Factors Affecting Welfare Attitudes in Europe:
Existential Security and Values

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Predictors of welfare attitudes: what is already known

1. Individual level

Self-interest - the individual position in the social structure
[Svallfors, 1991, 2004; D'Anjou et al., 1995; Andrass and Heien, 2001; Linos and West, 2003; van Oorschot, 2010; Staerklé et al., 2012 and others]

Ideational factors [Kangas, 1997; Hasenfeld and Rafferty, 1989; Groskind, 1994; Blekesaune and Quadagno, 2003; van Oorschot, 2007, 2010, 2011 and others]
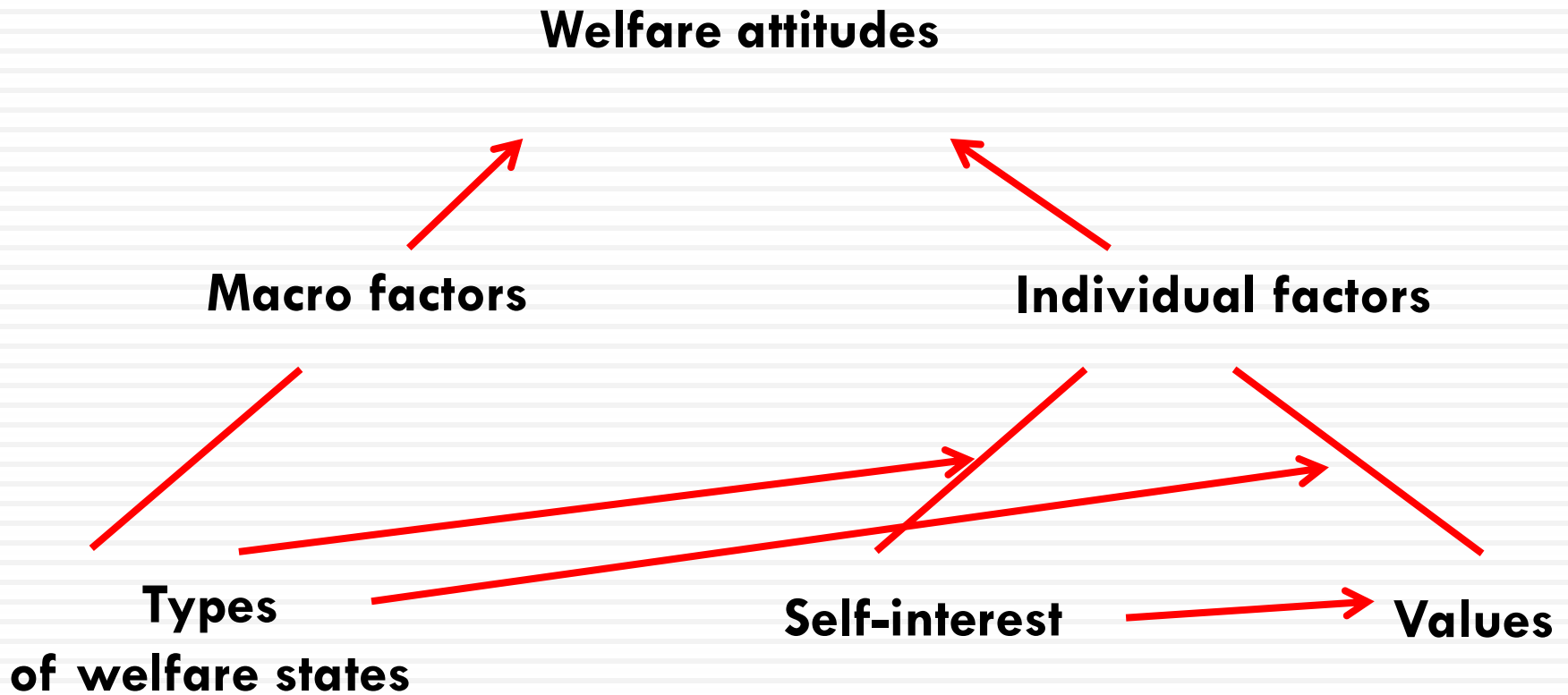
2. Institutional level

Culture of the welfare state [Esping-Andersen, 1990;   Bambra, 2007; Ferrera, 1996; Bonoli, 1997, Arts and Gelissen, 2002; Jakobsen, 2011; Reeskens and van Oorschot, 2011 and others]

