Multidimensional welfare state attitudes: a cross-cultural research

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Two stages of the research

1st stage: to test dimensionality of dependent variable (scope of government welfare intervention) by means of multiple-group CFA

2nd stage: to test direct and indirect effect of objective social status and mediation effect of basic human values on one or more dimensions of the scope of government welfare intervention

1st STAGE

Testing dimensionality of scope of government welfare intervention

# Recent findings (Roosma, Gelissen, & van Oorschot, 2013, p. 7)

F. Roosma, J. Gelissen and W. van Oorschot (2013) run 3rd order CFA for 26 initial items and 22 countries. They showed measurement invariance for all the countries.

Were defined **nine sub-dimensions**:

1. goals (agree to reduce income levels),
2. **range (government should be responsible for… There were listed 6 social programs),**
3. degree (increase taxes and social spending),
4. efficiency (social systems are (extremely) efficient),
5. effectiveness/abuse (disagree that people abuse benefits/services),
6. effectiveness/ underuse (disagree that people underuse benefits/ services), outcomes goals ((strongly) agree that goals are reached),
7. outcomes policy (benefits/services are (extremely) good),
8. outcomes economic ((strongly) disagree WS harms economy),
9. outcomes moral ((strongly) disagree WS is bad for morals)

(Roosma, Gelissen, & van Oorschot, 2013, p. 7)

Recent findings (Roosma, Gelissen, & van Oorschot, 2013, p. 12)
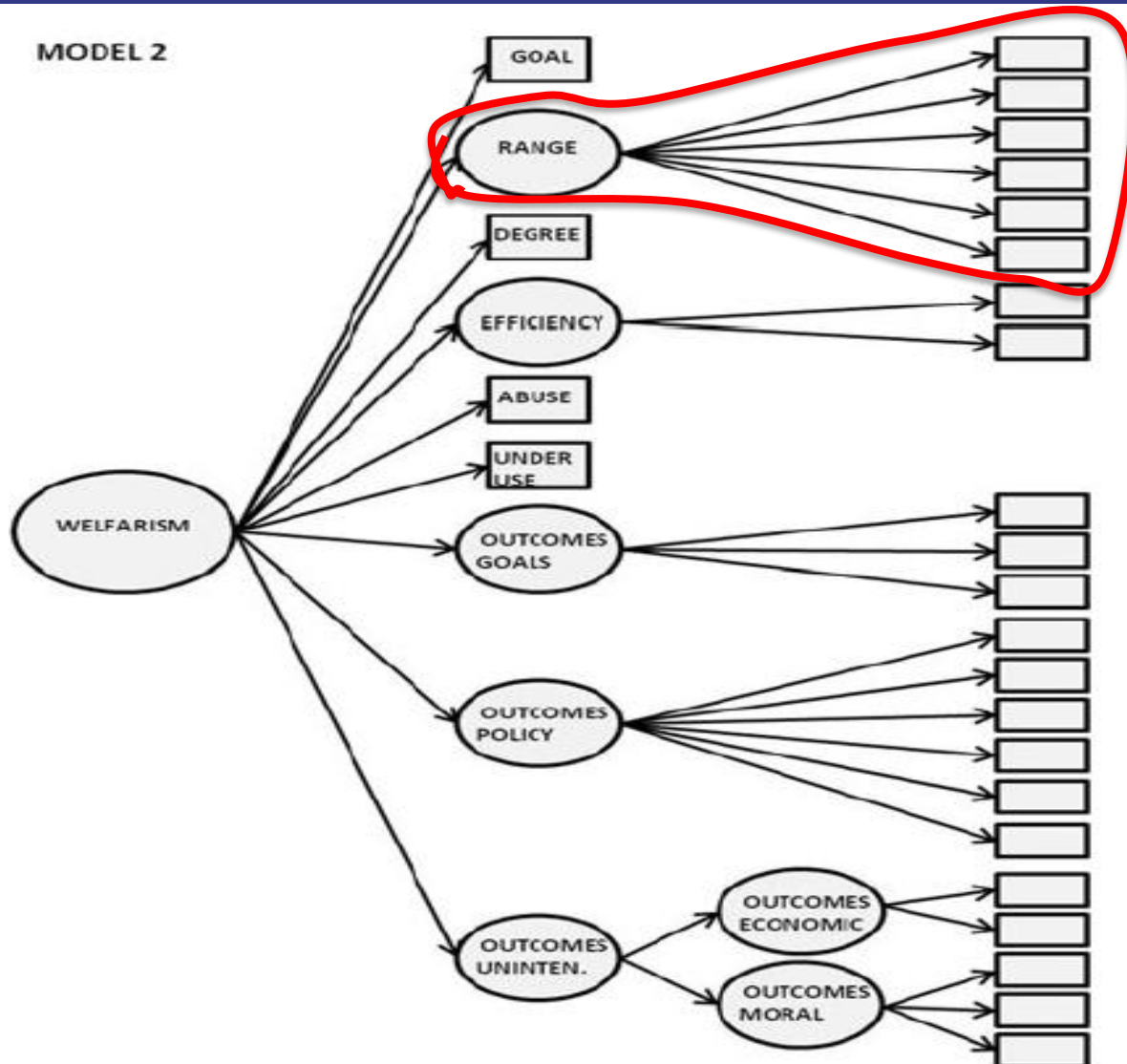
Whether the scope of government intervention is a single dimension phenomenon?

