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Family Behaviour and Social Change in Eastern and Central Europe 1991-2008

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Outline

1. Theoretical and empirical gaps in research of family change
2. Research proposal: change in family behaviours in Central and Eastern Europe 1991-2008
3. Research questions, hypotheses and methods

The Second Demographic Transition theory

(Lesthaeghe and van de Kaa 1986)

- “...‘the’ mainstream concept in demographic research in Europe in the last four decades” (Billari and Liefbroer 2004: 1)
- links family behaviour and value orientation
- the connection between the demographic and value transformations is essential

The Second Demographic Transition theory in a nutshell

- Changing moral order and the conviction that the views and ideas people hold individually or collectively have a direct impact on their family related behaviour are the story of the Second Demographic Transition

The Second Demographic Transition theory in a nutshell

The rise of individual autonomy values in post-industrial economies leads to:

- postponement of family formation and childbearing
- greater instability of existing unions
- increasing variety of living arrangements and alternative lifestyles (Lesthaeghe and van de Kaa 1986; van de Kaa 1987)

Theoretical and empirical gaps in research of family change

Theoretical and empirical gaps

- The extent to which the SDT can spread beyond the Western European context (Coleman 2004; MacInnes and Pérez Díaz 2009; Reher 2011)
- There is no specification of conditions that are crucial for emergence of the SDT except for the broad requirement of ideational change (Lesthaeghe 2010; Sobotka 2008)

Theoretical and empirical gaps

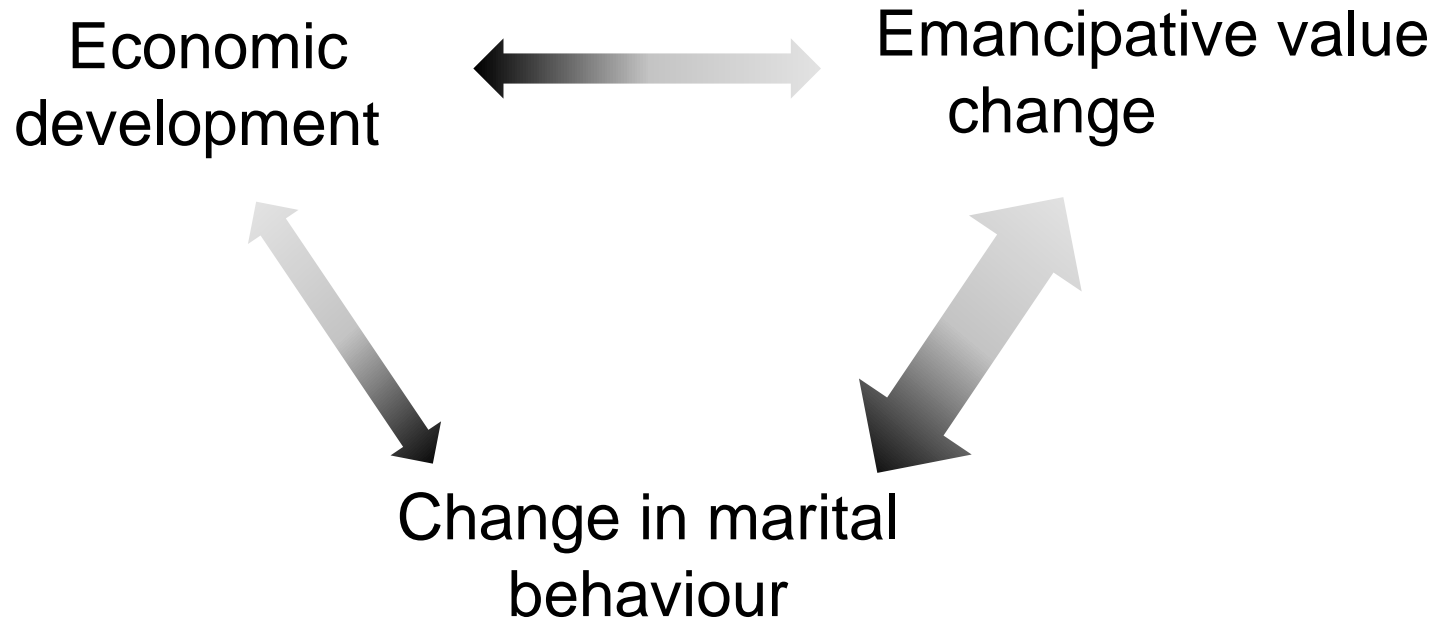
- The question of how the individual value change in the context of CEE countries advanced changes in family behaviours still requires particular attention (Billingsley 2010)
- On the behavioural level, there is some evidence that CEE are approaching the thresholds of the SDT; on the attitudinal level there seem to be noticeable heterogeneity in value orientations within the region (Bystrov (forthcoming); Perelli-Harris 2005; Sobotka 2008)

Research goal

- The aim of this research is to highlight the nature of determinants of changing family behaviours in CEE compared with Western Europe

Previous findings at the aggregate level

Source: Bystrov (forthcoming)



