

FAMILY TIME AND FAMILY LIFE
(analysis of empirical research in Montenegro)

PORODIČNO VRIJEME I PORODIČNI ŽIVOT
(analiza empirijskog istraživanja u Crnoj Gori)

APSTRAKT Važnost pitanja koja se tiču vremenskog značaja društvenih pojava svakako su jedno od centralnih pitanja i kontemplativnih izazova koje treba postići savremenom sociološkom misijom, dok vrijeme prolazi kroz sve aspekte društvenog života i predstavlja bitnu komponentu svih društvenih fenomena, i time glavnu komponentu svih društvenih odnosa. Vrijednost sociološkog razmatranja značaja vremena kao konstitutivnog elementa društvenih odnosa postaje mnogo značajnija ako znamo da se savremeni način života zasniva na takvom konceptu temporalnosti u kojem ubrzanje potiskuje lakoću (usporavanje), a varijabilnost i prolaznost zamenjuju upornost i sigurnost. Ubrzanje kao dominantni privremeni kod na kome se nalazi savremeni način života utiče na sve sfere društvene sposobnosti, posebno porodičnog života u kojem „priroda vremena“ nije inherentna zakonima brzine, već zakonom blizine i lakoće. Imajući sve to na umu, snažna i važna pitanja koja se tiču sfere društvenih odnosa i analize intersubjektivnog vremena u svim oblastima društvene sposobnosti stavljaju se pred sociologiju, a to nikada nije bilo aktuelno kao u današnje vrijeme.

Ključne riječi: porodični život, porodični odnosi, društveno vrijeme, društveni život, društveni odnosi.

ABSTRACT The importance of questions concerning the temporal significance of social phenomena is certainly one of the central issues and contemplative challenges to be achieved by contemporary sociological thought, as time runs through all aspects of social life and represents an essential component of all social phenomena, and thus the main component of all social relations. Currency of the sociological deliberation of the significance of time as a constitutive element of social relations, becomes much more significant if we know that the modern way of life is based on such concept of temporality in which the acceleration suppresses easiness (deceleration), variability and transience displace persistence and security. Acceleration as the dominant temporal code on which rests the modern way of life affects all spheres of sociability, especially family life where „nature of time“ is not inherent to the laws of hastiness, but laws of proximity and easiness. Bearing all that in mind, strong and important issues concerning the sphere of social relations and the analysis of intersubjective time in all areas of sociability are put in front of sociology, and this has never been as actual as today.

Key words: family life, family relationships, social time, social life, social relationships.

Introduction¹

Nowadays, more than ever before, one is concerned about the notion of time, in which he or she lives (i.e. about time as the current socio-historical moment of his or her existence), as well as about the meaning and importance of time in everyday life. The fact that in a modern society one is increasingly aware of is the meaning and importance of time in all areas of sociability, much distinguishes him from his ancestors. Modern technologies allow us to think faster, to perform any kind of work faster than before and to move from one place to another quickly. Technology has reduced the time of waiting and gave us more free time, which we are supposed to fill in a meaningful way. But how then is it possible that we never have enough time? J. Gleick explains this by saying that „we are drugged with speed“. According to Gleick, the speed, which was put on a pedestal and which was considered an indicator of progress by the Futurists, has become our enemy. „Today it only leads to psychological and physical exhaustion, which is the result of hyperactivity“ (Gleick, 2003: 274). According to C. Honore, the modern social environment is suffering from a disease of our time – „the lack of time disease“ (Honore, 2005: 13). It's a paradox that on the one hand, thanks to technological advances, the daily communication between people in today's society is much faster than few centuries ago, but at the same time we feel the pressure of rush, expressed in a feeling that we have less time than our ancestors. „*I have no time, I'm in a hurry, I'll call you!*“ – *we say looking at the watch.*“ This is one of the most common phrases that we hear, when accidentally meet our friends or acquaintances. It became a symbol of our generation culture of the time. However, the lack of time is not a result of the lack of time „on its own“, because time flows uniformly and continuously and, therefore, when we feel the „lack of time“, we should analyze the social conditions that cause this lack. Thus, the problem in question represents a very important area of the sociological interest and the direct socio-cultural problem associated with rhythm of lives in a complex society.

