

# Gender Attitudes of Muslim Migrants in Western and Northern Europe Final Report

Veronica Kostenko  
LCSR junior research fellow



# Research Question

- Do Muslim migrants in Western and Northern Europe retain their conservative attitudes towards women, or this problem is exaggerated?

# Who are migrants and Muslims?

## Operationalization of terms

- Migrants – those who were born in countries other than where they live.
  - those whose both parents migrated.

(D.Massey)

- Muslims – self – reported to belong to Islam.

# Migrants and Muslims in Europe

**Migrants**

**12.2%,**

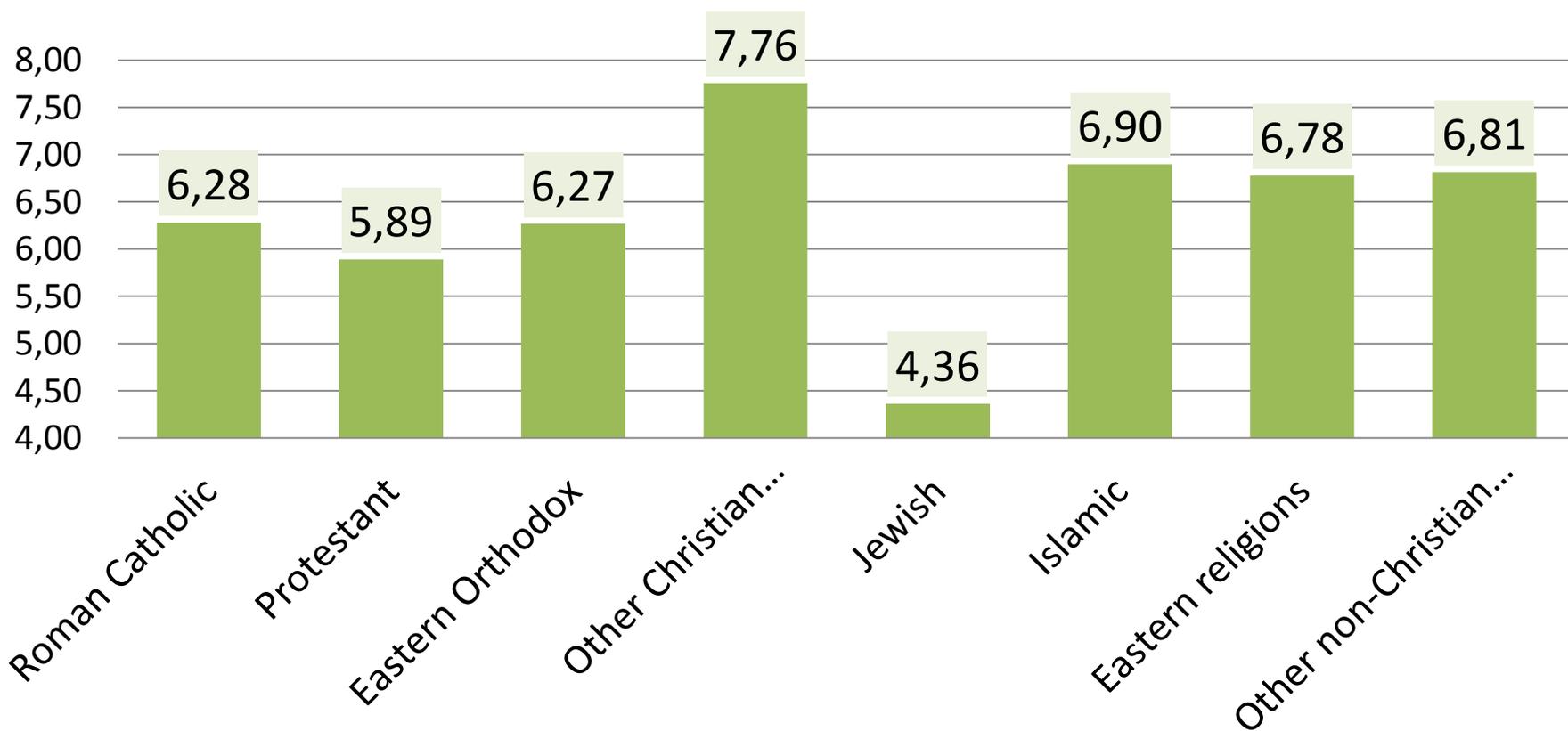
**N=2021**

**Muslims**

**2.5%,**

**N=406**

# Level of Religiosity among European Migrants



# Theoretical Basis

- Revised Assimilation Theory (A.Portes, R.Rumbaut, M.Zhou)
- Revised Modernization Theory (R.Inglehart, C.Welzel)
- Women empowerment (R.Inglehart, P.Norris)

# Hypotheses I

From Assimilation Theory we hypothesize:

- That migrants should be relatively close in their views and attitudes to local population, especially when we include 2<sup>nd</sup> generation migrants

From Modernization Theory:

- Younger, more educated, less religious people with higher levels of post-materialist values, who never experienced survival dangers would be more egalitarian