Macroeconomic environment [Blekesaune, 2007;Jacobsen, 2011; Монусова, 2012]
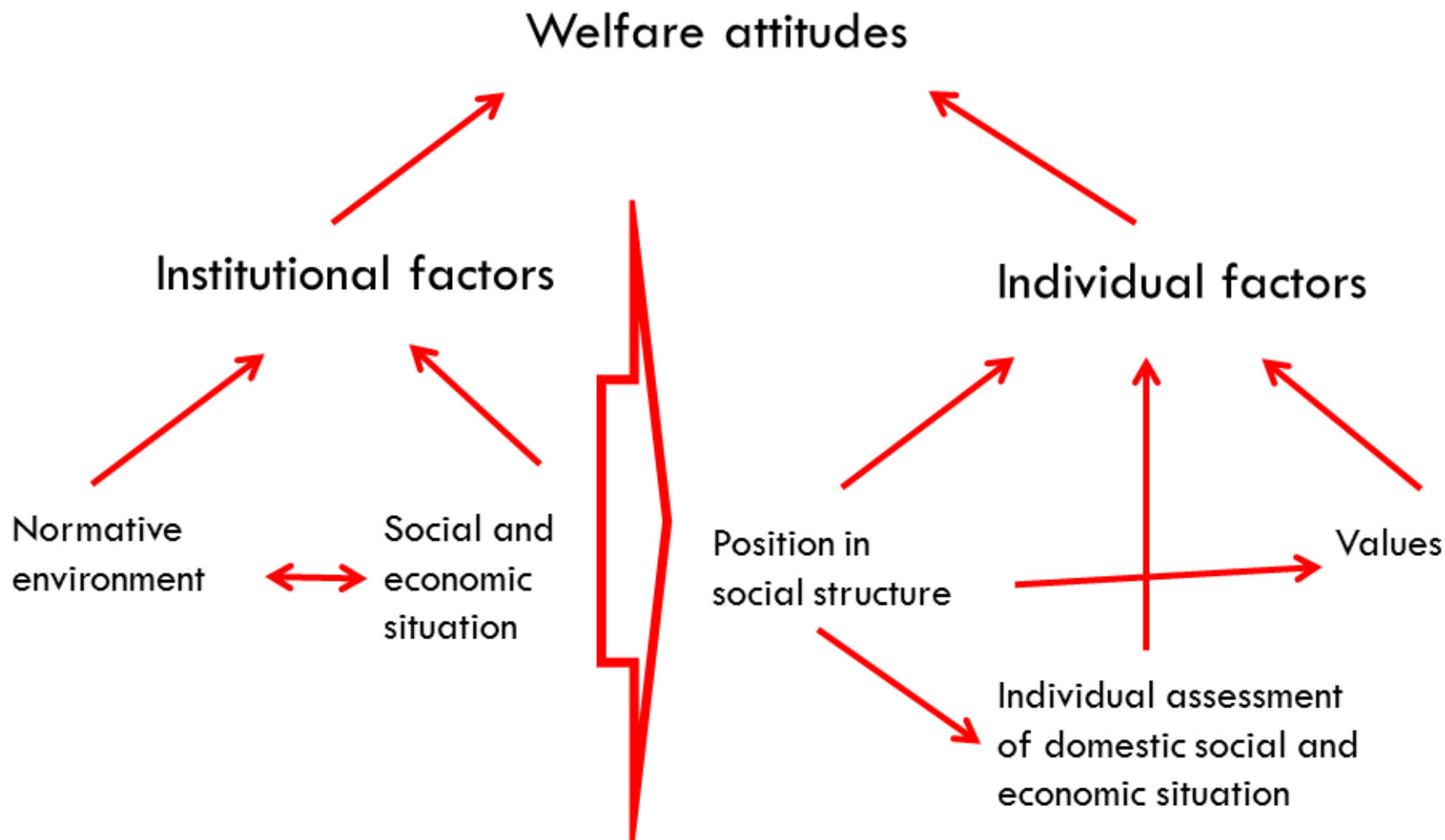
4. Research questions

1. **What is an effect of values on welfare attitudes?**

2. **Does this effect derives from self-interest?**

3. **What is an effect of self-interest?**

4. **How does these effects change in different types of welfare states?**

Data and Methodology

5. The empirical data base

The fourth wave of the European Social Survey

Year – 2008

29 countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Spain, Finland, France, Great Britain, Greece, Croatia, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia Sweden, Slovenia, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine)

N=56752

Dependent variable is Government intervention index (GII)

GII is calculated as a mean of support of six government welfare programs

- ✓ **Welfare support for the elderly**

- ✓ **Free medical care**

- ✓ **Paid leave to care for sick relatives**

- ✓ **Job for all**

- ✓ **Unemployment benefits**

- ✓ **Child care for working parents (kindergarten)**

Types of welfare state ("worlds of welfare") [Reeskens and van Oorschot, 2011. P. 12]

Social-democratical	Conservative	Liberal	Familiaristic	Post-communist
Denmark	Belgium	United	Cyprus	Bulgaria
Finland	Germany	Kingdom	Greece	Czech Republic
Netherlands	France	Ireland	Portugal	Hungary
Norway	Switzerland		Spain	Latvia
Sweden			+ Turkey	Poland
			+ Israel	Romania
				Slovakia
				Slovenia
				Croatia +
				+ Ukraine
				+ Russia
				+ Estonia

8. Individual level: self-interest

| Factors	Groups with high levels of social risk
Age	Elderly people
Gender	Women
Income	Low income people
Employment	Unemployed, disabled, pensioners
Beneficiaries	Welfare benefits are the main source of income

9. Individual level: basic human values

"Desirable transsituational goals, varying in importance, that serve as guiding principles in the life of a person or other social entity' (Schwartz 1994: 21)

