Subjective Well-Being in the Late Working and Third Age Life Periods: the Role of Social-Demographic Factor, Age and Cohorts

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- The work is devoted to the influence of **age** and **cohorts** on the subjective wellbeing (further SWB) in Eastern and Western European countries.

- *SWB* - a combination of subjective happiness and life satisfaction with similar weights. Scale form 0 to 1.

- The database **European Social Survey (ESS)**. 5 waves (2002-2010).

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Cohort (Theoretical background)

Cohort approach in social science: Ryder (1965) defined cohort as "a structural category with the same kind of analytic utility as social class"

Baby-boomers cohorts in special conditions=> the "third age" phenomenon (Laslett, 1986) will become more powerful (Owram 1996, Gilleard and Higgs 2002).

Cohorts 1930-45 are also observed.

That is why we are focused on the third age and older working age.

Ageing and cohort

"people in different cohorts age in different ways" (Riley 1987).

Baby-boomers and SWB/Happiness

Negative relationship. Shift from security values to postmaterialism with new higher levels needs and problems (Rodgers 1982). High level of competition in labour market, education etc…(Easterlin 1987). Empirical studies (Yang, 2008)

Positive relationship. Exogenous social-demographic environment into which cohorts were born and in which they came of age were more fruitful than for previous ones. Economic depression and the world wars of earlier cohorts may lead these cohorts to lower levels of general well-being (Elder 1974). Lucky cohorts heritage from previous cohorts (Laslett, 1986)

Baby-boomers

The cohort history in Europe differs from each other :

▸ baby-boom phenomenon took place in Western Europe, however only in several countries it lead to the changes in real cohorts TFR or at least changes in pre-war fertility trends

▸ in Eastern Europe only in Czech republic and Hungary there were some related trends

▸ In Southern Europe the fertility pattern varies (Italy – like W. Europe, Spain and Greece like E. Europe)