2. Specific Contribution

The most researches considered extensiveness of the welfare state (range of role of government or scope of government intervention) as a single dimension among others.

Measurement invariance was tested for the pooled set of the selected countries (Sabbagh & Vanhuysse, 2006; Roosma, Gelissen, & van Oorschot, 2013).

The present research is aimed to **analyze dimensionality of the scope of government intervention separately in six types of welfare states**.

3. Theoretical Framework

Theories of social justice and deservingness (Deutsch, 1975; Mau, 2004; Svallfors, 2007; van Oorschot, 2008)

Population of European countries feel **more support** to **elderly people, ill and disabled**, a little bit **less** to **unemployed** and **migrants** have the **lowest** level of support ⟶ *is the scope of government intervention multidimensional phenomenon?*

Different institutional and cultural arrangements in different types of welfare states (Esping-Andersen, 1990; Fenger, 2007; Reeskens & van Oorschot, 2011) and and different understanding of social justice ⟶ *is there any difference in dimensions?*

4. Hypotheses

Scope of government welfare intervention is a single dimension phenomenon in low-performing welfare states and multidimensional in well performing countries.

There are three dimensions in well performing countries: unconditional social programs (pensions and health care), labor market regulation (jobs and unemployment benefits) and family support (kindergartens and pained leave for care).

5. Data and Core Variables

The 4th wave of European Social Survey (ESS, 2008)

Six initial items describing demand for government welfare intervention

Question: "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. 0 means it should not be governments' responsibility at all and 10 means it should be entirely governments' responsibility. Firstly to…

D15 …ensure a **job** for everyone who wants one?
D16 …ensure adequate **health care** for the sick?
D17 …ensure a reasonable **standard of living for the old**?
D18 …ensure a reasonable **standard of living for the unemployed**?
D19 …ensure sufficient **child care services** for working parents?
D20 …provide **paid leave** from work for people who temporarily have **to care for sick family members**?"

