Self-Interest and Values as predictors of Welfare Attitudes in Different Types of European Welfare States

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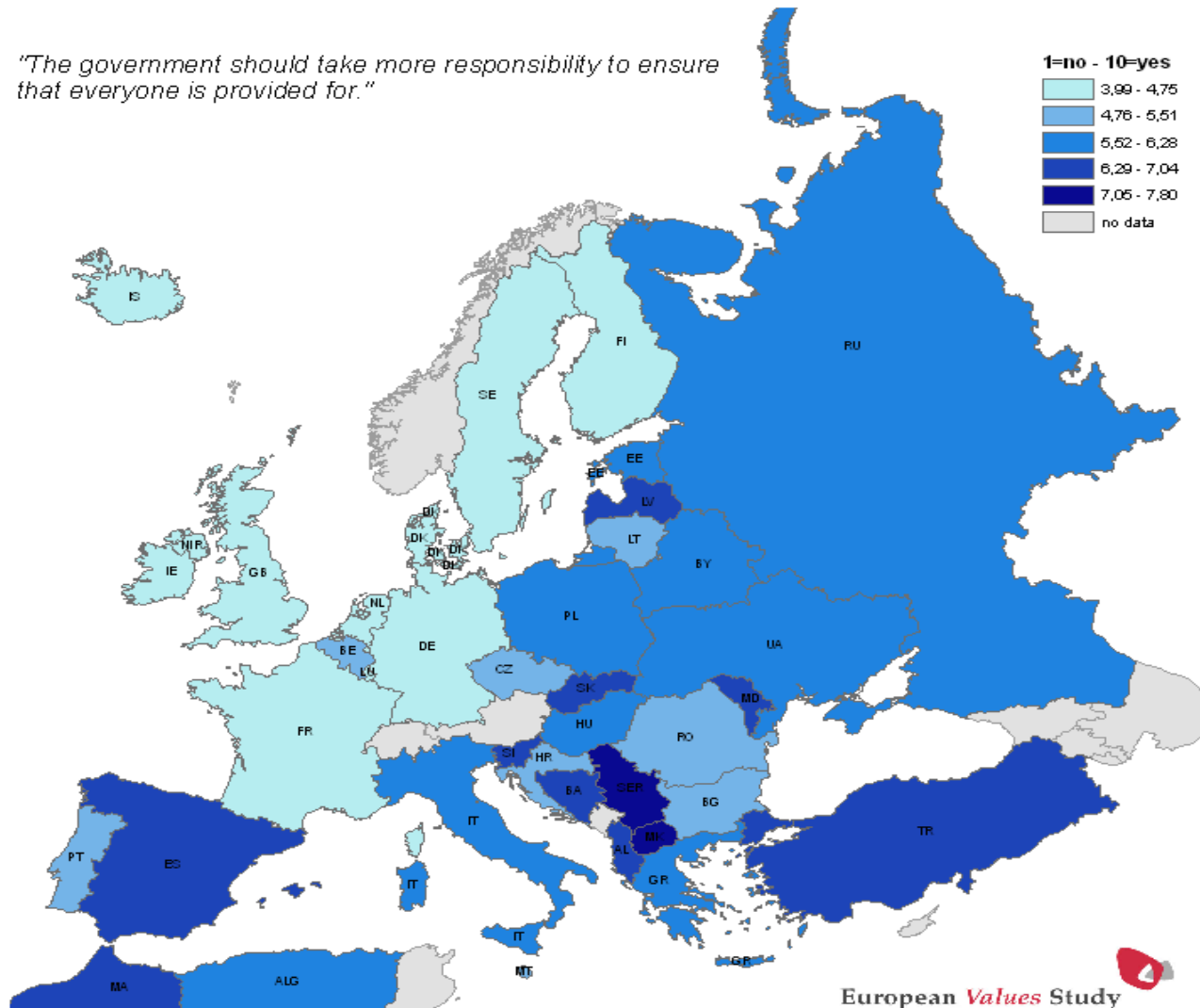
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Topicality: Government responsibility

"The government should take more responsibility to ensure that everyone is provided for."

1=no - 10=yes
- 3,99 - 4,75
- 4,76 - 5,51
- 5,52 - 6,28
- 6,29 - 7,04
- 7,05 - 7,80
- no data

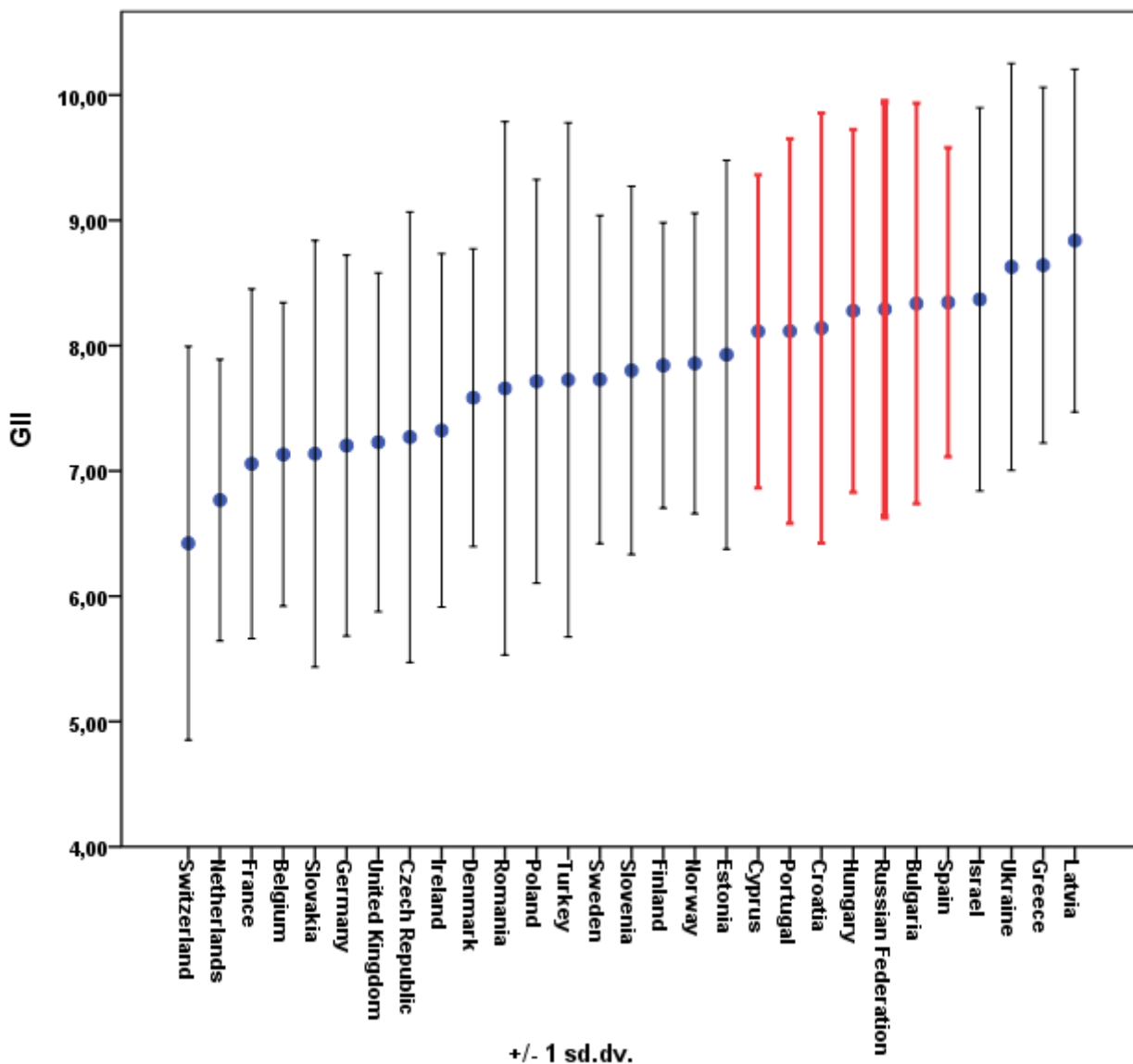European *Values* Study
EVS-WVS 1999-2004

High demand for a state social responsibility can be seen in all the European countries and especially in Mediterranean and ex-communist ones.

So there is a question why it is so.

What are the determinants of this demand?

2. Demand for government welfare responsibility

+/- 1 sd.dv.

	N	Mean	StDev	Missing
Latvia	1980	8,84	1,37	2
Greece	2072	8,64	1,42	5
Ukraine	1845	8,63	1,62	3
Israel	2490	8,37	1,53	12
Spain	2576	8,35	1,23	10
Bulgaria	2230	8,34	1,6	2
Russia	2512	8,29	1,66	5
Hungary	1544	8,28	1,45	5
Croatia	1484	8,14	1,72	10
Portugal	2367	8,12	1,53	3
Cyprus	1215	8,11	1,25	2
Estonia	1661	7,93	1,55	10
Norway	1549	7,86	1,2	2
Finland	2195	7,84	1,14	3
Slovenia	1286	7,8	1,47	2
Sweden	1830	7,73	1,31	7
Turkey	2415	7,73	2,05	39
Poland	1619	7,71	1,61	5
Romania	2146	7,66	2,13	62
Denmark	1610	7,58	1,19	8
Ireland	1764	7,32	1,41	2
Czech Republic	2018	7,27	1,8	6
United Kingdom	2352	7,23	1,35	2
Germany	2751	7,2	1,52	3
Slovakia	1810	7,14	1,7	1
Belgium	1760	7,13	1,21	1
France	2073	7,06	1,4	3
Netherlands	1778	6,77	1,12	0
Switzerland	1819	6,42	1,57	1
Total	56751	7,78	1,63	214

3. Scientific discussion: individual peculiarities as predictors

The literature suggests two opposing explanations and one combining two of them on individual level:

1. Personal demand is guided by individual principles of justice and social rights. Egalitarian values lead to the idea that every person should have guarantied set of welfare services and benefits regardless his or her activity in the labor market. According a large number of studies devoted to the problem egalitarian values (in one or the other version) have a positive effect on the welfare support, and individualistic values on the contrary -negative (Lipset, 1963, Deutsch, 1975, Hochschild, 1981, McClosky & Zaller, 1984, Kluegel & Mateju, 1995, Hasenfeld & Rafferty, 1989).

2. People ask for state social support if they really need it. Self-interest factors are described as the strongest predictors of welfare attitudes in many publications (Svallfors, 1991; d'Anjou, et al., 1995; van Oorschot, 2010). The weaker is the social position of a person the higher is his/her demand for state social responsability. The wekest position have women, elderly, having low education and income, disabled, those who don'thave a stable employment. Otherwise people don't care much about government welfare responsibility.

4. Scientific discussion: country-level peculiarities as predictors

The most powerful country-level predictors are institutional and economic. They are connected but different.

1. Different type of welfare states perform different level of demand for state social responsibility. It deals with culture of welfare state and institutional arrangements providing social policy. These arrangements constitute different welfare regimes (Reeskens & van Oorschot, 2011).

2. And the second deals with macroeconomic indicators. Staerklé and his coauthors proved that request for government intervention becomes higher when social spending is low and decreases when it is high. "In countries where government already plays an important social role, citizens are less likely to ask for even more government responsibility" (Staerklé, et al., 2012).

