

Stability and Change in Russian and European Social Attitudes in 2000s

anna andreenkova

CeSSI



Studying Stability and Change of Attitudes in Comparative Perspective

- Comparative
- Cross-national

- Time-series
- Based on national surveys



Public opinion



Attitudes



Values, beliefs



Short-term trends

Medium-term trends

Long-term trends

General societal issues

Focused on particular topic

Examples



Gallup World Poll
Globescan Poll
Eurasian Monitor

ESS
ISSP

Barometers (European/
African/ South
American/Asian
Pew Survey

World Value Survey
European Value survey

ESS as a tool of measuring attitudes in Europe

European Social Survey is academically-driven comparative survey in social science in Europe of the last decade.

The major aims of ESS are :

- to gather data about medium-term trends in Europe – attitudes, behavior patterns, models of life style (“robust attitudinal indicators to stand alongside existing behavioral and factual indicators of national well-being”)
- Obtain data on persistence and change of social structure in European societies
- Methodological work on comparative quantitative measurement in Europe and beyond



Which Social Attitudes are measured?

CORE

- Political attitudes: trust to political and government institutions, perception of democracy
- Social capital and social trust
- Social exclusion and perception of discrimination
- National, ethnic and religious identities; attitudes toward immigration and asylum
- Personal and social well-being, perception of safety
- Family and marriage attitudes

ROTATING

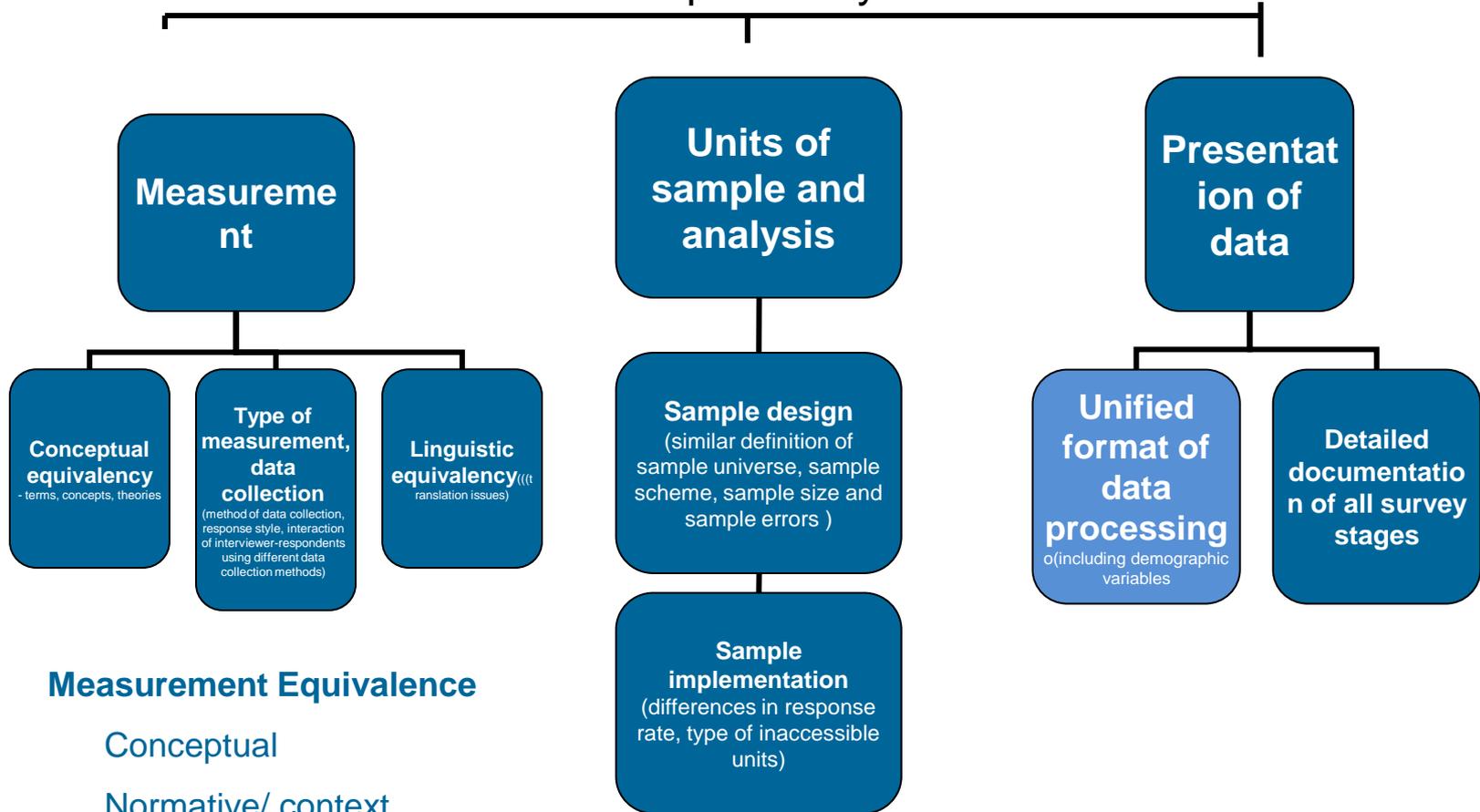
- Immigration (r1)
- Attitudes toward citizenship and public involvement (r1)
- Labor attitudes, balance of work and family (R2 and R5)
- Subjective well-being (R3 and R6)
- Health (R2)
- Perception of Life Time and Life Periods (r3)
- Issue of Ageism (r4)
- Attitudes toward welfare (R4)
- Trust in criminal justice (R5)
- Attitudes and Understanding of Democracy (R6)



