

## **Youth Perception of Extramarital and Homosexual Unions in North Macedonia**

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### **Abstract**

Families and married couples in contemporary societies are constantly facing changes and adjustments to the impact of the processes of urbanization, globalization, individualization and continuous technological development. Current statistics show an increase in divorce rates, a decrease in the number of marriages, lower birth rates, as well as an increase in the number of extramarital and homosexual unions. Young people are increasingly disinterested in marriage and instead prefer extramarital or informal partnerships. In the past decades these trends are present in North Macedonia as well, especially among the young population.

This study aims to present the results of a comparative study carried on during 2014 and 2022. The general study compounds youth perception of marriage, divorce, family life, parenthood and relationships in North Macedonia. More precisely, this paper will present the data related to the perception of young people in relation to extramarital and homosexual unions in North Macedonia and through a comparative analysis of the two surveys we will aim to explore whether there is a change in the perceptions of different generations of students in the abovementioned research period.

**Keywords:** extramarital union, families, homosexual unions, marriage