5. 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]
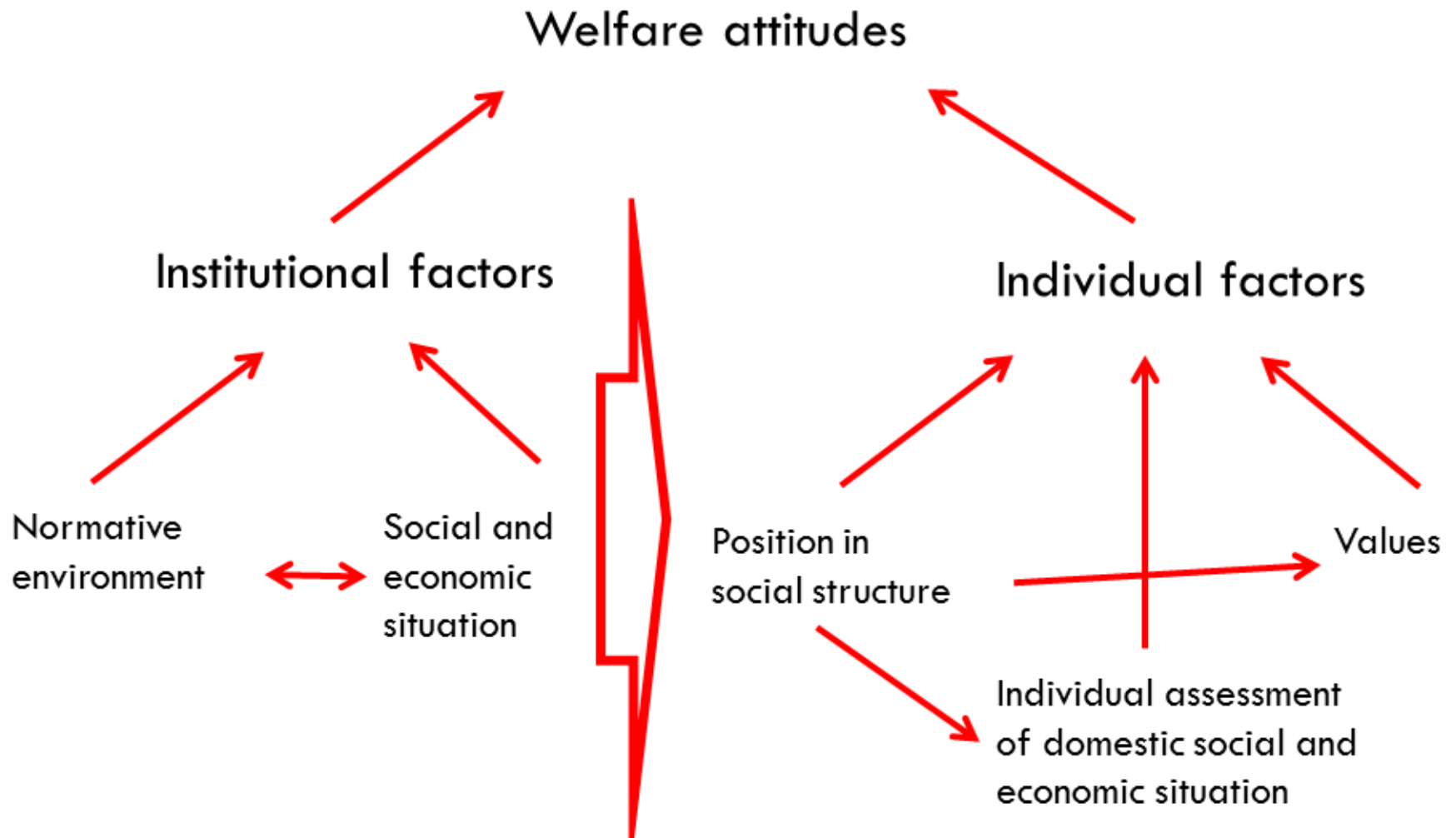
2. Institutional level

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]

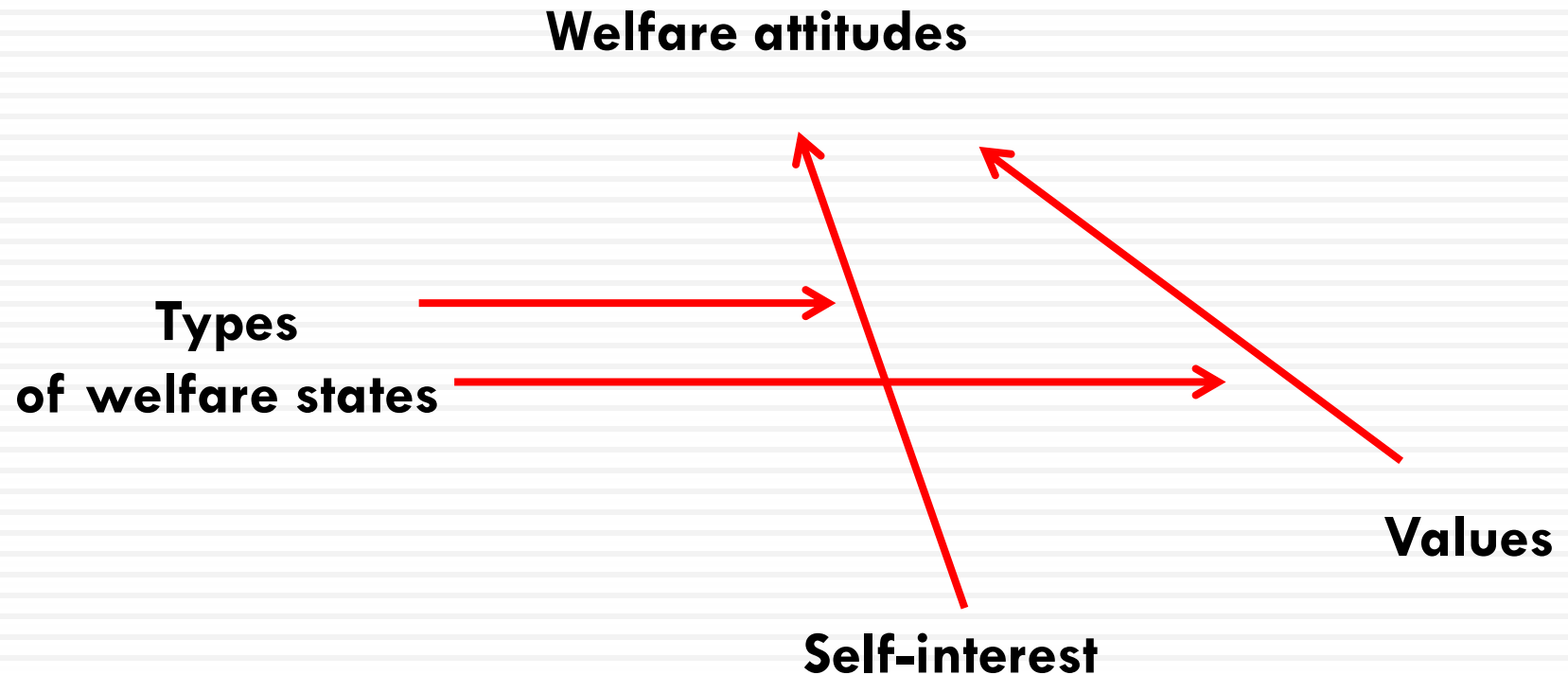**Macroeconomic environment** [Blekesaune, 2007;Jacobsen, 2011; Монусова, 2012]

Welfare attitudes

Institutional factors

Individual factors

Normative environment

Social and economic situation

Position in social structure

Individual assessment of domestic social and economic situation

Values

Welfare attitudes

**Types
of welfare states**

Values

Self-interest

8. Research questions

1. Do basic human values of egalitarian type (collectivism and altruism) promote high demand for state welfare responsibility?

2. What is an effect of self-interest factors?

3. Is there any variability of predictors effect in different types of welfare state?

9. Hypotheses

- Two types of egalitarian values (collectivism and altruism) promote demand for government welfare responsibility regardless personal interest.

- Values have the strongest effect in the countries where the system of welfare distribution is unclear. Namely in familiaristic, ex-communist and former USSR countries.

- The stronger is a social position of a person the lower is demand for government welfare responsibility. Namely:

  - Men have the lower demand

  - The higher income the lower demand

  - Those who are not beneficiaries have the lower demand

  - People having no children have the lower demand

- Self-interest factors shape demand stronger in familiaristic, ex-communist and former USSR countries

Data and Methodology

10. 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 demand for six government welfare programs (People have different views on what the responsibilities of governments should or should not be. For each of the tasks I read out please tell me on a score of 0-10 how much responsibility you think governments should have)

- ✓ **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 [Reeskens and van Oorschot, 2011. P. 12]

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

Institutional level: type of welfare states

Types of welfare states [Fenger, 2007, p. 22-24]

Social-democratical	Conservative-corporatist type	Liberal	Former-USSR	Post-communist European type	Developing welfare states type
Finland Denmark Norway Sweden	Austria Belgium France Germany Greece Italy The Netherlands Spain	New Zealand United Kingdom United States	Belarus Estonia Latvia Lithuania Russia Ukraine	Bulgaria Croatia Czech Republic Hungary	Georgia Romania Moldova

Institutional level: modified classification

Types of welfare state

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

Individual level: self-interest

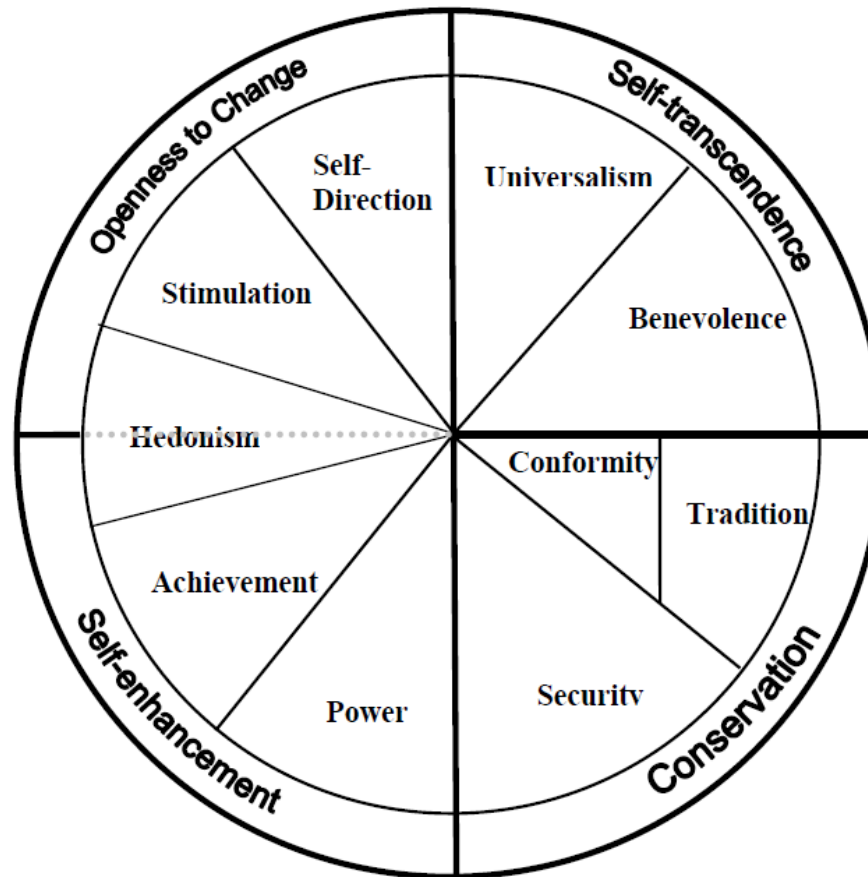| Factors	Groups having high levels of social risk
Age	Elderly people
Gender	Women
Income	Low income people
Education	Low educated people
Employment	Unemployed, disabled, pensioners
Having children	Those who have children