5. Data and Core Variables: contextual variable is the type of welfare state
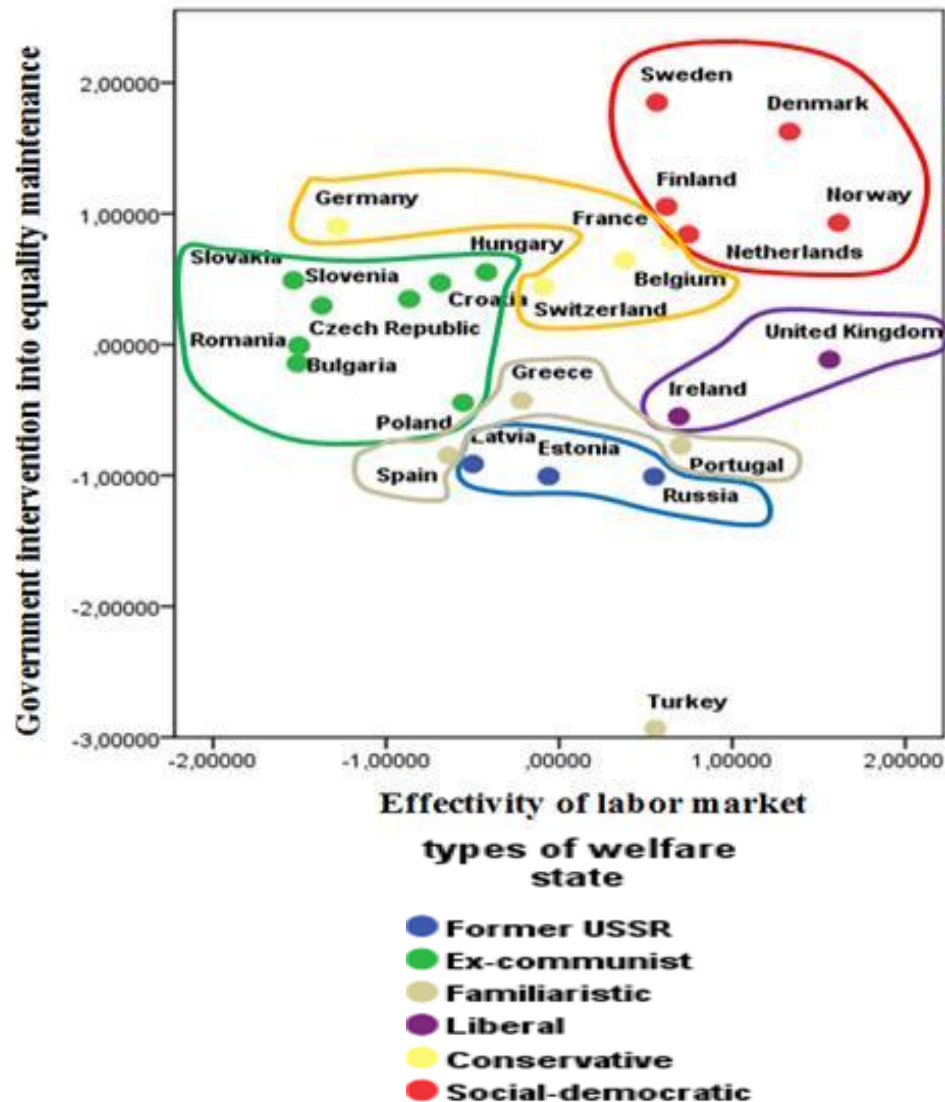
Results of principle component analysis