Individualism *
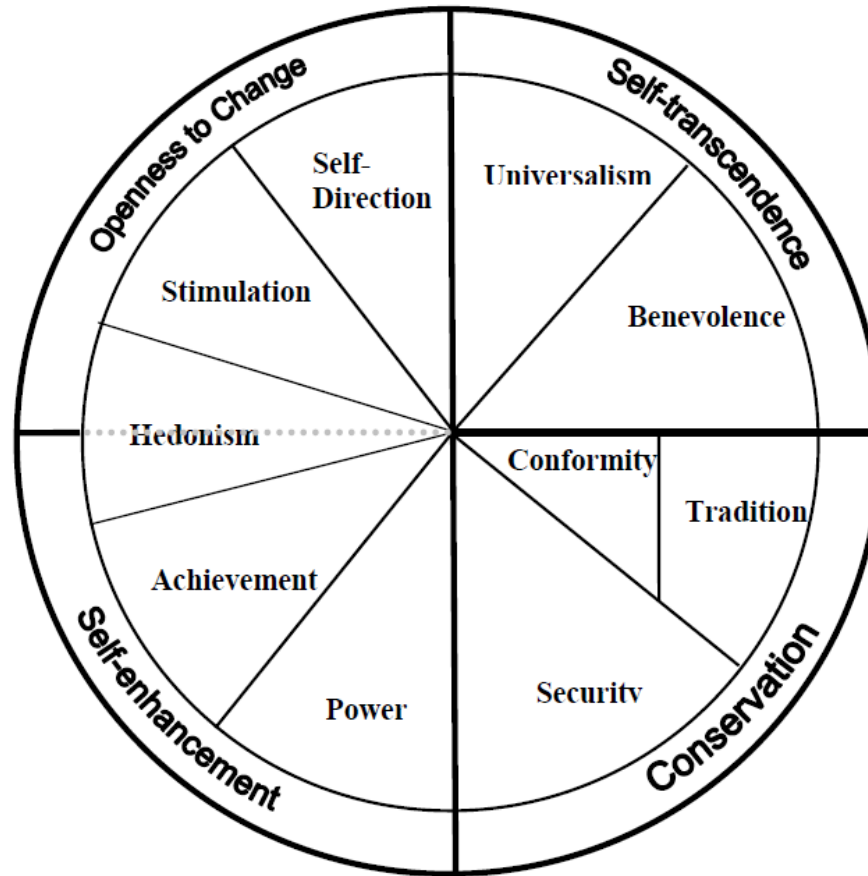
Altruism

Egoism

Collectivism

* Analogies are suggested by C. Welzel [Welzel, 2010]

(Meuleman, Davidov, Schmidt & Billiet, 2012)

11. Analysis and modeling

1. **Correlations**
2. **Regressions**
3. **Structural equation modeling**

Results

Correlations of GII and values in different types of welfare state

	Conservation	Openness to change	Self-Enhancement	Self-transcendence
Post-communist	,200**	-,207**	-,120**	,154**
Familiaristic	,102**	-,100**	-,154**	,188**
Liberal	,067**	-,066**	-,078**	,061**
Conservative	,097**	-,081**	-,108**	,073**
Social-democratical	,087**	-,106**	-,154**	,178**
All 29 countries	0,194**	-0,203**	-0,032**	0,036**

**. Sig. at 0.01.

*. Sig. at 0.05.

Values of openness (individualism) and self-enhancement (egoism) reduce welfare support, and conservation (collectivism) and self-transcendence (altruism) increase it.

13. Regression analysis 1: values

1. **Government intervention index is dependent variable**
2. **Values are independent variables**
3. **Self-interest are controllers**
4. **Type of welfare state is a contextual variable**

Results of regression analysis 1

1. **Values effect welfare attitudes when we control for self-interest and types of welfare state. Openness and self-enhancement reduce welfare support, and conservation and self-transcendence increase it**