16. 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)

Individual level: basic human values

Individualism *

Altruism

Egoism

Collectivism

Openness to Change · Self-Direction · Stimulation · Hedonism · Achievement · Self-enhancement · Power · Universalism · Self-transcendence · Benevolence · Conformity · Tradition · Security · Conservation

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

(Meuleman, Davidov, Schmidt & Billiet, 2012)

1. **Regressions for GII as dependent variable and value axis as independent with controls of self-interest factors and type of welfare state.**

2. **Regressions for GII as dependent variable and self-interest factors as independent.**

3. **Test of interaction effect of values and types of welfare state on demand for welfare state intervention.**

4. **Test of interaction effect of self-interest factors and types of welfare state on demand for welfare state intervention.**

Results

Description of types of welfare states

Cluster Analysis based on main macro indicators referring to social policy
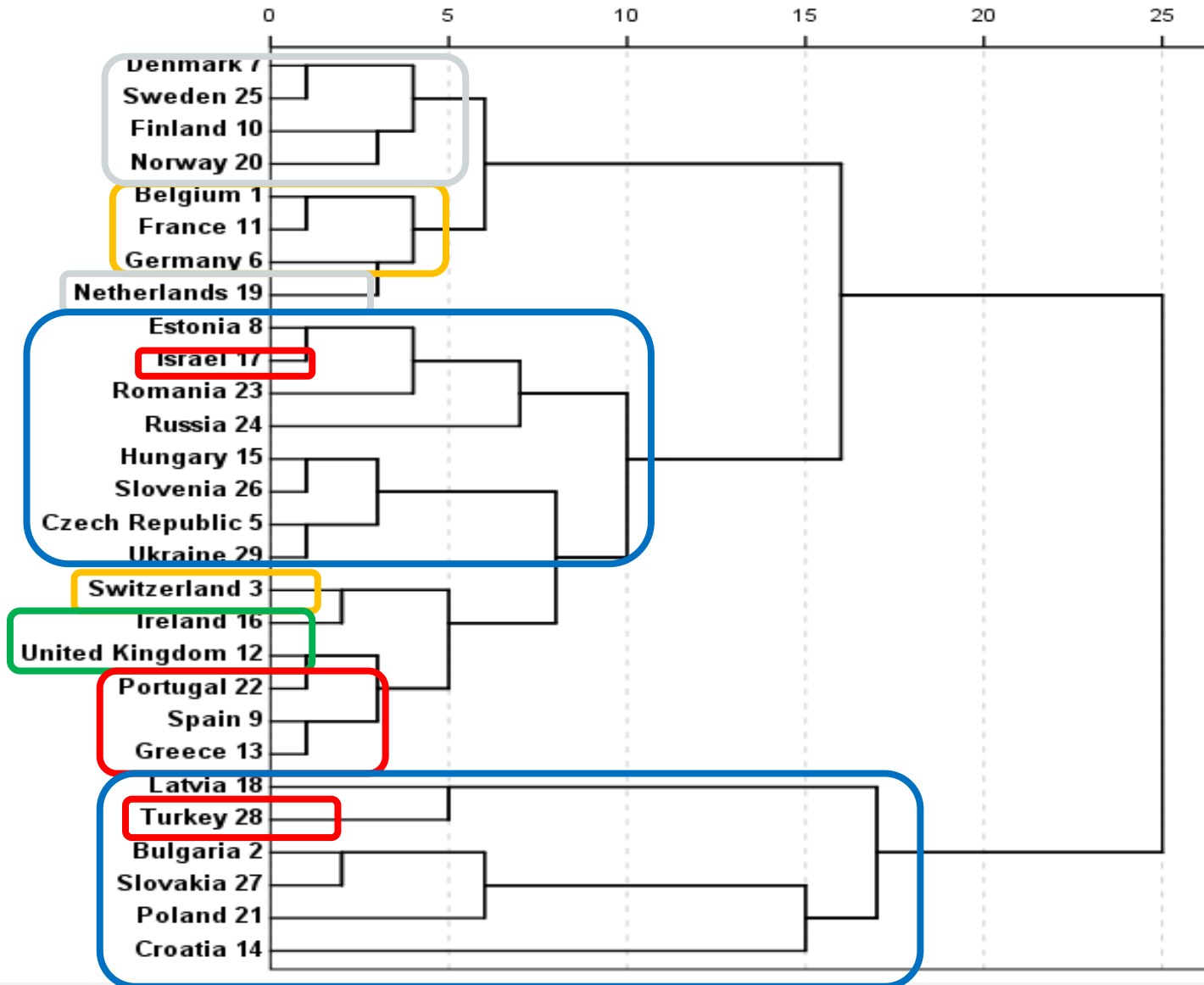
Indicators:

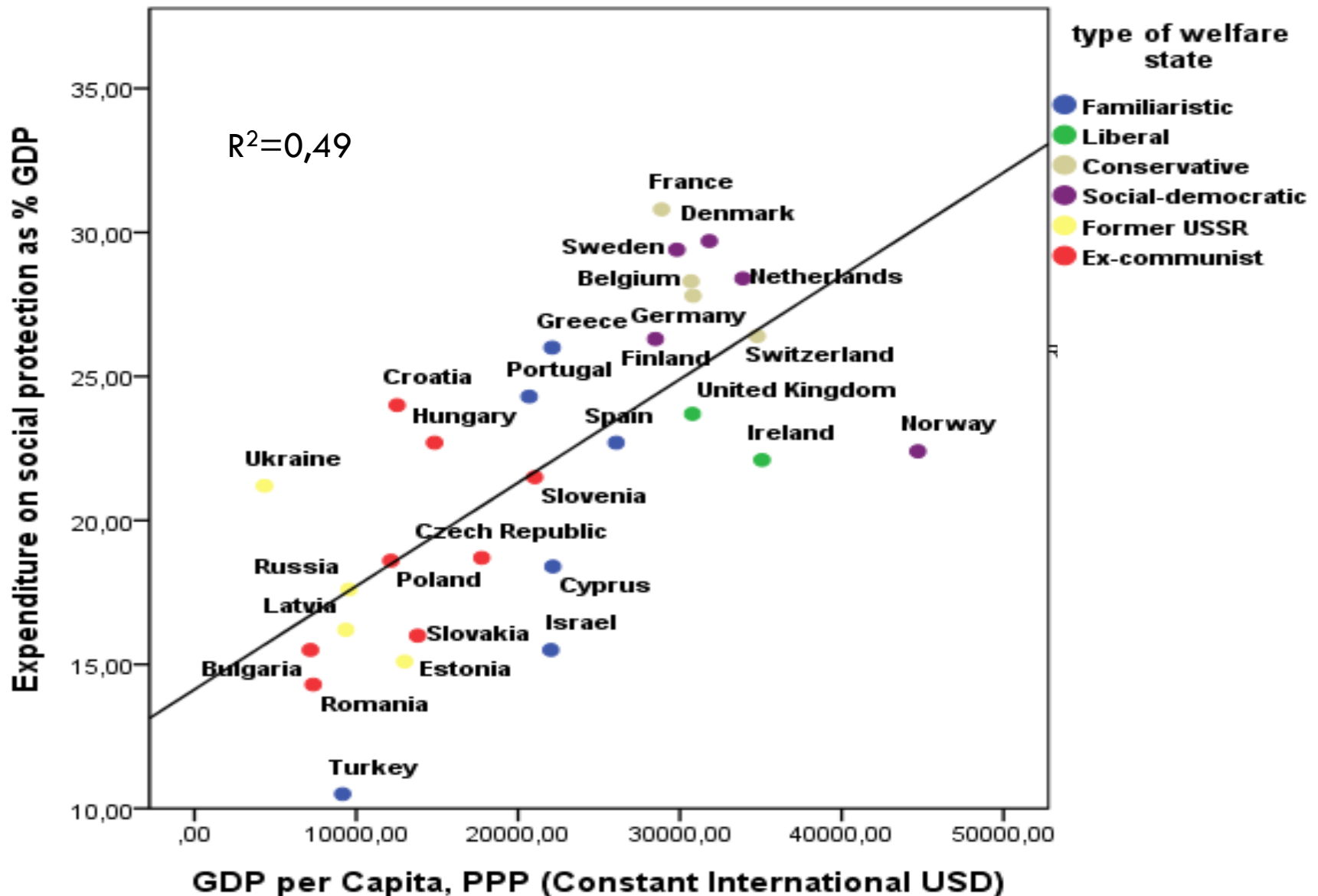Expenditure on social protection as % GDP
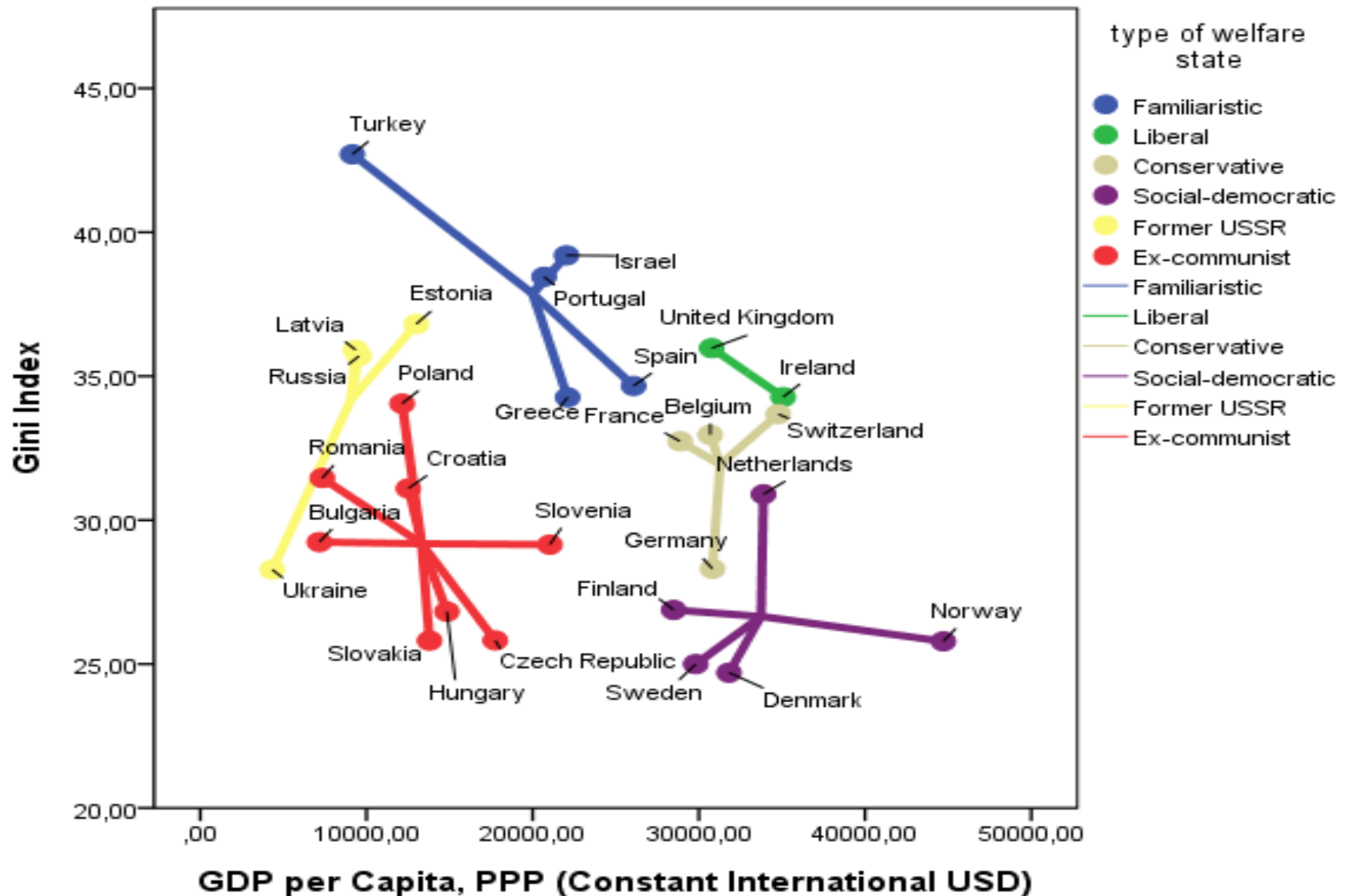
Gini Index