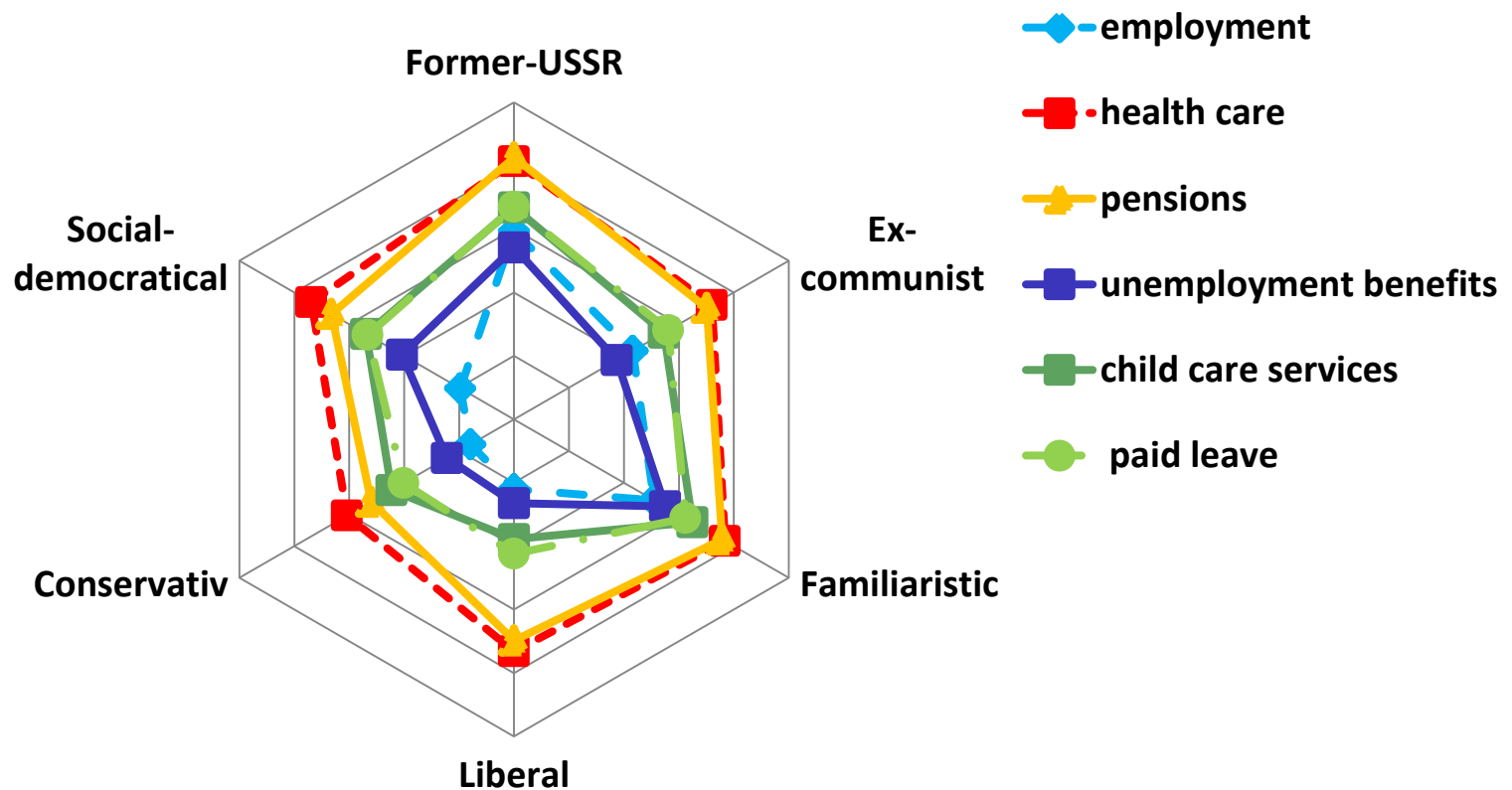| Indicator	N of countries	Component	
		1	2
GII	29	-0.401	-0.109
Expenditure on social protection as % GDP	29	0.74	0.307
Ratio of Female to Male Income	28**	0.701	0.289
Tax Revenue (% of GDP)	29	0.212	0.752
Gini Index	28**	-0.852	0.253
Long-Term Unemployment (% of Unemployed)	27***	-0.046	-0.832
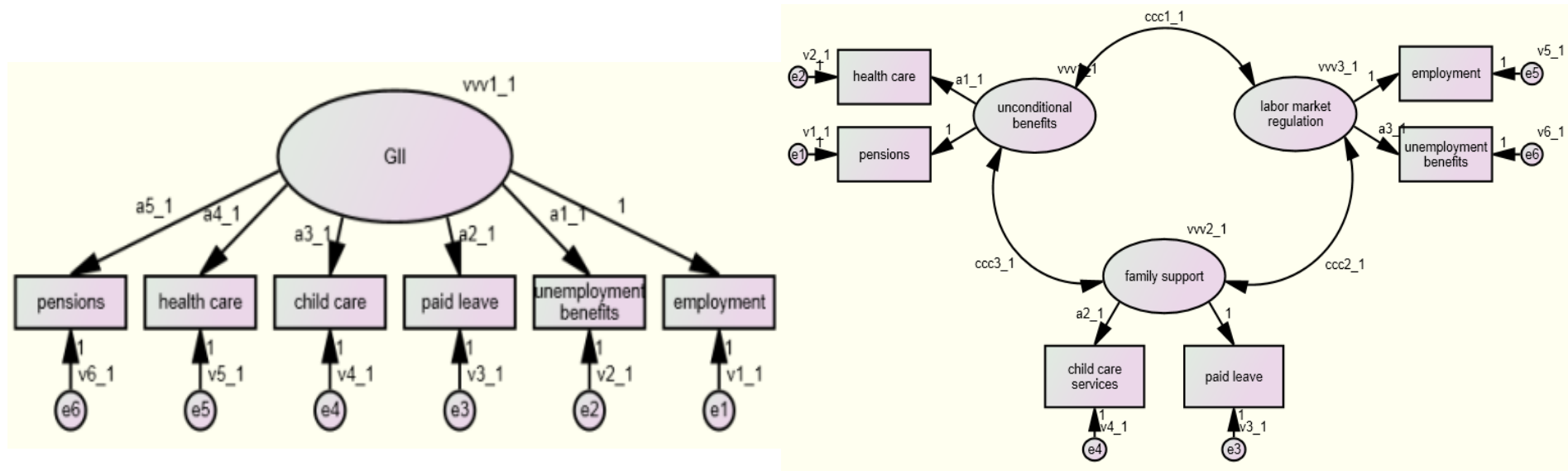
1st STAGE

