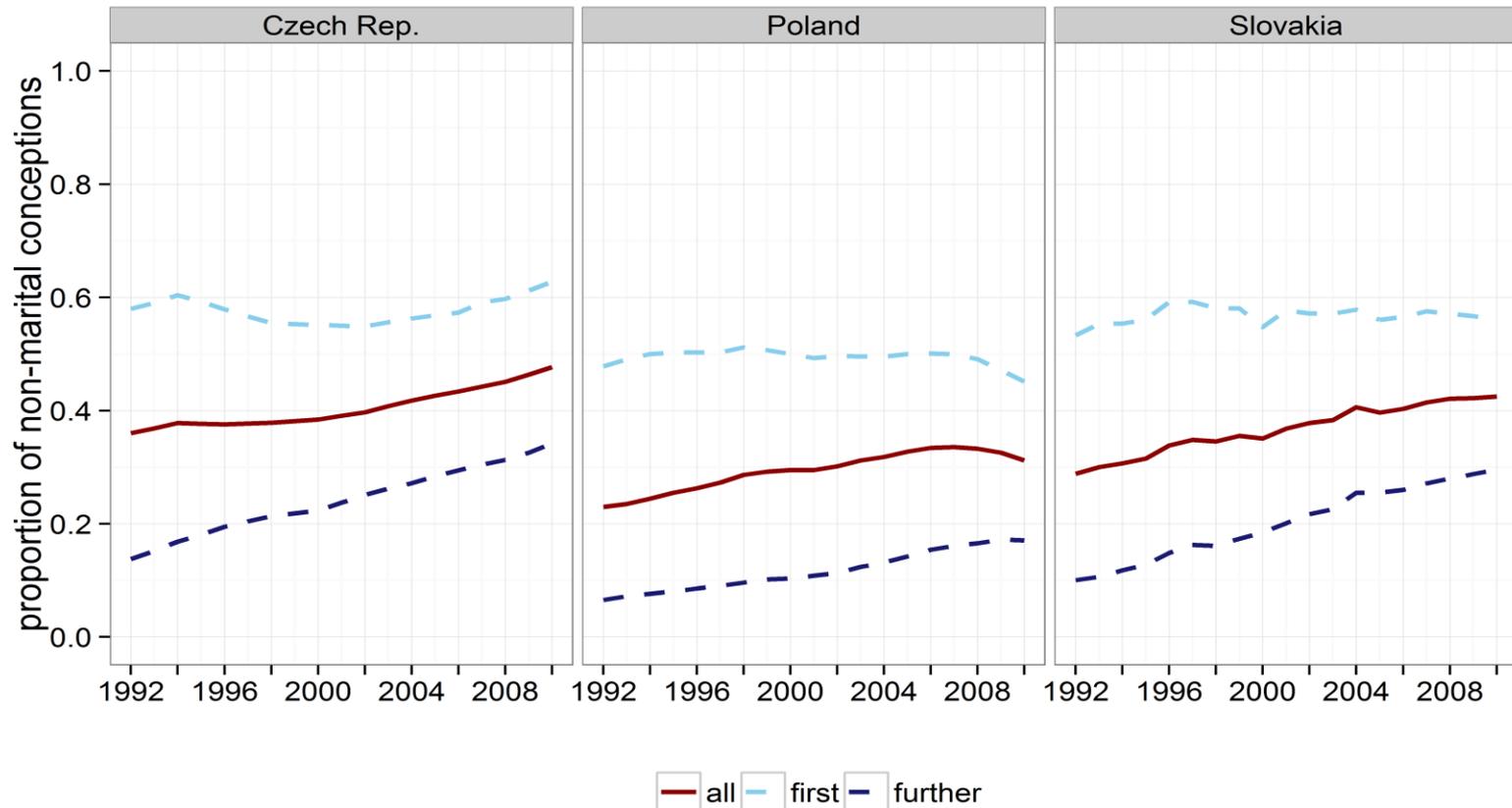
# Indirect factors: if fixed in 1988

In CZ the share of non-marital births was largely pushed by the declining % of married women & the faster increase in non-marital fertility. In PL and SK these two factors were most important, too, but the longer decline and then slower rise in marital fertility played a bigger role than in CZ.