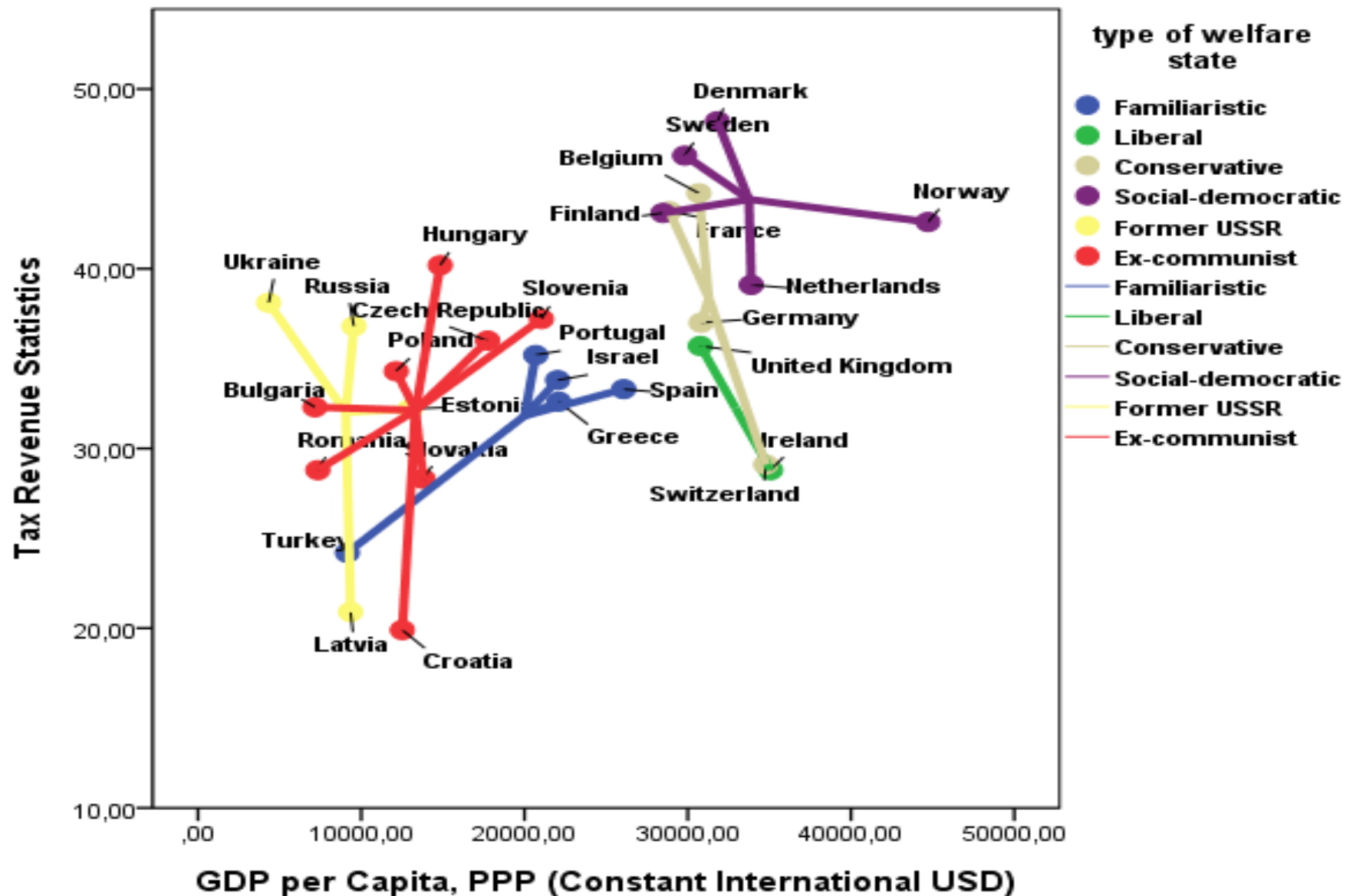Tax Revenue Statistics

Unemployment (%)

Government Welfare Spending

Inequality

Unemployment

Quality of Government

$R^2=0,75$

type of welfare state
- Familiaristic (blue)
- Liberal (green)
- Conservative (tan)
- Social-democratic (purple)
- Former USSR (yellow)
- Ex-communist (red)