From Women Empowerment literature:

- Islam is a negative predictor for gender egalitarianism

## Hypotheses II

- Higher levels of **education and social status** would lead to support of gender egalitarianism
- **Migrants** are more conservative than local population of Europe
- Gender attitudes of **Muslims** are far less liberal than of other denominations
- More **religious** people are more traditionalist in their gender attitudes
- **Values of conservation** would contribute to less gender equality support

# Recent literature on the topic

- Influence of religiosity: 2 traditions – European and American (Foner & Alba, 2008).
- Patriarchal values (C. Welzel & A. Alexander, 2009, 2012)
- Integration of Muslim population (Laurence, 2007)

# Data and Methods

- ESS (4<sup>th</sup> wave, 2010)
- Cross-country comparison
- European migrants subsample
- Countries that have significant number of recent migrants in the subsample (8 states: Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, France, UK, the Netherlands, and Sweden)

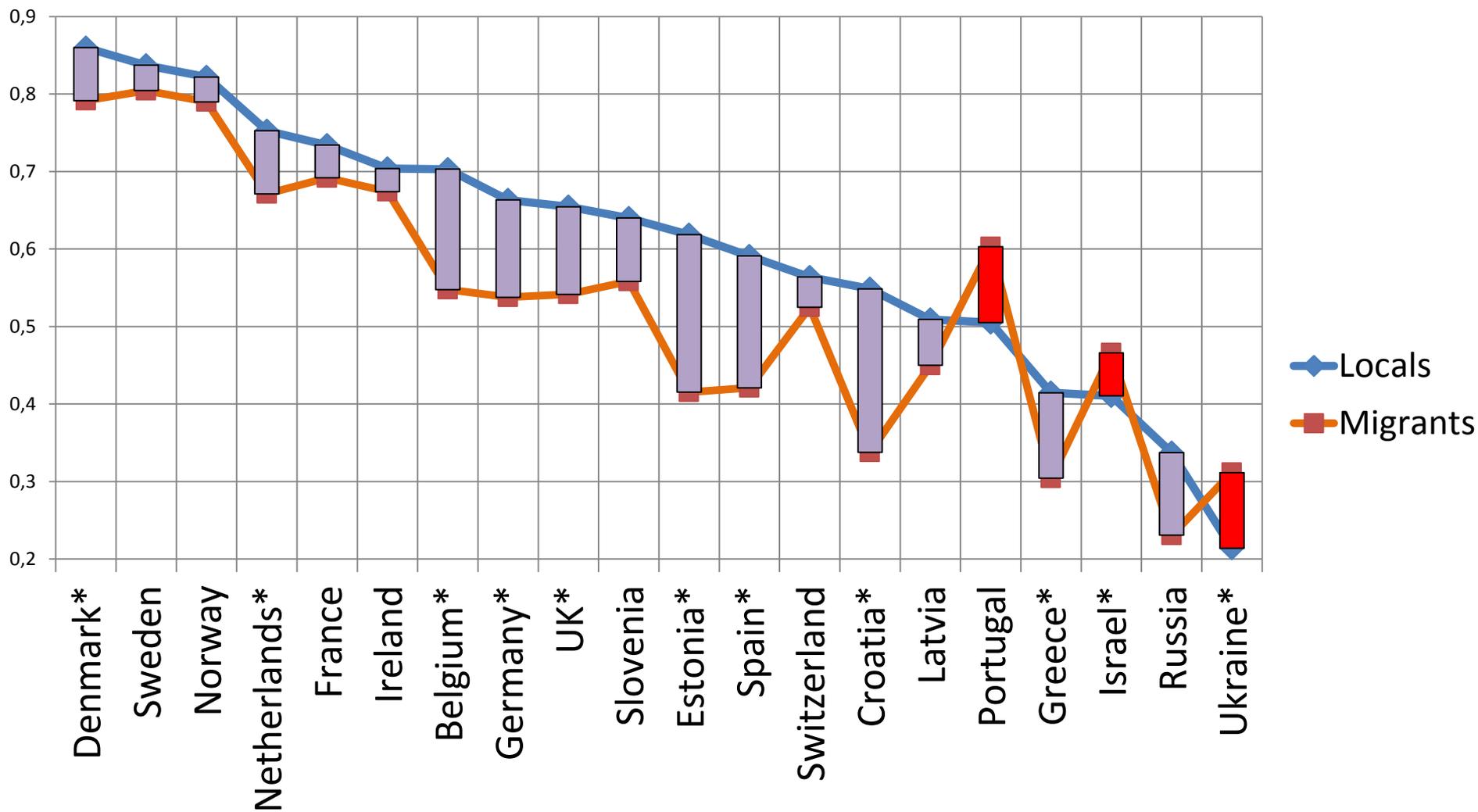
# Why Gender Equality?