Methodological tasks and challenges



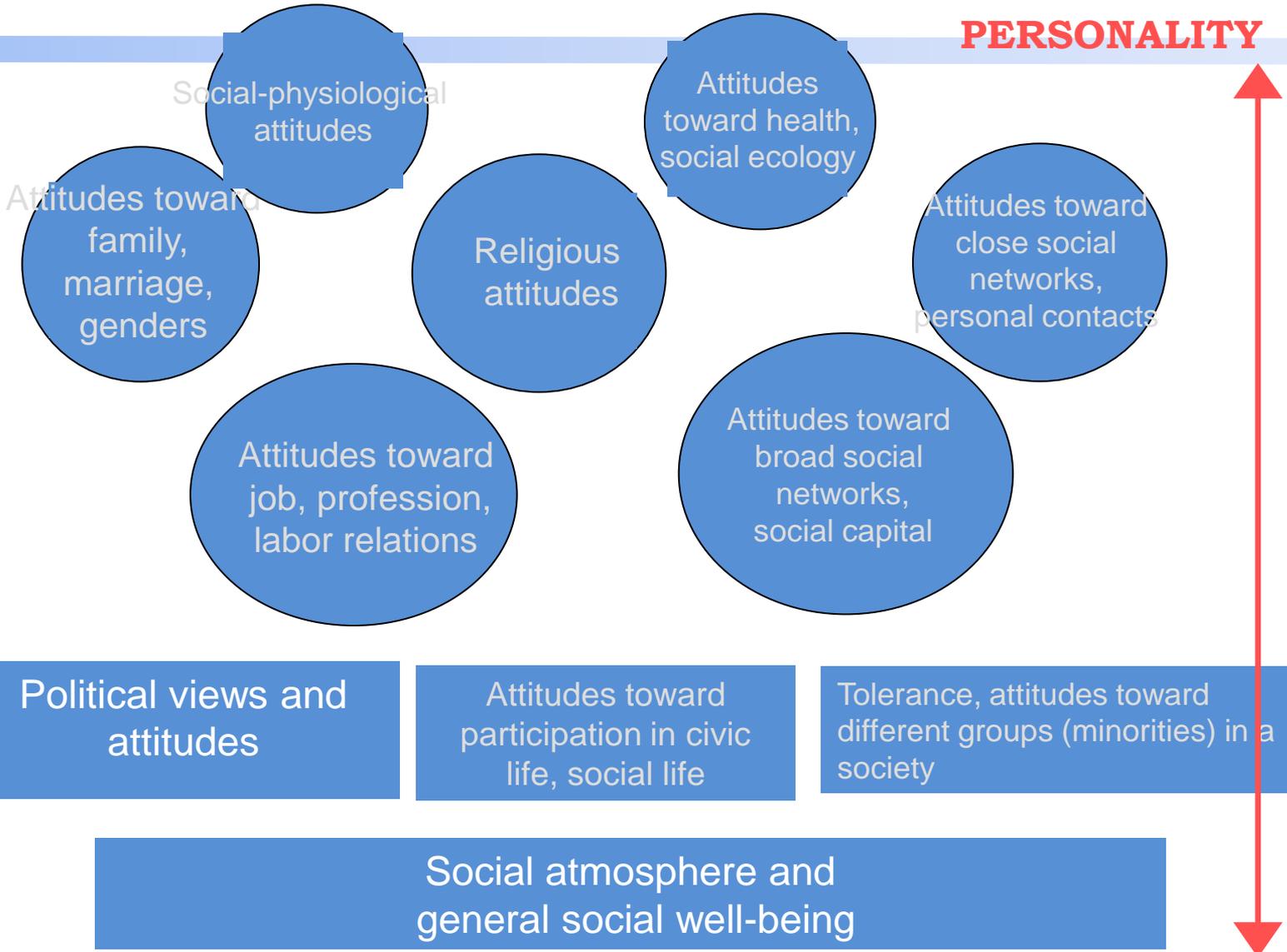
Issue of equivalency



Measurement Equivalence

- Conceptual
- Normative/ context
- Linguistic

Social Attitudes - Scope and Domain



One Europe – many European Attitudes

- 
- Europe in 2000s: A lot of common in social structures, political setting, social goals and policies → A lot of common in attitudes
 - Macro-dynamic: integration processes within Europe, globalization in economy, trade, labor, legislature, culture, communication, education, science → Expectations: gradual convergence of attitudes and behavior
 - Expectations are not fully confirmed. The differences in attitudes and behavior pattern in different parts of Europe is still very large. The gap between nations does not diminish in recent 10 years by very many parameters



The strong division line between **‘Western’** and **‘Eastern Europe’** (political attitudes and behavior, socio-economic areas, social attitudes and even in social life in personal networks)