The mean value of the International Country Risk Guide variables "Corruption", "Law and Order" and "Bureaucracy Quality"
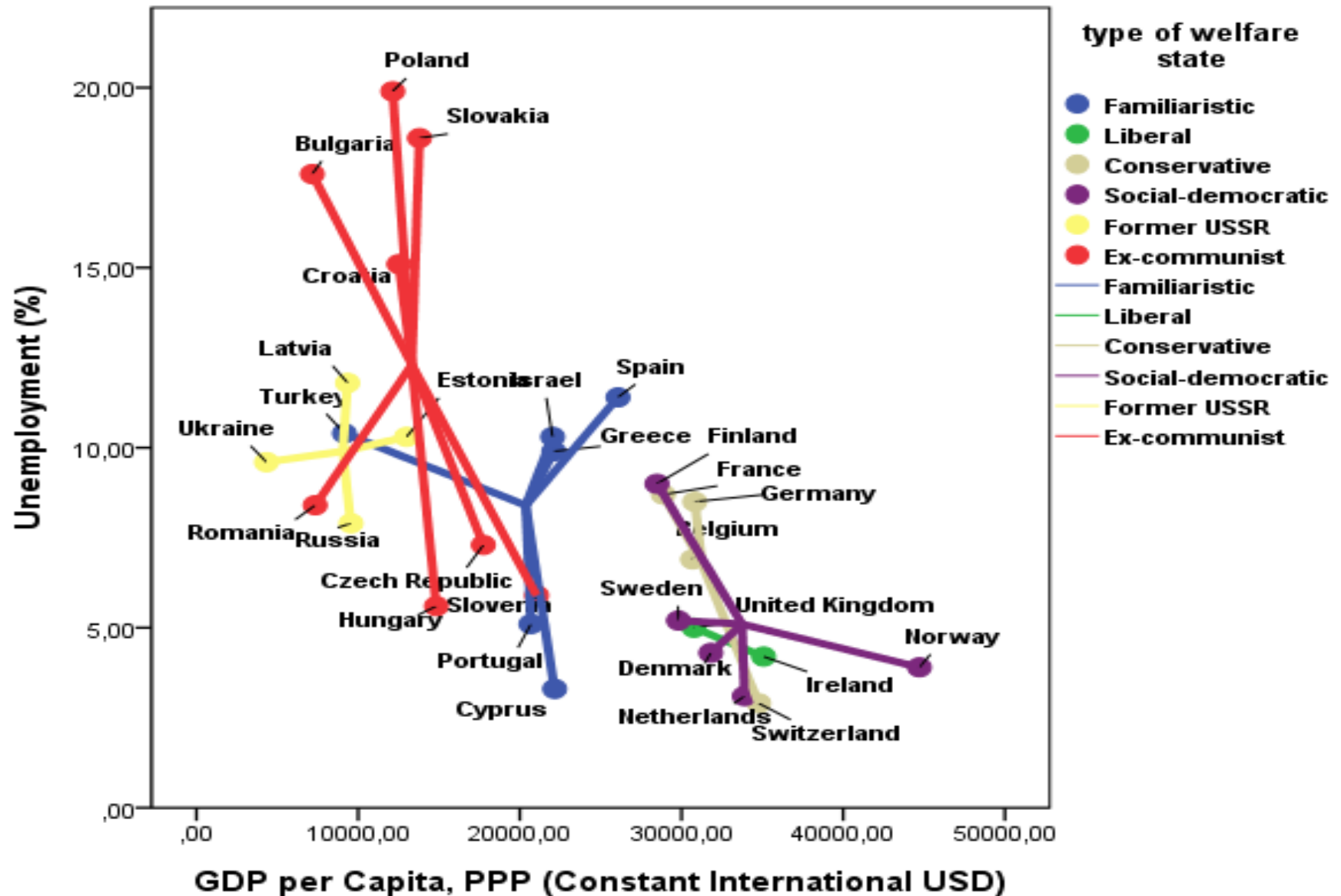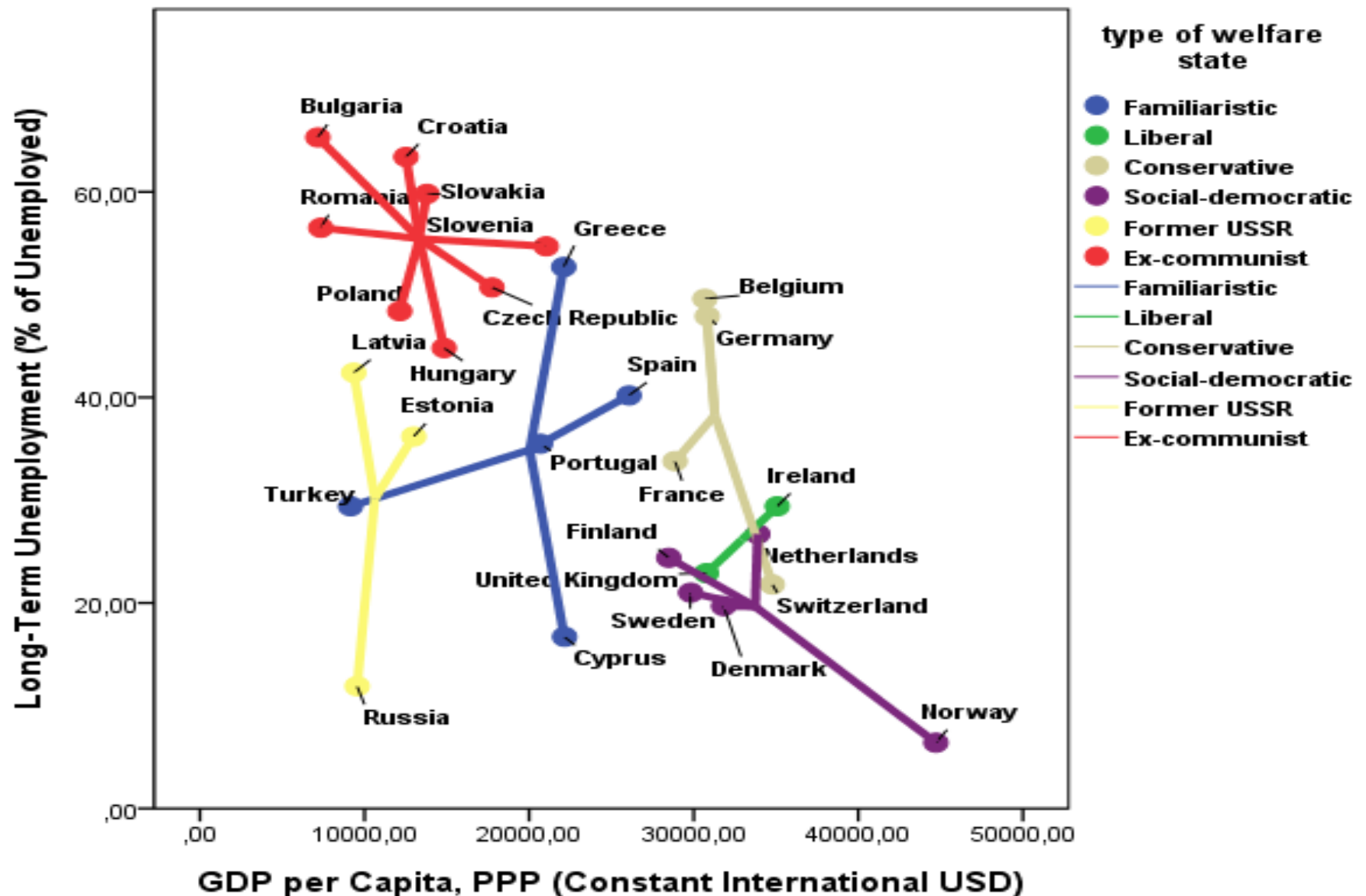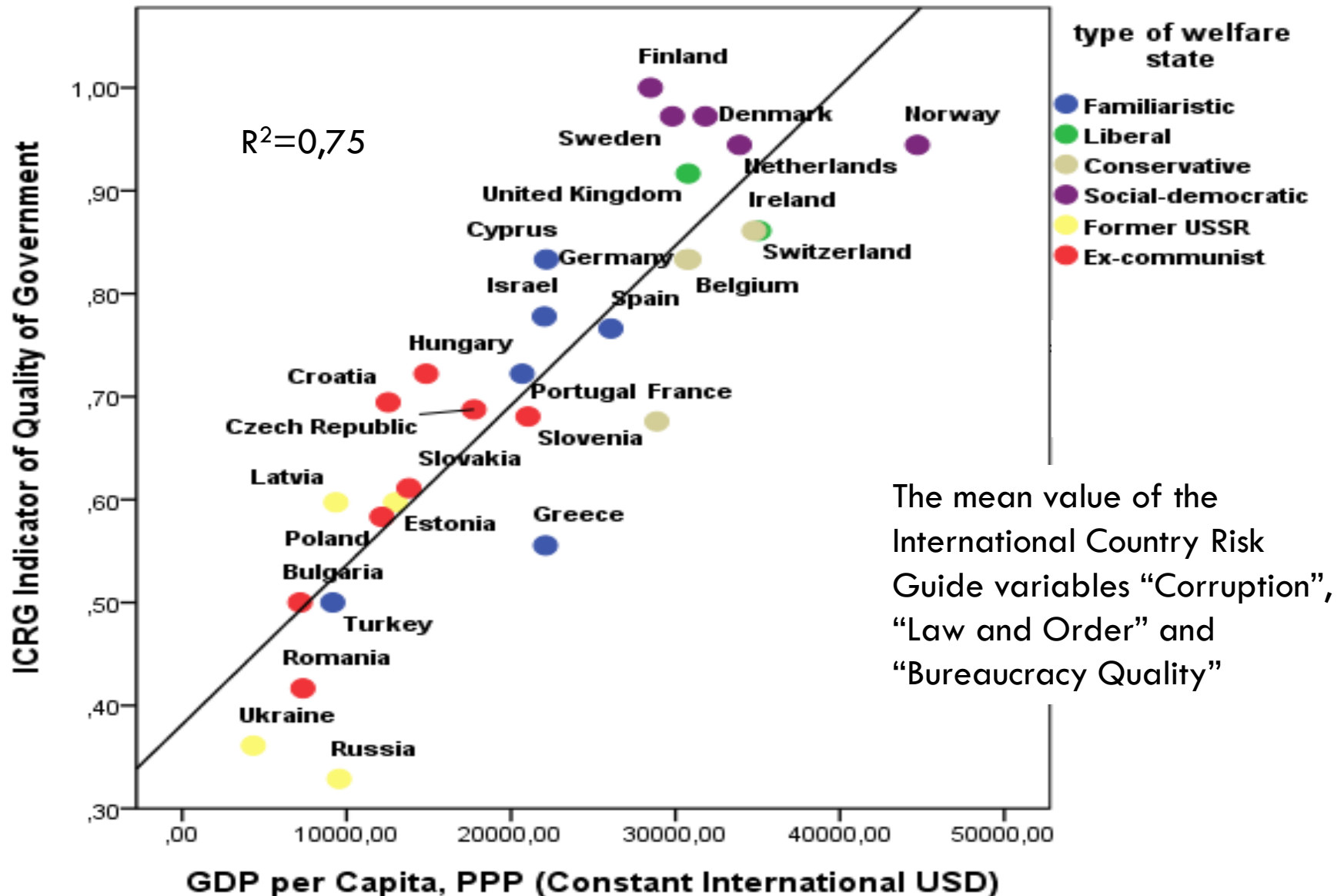
Main results

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-democratic	,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.

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 moderates effect of values on welfare attitudes. The strongest effect of openness-conservation values is in former USSR and ex-communist countries. The strongest effect of self-transcendence-self-enhancement values is in familiaristic countries.**

Effect of Openness to change and Conservation on welfare support in different types of welfare states*
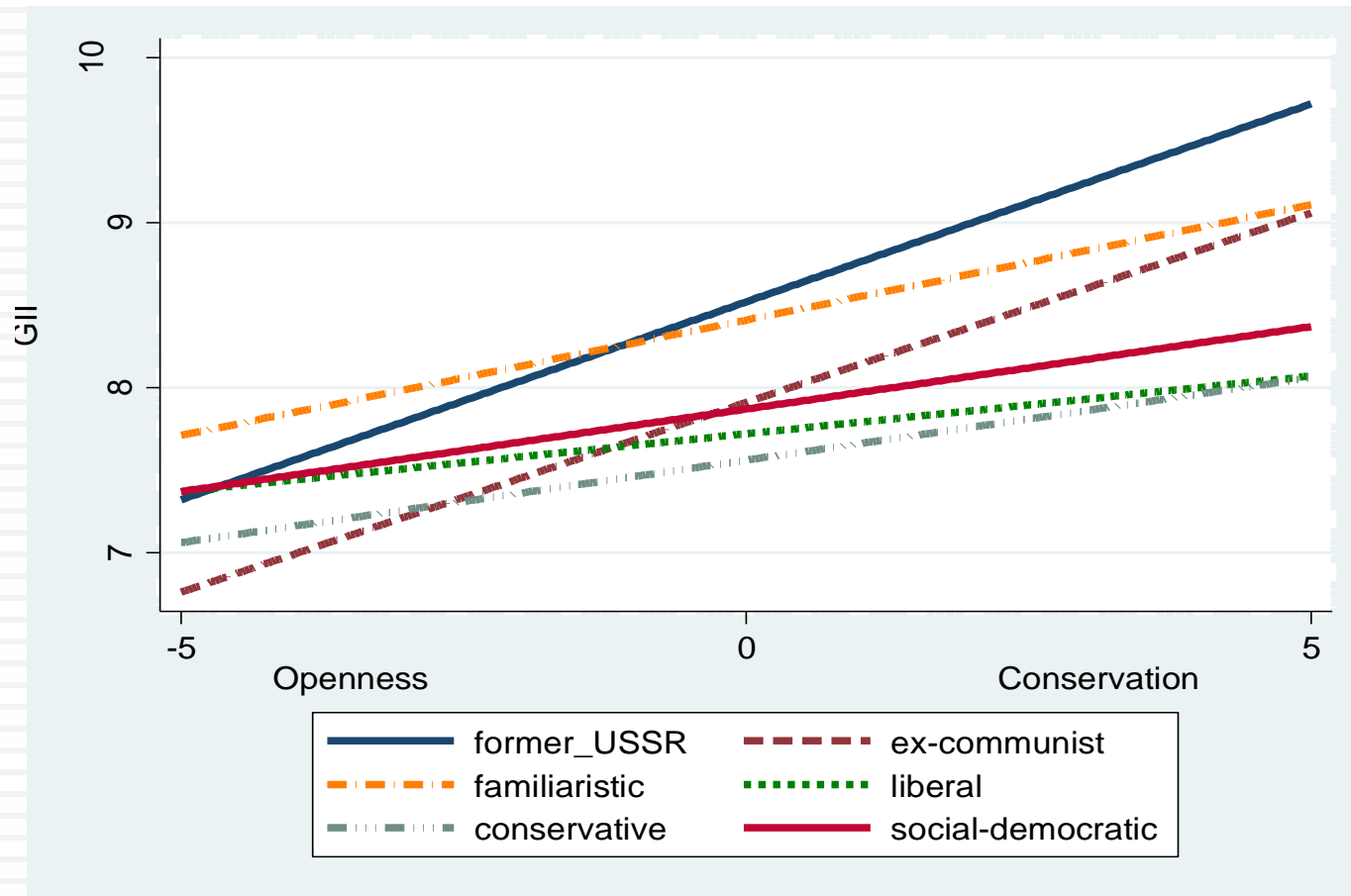
* self-interest is controlled

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

But strength is different.

Legend:
- former_USSR
- familiaristic
- conservative
- ex-communist
- liberal
- social-democratic

Openness to change and conservation shape welfare attitudes most strongly in former USSR and 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 former USSR and post-communist.