2. **Type of welfare state shape welfare attitudes**

Effect of Openness to change and Conservation on welfare support in different types of welfare states*
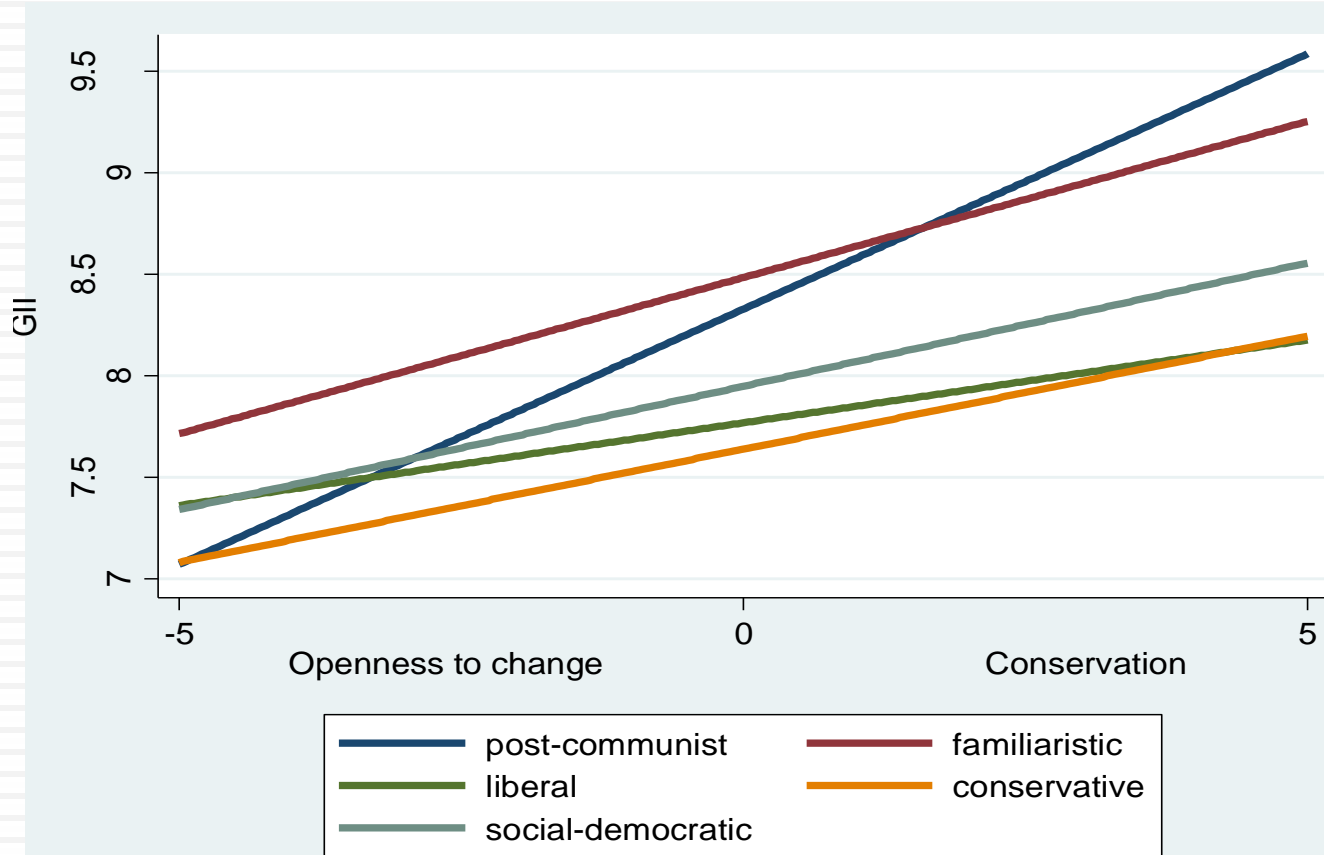
* self-interest is controlled
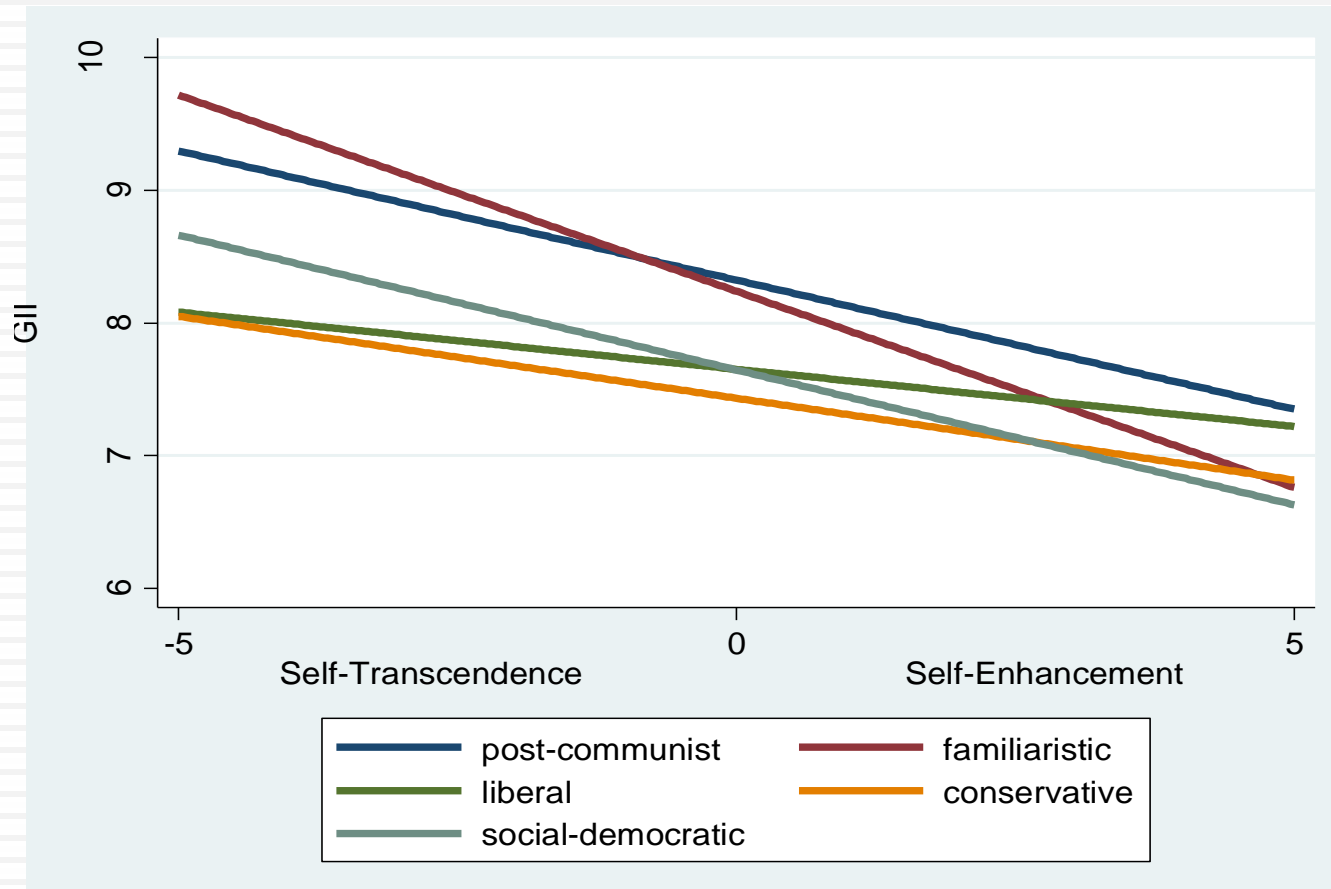
In all types of welfare state the direction of effect is similar.

But strength is different.

Openness to change and conservation shape welfare attitudes most strongly in post-communist countries. In liberal, conservative, and social-democratic countries an impact of these values is identical (there is no statistically significant difference) and lower than in post-communist.

Effect of Self-Transcendence and Self-Enhancement on welfare support in different types of welfare states*

* self-interest is controlled

In all types of welfare state the direction of effect is similar.

But strength is different.