- An important issue (human rights)
- Gender egalitarianism is a strong predictor of further social changes and empowerment (R.Inglehart, P.Norris, 2003)
- Relationship between gender equality support and democracy (Rizzo, Abdel-Latif, Meyer, 2007)

# Gender Equality Index

- From 0 to 1 where 1 stands for very liberal
  - a) Women should be prepared to cut down on paid work for sake of family;
  - b) Men should have more rights to job than women when jobs are scarce.

# Gender Equality Index: Migrants and Locals in Europe



# Independent Variables

- Age (7 categories)
- Gender
- Education
- ISEI
- Degree of religiosity
- Values (Schwarz scale)
- Religious denomination
- Migrant status (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation migrants)
- Country (dummy variables)

# OLS Modeling: Muslims and Migrants (M&M)

- Model 1: Age, gender, country dummies, M&M
- Model 2: + Education and ISEI
- Model 3: + Degree of religiosity and attitude to gays
- Model 4: + Schwarz values

	Model 1a	Model 1b	Model 2a	Model 2b	Model 3a	Model 3b	Model 4a	Model 4b
Constant	,75***	,75***	,65***	,65***	,44***	,45***	,44***	,45***
Age	-,00***(-,30)	-,00***(-,31)	-,00***(-,25)	-,00***(-,25)	-,00***(-,18)	-,00***(-,18)	-,00***(-,15)	-,00***(-,16)
a) Migrant	-,08***(-,10)	-,21***(-,13)	-,06***(-,08)	-,17***(-,10)	-,03***(-,04)	-,10***(-,06)	-,03***(-,04)	-,09***(-,05)
b) Muslim	Migrant Status	Islam	Migrant status	Islam	Migrant status	Islam	Migrant status	Islam
Gender	,03***(.06)	,03***(.06)	,03***(.07)	,03***(.07)	,03***(.06)	,03***(.06)	,03***(.05)	,02***(.05)
Belgium	,04***(.05)	,04***(.05)	,05***(.06)	,05***(.06)	,05***(.06)	,06***(.07)	,05***(.07)	,05***(.07)
Switzerland	-,05***(-,07)	-,06***(-,08)	-,05***(-,07)	-,06***(-,08)	-,05***(-,07)	-,05***(-,07)	-,06***(-,08)	-,07***(-,08)
Spain	-,04***(-,06)	-,03***(-,05)	Not significant	Not significant	Not significant	Not significant	,02***(.03)	,02***(.03)
France	,05***(.06)	,05***(.07)	,06***(.08)	,06***(.08)	,04***(.05)	,04***(.05)	,03***(.04)	,03***(.04)
UK	Not significant	,01** (.02)	,02***(.03)	,02***(.03)	,02***(.03)	,02***(.03)	,03***(.04)	,03***(.04)
Netherlands	,09***(.11)	,09***(.12)	,09***(.12)	,09***(.12)	,08***(.11)	,08***(.11)	,09***(.11)	,09***(.12)
Sweden	,17***(.22)	,17***(.22)	,18***(.24)	,18***(.24)	,17***(.22)	,16***(.22)	,16***(.20)	,16***(.20)
Germany	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Education			,03***(.19)	,03***(.19)	,03***(.17)	,03***(.17)	,03***(.16)	,03***(.15)
ISEI			-,01***(-,09)	-,01***(-,10)	-,01***(-,08)	-,01***(-,08)	-,01***(-,07)	-,01***(-,07)
Degree of religiosity					-,01***(-,12)	-,01***(-,12)	-,01***(-,11)	-,01***(-,11)
Attitude towards gays					,05***(.20)	,05***(.20)	,05***(.18)	,04***(.17)
Conservation(f1)							-,05***(-,20)	-,05***(-,20)
Self-Trans – cendence (f2)							,04***(.12)	,04***(.12)
Self-Enhancement (f3)							Not significant	Not significant
Openness to change (f4)							-,01**(-,02)	-,01**(-,02)
N	16409	16706	14902	15180	14716	14990	13959	14213
R <sup>2</sup> <sub>adj</sub>	16,9	17,8	23,2	23,5	28,5	28,6	29,8	30,0

Notes: 1) Model a has migration status as explanatory variable, model b includes religious affiliation (Muslim – non-Muslim instead). Not enough cases to them simultaneously

2) Coefficients are put in the following way: b coefficient stands first, asterisks show significance, and standardized coefficients appear in the parentheses.

3) \*\*\* p < 0.001; \*\* p < 0.05; \* p < 0.1

4) Standard errors are not shown as for all the coefficients in all the models they are lower than 0,01

# Results I

- Age (young) and education (higher) have the strongest positive effects for gender egalitarianism

## Results II

- Migrants are a little more conservative gender-wise than local population.
- Degree of religiosity is a stronger predictor of gender inequality support than denomination.
- Effect of Islam is a bit stronger than effect of migration per se.
- Islam has medium-size robust anti-egalitarian effect in gender issues.

## Results III

- European countries differ significantly in their support of gender equality among both local and migrant population. Sweden and the Netherlands are the most egalitarian, Switzerland and Germany – the least gender equality supportive.
- Other values, like conservatism and attitudes towards gays explain large portion of variance.



Thanks for your attention