Accelerated time dynamics has a special influence on the intersubjective sphere of sociability and the values it is based on. In fact, in today's world where economic values have a leading role, the time itself is estimated as an economic value and used rationally. As a result money, as the measure of the economic value, becomes the master of time in the field of intersubjective relations and social connections as well. P. Sorokin thinks that „economic interest and expediency became the highest value and criterion for all values (especially non – economic ones)“ (Sorokin, 2002: 393). Sorokin explains this change in the system of values (referring to the famous quote of Benjamin Franklin) through a unified pattern of money and time evaluation: „*Honesty is*

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useful, as it provides a good reputation; accuracy, hard work and thrift are the same, and for this reason they all are virtues[...] Remember that time is money[...] Remember that trust is money [...] Remember that money has the ability to reproduce". According to P. Sorokin, these Benjamin Franklin's ideas speak volumes for a complete revolution in the area of interpersonal values, whose fundamental „revolutionarity“ is that: „Nowadays the economic values are the masters of any other values“ (Ibid., 2002: 393). By promoting the idea that „*time is money*“, a modern economic system develops values, the main purpose of which is making money and the constant enrichment. The consequence of such trend is movement of many spheres of the true human values within the limits of utility. In social practice, which is characterized by the „*time is money*“ principle, the old saying, that the best things in life are free, is a complete nonsense now. In addition, Giddens' remark, that the norms and values of liberal democracy became the norms, style and perfect values within the emotional ties between the two partners, sounds very interesting and inspiring (Giddens, 2005: 86–87). The necessity to measure human performance with numerical and economic values shows a trend in which, according to Erich Fromm, „the question of the existence of anything which is „worth of time“ raises. Dating of a boy and a girl, visiting friends and other activities which may need some amount of money, raises the question whether this event is worth time and money“ (Fromm, 1963: 154). In any case, in a society where such a system of values rules, where the material values rank above the people, where people themselves donate most of their time to this system and bring their relationships under it, it is illusory to talk about the progress of such society or about the social conditions that allow to create the desired foundation on which it will be possible to build the desired social „home“ for the development of a truly creative, free and happy people.

The subject of this research is family relationships and family time.

The aim of this research is to analyze the influence of family time on a general biopsychosocial and spiritual life of the respondents.

The basic hypothesis: Nowaday the accelerated social dynamics increasingly determines the family life of a person, resulting in an imbalance between the rapid pace of social life and slow time necessary for family life.

Family time as a constituent of family relations (empirical research in Montenegro)

The concept of „family time“ designates the timing of events such as marriage, birth of a child, leaving home, and the transition of individuals into different roles as the family moves through its life course. Timing has often been a major source of conflict and pressure in the family, since „individual time“ and „family time“ are not always in harmony.

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Family in the current socio-historical moment of its existence is facing many difficulties in maintaining and performing its main functions and socio-

expected role, because the changes that are rapidly taking place in all spheres of public life, significantly influence the state, development, place and role of the family in society. The speed of modern social life „hits“ especially family time, which itself becomes a „slave“ of different daily schedules, which breaks it into the small pieces. As a result the members of a family often „lack time“ for a family life, that leads to worsen relations within the family. It is easy to imagine how harmful the accelerated speed of life can be, in terms of family life, where every member of the family comes and leaves when he or she wants and when he or she needs to. According to C. Honore, in the developed Western world sticky notes on refrigerator doors „have become the main form of communication in many homes“ (Honore 2005: 17). It's logically that such an accelerated way of life may become superficial. When we are in a hurry, we just fly over the surface and do not have time to establish real communication with family members or others. According to T. H. Eriksen, there is not a single social arena for which „long-term prospects and the unhasting pace of time are more important than in a family life. Many employers in the conditions of new economy know this perfectly. That's why they prefer to hire people who don't have family responsibilities and who more or less are ready to work day and night if necessary“ (Eriksen 2003: 175).