Legend:
- post-communist
- familiaristic
- liberal
- conservative
- social-democratic

Self-Transcendence and Self-Enhancement shape welfare attitudes most strongly in familiaristic countries. Than follow post-communist and social-democratic, and after them liberal and conservative. There is no statistically significant difference in effect of values between post-communist and social-democratic, and liberal and conservative

Differences in effect of values in five types of welfare state

Reference groups	Interaction with "Openness – Conservation"				
	PC	FM	LB	CN	SD
Post-communist type (PC)		0,1**	0,17***	0,14***	0,13***
Familiaristic type (FM)	-0,1**		0,07	-0,04	0,03
Liberal type (LB)	-0,17***	-0,07		-0,03	-0,04
Conservative type (CN)	-0,14***	-0,04	0,03		-0,01
Social-democratic type (SD)	-0,13***	-0,03	0,04	0,01	

	Interaction with "Self-Enhancement-Self-Transcendence"				
Post-communist type (PC)		0,10**	-0,11**	-0,07*	0,01
Familiaristic type FM)	-0,10**		-0,21***	-0,18***	-0,09**
Liberal type (LB)	0,11**	0,21***		0,04	0,12***
Conservative type (CN)	0,07*	0,18***	-0,04		0,08**
Social-democratic type (SD)	-0,01	0,09**	-0,12***	-0,08**	

***. Sig. at 0.01, **. sig. at 0.01, *. sig. at 0.05.

# Regression analysis 2: self-interest

1. **Government intervention index is dependent variable**

2. **Gender, age, education, income, employment status, getting benefits are independent variables**

3. **Values are controllers**

4. **Type of welfare state is a contextual variable**

Results of regression analysis 2

1. **Some self-interest factors effect welfare attitudes when we control for values and types of welfare state. Among them is gender, income and employment status. Age, education and getting benefits don't shape welfare attitudes.**

2. **Gender shape welfare attitudes significantly but not strongly. The effect of this factor is similar in all types of welfare state.**

3. **Income is the strongest predictor of welfare support in some countries.**

Effect of gender on welfare support in different types of welfare states*
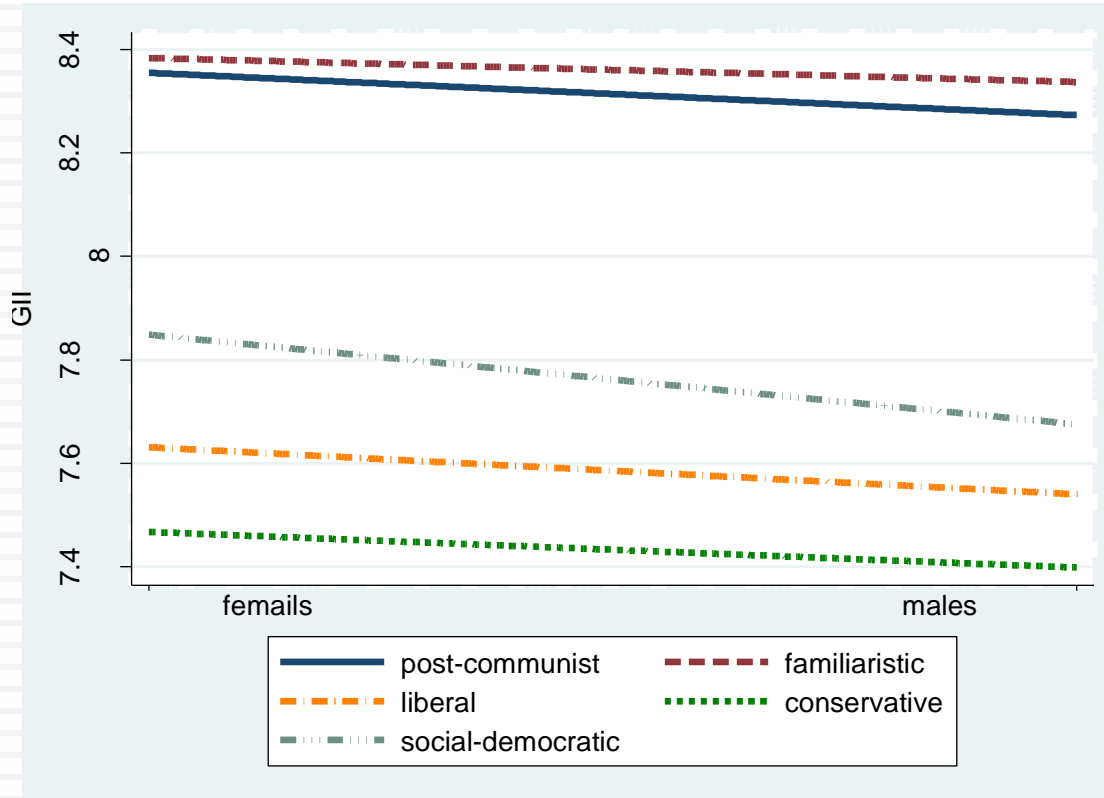
* values, income and employment status are controlled

In all types of welfare state the direction of effect is similar.

And strength is similar.

Legend:
- post-communist
- familiaristic
- liberal
- conservative
- social-democratic

Axis: GII (8.4, 8.2, 8, 7.8, 7.6, 7.4), x-axis: femails — males

Generally gender has a slight effect on welfare support, but after addition of interaction terms into regressions it is turned to be insignificant. And correspondently there is no significant difference between interaction terms.