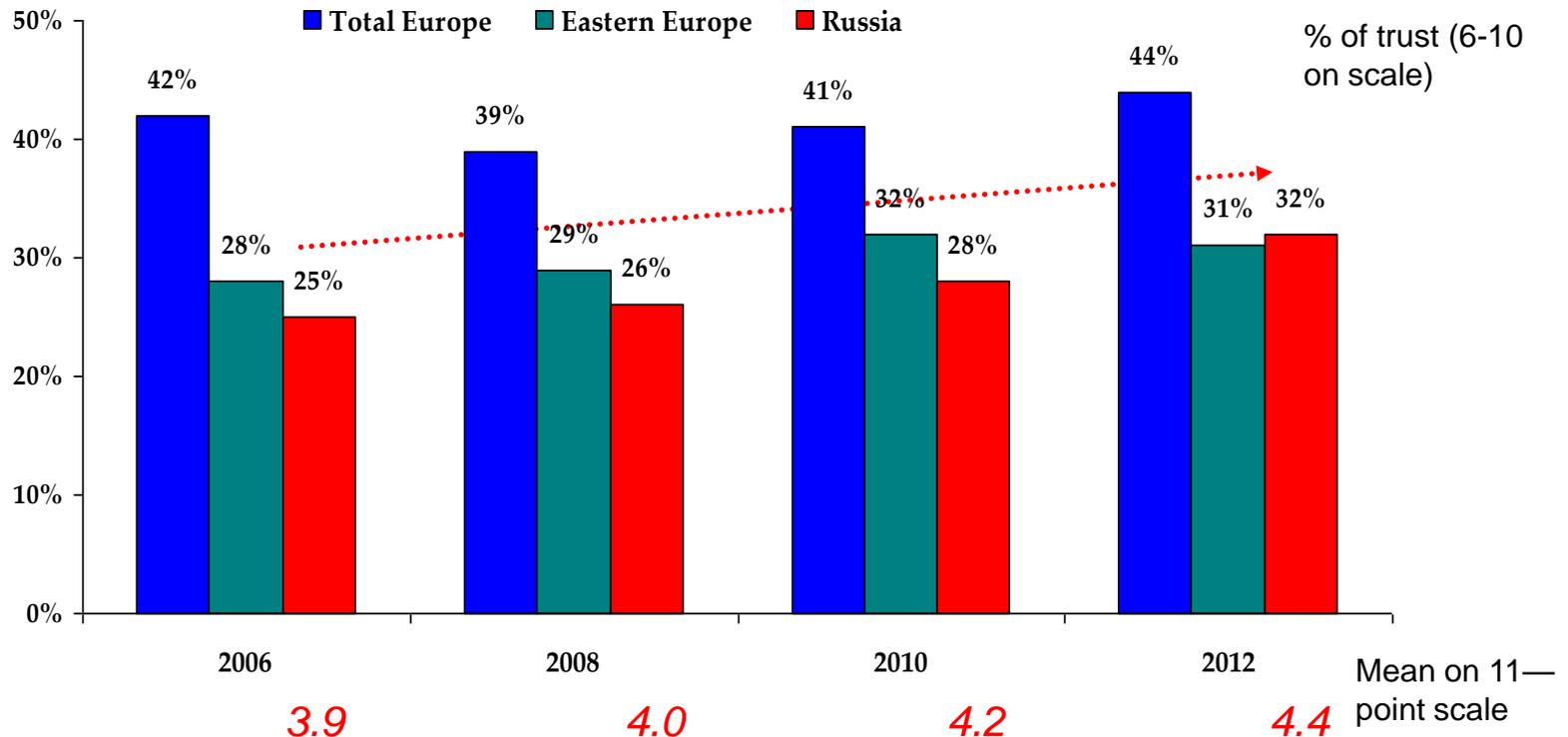
The division line from **South/ North** is also present (demographic and family behavior patterns, religious views, political attitudes)

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- Russia in many respects shows similarity in attitudes and behavior with other Eastern European countries but some differences also persist
- 

Interpersonal trust in Europe is very resistant social characteristic which changed only slightly even during economic crisis and quickly recovered

Social atmosphere expressed in the indicator of interpersonal trust is one of the key difference between Western European (over 50%) and Eastern European societies (around 30%) and these differences persist during 2000s. The change in positive direction in Eastern Europe is very slow. It is highest in Nordic countries (around 70% and even with some increase during 6 years period), around 50% in continental countries and British islands and about the same low (around 30%) in both Southern and Eastern Europe without much change.

The level of interpersonal trust in Russia shows much higher dynamic compared to European average. It used to be one of the lowest in Europe for years. But in recent time the positive trend appeared to be very visible and in 2012 reached the average level for Eastern Europe. The change takes place mostly because of positive increase in rural areas and small cities rather than in trend-setting megapolices.



