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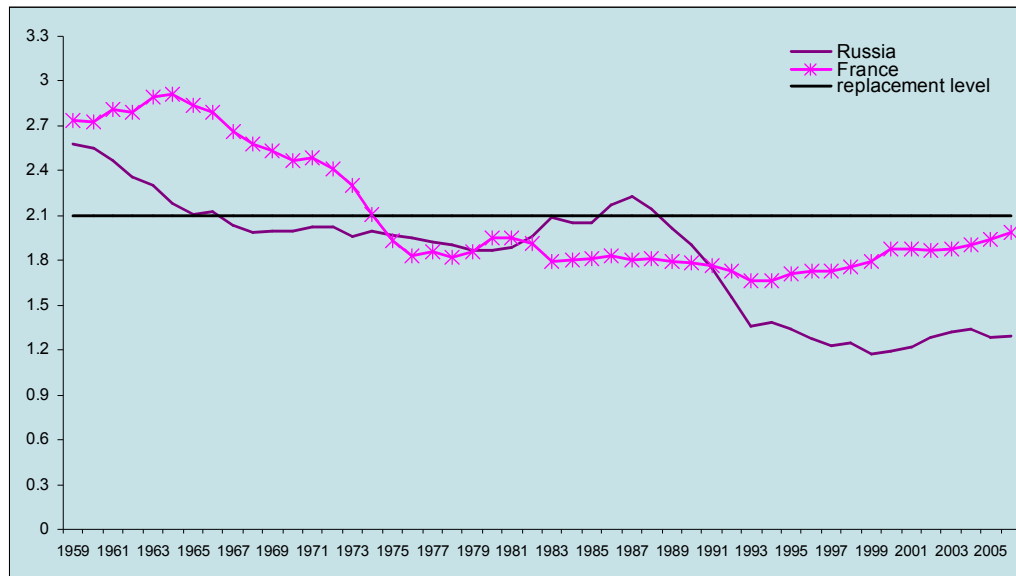
To have another child in France and Russia

Across Europe and all over the world the beginning of the 20th century was marked by growing interest in the well-being of families. Family as a social and economical institution is influenced by changes in society, culture of the country and economic well-being. Rapid changes in these areas cause modification in family structure and as consequences, alterations in desire to have a certain number of children and to the increase or decrease in the fertility level. Thus, family as an institution is a driving force for socio-economic changes while also being a victim of them. Concepts, definition and measurements of family, family policies and other social policies that have impact on families are not constant over time.

The time between late 19th and mid 20th century in Western Europe was the time of the end of the demographic transition. The second demographic transition has added the change in family formation and child-bearing preferences. The combination of these trends had resulted in negative natural population growth and growing population aging. France as one of the pioneer countries has experienced the consequences of both demographic transitions. France was one of the first countries realized the importance of encouraging fertility level by the family support. The first step in French family supporting measures was done in 1860, when the Ministry of sea fleet started paying some benefits to support clerks with big families (with 4 and more children). Population growth and its related issues have been a matter of French social policy for a long time. The strong family support resulted with one of the highest TFR in Europe (2,00 in 2008).

The situation in Russia is not so optimistic. The first time Russia faced fertility below replacement level (TFR=2.1) was the year 1967 (TFR was 2.03) (diagram 1). Strange as it may seem Russia has a developed family policy. Governmental family support in Russia includes allowances for children and families, institutional pre-school and school care, guarantee of the reservation of the job position, etc. All the measures were launched in different time, and all of them were worked in response to the needs of the social and economic development. However there is still very low fertility in Russian Federation. The picture on the diagram 1 presents changes in the total fertility rate in France and Russia during last decades. The fertility decline stopped in mid 80-s, that time most of the modern Russian family policy measures were introduced.

Diagram 1. Total fertility rate in France and Russia in 1959-2007



Source: www.ined.fr¹, www.dmo.econ.msu.ru, constructed by author

This project is aimed to investigate the French experience in family policy to compare with Russian one. French history in family policy is much longer and more effective. Russian experience comparing to French is just first chaotic steps in governmental family support. In this paper we compare some factors influence the decision to have another child in France and Russia to explore if it is possible to implement the French experience of family policy in Russia, match which areas the families suppose to be the problematic. Learning o such factors is the key point in development of different family policy measures in Russia. The data set of the research is the first waves of French and Russian GGS. We show the main problems denoted by women through the prism of current measures supporting families with children in both countries and try to propose some modification of the measures in Russia.

We assume that French experience can be used in Russia in development of the current family policy in Russia. Using some of the French measures can be resulted with the considerable demographic changes in fertility. However the difference between two countries should be take in account in design of the future Russian family policy.

¹ http://www.ined.fr/fichier/t_telechargement/3594/telechargement_fichier_fr_t2.xls;
<http://dmo.econ.msu.ru/demografia/Demographie/Fecondite/index.html>.