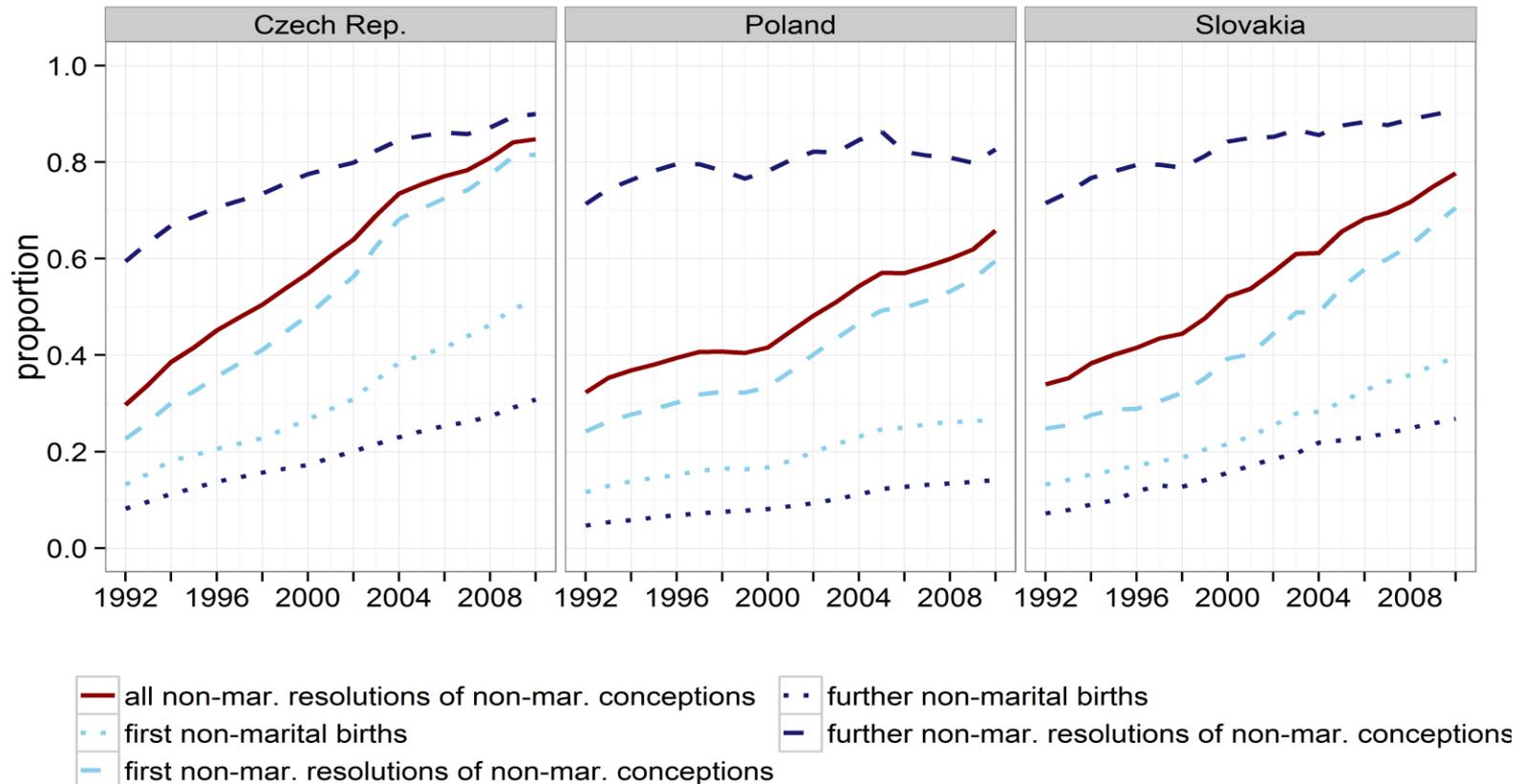
# Direct factors: non-marital conceptions

The share of non-marital conceptions increased mainly due to second and further non-marital conceptions; the share of non-mar. conceptions among first births was rather stable.