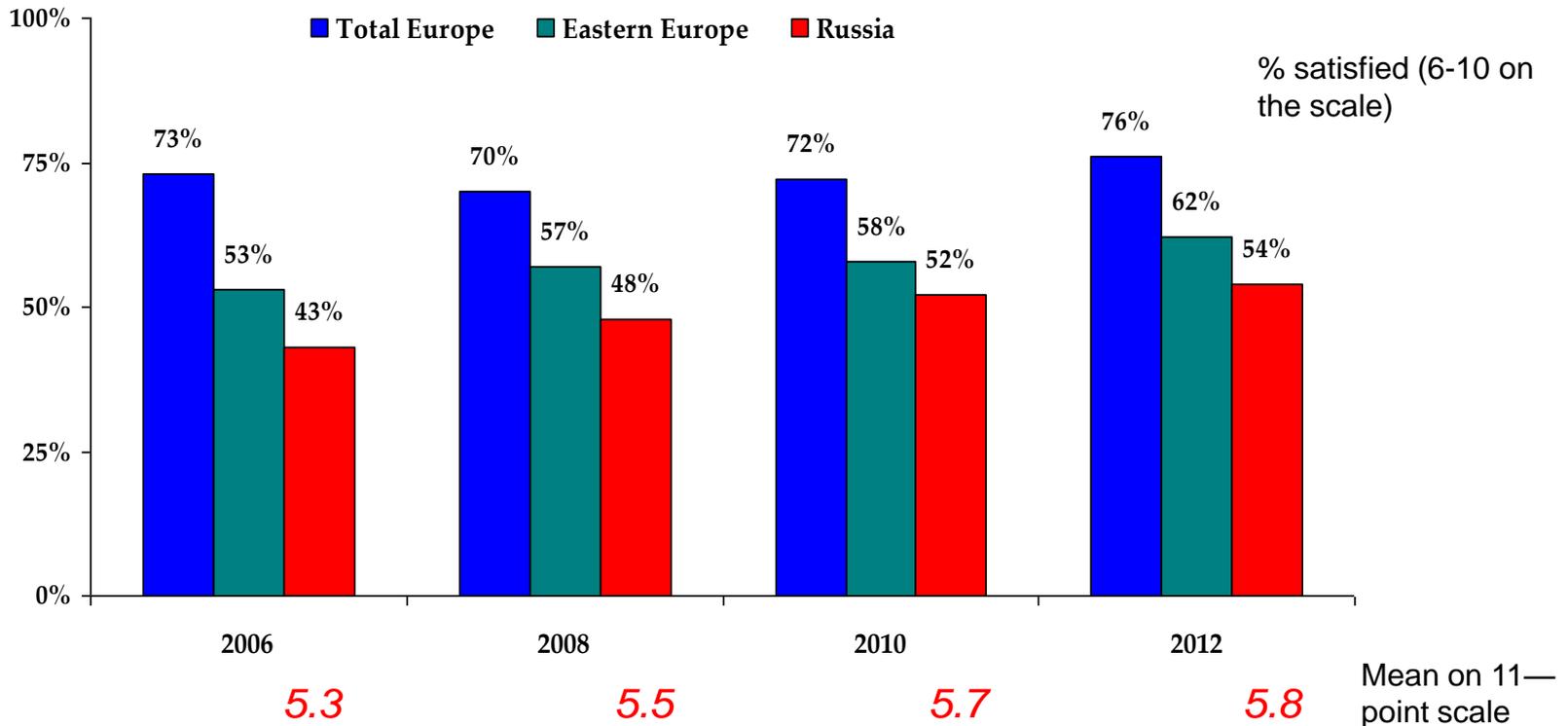
Question. Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people? Please tell me on a score of 0 to 10, where 0 means you can't be too careful and 10 means that most people can be trusted.



The average level of satisfaction with life in Europe is rather high and it shows small positive trend in recent years mostly due to the increase of satisfaction level in East European countries

In Western Europe general life satisfaction is rather stable, in Eastern Europe it is still substantially lower than slowly growing

The level of life satisfaction in Russia slowly increasing but Russia is still far behind even Eastern European average and it is one of the lowest in Europe. The increase takes place in small cities and rural areas. The age differences in life satisfaction still very higher (it is relatively low in Western Europe)



Question: All things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as a whole nowadays? Please answer using this card, where 0 means extremely dissatisfied and 10 means extremely satisfied.