Acceleration, as a dominant cultural code underlying the modern way of life, affects all spheres of social life, especially family life. In the novel „Don Quixote“ Cervantes writes: „Que no son todos los tiempos unos“ – which means that not all times are the same, and this is particularly true for the family time, because the family, as the basic biopsychosocial union of parents and their children, is a union which needs its special „enduring“ and „unhasting“ time as a constituent of family relations and the foundation of family life, especially if we take into account that for centuries the family has been an exceptional place to crystallize and transmit well-established social values passing through time, as well as the main place where a person gets a sense of security, support, affiliation, love and self – esteem. Family life is a slow life, that's why its „natural rhythm“ doesn't coincide with the fast modern life. According to T. H. Eriksen the modern family life is constantly under the pressure from the tyranny of the moment, „the logic of the moment affects all areas of family life, and it is in a direct conflict with the logic of a family. In fact, family life doesn't require a lot of some special work or some big funds, but it requires a lot of time“ (Eriksen, 2003: 172–175). This idea becomes even more important when you consider that the quantity and quality of family time has a great influence on the quality and harmony of relationships that are established in the family, and the quality of family relationships that are established between the family and its environment, as well as with society as a whole. It's very important to find answers to these questions, because they will give us the valuable information about the nature and quality of both family and wider social relations and ties.

The results of our research shows that, for the most part, respondents have enough time for the family life. The majority of respondents stated (Table 1), that they had „*quite enough*“ time for their family (54.7%). A significant number of respondents indicated that they had „*not enough*“ time for their family (33.8%). Only a small number of respondents said that they had „*very little*“ time for their family (11.0%).

Table 1

Sex	How much time do you have for your family?				Σ
	Quite Enough	Not Enough	Very little	Other	
Male	155	104	47	2	308
	50.3%	33.8%	15.3%	0.6%	100.0%
Female	182	104	21	1	308
	59.1%	33.8%	6.8%	0.3%	100.0%
Σ	337	208	68	3	616
	54.7%	33.8%	11.0%	0.5%	100.0%

$$C=0.141; \chi^2-12.438; df- 3; \rho =0.006$$

If one analyzes this question with respect to the gender structure, it can be seen that there is a statistically significant difference between the indexes of men and women ($\chi^2-12.438$, $p = 0.006$). Women believe that they have more time for their family than men (59.1% of women believe that they have „*quite enough*“ time for a family, 33.8% believe that they have „*not enough*“ time and only 6.8% of them believe that they have no time for family). Such attitude is partly determined by a higher percentage of men in the sector of employment, by more traditional wife-mother attachment to the family, and thus to the time of obligations outside professional activities.

Information that near half of the surveyed men (49.1%) said that they had „*not enough*“ (33.8%) or „*very little*“ (15.1%) time for their family life is another important result of this research. While this information does not give a cause for serious concern, compared with the data from the developed² countries, nevertheless speaks about family time „*inferiority*“ due to frequent absence of one member of the family. However, the given data not only show relatively big absence of men in family lives and their greater engagement in „*extra-familial*“ lives, but also that woman in Montenegrin society is not only a „*pillar of the family*“ but also an „*owner*“ of family time. This observation

² In his book „In Praise of Slowness“ Carl Honore shows the results of the survey conducted by Newsweek in 2000, according to which 73.0% of American teenagers reported that their parents do not have time for them (Onore 2005: 18).

becomes even more important if we include in the analysis data relating the joint assessment of the absence of men and women in family life. Therefore, according to our respondents, women are absent in family life only in 6.7% of cases, while for the men this index is 60.0%. For children this index is 23.3%. Taking into account the abovementioned, it can be concluded that women play a major role in a child-rearing, which is confirmed by the results of the research according to which on the question „Who bears the bigger burden in raising children?“ 61.8% of respondents answered – a woman, 31.2 % believe that childrearing is a collaborative effort, and only 4.6% of respondents said that it is a man.

These data show clearly that woman bears the main burden in raising children, but also show that she is not alone in this family process, as the research indicates that this aspect of family life is a result of a significant mutual support. In addition to the abovementioned we can indicate, that the research findings, which strongly indicate the power of balance in lives of families in making important decisions related to the family as a union, which is based on the unity of communication, agreement and reaction on current challenges of its existence. Therefore, on the questions *who in the family has a last word in the decision about the birth and the number of children, who takes most of the decisions on financial matters, and who often takes decisions on free time and social life of children*, the responses were received which show that in 60.0% of the cases they are a joint decision, without statistically significant differences in the participation of husband and wife in the adoption of any of the above solutions. This means that family communication, as an intersubjective time and content of family relationships, strives to maintain the consistency as a fundamental aspect of the family relations, in spite of a relatively large absence of men in family life. With no doubt the social aspect of this question is extremely important because it tells us that the „turtle“ (family) in the world set to high speed, still has a lot of work, and as F. Tennis noticed once, at the same time family serves as the best model of the broader social relations, which in a whirlwind of accelerating speed of life increases the tension of social changes and relationships, where the connections between people become more unstable and superficial, and a sense of *lack of time* even more present with the growth of those ties and relations.