Results

Mean scores for demand for government support of six types of social programs in different welfare states

- employment
- health care
- pensions
- unemployment benefits
- child care services
- paid leave

Former-USSR

Ex-communist

Familiaristic

Liberal

Conservativ

Social-democratical

Test of measurement invariance: model fit information

		Chi-squared	Df	P-value	RMSEA	CFI
FUSSR	Model 1	3447,281	36	0.0000	0,095	0,84
	Model 2	772,809	24	0.0000	0,057	0,963
EXCOM	Model 1	7811,931	120	0.0000	0,065	0,804
	Model 2	1027,62	48	0.0000	**0,034**	**0,972**
FAM	Model 1	6055,304	54	0.0000	0,081	0,839
	Model 2	1366,813	36	0.0000	**0,047**	**0,964**
LIB	Model 1	1118,642	18	0.0000	0,111	0,836
	Model 2	66,259	12	0.0000	**0,031**	**0,992**
CONS	Model 1	905,738	36	0.0000	**0,048**	**0,925**
	Model 2	161,717	24	0.0000	**0,026**	**0,985**
SD	Model 1	1302,768	45	0.0000	**0,048**	**0,902**
	Model 2	224,252	30	0.0000	**0,024**	**0,984**
All countries	Model 1	18303,35	261	0.0000	0,03	0,855
	Model 2	3619,453	174	0.0000	**0,017**	**0,969**

SO…

Hypothesis is to be rejected:

Single dimension of the scope of government welfare intervention was found in conservative and social-democratic countries

In ex-communist, familialistic and liberal countries there was detected multidimensional structure

In the former USSR countries there is no invariance

BUT for all the countries was established invariance for the 2nd model

SO

Three dimensions of the scope of government welfare intervention will be analyzed further.

2nd STAGE

Testing direct and indirect effect of objective social status and mediation effect of basic human values on three dimensions of the scope of government welfare intervention

What kind of rationality shape demand for three dimensions of government welfare responsibility in six welfare cultures?

What do we mean by rationality?

Basing on rational choice theories we define rationality as an intention to maximize own utilities in exchange relations with others.

4 ideal types of patterns of rationality (M.Weber)

Formal rationality (following rules)
Substantive rationality (value-rational basis)
Practical rationality (self-interest or survival motivation)
Theoretical rationality (conceptual point of view, from the position of "ordered system")