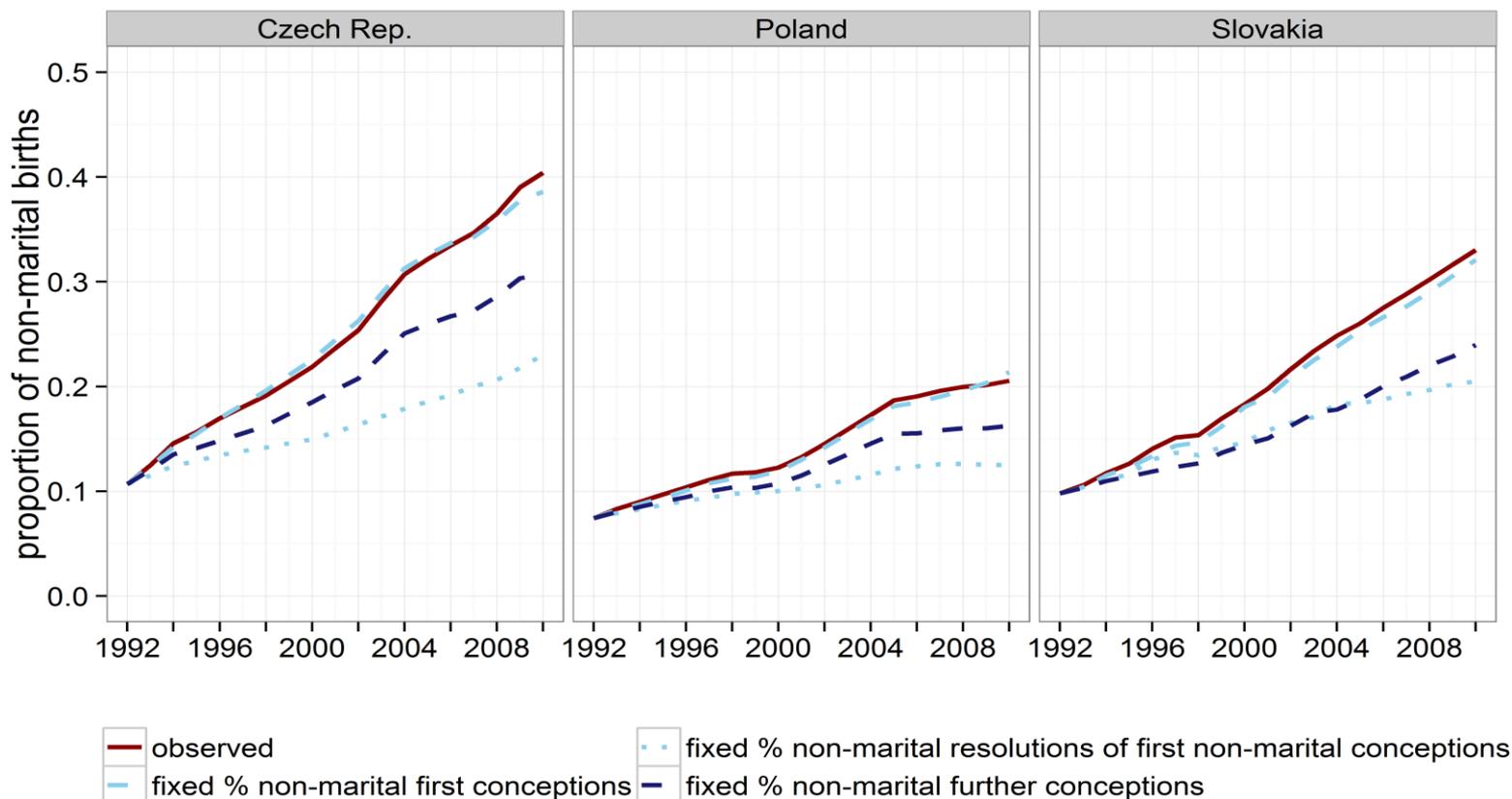
# Direct factors: non-marital resolutions

The share of non-mar. resolutions of non-mar. conceptions increased faster among first births than among further births. The same holds for the proportion of non-marital births.



# Direct factors: if fixed in 1992

The most important factor was the strongly rising share of non-mar. resolutions of first non-mar. conceptions – had it been the same as in 1992, the share of non-mar. births would have been 40% lower in 2010. Also, the upsurge in non-marital conceptions of second and further births pushed the proportion of non-mar. births considerably (by 20% in PL and 30% in SK).