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

* self-interest is controlled

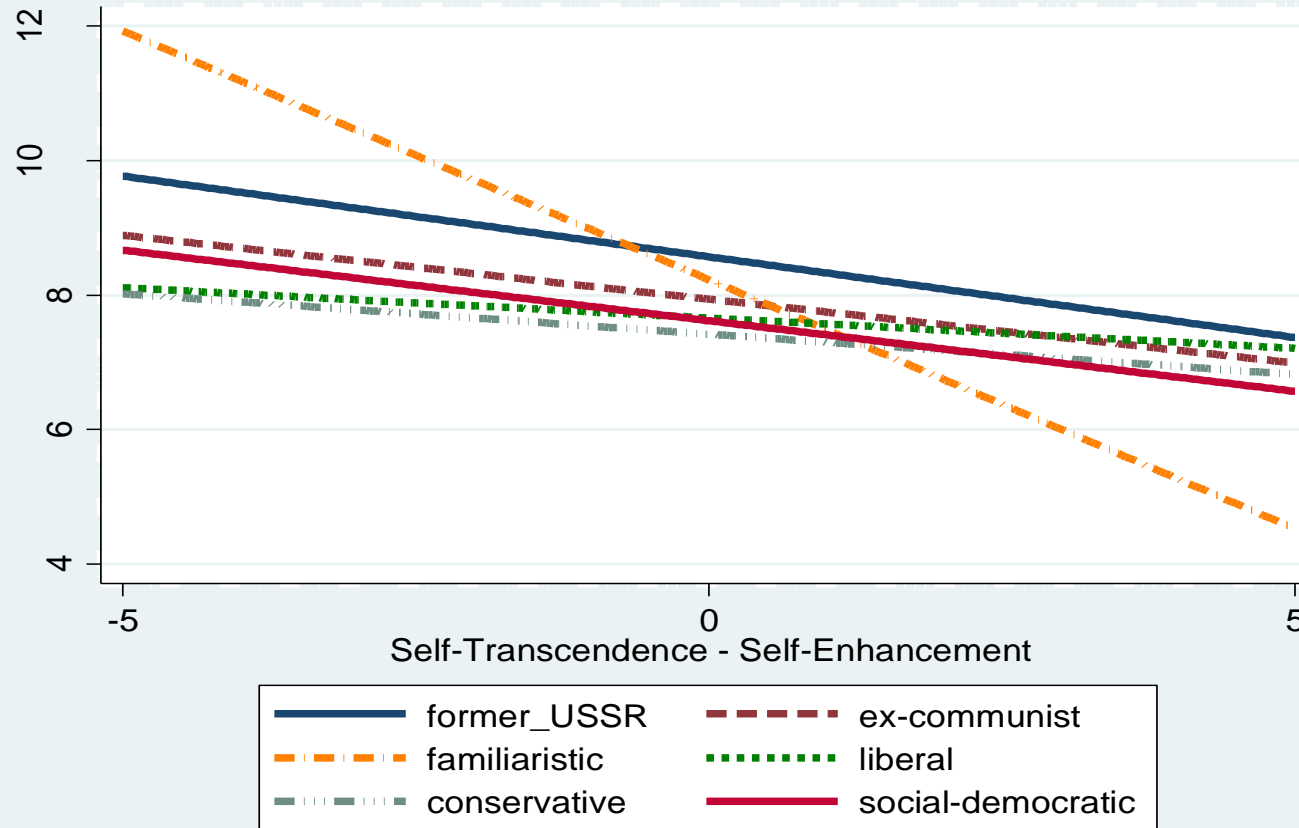In all types of welfare state the direction of effect is similar.

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

Reference groups	Interaction with "Openness – Conservation"					
	FU	EC	FM	LB	CN	SD
Former USSR		0,01	0,10**	0,17***	0,14***	0,14***
Ex-communist type (EC)	-0,01		0,092**	0,16***	0,14***	0,13***
Familiaristic type (FM)	-0,10**	-0,10**		0,07	0,04	0,04
Liberal type (LB)	-0,17***	-0,16***	-0,07		-0,03	-0,04
Conservative type (CN)	-0,14***	-0,14***	-0,04	0,03		-0,01
Social-democratic type (SD)	-0,14***	-0.13***	-0,04	0,04	0,01	
	Interaction with "Self-Enhancement-Self-Transcendence"					
Former USSR		-0,05	0,05	-0,15***	-0,12**	-0,03
Ex-communist type (EC)	0,05		0,10**	-0,10**	-0,06*	0,02
Familiaristic type (FM)	-0,05	-0,10***		-0,21***	-0,17***	-0,09**
Liberal type (LB)	0,15***	0,10**	0,21***		0,04	0,12***
Conservative type (CN)	0,12***	0,06*	0,17***	-0,04		0,08**
Social-democratic type (SD)	0,03	-0,02	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, education, income, employment status, having children are independent variables**

3. **Values are controllers**

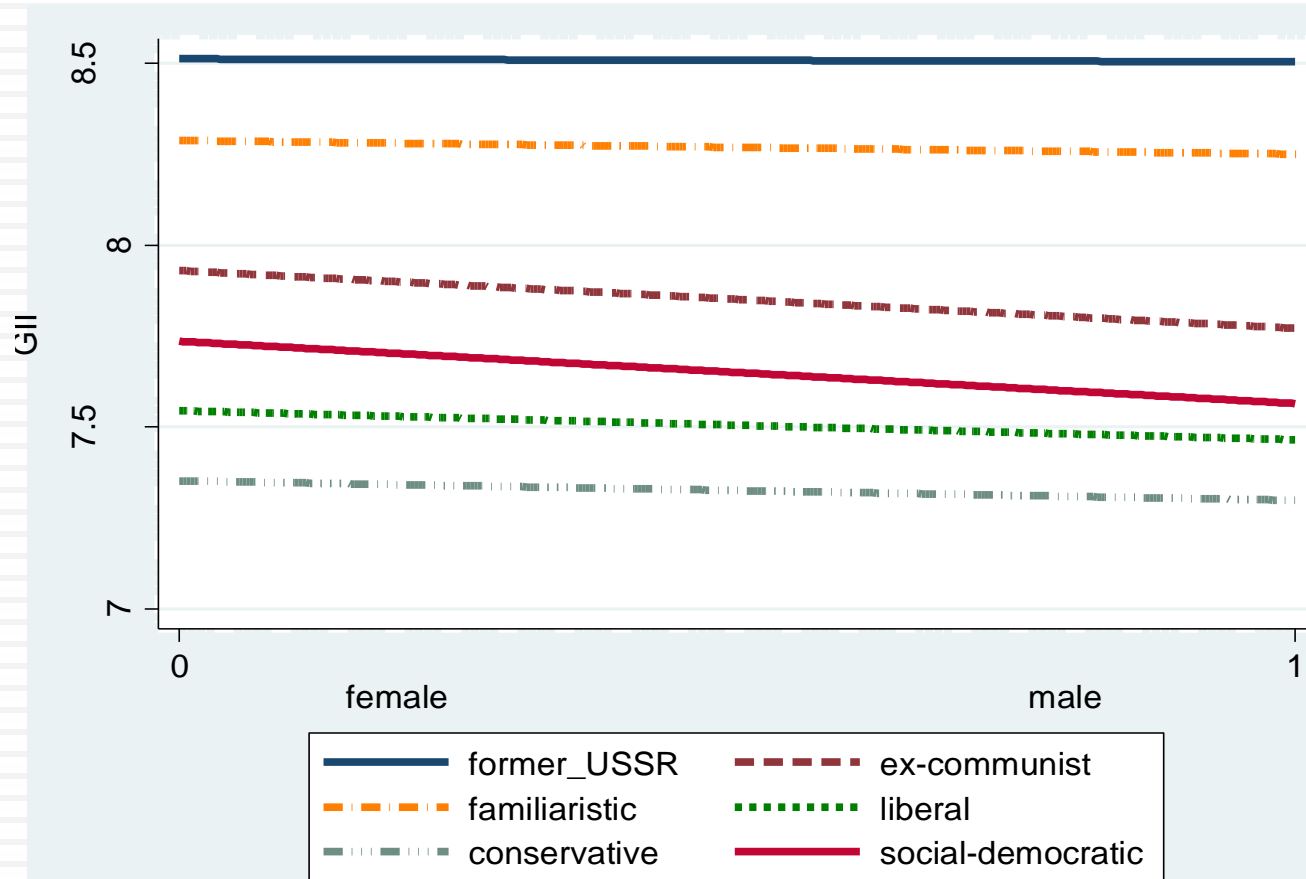4. **Type of welfare state is a contextual variable**

Results of regression analysis 2

1. Almost all the self-interest factors included in to models except having children effect welfare attitudes when we control for values and types of welfare state.

2. Gender shape welfare attitudes significantly but not strongly: men are less supportive to the welfare state. The effect of gender is unobserved after adding interaction term of gender and types of welfare state.

3. Effect of education is controversial. In former USSR and ex-communist countries highly educated people express less demand for government responsibility. But in familiaristic and social-democratic countries we can see other regularity: highly educated people support government welfare intervention.

4. Income is the strongest predictor of welfare support in some countries. Everywhere except familiaristic countries people who have good matherial conditions are less supportive for government welfare intervantion.

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

* values, income, education, employment status and children are controlled

GII

0 — female
1 — male

Legend:
- former_USSR
- ex-communist
- familiaristic
- liberal
- conservative
- social-democratic