2.2. Hypothesis

Substantive and practical rationality has a stronger effect on all three dimensions of welfare attitudes in low performing welfare states.
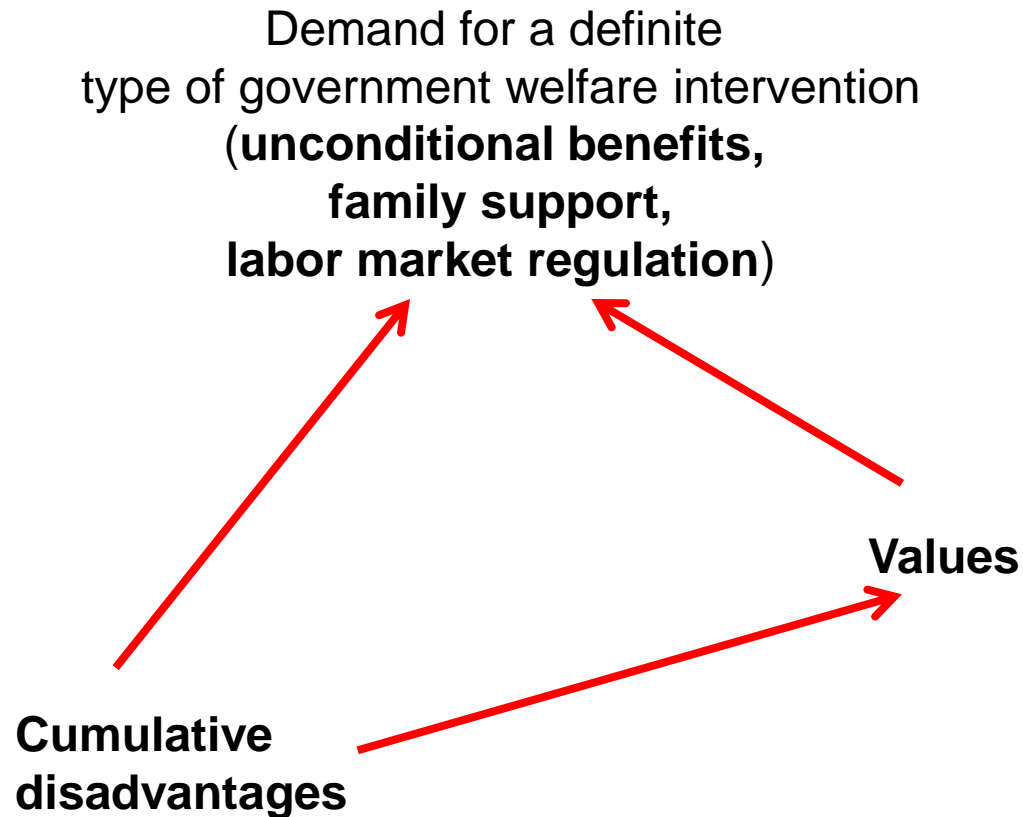
Formal rationality has stronger effect in well performing countries.

2.3. Specific Contribution

Present research is aimed to

1. Measure direct and indirect effect of objective social status on three dimensions of welfare attitudes
2. Measure mediation effect of basic human values on three dimensions of welfare attitudes
3. Compare these effects in six types of welfare states

2.4. Research model

Demand for a definite
type of government welfare intervention
(**unconditional benefits,**
family support,
labor market regulation)

Values

Cumulative
disadvantages

2.5. Core Variables

Tree dimensions of demand for government welfare support:
unconditional benefits (pensions and medical care),
family support (child care and paid leave to care for sick relatives) and
labor market regulation (guarantied job and unemployment benefits).

Objective social status is an individual index calculated as a **number of disadvantages** (low income, low level of education and problems with employment).

Basic human values are calculated in accordance with Sh. Schwartz methodology (1992).

Types of welfare states (6 types)

Cumulative disadvantages (basing on methodology of J.Dubrov, 2012)