# Conclusions

The rising share of non-marital births driven by:

- Declining % of married women ->
  - marrying later because of the educational expansion?
  - marrying later because of cohabitation?  
[cohabitation = preludium rather than an alternative to marriage] (Kreidl & Štipková 2012, Matysiak 2009, Matysiak & Mynarska 2010)
- Non-marital fertility staying stable in the 1990s (when marital fertility declining)
  - postponing marriage, but not childbearing?
  - selection effect?
  - ???

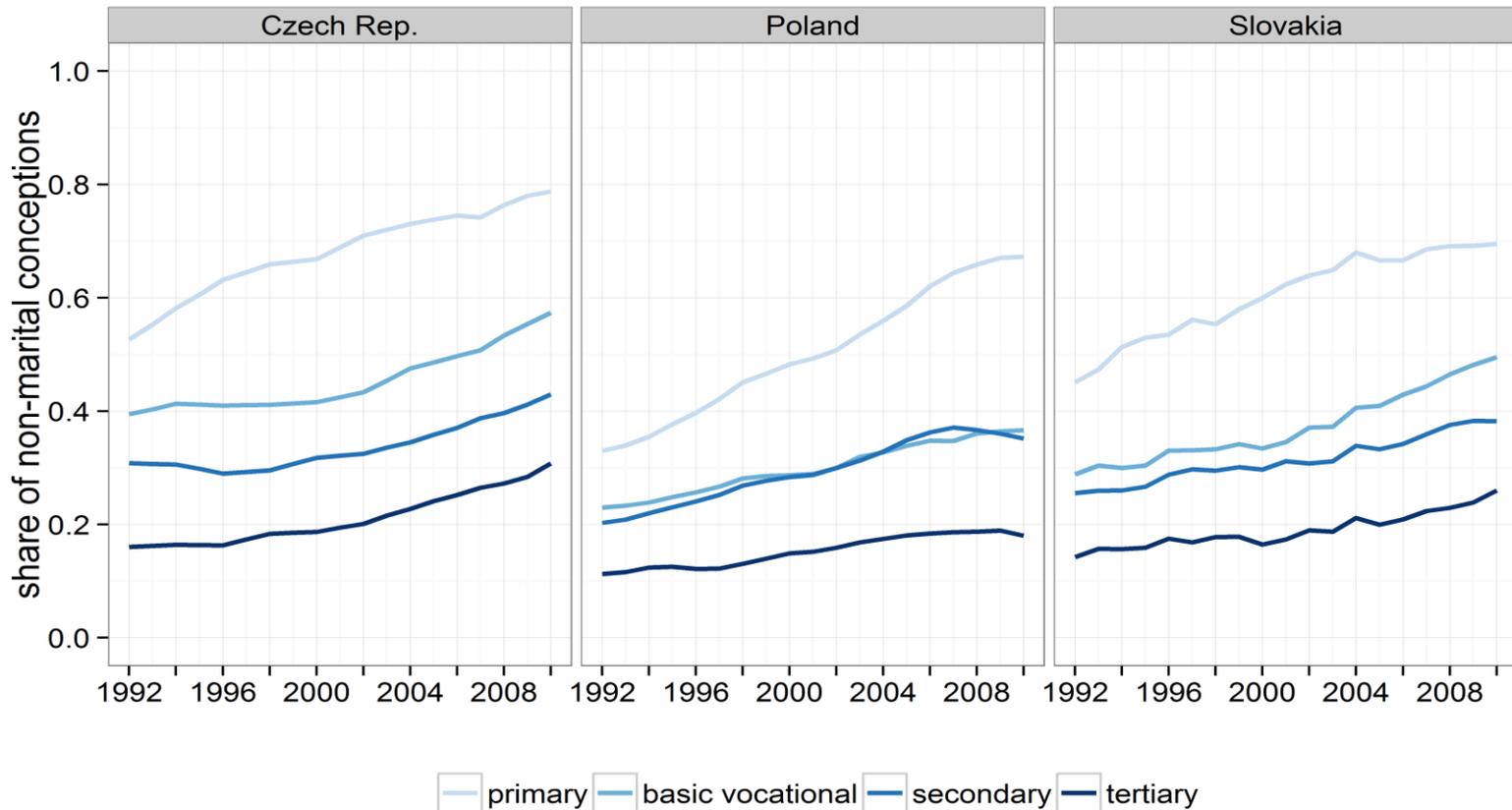
# Conclusions

The rising share of non-marital births driven by:

- The resolutions of the non-marital conceptions
  - non-marital births rather than shotgun-marriages
- The rising share of second and further non-marital conceptions ->
  - spreading cohabitation?