Generally gender has a slight effect on welfare support, but after addition of interaction terms into regressions it 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*
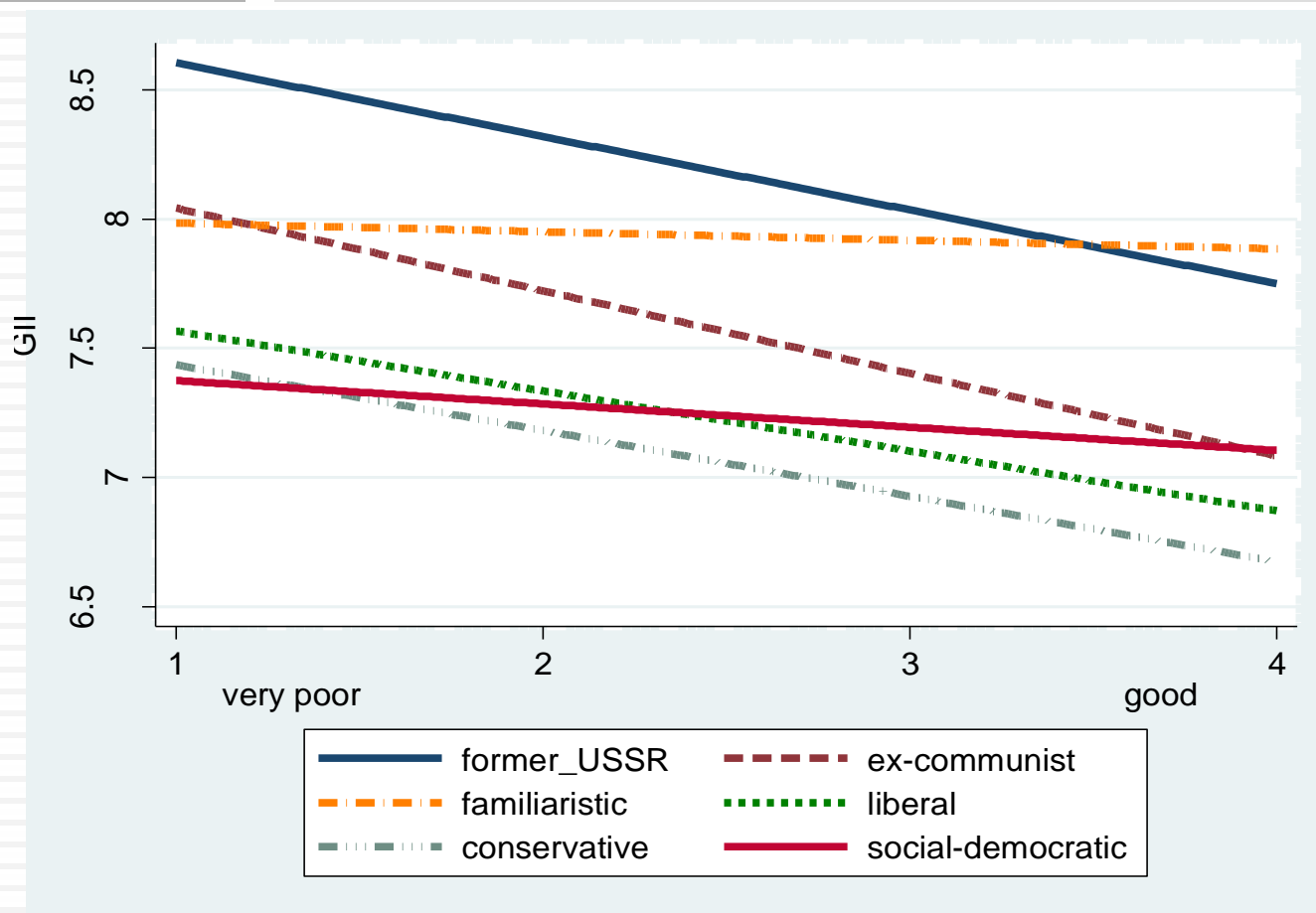
* values, gender, education, employment status and children are controlled

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

But strength is different.

Legend:
- former_USSR
- ex-communist
- familiaristic
- liberal
- conservative
- social-democratic

An effect of income is different in different type of welfare states. In former USSR, ex-communist, liberal and conservative countries it is the strongest. And in familiaristic and social-democratic countries there is no effect of income.

Differences in effect of income in five types of welfare state

		Interaction with "income"				
	FU	**EC**	**F**	**L**	**C**	**SD**
Former USSR		0,03	-0,25***	-0,05	-0,03	-0,19***
Ex-communist type (EC)	-0,03		-0,29***	-0,09	-0,07	-0,23***
Familiaristic type (FM)	0,25***	0,29***		0,2***	0,22***	0,05
Liberal type (LB)	0,05	0,09	-0,2***		0,02	-0,14**
Conservative type (CN)	0,03	0,07	-0,22***	-0,02		-0,16***
Social-democratic type (SD)	19***	0,23***	-0,06	0,14**	0,16***	

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

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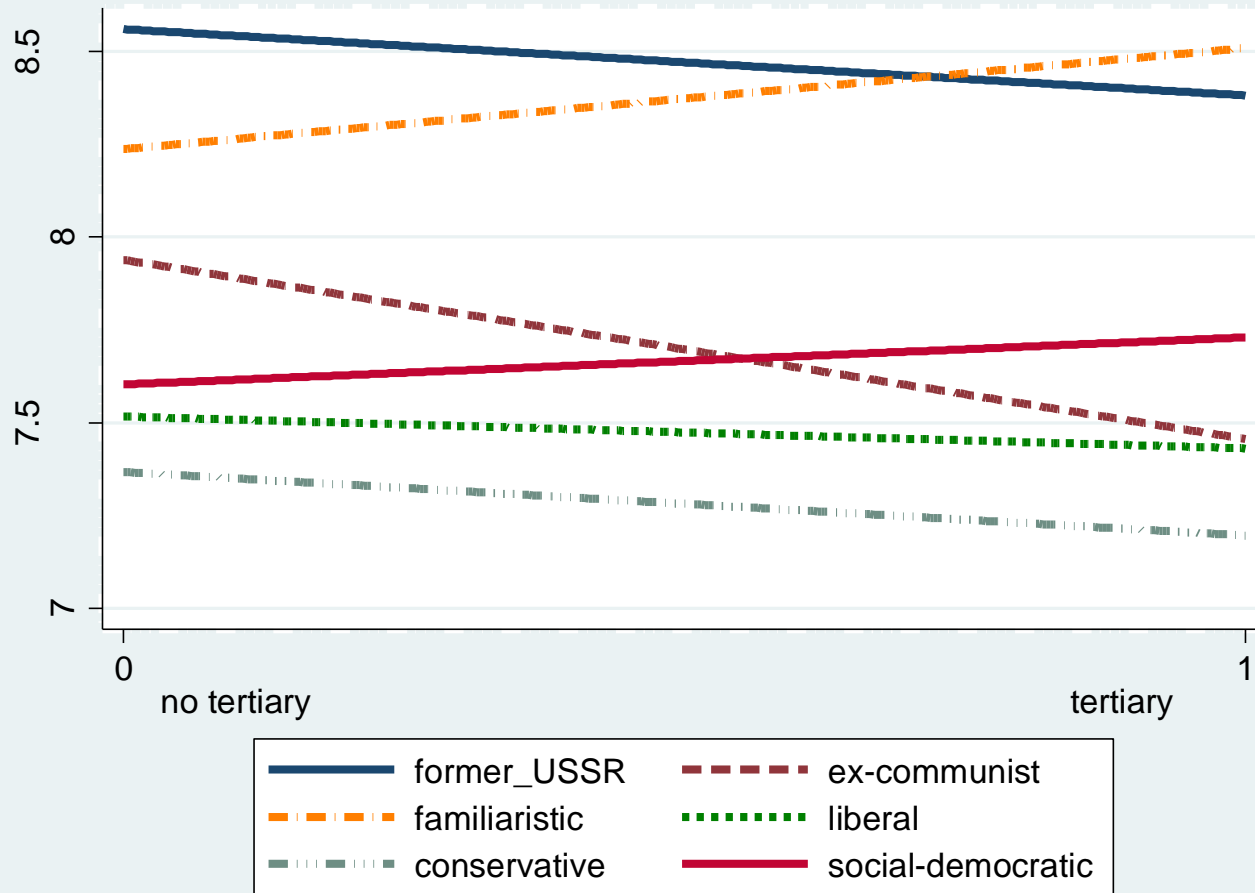
* values, gender, income, employment status and children are controlled

Effect of education is controversial. In former USSR and ex-communist countries highly educated people express less demand for government responsibility. But in familiaristic and social-democratic countries we can see other regularity: highly educated people support government welfare intervention.

Differences in effect of education in five types of welfare state

		Interaction with "education"				
	FU	EC	F	L	C	SD
Former USSR		0,33***	-0,41***	-0,11	0,01	-0,32***
Ex-communist type (EC)	-0,3***		-0,74***	-0,44***	-0,32***	-0,65***
Familiaristic type (FM)	0,45***	0,74***		0,31**	0,42***	0,09
Liberal type (LB)	0,09	0,44***	-0,31**		0,12	-0,21**
Conservative type (CN)	0,01	0,32***	-0,42***	-0,12		-0,33***
Social-democratic type (SD)	0,30***	0,65***	-0,09	0,21**	0,33***	

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

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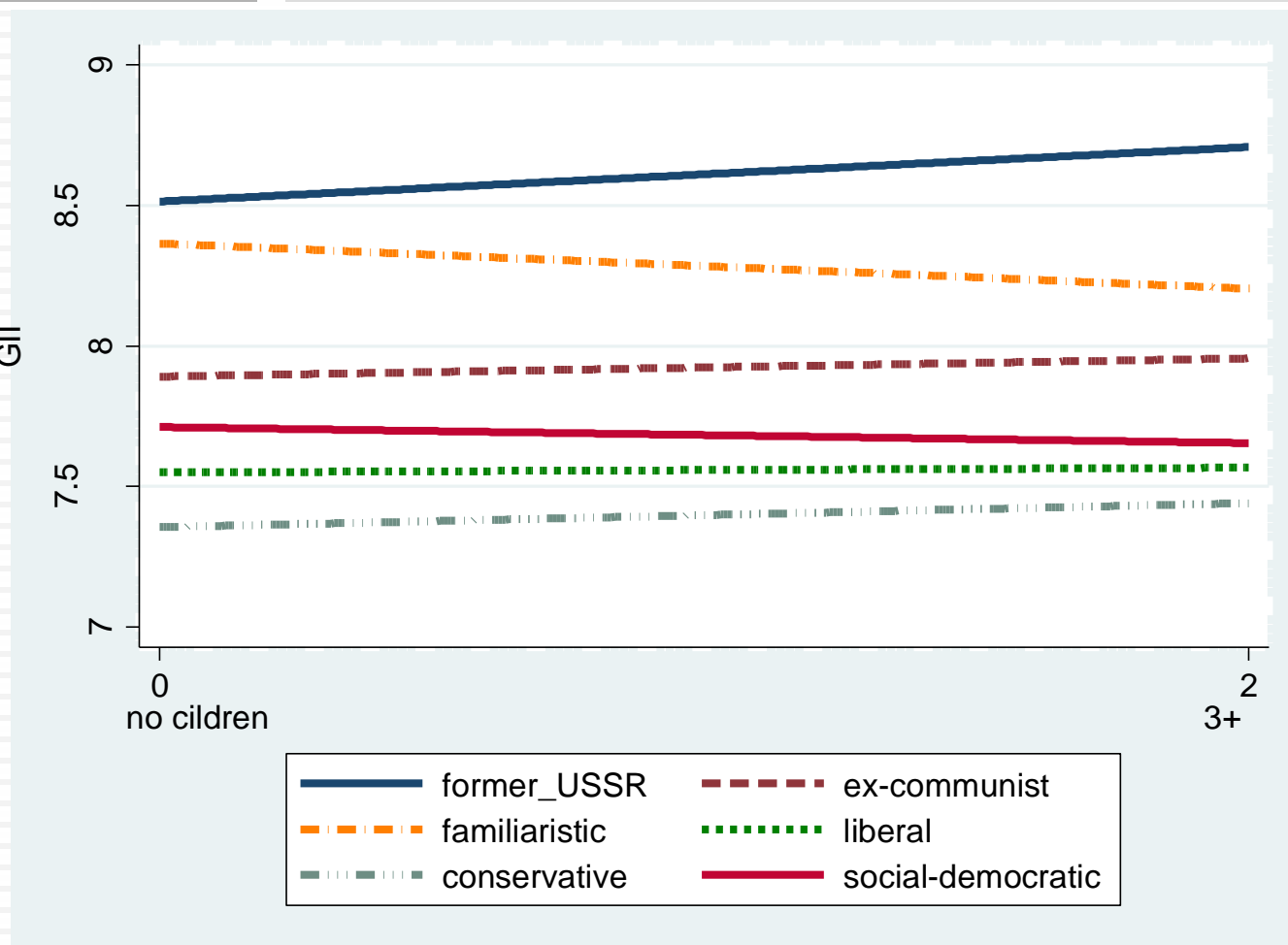
* values, gender, income, education, employment status are controlled

Legend:
- former_USSR
- familiaristic
- conservative
- ex-communist
- liberal
- social-democratic

Having children has no effect on welfare attitude

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 former USSR and 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 and education. In former USSR, ex-communist, liberal and conservative countries income shapes welfare attitudes stronger than in other types of welfare states.