Effect of income on welfare support in different types of welfare states*

* values, income and employment status are controlled

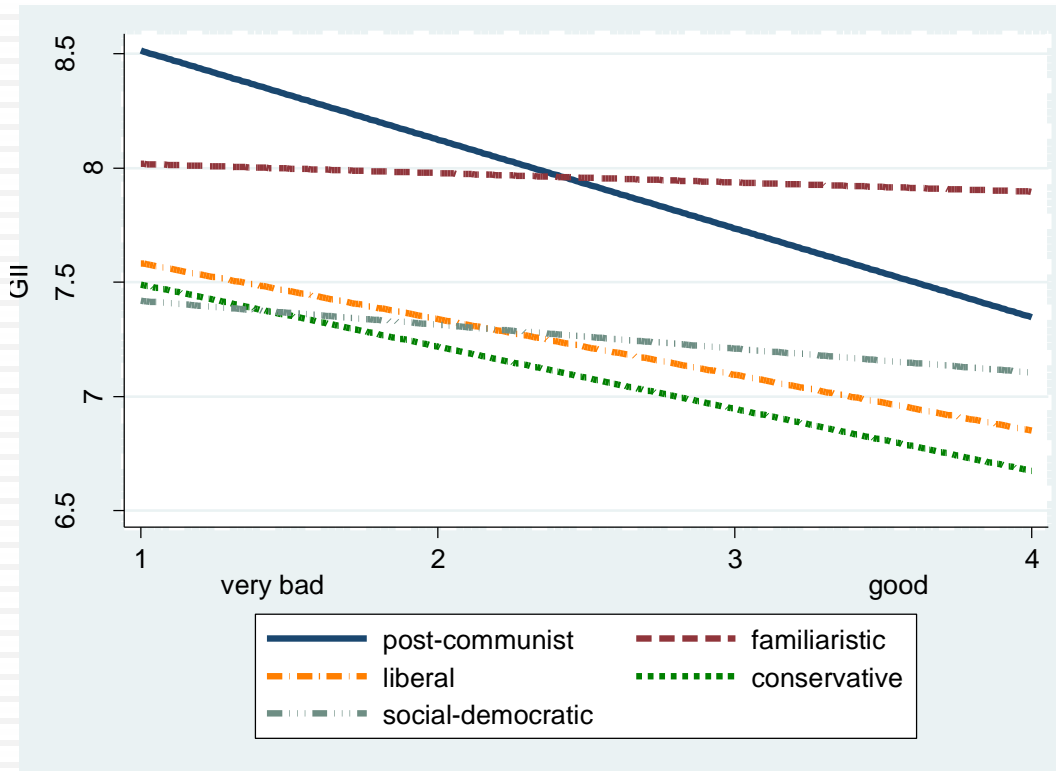**Almost in all types of welfare state the direction of effect is similar.**

But strength is different.

An effect of income is different in different type of welfare states. In post-communist countries it is the strongest. In liberal and conservative countries this effect is moderate. And in familiaristic and social-democratic countries there is no effect of income.

Differences in effect of income in five types of welfare state

Reference groups	Interaction with "income"				
	PC	FM	LB	CN	SD
Post-communist type (PC)		-0.35***	-0.14**	-0.12**	-0.28***
Familiaristic type (FM)	0.35***		0.20***	0.23***	0.06
Liberal type (LB)	0.14**	-0.20***		0.03	-0.14**
Conservative type (CN)	0.12**	-0.23***	-0.03		-0.17***
Social-democratic type (SD)	0.28***	-0.06	0.14**	0.18***	

***. Sig. at 0.01, **. sig. at 0.01, *. sig. at 0.05.
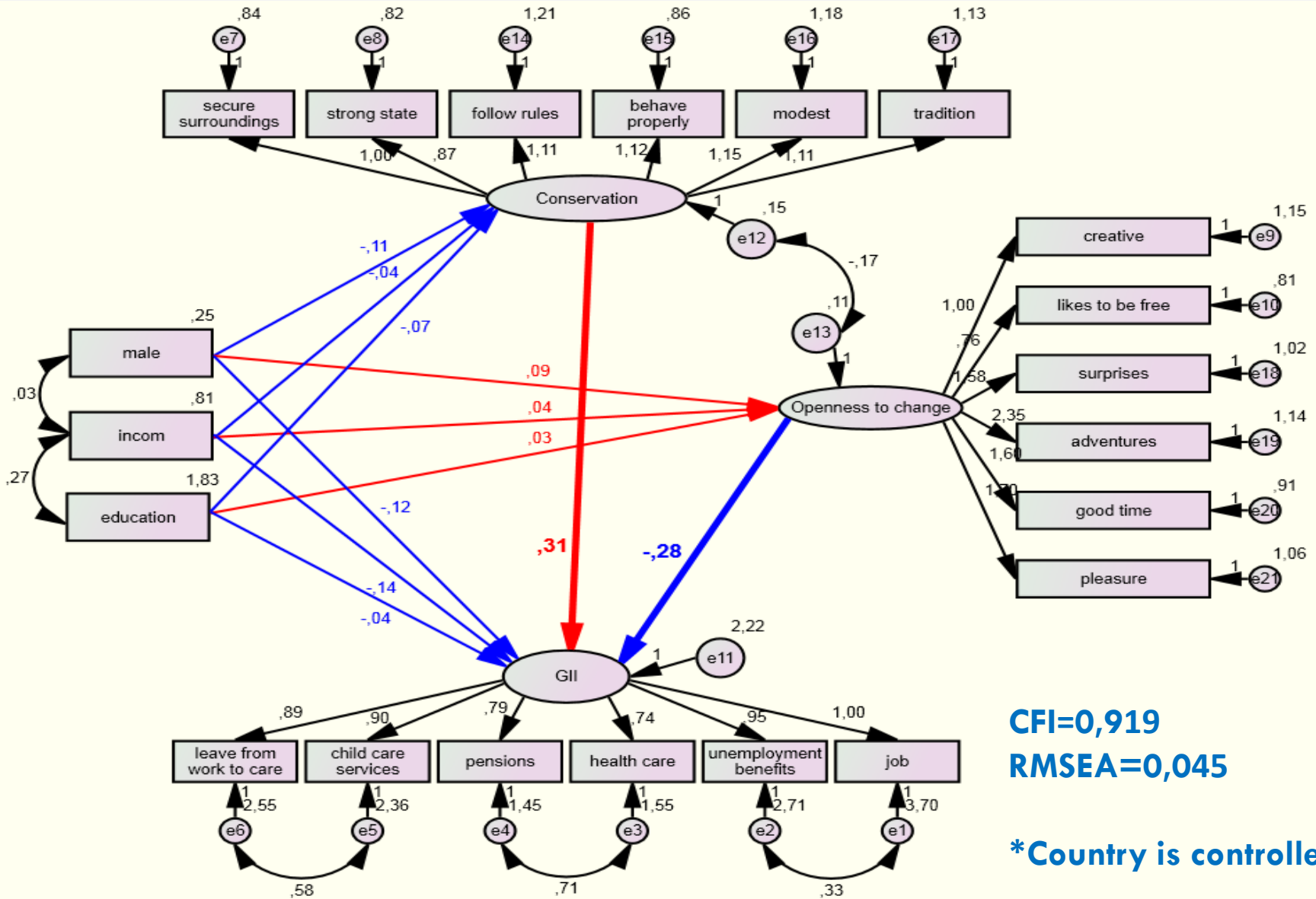
SEM: values as mediators of welfare support