The results of these studies relate to a link between the number of children and the „existence“ of the sufficient time for family life and they are the best illustration of the fact that the family is the particular social arena, in which the greater number of family members, and, consequently, a greater number of connections that need more time for each of them, do not necessarily lead to the increasing feeling of the lack of time for the family life.

Table 2.

How many children do you have?	Have you got enough time for your family?				
	Quite Enough	Not Enough	Very little	Other	Σ
One	47 47.0%	39 39.0%	13 13.0%	1 1.0%	100 100.0%
Two	90 54.2%	63 38.0%	13 7.8%	0 0.0%	166 100.0%
Three and more	120 60.9%	55 27.9%	22 11.2%	0 0.0%	197 100.0%
No children	70 50.7%	48 34.8%	18 13.0%	2 1.4%	138 100.0%
Σ	328 54.5%	205 34.1%	66 11.0%	3 0.5%	602 100.0%

$$C=0,154; \chi^2-14.610; df-12; \rho=0.263$$

Responses of parents on a sample of 602 respondents to the question, whether they have enough time for family, taking into account the number of children in the family, indicate that in this matter there is no statistical significance ($\chi^2-14.610$, $p = 0.263$). Undoubtedly, an interesting fact of this study is that the more time for a family the responder can find, the more children he or she has, or that with the increase of the number of children in the family, the possibility to find enough time for the family also increases. In particular, the study found that respondents who have one child more seldom than others said that they had „quite enough“ time (47.0%), on the contrary, they more often than others gave the answers that they have „very little“ time for the family (13.0%), while on the other hand, respondents who have three or more children, in most cases (60.9%) said that they have „quite enough“ time, and least of all the responders with two children said that they had „very little“ time for the family (7.8%) (Table 2). The research explains the reasons for these differences between respondents in their assessment of the time needed for a family is that the respondents with three or more children, who are on the „crossroads“ of professional and family responsibilities, have greater willingness to find a required time and give it to the family. Thus, the respondents who have three or more children, are much more often ready to „neglect“ the professional obligations and spend more time with their family in the confrontation of professional and family obligations, compared to the responders with one or

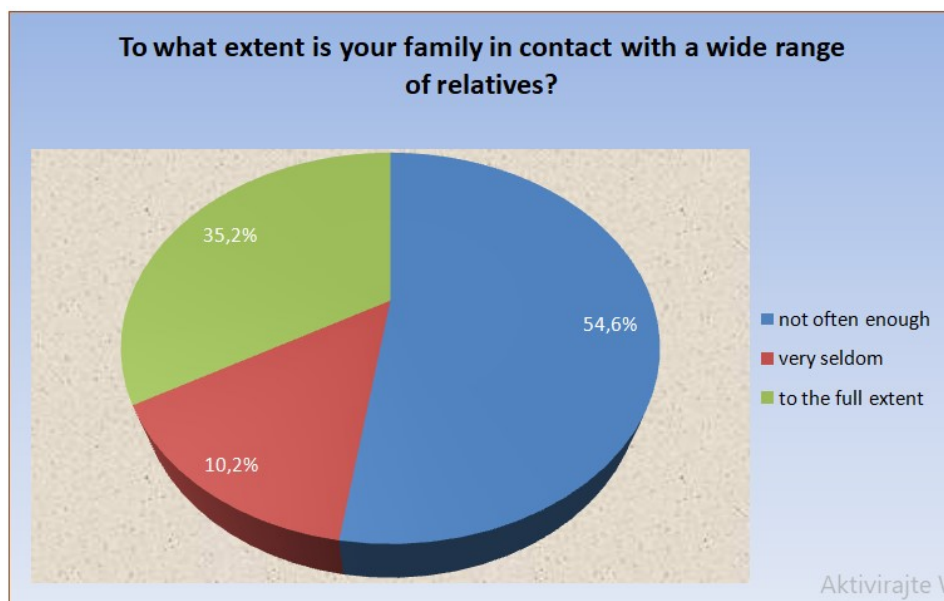
two children. According to the research, another important reason for this deviation is the stronger ties of the families with three or more children with their closest circle of relatives (especially parents, brothers and sisters), and thus the stronger cooperation and mutual assistance of the relatives, because in the course of this research the respondents with three or more children more often (42.6%) noted that they communicated with their relatives constantly and to the full extent. Nevertheless, it seems that the main reason lies in the special attachment of the members of family with three or more children to the family itself, and in the importance that the family has in their lives, because the respondents with three or more children in the vast majority of cases (92.8%) said that their family is the main goal and the profound meaning of their life. Exactly these reasons are the possible reasons for this difference in the responses, as well as the general opinion of our respondents about the time needed for the family.