4. High level of education promote low level of demand in former USSR, ex-communist, liberal and conservative countries , and high level of demand in familiaristic and social-democratic

Thank you!

Regression coefficients B

	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6
R2	0,063	0,116	0,137	0,138	0,136	0,139
Openness to change - Conservation (O-C)			0,17***	0,24***		
Self-Transcendence - Self-Enhancement (T-E)					-0,2***	-0,24***
Types: Former USSR – a reference group						
Ex-communist		-0,6***	-0,61***	-0,61***	-0,67***	-0,63***
Familiaristic		-0,22***	-0,18***	-0,11*	-0,28***	-0,34***
Liberal		-0,93***	-0,87***	-0,8***	-1,09***	-0,91***
Conservative		-1,1***	-1***	-0,96***	-1,29***	-1,15***
Social-Democratic		-0,77***	-0,7***	-0,65***	-0,96***	-0,95***
Types*axis						
Former USSR * O-C						
Ex-communist * O-C				-0,01		
Familiaristic*O-C				-0,10**		
Liberal* O-C				-0,17***		
Conservative* O-C				-0,14***		
Social-Democratic* O-C				-0,14***		
Former USSR * O-C						
Ex-communist * O-C						0,05
Familiaristic* T-E						-0,05
Liberal* T-E						0,15***
Conservative* T-E						0,12***
Social-Democratic* T-E						0,03
Sex: women – reference group						

Regression coefficients B

Male	-0,16***	-0,15***	-0,10***	-0,09***	-0,08***	-0,08**
Employment status: Employed without experience of unemployment - the reference group						
Employed with experience of unemployment	0,12**	0,18***	0,19***	0,19***	0,13***	0,13***
Students	0,01	-0,04	0,08	0,08	0,02	0,02
Unemployed	-0,05	-0,06	-0,04	-0,03	-0,06	-0,05
Pensioners, disabled	0,18***	0,23***	0,1**	0,09**	0,13***	0,13***
Financial situation is very bad - the reference group						
Poor	-0,34***	-0,24***	-0,24***	-0,23***	-0,23***	-0,22***
Satisfactory	-0,81***	-0,45***	-0,44***	-0,41***	-0,45***	-0,46***
Good	-1,24***	-0,65***	-0,62***	-0,59***	-0,67***	-0,68***
Education: no tertiary education - a reference group						
tertiary education	-0,03	-0,17***	-0,12***	-0,13***	-0,15***	-0,14***
Childern: no children - a reference group						
1-2 children	0,11***	0,07*	0,05	0,04	0,07*	0,07*
3+ children	-0,11	-0,04	-0,04	-0,05	-0,03	-0,02
Constant	8,46***	8,71***	8,58***	8,52***	8,60***	8,57***

Regression coefficients B

	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6
R2	0,06 1	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.

23. 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**
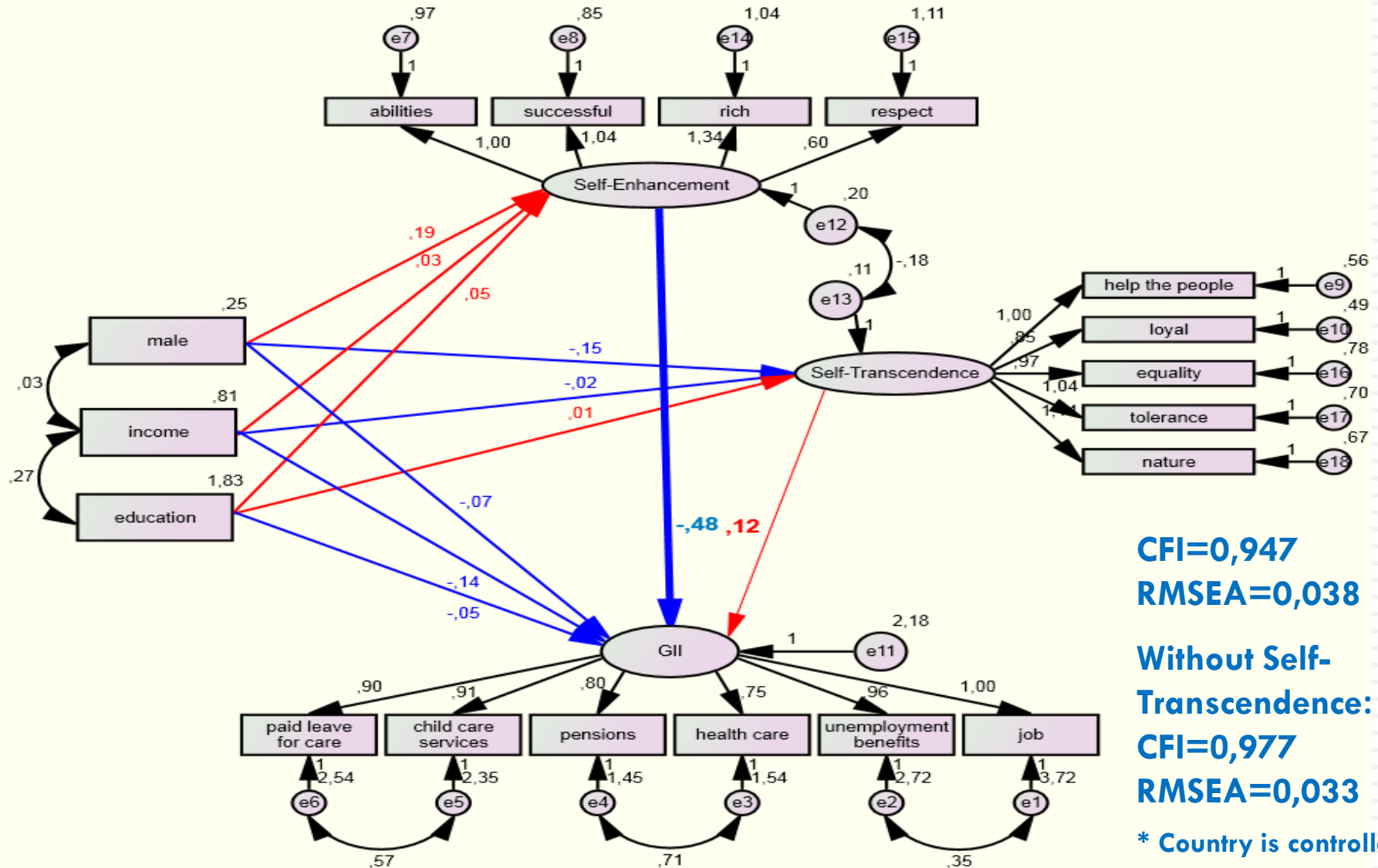
4. **Country is controlled**

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

CFI=0,919
RMSEA=0,045

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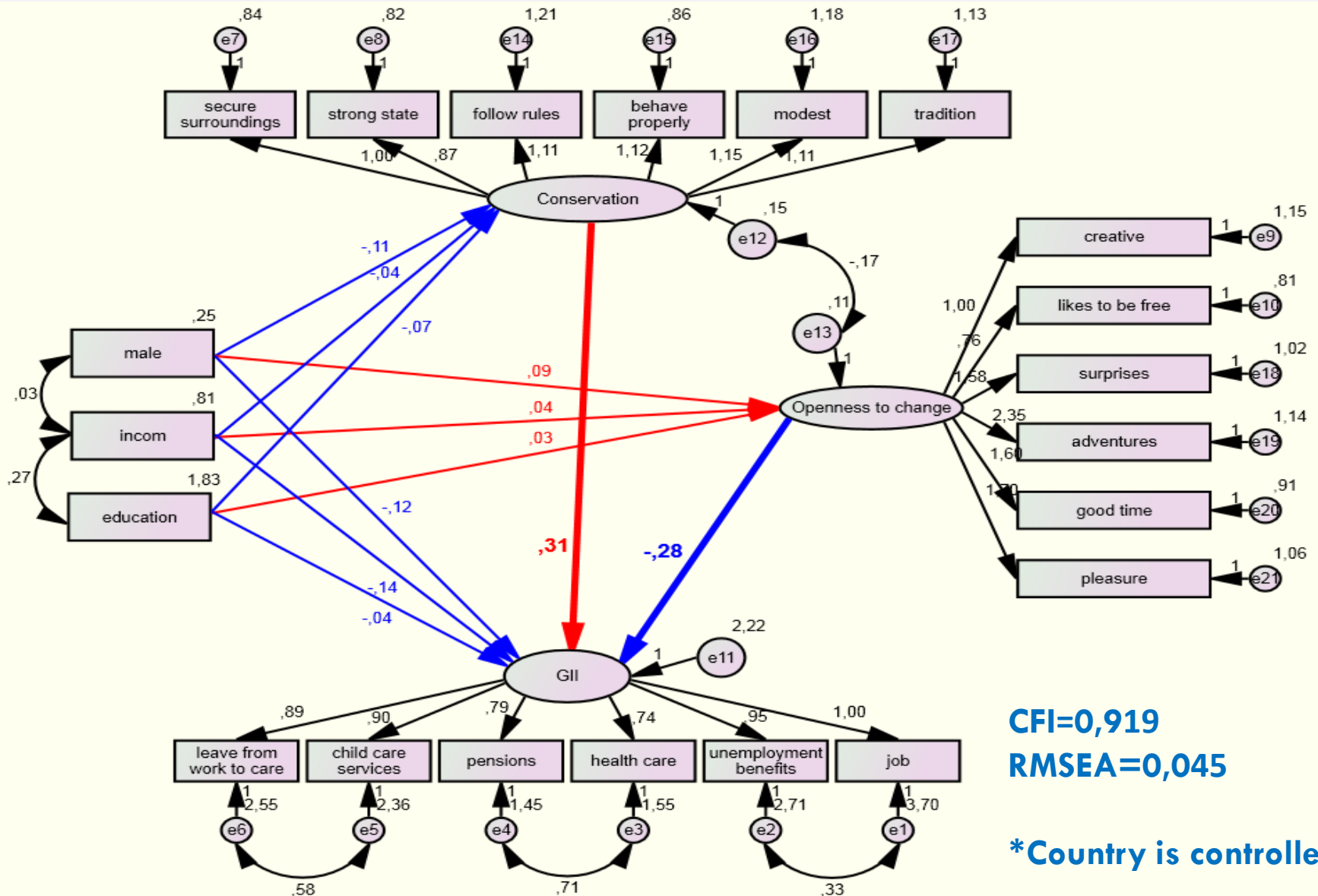
Self-Transcendence and Self-Enhancement as mediators of the welfare support*

CFI=0,947
RMSEA=0,038

Without Self-Transcendence:
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.