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EURÓPSKE DIMENZIE SPOTREBY A KVALITY ŽIVOTA¹

Abstract: *The quality of life is a very wide concept, which is being surveyed in various connections. One of them is its measuring in connection to consumption. Consumption expresses the way of using material and spiritual wealth of society when satisfying needs of its members, who differ in terms of consumption interests and aims. In relation to life quality the function of consumption cannot be replaced, because it expresses a material side of fulfilling human needs and desires. In connection to increasing the quality of life it is important that the relation between consumption and the quality of life reaches a functional balance in the meaning of contributing to fulfilling reproductive but mainly developing needs of a man. There are considerable differences among single countries in the EU in level and structure of consumption and so in the level of quality of life. The quality of life in new EU countries is low; it is lagging in every aspect behind that of the developed countries. Reducing the differences among rich and poor Union members must be perceived as an inevitable process, which will probably take place in longer time horizon. This process is affected by present economic crisis and its negative side consequences, different economic potential of the countries and ability to use it, pension reforms, problems with indebtedness and keeping budget discipline in countries and so on.*

Keywords: *quality of life, measuring the quality of life, economic growth, GDP per capita, private household consumption, Human Development Index*

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Úvod

Kvalita života je kategória, ktorá zachytáva rôzne parametre ľudského života, životné podmienky jednotlivca, spoločenskej skupiny, ako aj celej spoločnosti. Označuje sa za viacrozmerný pojem, pretože jeho obsahom sú materiálne, duchovne, kultúrne, spoločenské a iné stránky života, pričom má aj svoj vnútorný rozmer – *percepciu*.

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