Previous findings at the aggregate level

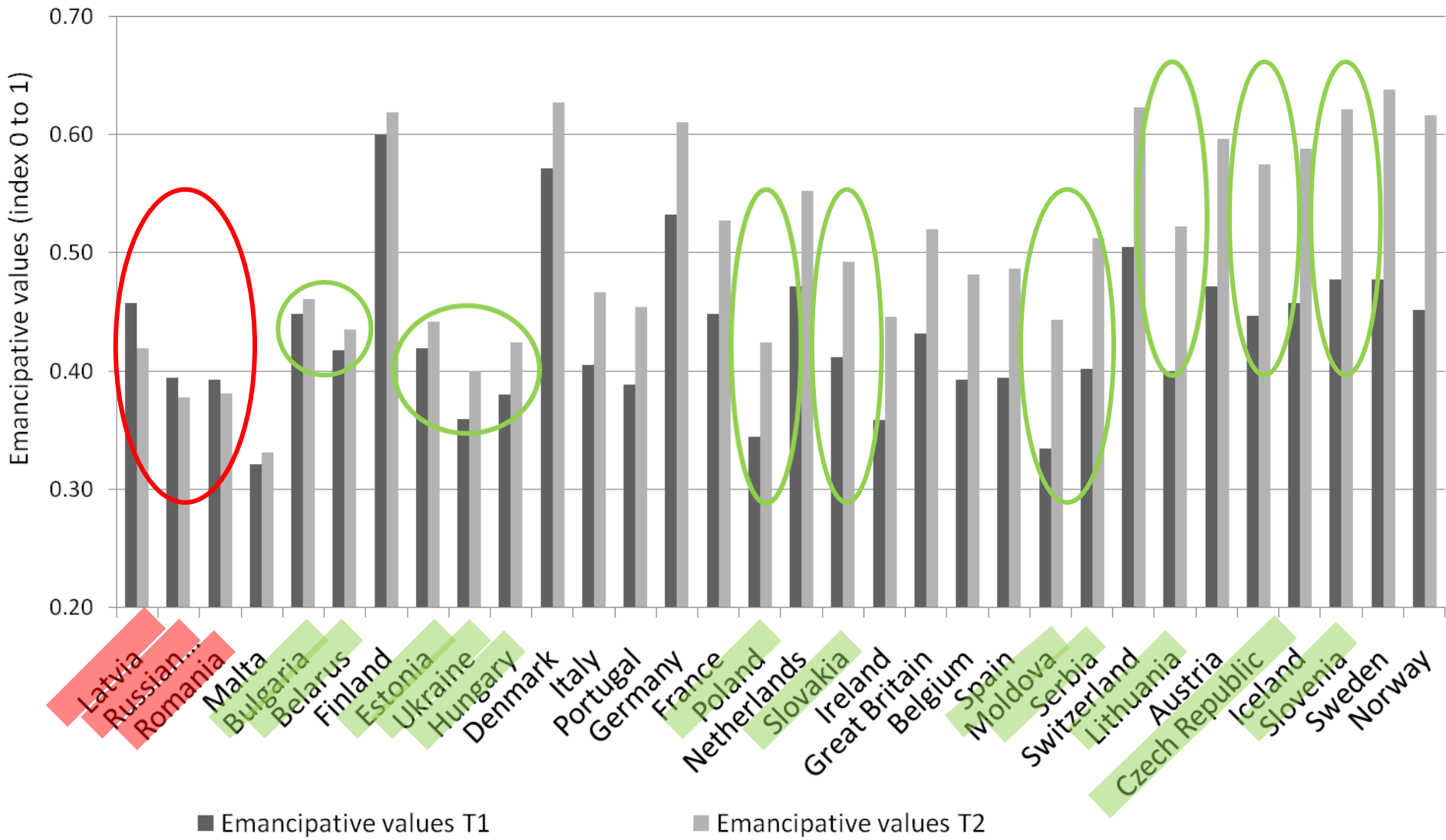
Source: Bystrov (forthcoming)

- Emancipative value change, as well as economic development and higher education, boost age at marriage
- Postponement of marriage has some feedback effects
- Across the globe, postponement of marriage is influenced most of all by emancipative value change, compared to economic development and high level of education for women

European emancipative value change

(recalculated for average 15 years)

Source: WVS aggregate data 1981-2008





Research proposal

Research questions, hypotheses and methods

Research questions

- Do determinants of cohabitation and marital postponement differ between the Central and Eastern European countries and the Northern and Western European countries?
- What are the age-period-cohort effects between 1991-2008? Do they differ between CEE and Northern and Western European countries?

Hypotheses

Cohabitation and marital postponement in Central and Eastern Europe are better explained by socio-economic and political variables than in Northern and Western Europe.

In contrast, emancipative values are stronger predictors of such behaviours in Northern and Western Europe compared to Central and Eastern Europe.

Data and methods

Data and methods

WVS aggregated data 1991-2008; ISSP and ESS data

Sample: women aged 18-29 from European countries

Method: regression analysis; multilevel modeling
(?)

Methodological challenges

- Can the cohort effects of emancipative value orientation on cohabitation and marital postponement be considered as social norms/climate effects?
- Cross-sectional analysis vs analysis of change in variables



Thank you for your attention!
Comments or questions?