Thus the results of the research, obtained on the general question – *How much time do you have for your family life?* – show that the accelerating speed of social life does not significantly affect the stability and quality of family relationships, as the largest number of respondents reported that they were „*completely satisfied*“ (69.4%) with the family relations, while 27.6% of respondents were „*partially satisfied*“ and only 3.0% of the responders were „*not satisfied*“ with relationships in their families. Nevertheless the process of rapid acceleration of the social life speed is not a neutral variable which has no effect on the social scene of family life. This fact is best evidenced by the recent statistics of the number of divorces in Montenegro. That is, although the accelerated speed of life brings us more contacts and meetings, at the same time it leads to a greater number of broken social and even family ties. The classic maxim of „till death do us part“ originated in the past, slow time, the values of which, according to numerous empirical data in Montenegro, do not correspond to the present time and its values. According to the Bureau of Statistics (MONSTAT), in Montenegro (which has 620,029 inhabitants today) there were 456 divorces only in 2009, while in 2008 there were even more divorces – 460. Comparing with the data of 1980-ies (when Montenegro was a part of a larger community called Yugoslavia) these data are almost twice as high. An additional point is that there is a tendency of reduced duration of marriages. For example, in 2008, 26 divorces happened that lasted less than one year. According to preliminary data of the Bureau of Statistics within 11 months of 2010 there were 435 divorces, while in the same period in 2010 there were concluded 439 marriages. Thus, every seventh marriage ended in divorce in 2010 (Statistical Yearbook of Montenegro 2010).

Concerning the framework of these researches and the analysis of the impact of the intensification process on family life and family time, we can say that, according to the answers of our respondents, these processes „harm“ the intrafamily arena of interpersonal relationships less and much more affect family contacts with its close relatives and other members of social environment. In particular, the research found that the intensification of social life and work

has a negative effect on the frequency of contacts and close ties with its wide range of relatives. The responses received to the question „To what extent is your family in contact with a wide range of relatives?“ show that the traditional virtues of family communication and relationships are going through a small crisis, as evidenced by the results of these researches, according to which 64.8% of respondents said, that they maintained contacts with a wide range of relatives „not often enough“ (54.6%) or „very seldom“ (10.2%) (Chart 1).

Chart 1



The presented data show that due to the accelerated dynamics of social requirements and obligations, on one hand, and family responsibilities on the other hand, family largely sprays not only structurally and functionally but also in terms of time, or more precisely, the family members temporally move apart from each other, in the sense that members of the family, being on the „cross-roads“ of work and family social arenas, more and more seldom can allocate time necessary for frequent contacts and maintaining the relationships with a wide circle of relatives or friends. These results are also supported by the data, according to which the largest number (59.5%) of our respondents spend the largest part of their free time just with their family and a very small part of the respondents spend their free time in the company of friends and family, attending cultural, sport and recreational activities, etc. The abovementioned confirms that the modern family loses the traditional habit of spending a lot of time in the closest family environment, which was a characteristic of the family relationships, lost somewhere in the cycle of urban modernity in which inter-personal contacts are often reduced to short visits or casual encounters.

