Factors Affecting Welfare Attitudes in Europe: Existential Security and Values

Olga Gryaznova
ISRAS, NRU-HSE, Moscow

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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]


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]
2. Factors shaping welfare attitudes

Welfare attitudes

Institutional factors
- Normative environment
- Social and economic situation

Individual factors
- Position in social structure
- Values
- Individual assessment of domestic social and economic situation
3. Working model of the research

- Welfare attitudes
  - Macro factors
  - Individual factors
  - Types of welfare states
  - Self-interest
  - Values
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
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)
Institutional level: type of welfare states

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social-democratical</th>
<th>Conservative</th>
<th>Liberal</th>
<th>Familiaristic</th>
<th>Post-communist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>United</td>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Kingdom</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td></td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Latvia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+ Turkey + Israel</td>
<td>Poland</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Romania</td>
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<td>Slovakia</td>
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<td>Slovenia</td>
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<td>Croatia +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+ Ukraine +</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Russia +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Estonia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 8. Individual level: self-interest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors</th>
<th>Groups with high levels of social risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Elderly people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>Low income people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>Unemployed, disabled, pensioners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beneficiaries</td>
<td>Welfare benefits are the main source of income</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Desirable transsituational goals, varying in importance, that serve as guiding principles in the life of a person or other social entity’ (Schwartz 1994: 21)
Individual level: basic human values

* 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Conservation</th>
<th>Openness to change</th>
<th>Self-Enhancement</th>
<th>Self-transcendence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Post-communist</td>
<td>0.200**</td>
<td>-0.207**</td>
<td>-0.120**</td>
<td>0.154**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Familiaristic</td>
<td>0.102**</td>
<td>-0.100**</td>
<td>-0.154**</td>
<td>0.188**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberal</td>
<td>0.067**</td>
<td>-0.066**</td>
<td>-0.078**</td>
<td>0.061**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservative</td>
<td>0.097**</td>
<td>-0.081**</td>
<td>-0.108**</td>
<td>0.073**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social-democratical</td>
<td>0.087**</td>
<td>-0.106**</td>
<td>-0.154**</td>
<td>0.178**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All 29 countries</td>
<td>0.194**</td>
<td>-0.203**</td>
<td>-0.032**</td>
<td>0.036**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**. 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.
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
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.
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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference groups</th>
<th>Interaction with “Openness – Conservation”</th>
<th>Interaction with “Self-Enhancement-Self-Transcendence”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PC</td>
<td>FM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-communist type (PC)</td>
<td>0,1**</td>
<td>0,17***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Familiaristic type (FM)</td>
<td>-0,1**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberal type (LB)</td>
<td>-0,17***</td>
<td>-0,07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservative type (CN)</td>
<td>-0,14***</td>
<td>-0,04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social-democratic type (SD)</td>
<td>-0,13***</td>
<td>0,03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

* values, income and employment status are controlled

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.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference groups</th>
<th>PC</th>
<th>FM</th>
<th>LB</th>
<th>CN</th>
<th>SD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Post-communist type (PC)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-0.35***</td>
<td>-0.14**</td>
<td>-0.12**</td>
<td>-0.28***</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Familiaristic type (FM)</td>
<td>0.35***</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.20***</td>
<td>0.23***</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberal type (LB)</td>
<td>0.14**</td>
<td>-0.20***</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td></td>
<td>-0.14**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservative type (CN)</td>
<td>0.12**</td>
<td>-0.23***</td>
<td>-0.03</td>
<td></td>
<td>-0.17***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social-democratic type (SD)</td>
<td>0.28***</td>
<td>-0.06</td>
<td>0.14**</td>
<td>0.18***</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Country is controlled
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.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R²</th>
<th>M1 0,06</th>
<th>M2</th>
<th>M3</th>
<th>M4</th>
<th>M5</th>
<th>M6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0,104</td>
<td>0,125</td>
<td>0,123</td>
<td>0,127</td>
<td>0,125</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Openness to change - Conservation (O-C)**
  - M1: 0,18***
  - M2: 0,25***

- **Self-Transcendence - Self-Enhancement (T-E)**
  - M1: -0,19***
  - M2: -0,20***

### Types: Post-communist – reference group

- **Familiaristic**
  - M1: 0,04
  - M2: 0,09*
  - M3: 0,00
  - M4: 0,15**
  - M5: -0,09

- **Liberal**
  - M1: -0,7***
  - M2: -0,62***
  - M3: -0,82***
  - M4: -0,56***
  - M5: -0,67***

- **Conservative**
  - M1: -0,84***
  - M2: -0,74***
  - M3: -1***
  - M4: -0,69***
  - M5: -0,88***

- **Social-Democratic**
  - M1: -0,51***
  - M2: -0,42***
  - M3: -0,66***
  - M4: -0,38***
  - M5: -0,68***

### Types*axis

- **Post-communist * O-C**
  - M1: -0,1***

- **Familiaristic* O-C**
  - M1: -0,17***

- **Liberal* O-C**
  - M1: -0,14***

- **Conservative* O-C**
  - M1: -0,13***

- **Social-Democratic* O-C**
  - M1: -0,10**

### Post-communist * T-E

- **Familiaristic* T-E**
  - M1: 0,11**

- **Liberal* T-E**
  - M1: 0,07*

- **Conservative* T-E**
  - M1: -0,01

- **Social-Democratic* T-E**

* = p < .05. ** = p < .01. *** = p < .001
### Regression coefficients B

**Sex: women – reference group**

<p>| | | | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Men</strong></td>
<td>-0,17***</td>
<td>-0,16***</td>
<td>-0,11***</td>
<td>-0,1***</td>
<td>-0,1***</td>
<td>-0,10***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Employment status: Employed without experience of unemployment - the reference group**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment status</th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employed with experience of unemployment</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>0,12**</td>
<td>0,16***</td>
<td>0,17***</td>
<td>0,12**</td>
<td>0,176***</td>
<td>0,11**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>-0,02</td>
<td>-0,04</td>
<td>0,08</td>
<td>0,00</td>
<td>0,09</td>
<td>0,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensioners, disabled</td>
<td>-0,06</td>
<td>-0,07</td>
<td>-0,07</td>
<td>-0,09*</td>
<td>-0,60</td>
<td>-0,08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Financial situation is very bad - the reference group**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial situation</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Poor</strong></td>
<td>-0,34***</td>
<td>-0,28***</td>
<td>-0,28***</td>
<td>-0,27***</td>
<td>-0,26***</td>
<td>-0,27***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Satisfactory</strong></td>
<td>-0,81***</td>
<td>-0,56***</td>
<td>-0,54***</td>
<td>-0,57***</td>
<td>-0,51***</td>
<td>-0,58***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Good</strong></td>
<td>-1,25***</td>
<td>-0,79***</td>
<td>-0,74***</td>
<td>-0,82***</td>
<td>-0,72***</td>
<td>-0,83***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pensions and benefits - the main sources of income**

<p>| | | | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pensions and benefits</strong></td>
<td>8,5***</td>
<td>8,54***</td>
<td>8,41***</td>
<td>8,43***</td>
<td>8,34***</td>
<td>8,42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* = p < .05. ** = p < .01. *** = p < .001
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>axis</th>
<th>Typological value indices</th>
<th>21 person descriptions (values of the “first level”)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 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. |