

New Solvo Think Tank Survey Warns: Family Care Stereotypes Cost the Czech Economy Hundreds of Billions

Press release

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The think tank SOLVO has found in an exclusive survey that 70% of the Czech population believes children under the age of three primarily need care from their mother. However, this wastes hundreds of billions of crowns. Children also need care from their father. Czech women spend two hours a day managing household tasks, and their unequal position in society is slowing down the country's economy.

SOLVO has presented its latest data on the position of women in Czech society. Exclusive surveys by research agencies SC&C and Ipsos focused on prevailing stereotypes about the roles of both genders. The results highlight differences in pay as well as disparities in the division of family and household responsibilities.

SOLVO presented the findings during a panel discussion attended by prominent figures from business and academia. Participants included businesswoman Ivana Tykač, former rector of Mendel University Danuše Nerudová, CEO of Moneta Money Bank Tomáš Spurný, SC&C Director Jana Hamanová, artificial intelligence expert Michal Pěchouček, sociologist Lenka Simerská, and SOLVO Director Michaela Marksová.

According to the SC&C analysis, only 40 % of men and women are aware of the “pay gap” — the difference in earnings between men and women. In fact, 12 % of women and 29 % of men even believe salaries are equal. In reality, statistics show that men earn almost 18 % more than women.

Half of Czechs remain conservative on the division of household and family care, believing that domestic tasks such as cooking or laundry should be the woman's responsibility. Statistics show that women spend roughly 15 hours per week on these activities.

“People often talk about increasing the number of women in company leadership. This is, of course, necessary, but the problem is that women simply do not have enough time for work because managing the household takes up so much of it. Naturally, this significantly slows down the economy and causes substantial financial losses,” says Ivana Tykač, founder of SOLVO.

Czechs are divided in their views on what social roles people should have. For example, 50 % of respondents consider it unusual for a father to take parental leave. The same proportion find it unusual when women or men work in professions “traditionally” associated with the opposite gender. A woman in a high political position is considered unusual by 44 % of women and 32 % of men.

The survey also produced the F Index, based on the views of both women and men regarding emancipation. Respondents were ranked according to their answers on a scale from zero to one hundred points, with a higher score indicating more emancipated attitudes. Czech women scored an average of 56 points, while men scored 48.

The SOLVO Institute plans to continue holding debates and events addressing key social issues,

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with the aim of initiating fundamental changes in the thinking and behavior of the Czech population.

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