▸ The fertility in Turkey and Israel is completely different

▸

Baby-boomers, fertility patterns
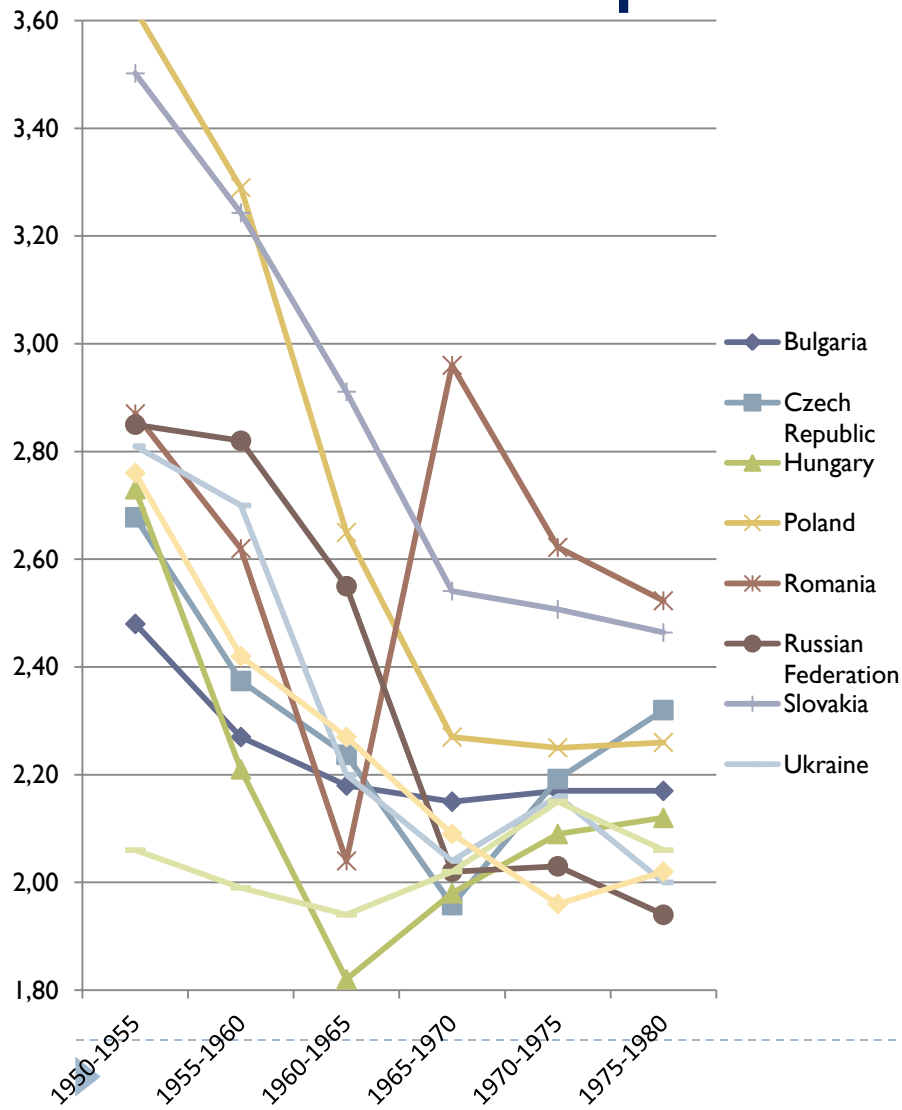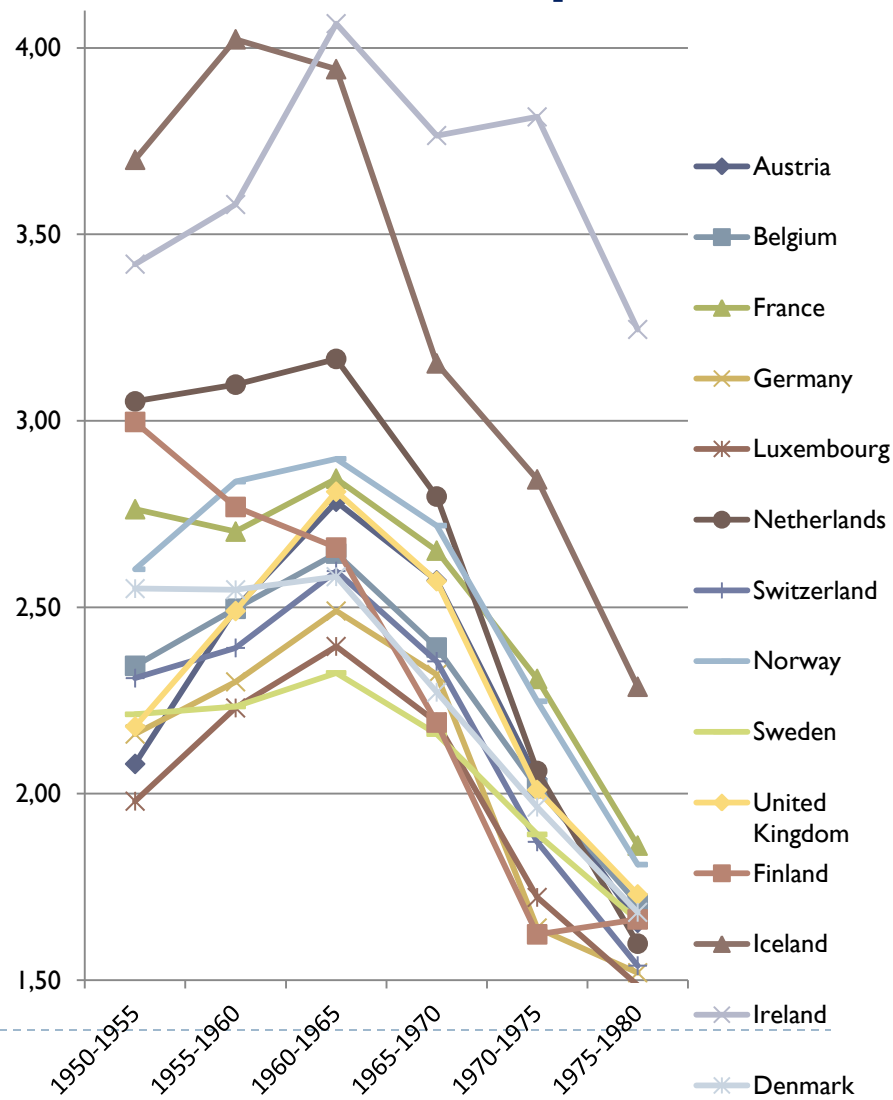
‣ Most of the people born in these cohorts suffered from the war during the childhood

