

# Attributions for poverty in Post-Socialist Coun- tries

3rd LCSR conference at HSE Moscow on Nov 12th 2013

Slides: [goo.gl/zlsf6r](http://goo.gl/zlsf6r) | Analysis: [goo.gl/c6542c](http://goo.gl/c6542c)

Markus Kainu *PhD student*, [Aleksanteri institute](#), *University of Helsinki*

Mikko Niemelä *Senior Researcher*, [Social Insurance Institution](#),

Attributions for poverty in Post-Socialist Countries

*Finland*

# Purpose of the study

## **1. Cross-national differences**

To what extent there are cross-national differences in attributions for poverty in post-socialist countries?

## **2. Determinants**

Can perceptions be attributed to certain contextual and individual level factors?

1. Individual level: specific risks related to household financial circumstances
2. Contextual level: democracy, income inequality and changes in national economy

# Novelty of the study

- in depth study of “post-soviet welfare regime”
- wider variety of political and economical regimes
  - dynamics of welfare attitudes, welfare state and democracy in authoritarian regimes
- assessing the impact of past, present and future expectations
- comparing countries that have suffered from financial crisis and countries that have not

# Different types of explanations

	INDIVIDUAL	SOCIAL
BLAME	Individual blame <i>The poor are lazy, lack thrift, good morals</i>	Social blame <i>The poor are victims of the actions of others, are victims of social injustice</i>
FATE	Individual fate <i>The poor are unlucky</i>	Social fate <i>The poor are victims of uncontrollable societal and global developments</i>

Source: van Oorschot and Halman (2000)

# Assumptions

## **Cross-national differences**

- Difference between East and West of Europe
- Large variation within East-Central European “regime”

## **Individual level determinants:**

- Self-interest approach:

## **Contextual level determinants:**

- Differences in socio-economic conditions and in governance

## **Life in Transition Survey - 2nd round (LiTS2)**

- collected in late 2010 in 34 countries and 39000 households
- assess public attitudes, well-being and the impacts of economic and political change at the household level
- special emphasis on how lives have been affected by the global economic crisis and its aftermath
- ...with contextual level data from World Bank (derived from Quality of Government -data)

# Countries used in the analysis



# Dependent variable

**In your opinion, what is the main reason why there are some people in need in our country today? (Variable q309 in LiTS-data)**

- Because they have been unlucky
- Because of laziness and lack of willpower
- Because of injustice in our society
- It is an inevitable part of modern life
- Don't know
- Not stated

# Key variables and descriptive figures

# Weighted population shares of DV by country

# Support for Social blame

# Support for Individual blame

# Support for Social fate

# Support for Individual fate

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**Don't know**



**Not stated**

# Independent variables

# Independent variables: Individual level

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Description</b>
Transfer dependency	Social or private transfers as main source of income
Low education	No or only compulsory level education
Perceived low income level	Perceived income level below the country median
Income compared to past	Perceived change in income compared to situation in four years ago
Income compared to future	Expected change in income over the next four years
Effect of financial crises	Whether respondents perceives that their household has suffered the financial crisis great or fair amount