Another important finding of this research, which supports the above-mentioned paragraph, suggests that temporal intensification of social life significantly intertwines in the „unhasting“ social arena, represented by the family and family life, and the „nature of time“ of this arena is not characterized by the „laws of hastiness“ and the „laws of distance“, but just the opposite – the „laws of proximity and easiness“. The results show that to the question: „What part of your daily life is free time?“ only 10.7% of the respondents answered „the biggest part“, while the most of respondents (74.8%) believe that free time takes a „third part“ of their daily life (33.0%) or extremely „small part“ (41.8%). These results show clearly that working hours and time occupied by the commitments outside of work, take up more than two thirds of the total time for the majority of respondents, which greatly reduces to relativity their initial response to the general question: „Do you have enough time for family life?“ Such domination of the working time and time occupied by the commitments outside of work with respect to all available time, greatly affects the cultural life of the families of most of respondents, and, especially, the quality of their leisure time. This is evidenced by the findings of the survey: „Do you attend cultural, sport and recreational activities as a family?“

Chart 2



The vast majority of the adult respondents, i.e. parents (84.9%) who participated in the research, said that they did it „*very seldom*“ (50.7%) or „*never*“ (34.2%) and only 16.1% of them said that their whole family attended cultural, sport and recreational activities „*often*“ (Chart 2). These data confirm the results of a survey among the young people, who have given almost the identical answers as the older respondents, presenting a unified position, according to

which 85.5% of the pupils/students attend such activities „*very seldom*“ or „*never*“ (27.7%) and only 15.5% of them said that they attended them constantly. The following responses were stated as the main reasons of the rare attendance of such activities: *the lack of time* (41.2%), *occupation by the work or school obligations* (40.9%), and also *the different interests* (17.9%). All these reasons act as the „the villain of the piece“ of the existence of the gap between the young people’s time and their families’ time, and exactly these grounds can explain the reasons for such a seldom joint pastime of the parents and their children outside their home.

Thus, the temporal intensification of social life affects negatively not only the maintenance of family contacts with a close circle of relatives and social environment, but also on the quality of time that parents spend with the children, because the accelerated speed of the social life on one hand and the current „time of troubles“ on the other hand, don’t provide enough time for the high-quality leisure time filled with joint day trips or attending cultural, sport and recreational activities, etc. Due to the seldom joint attendance of the various activities in leisure time, the opportunities for closer interaction between parents and children in the cultural and social life in terms of finding common interests and the establishment of closer ties between the parents and children in this area have also reduced largely, while this area is the key to both the quality of family relationships and the transmission of values and positive influence on younger generation, because the modern social life not only transmits the trend of acceleration of social relations, which quickly involves the younger generation, but also the increased risks for the socialization of the young people, at which they lose their understanding of right values and the „objective opinion“ about their social contacts and activities. At this level the research shows that parents do not have the real control of how their children spend time outside the family. Thus the majority of pupils/students (52.7%) said that their walks to the town are not restricted, and in most cases (45.0%), they do not need to ask for permission or get it from their parents. Although it’s easy to understand the absence of the restrictions on the walks to town for the students, 62.9% of pupils also said that their walks to the town aren’t limited, and they don’t need to get parents’ permission for that. These data represent an important conclusion of the research that a large number of students have great freedom to spend their free time as they wish, without the pressure of parental restrictions. Thus, the results of the research indicate that parents can’t find „enough time“ in their free time for frequent joint time out with their children organizing visits to cultural and entertainment events, and in order to compensate this lack of such joint activities, they let their children to fill their free time in their own way. Thus 84.5% of young people said that the family provides them with good conditions for the full use of free time, which they mostly spend outside the family. For the most part, the reasons for this time „gap“ between parents and children in the structure of inter-subjective family time is determined by the different rhythm of parents’ and children’s free time. In particular, the research has found that the