‣ In their adulthood people in Eastern and Western Europe influenced by different processes due to the different paths of the socio-economic development:

East. Harsh conditions at the beginning of ageing. The old working and pre-pension age of these cohorts concurred with transition period

West. A period of social economic prosperity and stability (golden age of welfare state, stable economic growth), savings, improvement in health system

‣

Age and cohort (E. Europe)
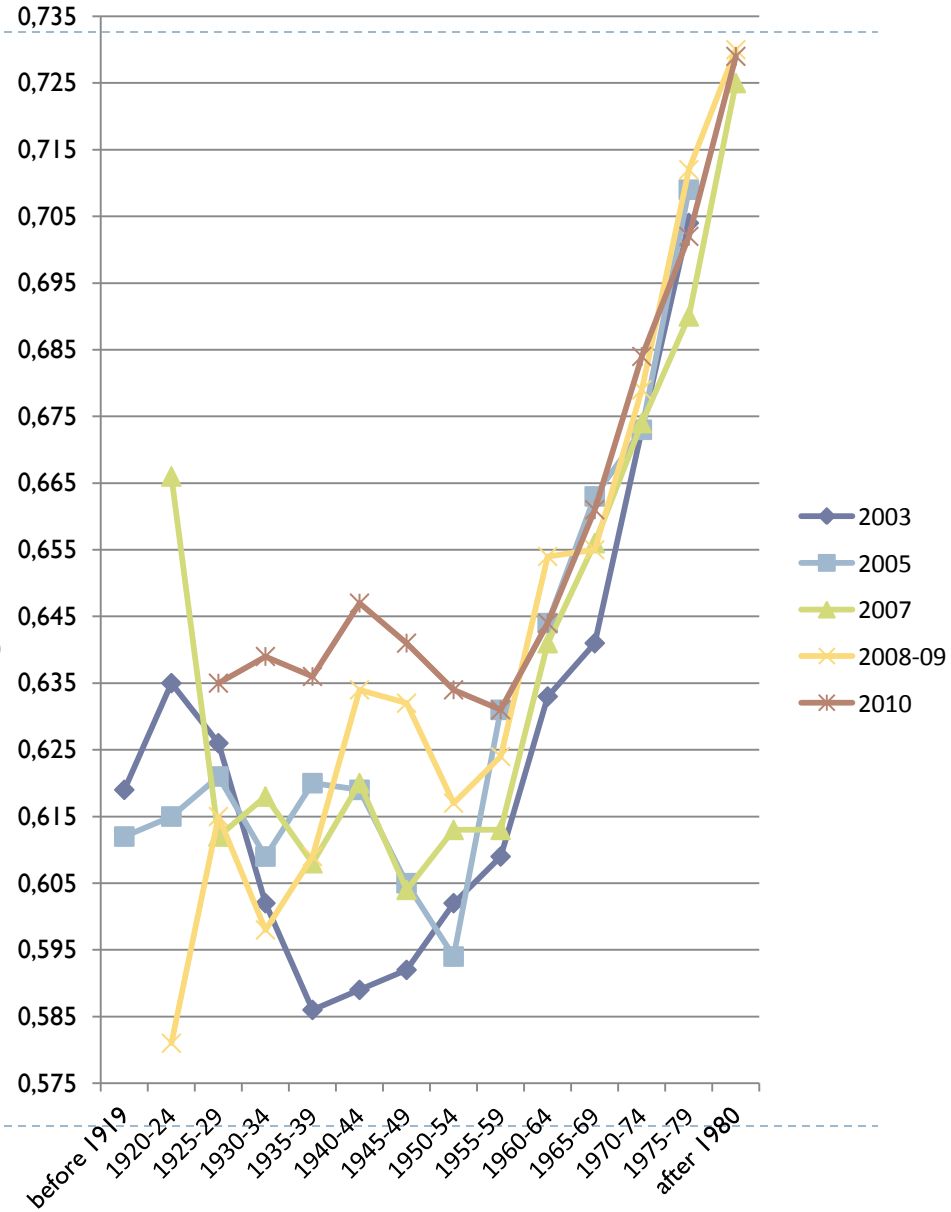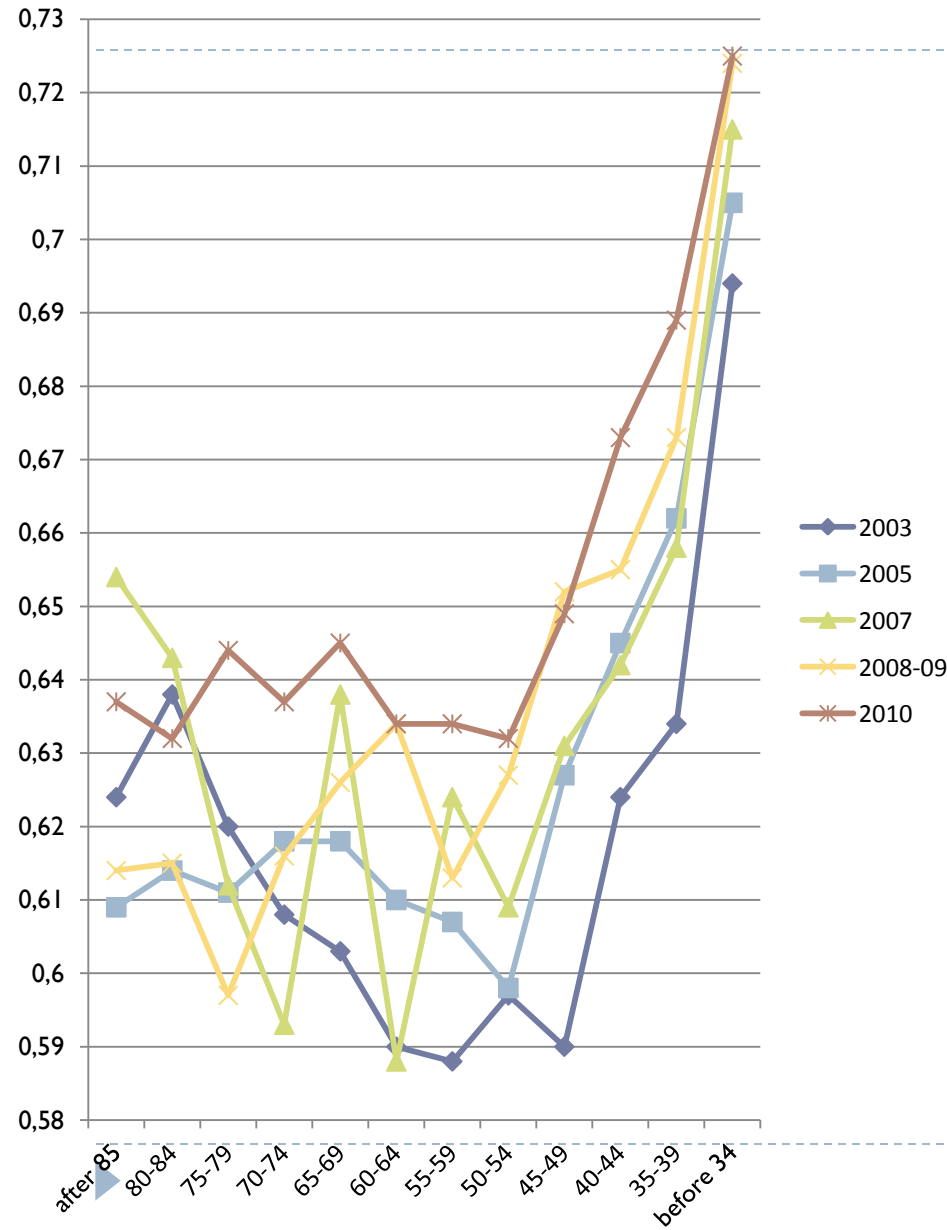
Age and SWB

- **Negative relation.** Reasons: the increasing health problems and loss of important social relationships through mortality (George 2006); discrimination-ageism (Butler, 1969); terror management theory (Greenberg, J.; Pyszczynski, T., & Solomon, S. 1986).