Political Attitudes and Evaluations

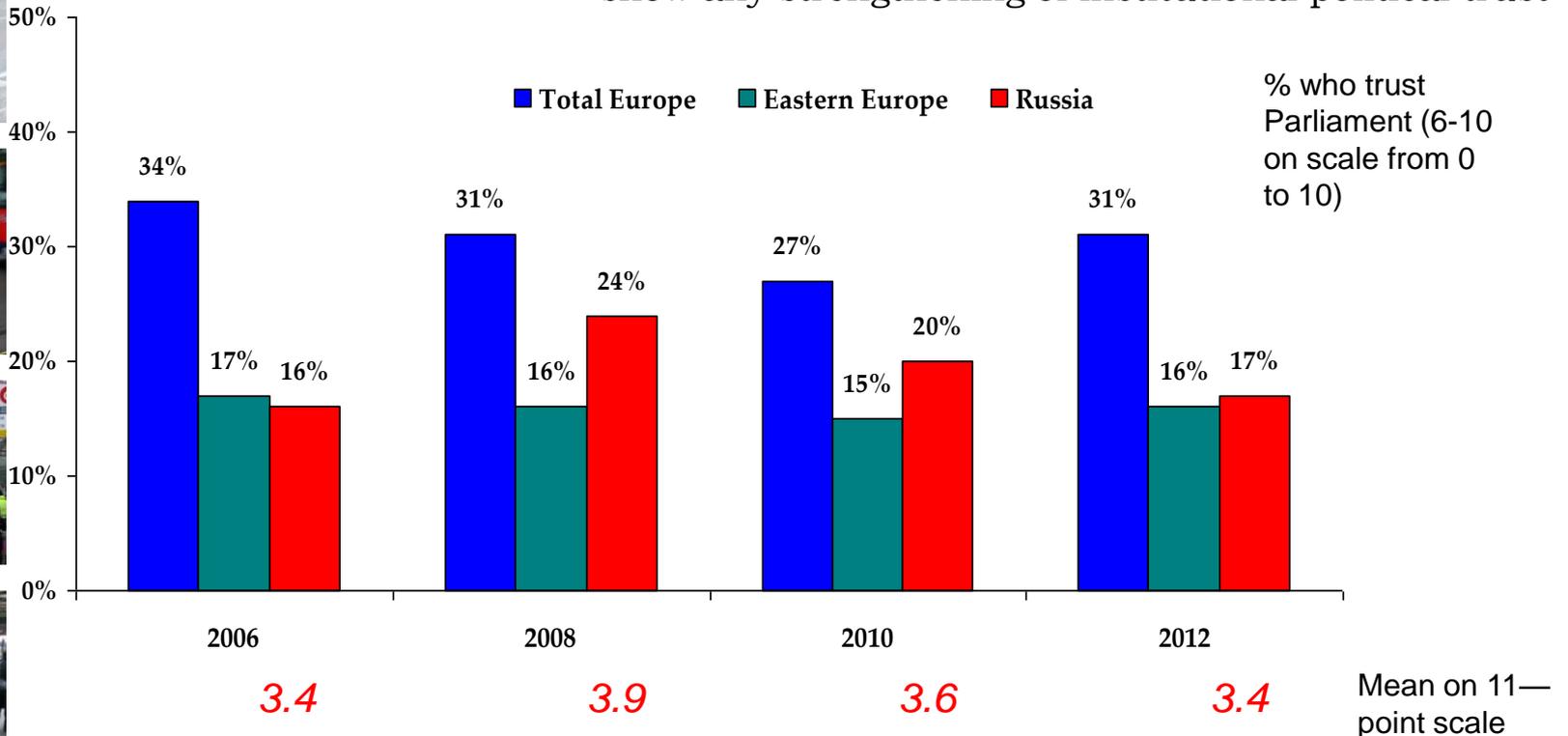
- Politics is one of the most changing domain in social life in Europe in 2000s
- Economic crisis influenced the evaluation of performance of governing institutions and trust
- Democratization process in Eastern Europe continues but slower than expected.
- Political spectrum, ideological and party affiliations become stronger in Eastern Europe and in Russia in particular. But institutional trust is still very low as well as the involvement of people into politics



Strengthening the trust to political institutions did not take place in Russia as well as in Eastern Europe in general as expected