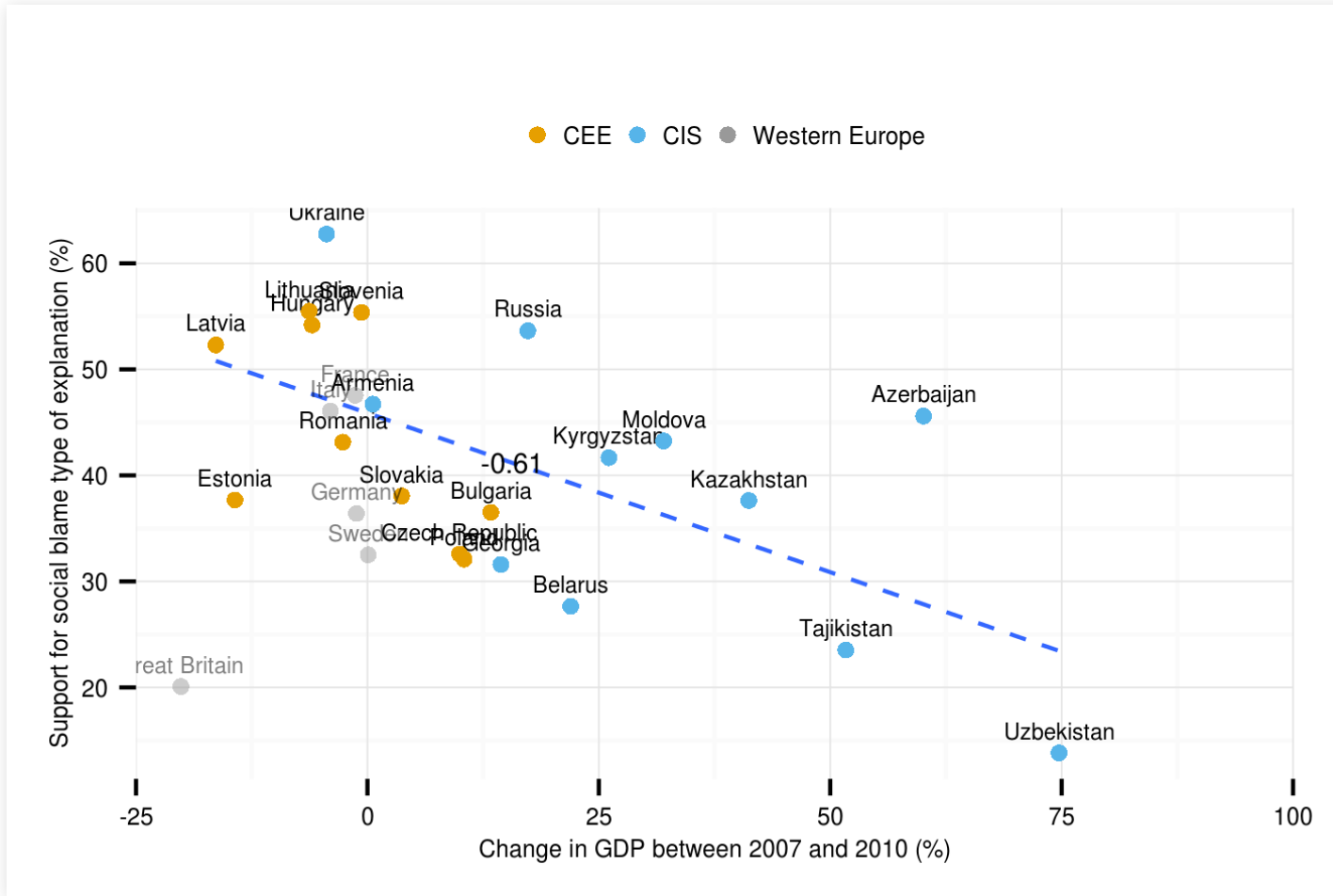
## Descriptive figures

# Independent variables: Contextual level

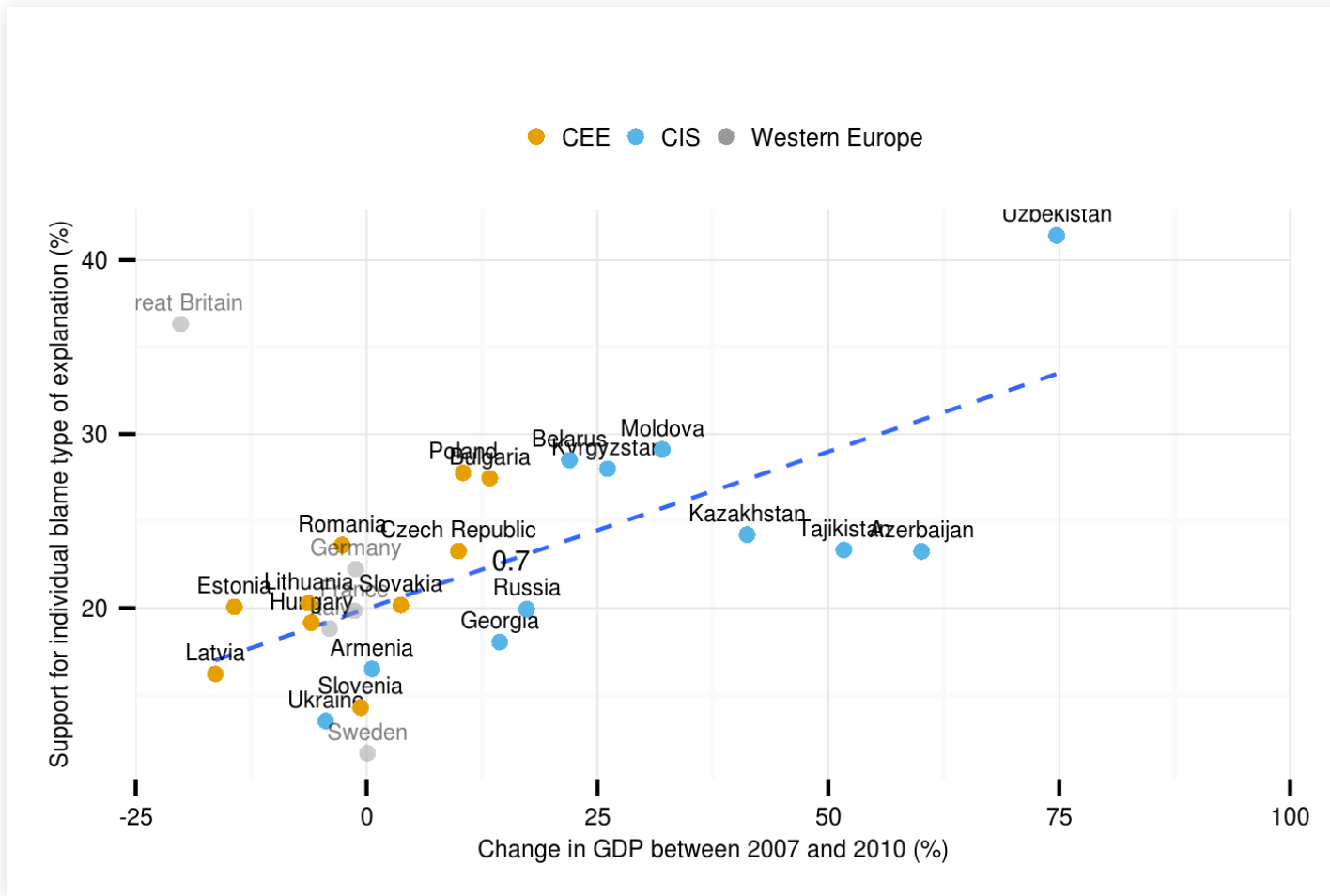
<b>Variable</b>	<b>Description</b>
Change in total GDP 2007 – 2010	Relative change from 2007 to 2010
Gini coefficient	Measures the distribution of income or consumption expenditure among individuals or households
Voice and Accountability Description	Indicators measuring the political process, civil liberties and political rights. These indicators measure the extent to which citizens of a country are able to participate in the selection of governments. Indicators measuring the independence of the media is also included.