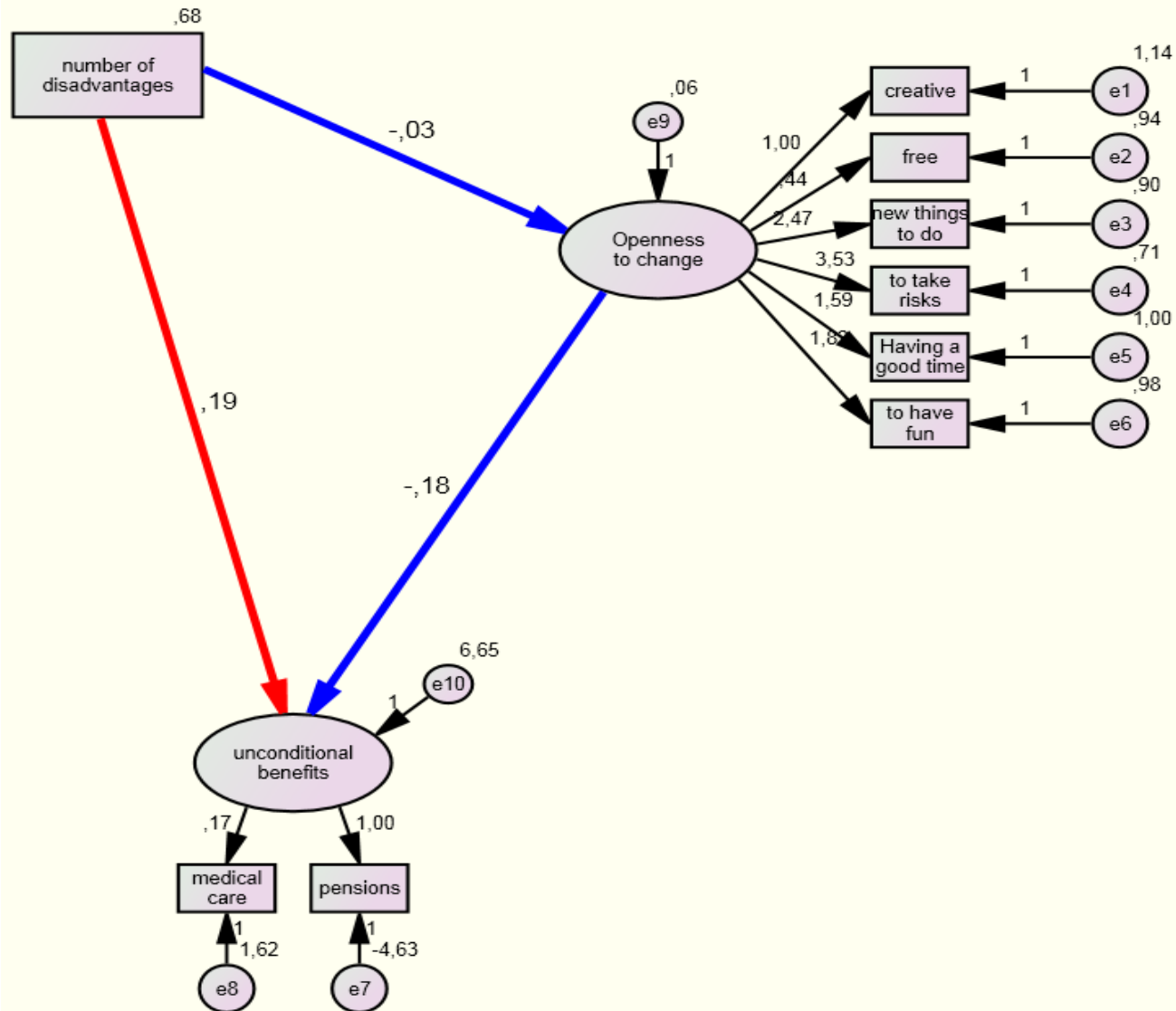| Indicators	Measured by	Recordings
Low income	Which of the descriptions on this card comes closest to how you feel about your household's income nowadays? 1. Living comfortably on present income, 2.Coping on present income, **3. Finding it difficult on present income, 4. Finding it very difficult on present income.**	3-> 1; 4->1
Low level of education	What is the highest level of education you have achieved? Please use this card: **0. not completed primary education, 1. primary or first stage of basic, 2. lower secondary or second stage of basic, 3. upper secondary, 4. post secondary, non tertiary,** 5. first stage of tertiary, 6. second stage of tertiary (Recoded into 4 groups)	0->1; 1->1; 2->1; 3->1; 4->1
Problems with employment	1. And which of these descriptions best describes your situation (in the last seven days)? Please select only one. (01 in paid work (or away temporarily) (employee, self-employed, working for your family business); 02 in education, (not paid for by employer) even if on vacation; **03 unemployed and actively looking for a job; 04. unemployed, wanting a job but not actively looking for a job; permanently sick or disabled 06. retired**; 07 in community or military service; 08 doing housework, looking after children or other persons; 09 (other))	03->1; 04->1; 05->1; 06->1
	2. Have you ever been unemployed and seeking work for a period of more than three months? (**yes**/no)	1->1