Trust to political institutions decreased substantially in Southern Europe and slightly in British islands and Nordic countries but stayed stable low in Eastern Europe

Russia as well as other Eastern European countries does not show any strengthening of institutional political trust

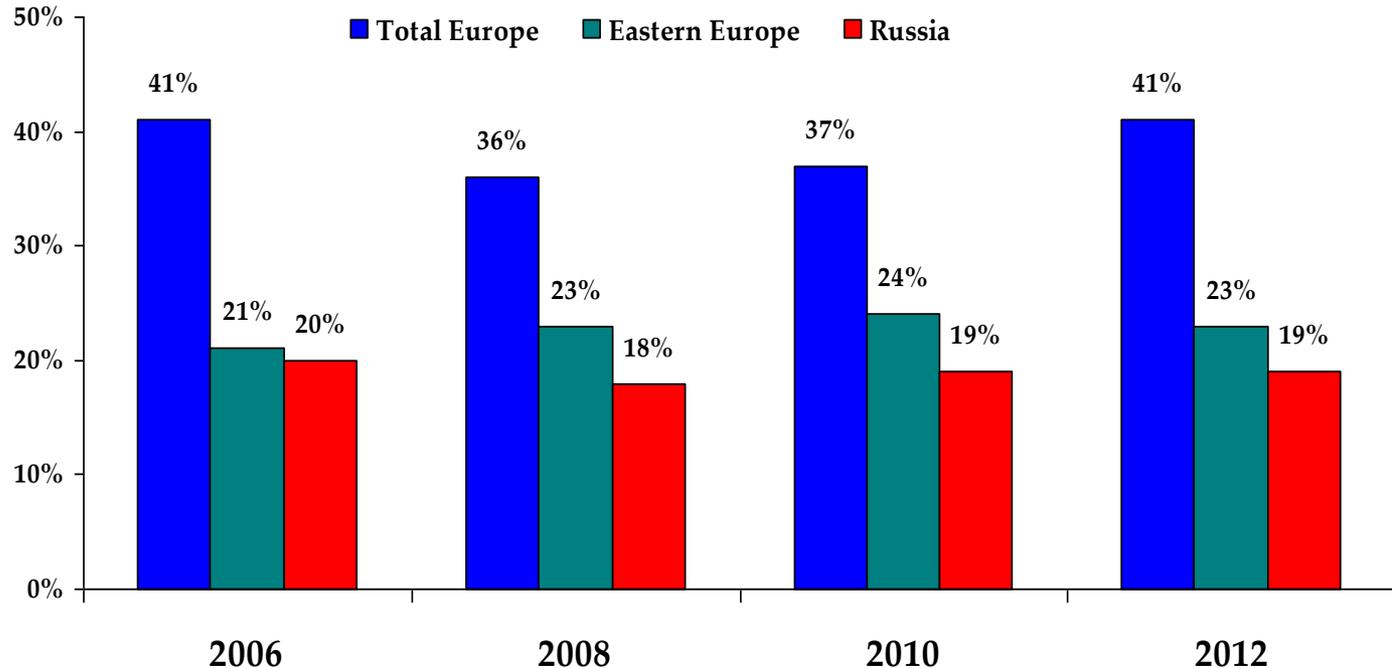


Question: Tell me on a score of 0-10 how much you personally trust ...[country]'s parliament?. 0 means you do not trust in institution at all, and 10 means you have complete trust.

Very low citizen's participation in politics and governing is one of the key difference between Western European and Eastern European political systems and these differences remain stable in 2000s.