1. **Government intervention index is a latent factor and dependent variable**

2. **Gender, education and income are independent variables**

3. **Values are latent factors and mediators**

4. **Country is controlled**

Openness to change and Conservation as mediators of the welfare support*

CFI=0,919
RMSEA=0,045

*Country is controlled

Self-Transcendence and Self-Enhancement as mediators of the welfare support*

CFI=0,947
RMSEA=0,038

без Заботы:
CFI=0,977
RMSEA=0,033

* Country is controlled
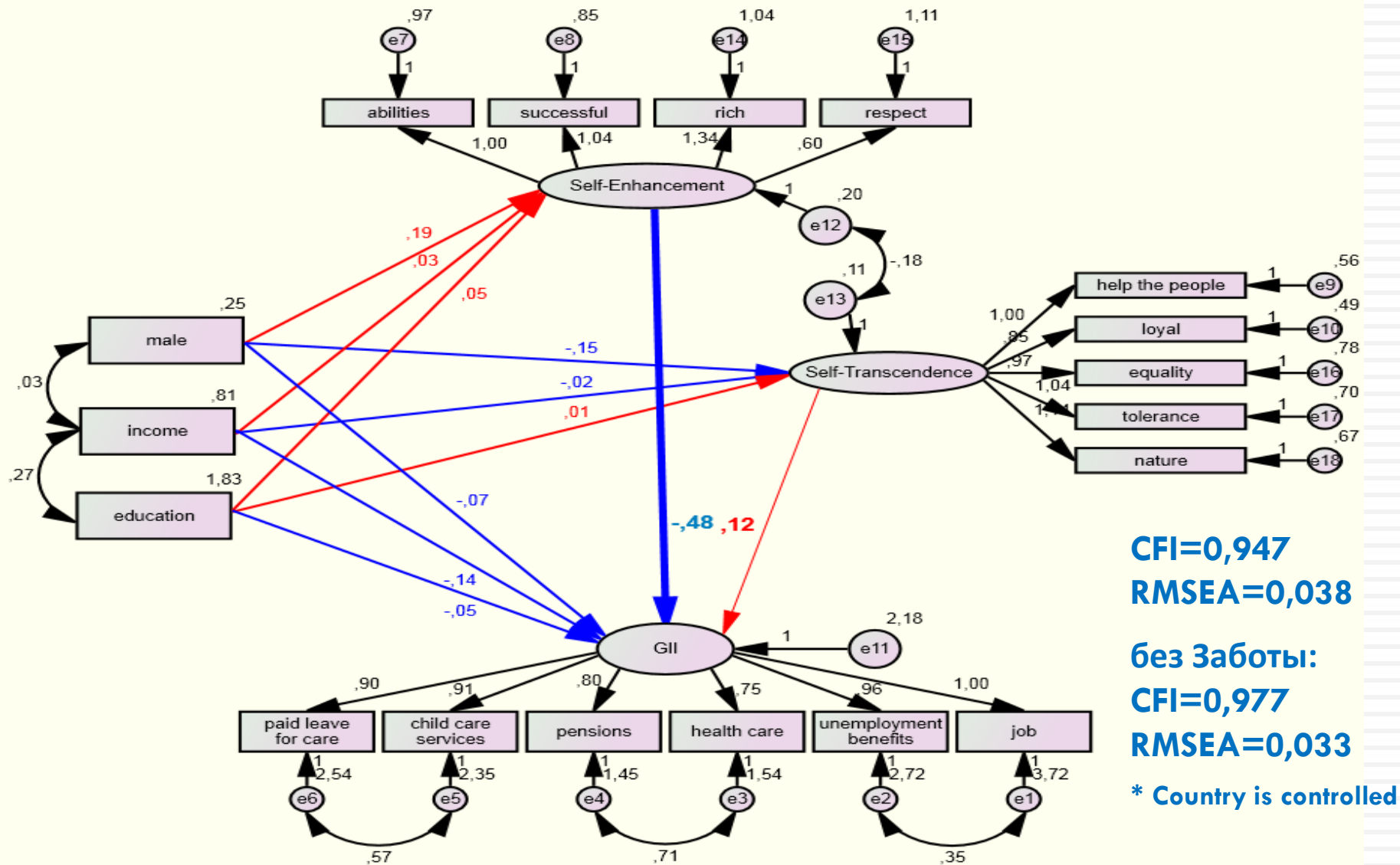
Results on SEMs

1. Values are mediators of self-interest in welfare support. In other words an individual social position effect on welfare support partially through values.