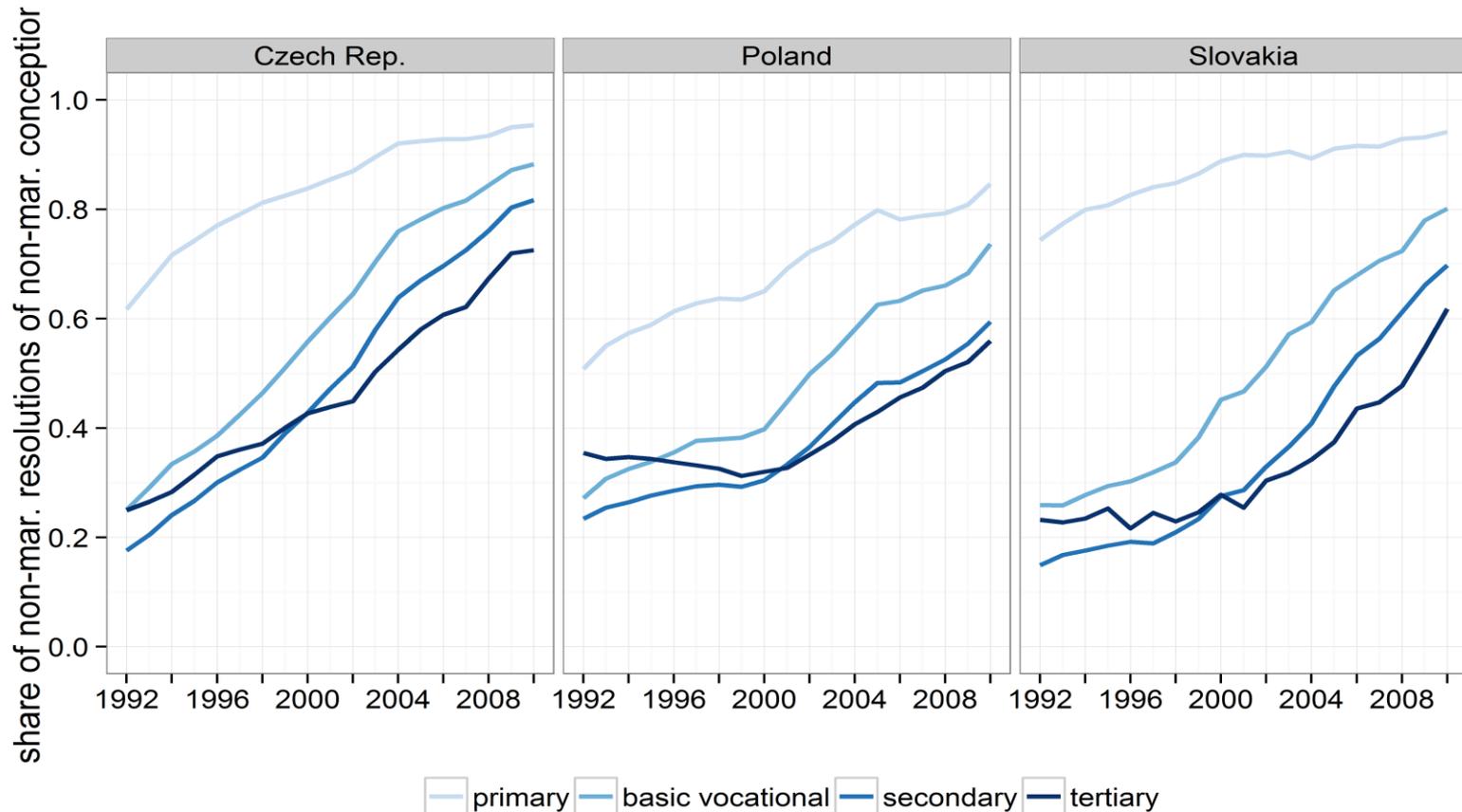
# Conclusions

The share of non-marital conceptions: huge educational differences



# Conclusions

The share of non-marital resolutions of non-mar. conceptions: declining educational differences (steep increases among the better educated)





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**THANK YOU VERY MUCH**

[zuzanna.brzozowska@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:zuzanna.brzozowska@oeaw.ac.at)

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