Cumulative disadvantages (basing on methodology of J.Dubrov, 2012)
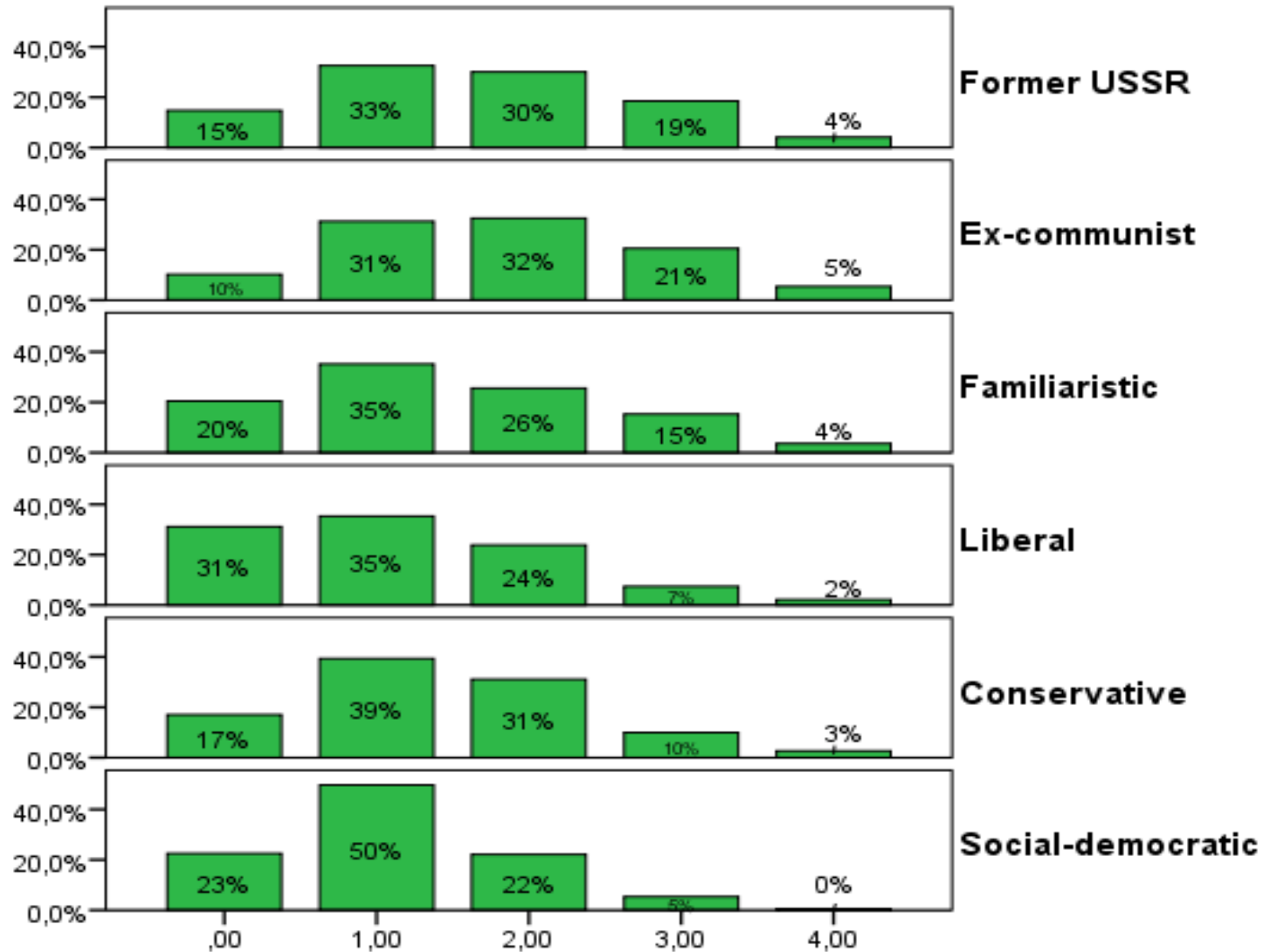
2nd STAGE

One initial result

SEM for social-democratic countries

Thank you for your attention!