2. The lower is a level of personal social risks the stronger are values of openness and self-enhancement which in turn reduce welfare support.

3. And the higher is the level of personal social risks (objective dependence from a state) the stronger are values of conservation enforcing economic paternalism.

27. General conclusion

1. Basic human values correlate to welfare support: conservation and self-transcendence reinforce it, and openness and self-enhancement reduce it.

2. Intensity of values effect on welfare support is different in different types of welfare states. The strongest effect of openness and conservation values is in post communist countries. And effect of self-transcendence and self-enhancement is the most striking in familiaristic countries.

3. Among self-interest factors the more remarkable is an effect of income. In post-communist countries it shape welfare attitudes stronger than in other types of welfare states.

4. Values are partially mediators of welfare support. The lower is the level of personal existential security the more expressed conservative and self-enhancement values enforcing welfare support.

Thank you!

Regression coefficients B

	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6
R2	0,061	0,104	0,125	0,123	0,127	0,125
Openness to change - Conservation (O-C)			0,18***		0,25***	
Self-Transcendence - Self-Enhancement (T-E)				-0,19***		-0,20***
Types: Post-communist – reference group						
Familiaristic		0,04	0,09*	0,00	0,15**	-0,09
Liberal		-0,7***	-0,62***	-0,82***	-0,56***	-0,67***
Conservative		-0,84***	-0,74***	-1***	-0,69***	-0,88***
Social-Democratic		-0,51***	-0,42***	-0,66***	-0,38***	-0,68***
Types*axis						
Post-communist * O-C						
Familiaristic*O-C					-0,1**	
Liberal* O-C					-0,17***	
Conservative* O-C					-0,14***	
Social-Democratic* O-C					-0,13***	
Post-communist *T-E						
Familiaristic* T-E						-0,10**
Liberal* T-E						0,11**
Conservative* T-E						0,07*
Social-Democratic* T-E						-0,01

* = p < .05. ** = p < .01. *** = p < .001

Regression coefficients B

Sex: women – reference group						
Men	-0,17***	-0,16***	-0,11***	-0,1***	-0,1***	-0,10***
Employment status: Employed without experience of unemployment - the reference group						
Employed with experience of unemployment	0,12**	0,16***	0,17***	0,12**	0,176***	0,11**
Students	-0,02	-0,04	0,08	0,00	0,09	0,00
Unemployed	-0,06	-0,07	-0,07	-0,09*	-0,60	-0,08
Pensioners, disabled	0,16***	0,22***	0,08*	0,11***	0,08*	0,12***
Financial situation is very bad - the reference group						
Poor	-0,34***	-0,28***	-0,28***	-0,27***	-0,26***	-0,27***
Satisfactory	-0,81***	-0,56***	-0,54***	-0,57***	-0,51***	-0,58***
Good	-1,25***	-0,79***	-0,74***	-0,82***	-0,72***	-0,83***
Pensions and benefits - the main sources of income	8,5***	8,54***	8,41***	8,43***	8,34***	8,42

$* = p < .05.\ ** = p < .01.\ *** = p < .001$

axis	Typological value indices	21 person descriptions (values of the "first level")
Openness to change – Conservation	Security	E It is important to him to live in secure surroundings. He avoids anything that might endanger his safety.
		N It is important to him that the government ensures his safety against all threats. He wants the state to be strong so it can defend its citizens.
	Conformity	G He believes that people should do what they're told. He thinks people should follow rules at all times, even when no-one is watching.
		P It is important to him always to behave properly. He wants to avoid doing anything people would say is wrong.
	Tradition	I It is important to him to be humble and modest. He tries not to draw attention to himself.
		T Tradition is important to him. He tries to follow the customs handed down by his religion or his family.
	Self-direction	Thinking up new ideas and being creative is important to him. He likes to do things in his own original way.
		K It is important to him to make his own decisions about what he does. He likes to be free and not depend on others.
	Stimulation	F He likes surprises and is always looking for new things to do. He thinks it is important to do lots of different things in life
		O He looks for adventures and likes to take risks. He wants to have an exciting life.
	Hedonism	J Having a good time is important to him. He likes to "spoil" himself.
		U He seeks every chance he can to have fun. It is important to him to do things that give him pleasure.
Self-Transcendence – Self-Enhancement	Achievement	D It's important to him to show his abilities. He wants people to admire what he does.
		M Being very successful is important to him. He hopes people will recognize his achievements.
	Power	B It is important to him to be rich. He wants to have a lot of money and expensive things.
		Q It is important to him to get respect from others. He wants people to do what he says.
	Benevolence	L It's very important to him to help the people around him. He wants to care for their well-being.
		R It is important to him to be loyal to his friends. He wants to devote himself to people close to him.
	Universalism	C He thinks it is important that every person in the world should be treated equally. He believes everyone should have equal opportunities in life.
		H It is important to him to listen to people who are different from him. Even when he disagrees with them, he still wants to understand them.
		S He strongly believes that people should care for nature. Looking after the environment is important to him.