parent prefer to spend the most of their free time in the shelter of their home, where they can find the needed peace and relaxation from the daily pressure of social and family commitments, while the young people try to intensify their contacts and social life in their free time. Thus while the parents try to „slow down their rhythm“ during their free time, the youth on the contrary try to fill their free time with socializing with their friends. The abovementioned supports the research data which show that the significant number of young people *feel a bit bored* in their families because of the lack of „lively“ interaction between them and their parents. So 51.5% of young people said that they felt „very“ (5.1%), „quite enough“ (20.4%) or „somewhat“ (26.0%) bored in their families, while 48.5% of them stated that they didn't feel bored. According to the research's conclusions the growing difference in the conduct of the free time has a negative impact on the important role of the family in the process of modeling the life values of young people. So, the responses on the question „*What influence does your family have on modeling your life?*“ showed that for 67.6% of young people family has „partial“ (48.2%) or „very small“ (19.4%) influence on modeling their life. The foregoing suggests that strong temporal correlation between parents and children negatively affects the traditional features, which serve as the basement for modeling and building lives of young generations, and takes the form of individualized orientation which builds itself in the process of a broad social interaction.

Taking into account the importance of family to its members, as a place of free expression of emotions and the manifestation of satisfaction because of reciprocity and proximity as the main characteristic of the nature of family relations, the question arises: *How much do our responders miss their family life?* – in other words, how important is a family atmosphere, where affinity and reciprocity develops, for every person. The results show clearly that the respondents, who significantly haven't enough time for the family life, feel a strong need for this time. The majority of the respondents (86.6%), who feel the „pressure“ of their absence in the family life, said that they need this time „strongly“ or „partially“.

The survey results show that unmarried respondents feel the lack of time for family life least of all. Only in 21.4% of the cases they responded that they „strongly“ needed more time for family life. After them there are divorced people who in 45.5% of the cases responded that they „strongly“ needed more time for family life. Most of all the lack of time for family life is felt by married people, which is quite natural. In 58.6% of cases they stated that they „strongly“ need more time for the family life. These data show the importance of family time for a development of a stronger sense of belonging to the family and intensification of a deep attachment to the family unit.

The results of these researches are the best evidence of the importance of having „quite enough time for a family“ for family life and the overall biopsychosocial and spiritual life of family members. These results show that respondents who answered that they have „quite enough“ time for the family are the

same respondents who felt the confrontation of family, professional and marital obligations least of all. Another important finding of this research, that supports the great importance of time as part of family relations, is the fact that respondents who have „quite enough“ time for the family, fall into the category of respondents, who are satisfied with the relationships in their family most of all. Thus, it is not surprising that these respondents in most cases consider the marriage as a center of the deep relations and economic stability, while at the same time all respondents, regardless of *how much time they have for the family life* – „quite enough“, „not enough“ or „very little“ – expressed their full agreement that marriage is „exactly“ the best foundation for the birth of children. Moreover the research shows that the respondents who believed that they had „quite enough“ time for the family showed the greatest degree of consensus on important decisions concerning the family, and exactly they attend the cultural, sport and recreational activities more often than others.

The abovementioned research results clearly indicate the precious importance of family time for the overall biopsychosocial life of the respondents, as well as for more effective cooperation and harmony of family relations. Nevertheless the research results show that accelerated social dynamics gradually affects the family life, that leads to the need to find a balance between the rapid speed of the social life and the slow flow of the time necessary for the family life, because time, as Sophocles said, is a „*divine treasure*“, but only if each social arena has its „*own time*“.

Conclusion

The enhanced dynamics as a complex form of the social life, which has established by a program of modern life, naturally affects the family life, which, as any other social arena, is receptive and even more vulnerable to strong social pressures, which impose the burden on the modern family and drain the power and importance of family time as in the process of the youth socialization, as well as with the absence or rare presence of its members in the structure of family time. The results of this research clearly show that the family is facing many challenges and changes that modern society carries. Intensification of social life particularly affects intra – family communication and contacts with its close relatives and friends, because the family members fall on the „crossroads“ of work and family responsibilities, and thus they have less time for closer contacts and maintaining the relationships with a wide range of its relatives and friends. Therefore, the intensification of social life and uncertainty inherent to our time, on the one hand, significantly affect the family, „spraying temporally“ not only its structure but also its free time, which is best evidenced by the data which indicate that the majority of members of the family spend their free time alone with their family and give very little time to communication with friends and relatives, attending cultural, sport and recreational activities, etc. On the other hand, the core of the family (parents – children) becomes more temporally

fragmented and individualized, and in such way the family time of parents and children largely „splits“ into two halves, when the parents spend most of their free time at home, and children spend most of their free time out of home.

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