# IV's - Change in GDP

# Change in total GDP in 2007 - 2010 and support for social blame type of attributions for poverty



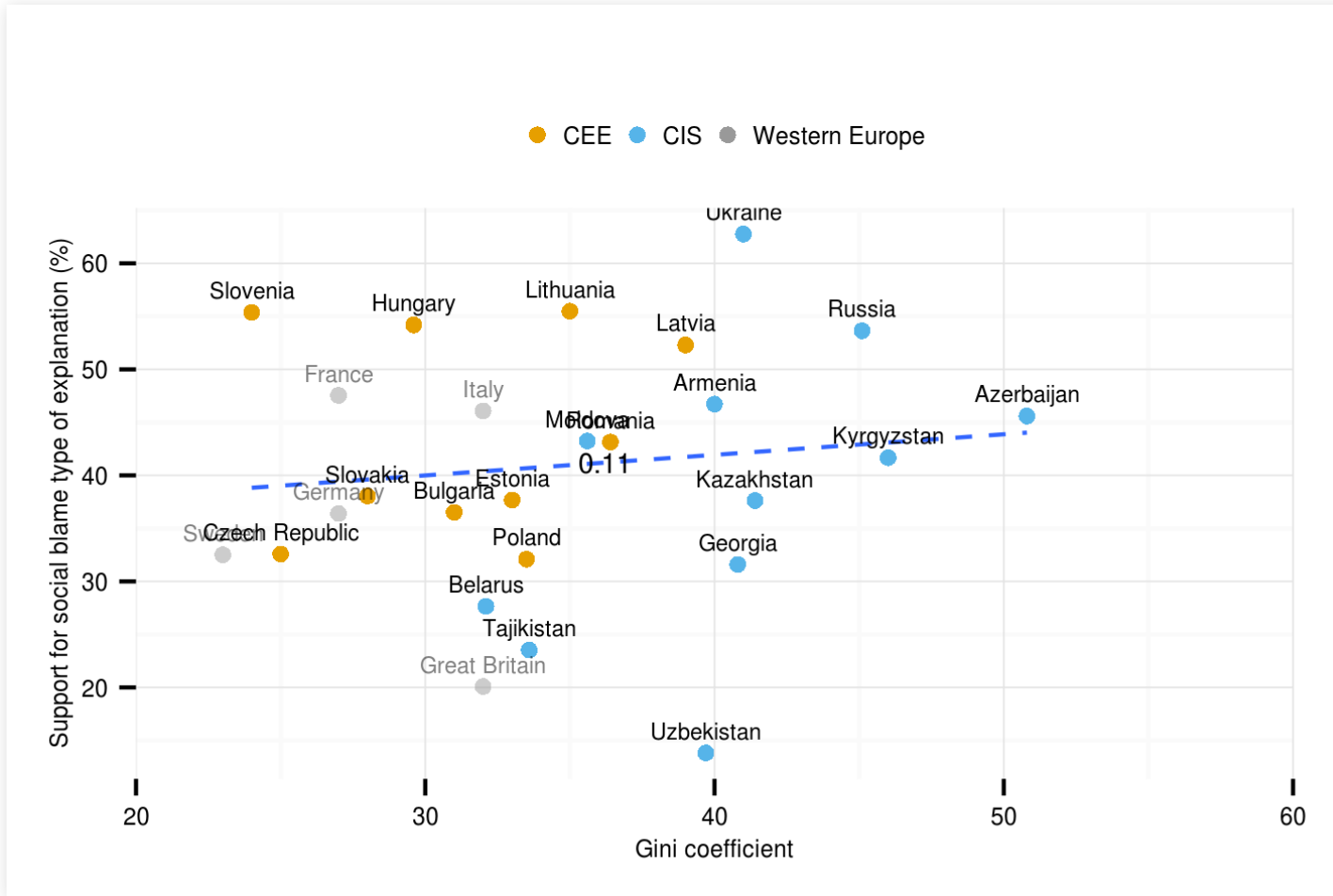
# Change in total GDP in 2007 - 2010 and support for social individual blame type of attributions for poverty