- **Positive relation.** Reasons: self-integration, insight, and positive psychosocial traits (satisfaction and self-esteem) grow with age (Gove, Ortega, and Style 1989)

Age and happiness

Relationship:

- Negative (Rodgers 1982),

- Positive (Charles, Reynolds, and Gatz 2001),

- Constant (Costa et al. 1987),

- U-shaped, with a minimum level between the ages 30-40 (Mroczek and Kolarz 1998),

- Reversed U-shaped, based on APC-analysis with a maximum level between the ages 50-55 (Yang 2008).

Age, period, cohort (methods)

- **APC** approach for social sciences (Mason et al 1973, Yang&Fu, 2004.)Our limitations (only 5 waves of survey) => we cannot use CCFEM, classical APC approach (period of observations is only 8 years)

- **Separate models** with 5-year spanning cohorts and age groups. Period as a dummy. Across the time-pooled ESS, the age groups include people from different cohorts as well as cohort groups people from different ages. Hence, the two models must produce different results if either cohort or age is more important in shaping SWB.

- **Multilevel model.** Age and control vars are observed on individual level, cohort (as a dummy) on aggregate. Period as a dummy.

Main Hypotheses

- Differences in SWB between Eastern and Western European countries are strongly determined by cohort effects

- Cohort:

1. Baby-boomers have ceteris paribus lower SWB (especially in case of Western Europe)

2. Pre-war and war cohorts have different levels of SWB for Western (higher) and Eastern (lower) Europe

- Age: U-shape curve and within the third age period the influence of the age is not significant

Control variables

Round of Survey

<u>Demographic variables.</u>

- **Male** - dummy variable, 1 – male gender.
- **Partnership -** dummy variable, 1 – married or live together with partner.
- **Urban** – dummy variable, 1 – urban area (regardless the size).

<u>Socioeconomic status.</u>

- **Education** – education of respondent, 6 point scale from 0 to 1.
- **Poverty** – financial satisfaction, 4 point scale from 0 to 1 (from very good to very bad).

<u>Social integration.</u>

- **Social activity** – Compared to other people of your age, how often would you say you take part in social activities, 5 point scale from 0 to 1.
- **Social relationships** – how often do you meet socially with friends, relatives or work colleagues, 7 point scale from 0 to 1.
- **Openness** – dummy variable, 1 – respondent can discuss most of his personal questions with somebody.

<u>Other variables</u>

- **Unhealthy** – satisfaction of health status, 5 points scale from 0 to 1 (from very good to very bad).
- **Religion** – self-reported religiosity, 10 points scale from 0 to 1.

Macrolevel

- For the **separate models**

- Postcommunist (dummy)
- Western Europe (dummy)

For the 1st hypothesis confirmation

- Interactions of the regimes and cohorts

For the 2nd hypothesis confirmation

Interactions (with controls)

	Eastern	Eastern	Western	Western
1930-35	0,014***		0,04***	
1935-40	Non sign		0,033***	
1940-45	-0,009***		0,023***	
1945-50		-0,02***		Non sign
1950-55		-0,03***		-0,017***
1955-60		-0,026***		-0,021***
1965-70		-0,025***		-0,022***
R-sq	0,35 (0,22)	0,32 (0,26)	0,32 (0,27)	0,3 (0,27)

Subsample (age)

	Eastern Europe (educ)	Eastern Europe (income)	Western Europe (educ)	Western Europe (income)
Age – sq	-0,0003***		-0,0002***	
35-39	-0,009**		Non sign	Non sign
40-44	0,004	Non sign	Non sign	Non sign
45-49	-0,018***	Non sign	0,013***	Non sign
50-54	0,036***		0,03***	
55-59	0,056***		0,05***	
60-64	0,089***		0,082***	
65-69	0,112***		0,11***	
70-74	0,154***		0,123***	
75-79	0,2***		0,152***	
80-84	0,24***		0,168***	
85+	0,29***		0,2***	
R-sq	0,21	0,32	0,19	0,25

Subsample (cohort)