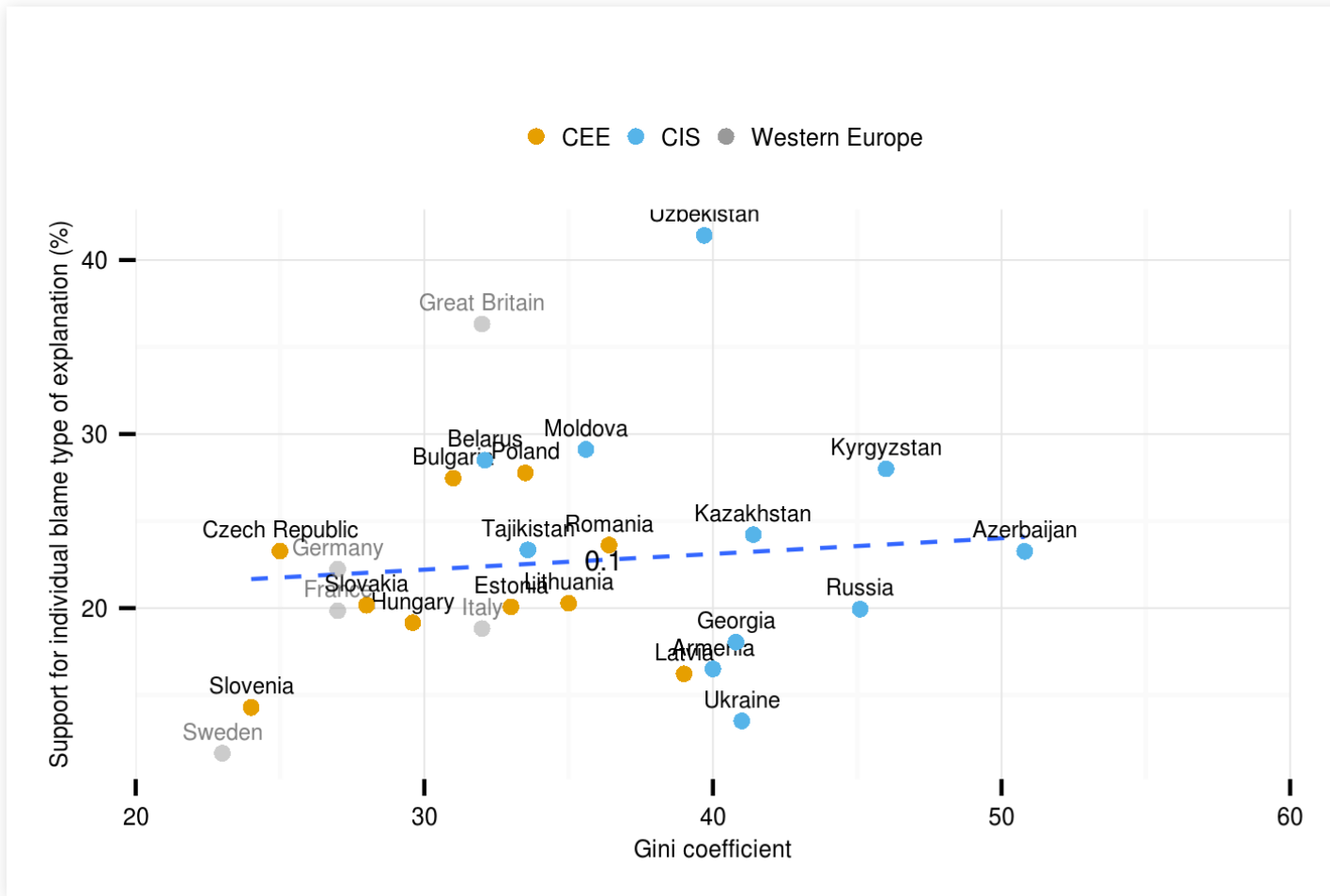
# IV's - Gini coefficient



# Gini coefficient and support for social blame type of attributions for poverty

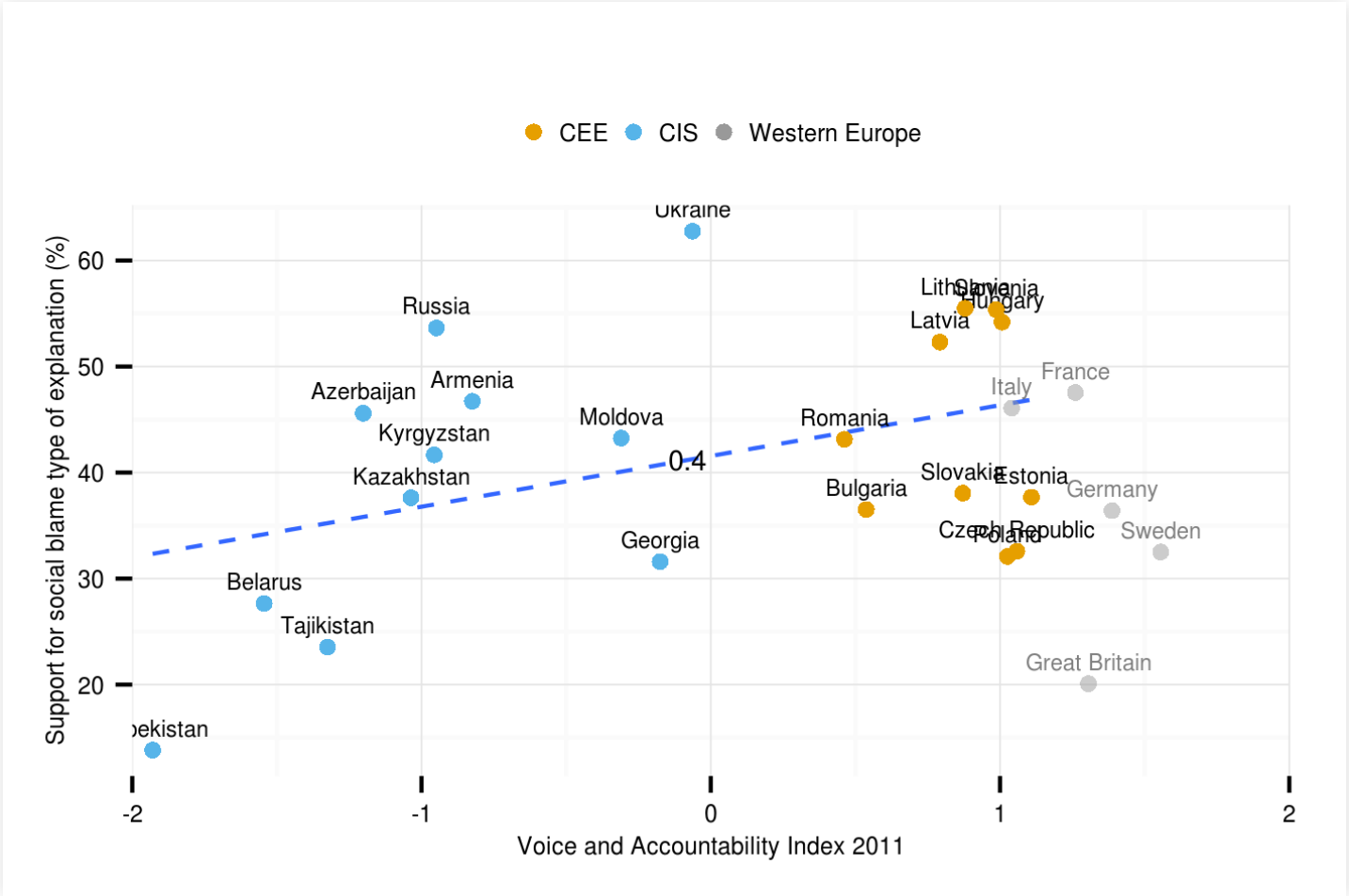


# Gini coefficient and support for social individual blame type of attributions for poverty

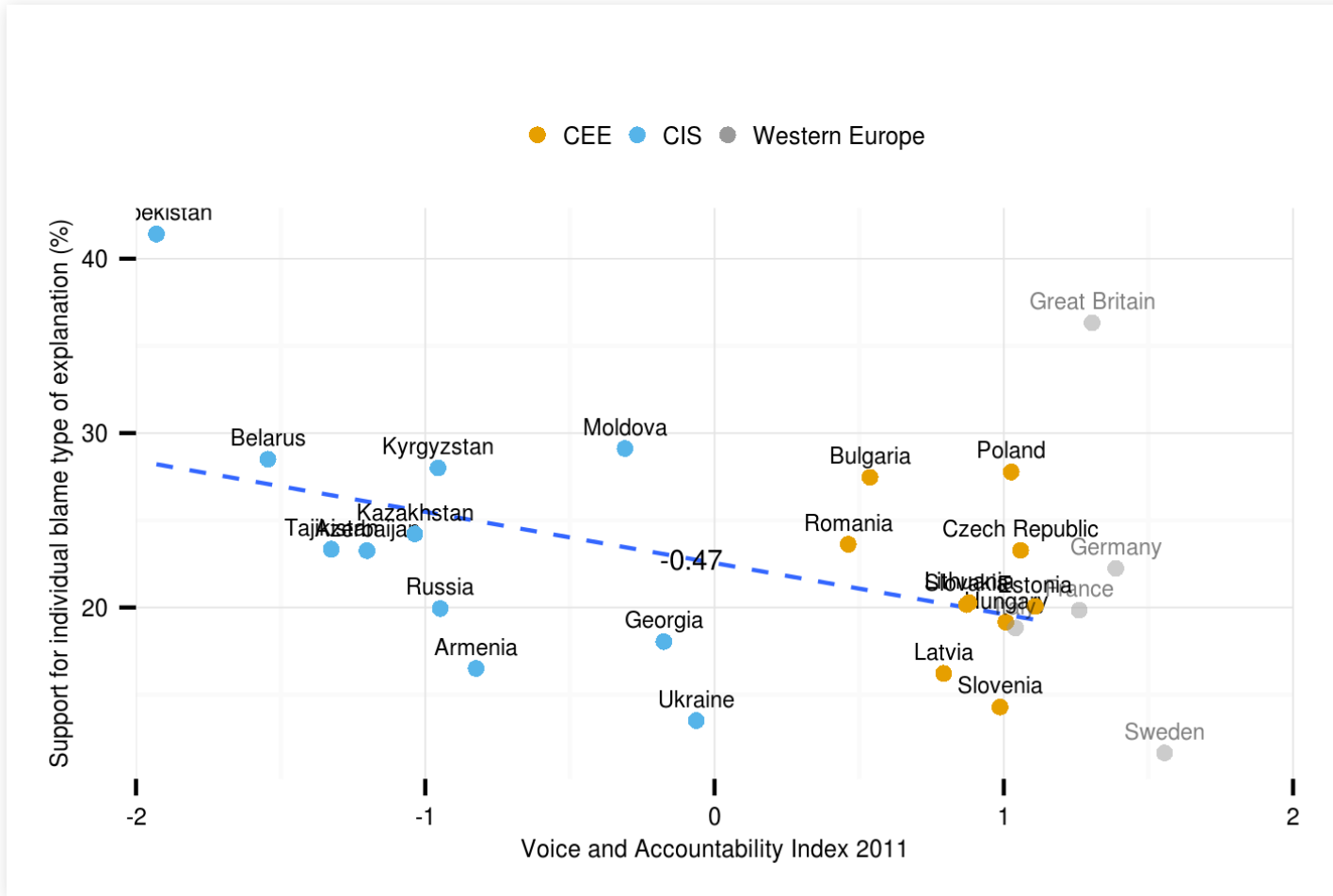


# IV's - Good governance

# Good governance and support for social blame type of attributions for poverty



# Good governance and support for social individual blame type of attributions for poverty



# Modelling the data

# Regression modelling - constraints

- DV is categorical/factor with values: A,B,C,D
- Major differences in IV's by country
  - clustered data (individual within countries)
  - multilevel/mixed effects model setting

# Regression modelling - current solution..

- As we are interested in two blame type of explanation
- Our current solution to recode variable into two binary variables
  - 1. A/not-A
  - 1. B/not-B and
- model the data using logistic binary multilevel models for A/not-A, B/not-B and A/B
- **See the tables**



# Key results of modelling

## country differences

- between-country variance .29 vs. .12, after individual predictors .23, .10, after gdp change .13 vs .05

## individual level predictors

- **social blame**
  - of sign. Perceived low income level, Expected change in income over the next four years, suffered the financial crisis
  - of non-sign. Low education, worsened household income level
- **individual blame**
  - of sign. all predictors, suffered the financial crisis

# Key results of modelling

## **contextual level predictors**

- Change in total GDP 2007 – 2010

# Conclusions

## **Cross-national differences**

- highest support for social blame, followed by individual blame
- still, variation between countries relatively high

## **Determinants**

- contextual level: economic changes
- individual level: self-interest hypothesis supported

## Questions & comments