	Eastern Europe	Western Europe	Rounds + controls
1970-74	-0,064***	-0,084***	
1965-69	-0,068***	-0,086***	
1960-64	-0,075***	-0,086***	
1955-59	-0,073***	-0,082***	
1950-54	-0,078***	-0,073***	
1945-49	-0,065***	-0,05***	
1940-44	-0,064***	-0,041***	
1935-39	-0,052***	-0,03***	
1930-34	-0,033***	-0,018***	
1925-29	-0,033***	-0,007*** (?)	
1920-24	-0,004		
1975+	-0,047***	-0,072***	
R-sq	0,32 (0,21)	0,25 (0,19)	

The whole sample (cohort)

	Without control	Controls (educ)	Controls (income)
1970-74	-0,024***	-0,018***	
1965-69	-0,035***	-0,023***	
1960-64	-0,046***	-0,025***	
1955-59	-0,054***	-0,02***	
1950-54	-0,058***	-0,017***	
1945-49	-0,051***	-0,002	-0,006***
1940-44	-0,046***	0,01***	
1935-39	-0,05***	0,019***	
1930-34	-0,052***	0,032***	
1925-29	-0,054***	0,04***	
1920-24	-0,054***	0,05***	
1919-	-0,049***	0,064***	
Postcom	-0,041	-0,016	-0,006
Western	0,094***	0,077***	0,05***
R-sq	0,095	0,27	0,35

The whole sample (age)

	Without control	Controls (educ)	Controls (income)
Age – sq	-0,00003***	-0,00002***	
35-39	-0,0054***	-0,0035*	
40-44	-0,0063**	0,0016	-0,005**
45-49	-0,0007	0,014***	Non significant
50-54	0,007*	0,03***	
55-59	0,024***	0,051***	
60-64	0,053***	0,082***	
65-69	0,073***	0,11***	
70-74	0,087***	0,13***	
75-79	0,11**	0,16***	
80-84	0,13***	0,19***	
85+	0,16***	0,22***	
Postcom	-0,04	-0,016	-0,005
Western	0,093***	0,077***	0,05***
R-sq	0,086	0,27	0,35

Age and cohort

Opposite effects

▸ For baby-boomers in the *whole sample*

▸ For both baby-boomers and pre-war and war cohorts in *the subsamples*

▸ For war cohort in Eastern Europe and baby-boomers for both parts of Europe (*interaction*)

▸ Multilevel model for age (microlevel) and cohort (macrolevel)

Year and cohort (1930-65)

	Eastern Europe	Western Europe		Eastern Europe	Western Europe
Age (35+)	0,0017	0,002			
Age-sq	-0,000024	-0,000023	**1945-1950**	-0,094	0,102
1930-35	-0,083	0,099	**1950-1955**	-0,087	0,094
1935-40	-0,1	0,104	**1955-1960**	-0,078	0,084
1940-45	-0,1	0,1	**1960-1965**	-0,026	0,079

There are __no changes__ in signs and significance of control variables

Previous hypotheses

▸ ***Western Europe:*** for baby-boomers the hypothesis is not confirmed, but confirmed for war and prewar cohorts

▸ ***Eastern Europe:*** for baby-boomers it is confirmed, but not for war and prewar cohorts

Year and cohort (1930-65) subsamples

▸ *Western Europe:* baby-boomers generally affect SWB indicator negatively (confirmed), while the war and prewar cohorts show positive relationship. (not confirmed)

▸ *Eastern Europe:* no significant effects

▸ There differences between eastern and western Europe and other parts of the continent. Effect of East is not significant.

▸ For the whole Europe the effect of baby-boomers is negative and war+prewar cohorts positive (but can be confused with age effects)

▸ Age effects are U-shaped (but reversed) and 5-year grups with ageing give us extra positive effects

▸

Baby-boomers have lower levels of SWB not only for Western but from Eastern Europe (even stronger), moreover for other method we even faced a positive effect

▸ Prewar cohorts have positive effect for W. Europe and small effects for E. Europe (negative for war cohorts); negative effects inside the samples but not so strong. Using AC methods confirms our results for West but not for East.

▸ Explainations. Now people from older cohorts in Eastern Europe are not the most deprived (by property, income, etc) group – younger people, especially with childre are more problematic group

▸

What we are going to do

‣ To work with age more in detail (growth curve models)

‣ APC Cross-classified models with German and Russian Longitudinal studies (RLMS)