% participated in at least one form of political action

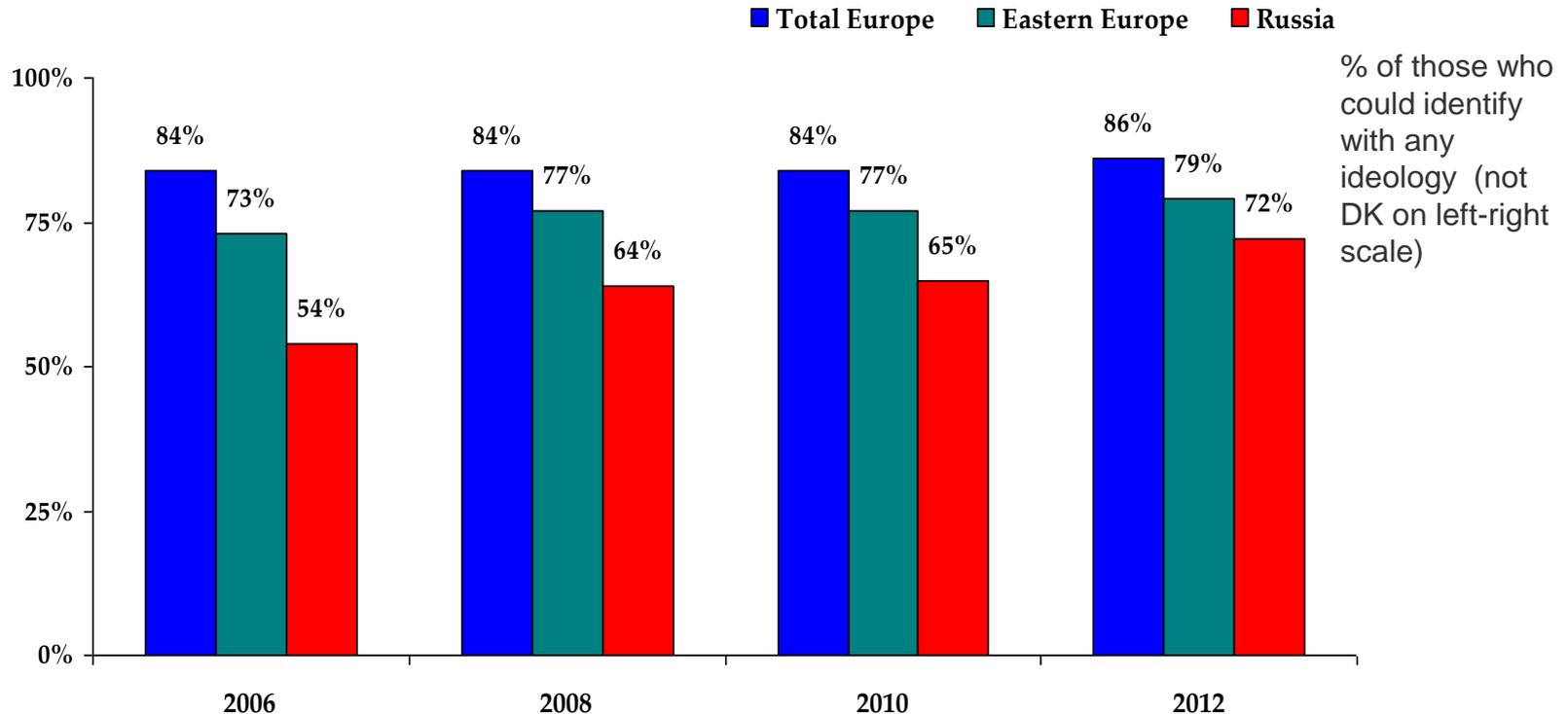


Question: There are different ways of trying to improve things in [country] or help prevent things from going wrong. During the last 12 months, have you done any of the following? Have you a) ...contacted a politician, government or local government official? b) worked in a political party or action group? c) worked in another organisation or association? d) worn or displayed a campaign badge/sticker? e) signed a petition? f) taken part in a lawful public demonstration? g) boycotted certain products?

Ideological identification in Europe remains high in 2000s

The differences in the degree of ideological affiliation of population between Western and Eastern Europe still persists but getting smaller due to higher structuring of ideological space in Eastern Europe. It can be due to the work of political parties, clarifying ideological lines and group interests or to learning process and frequency of use of political terms in media

Affiliation to ideological spectrum used to be extremely low in Russia in the middle of 2000s but increased constantly since then and now it is only slightly lower than Eastern European average.



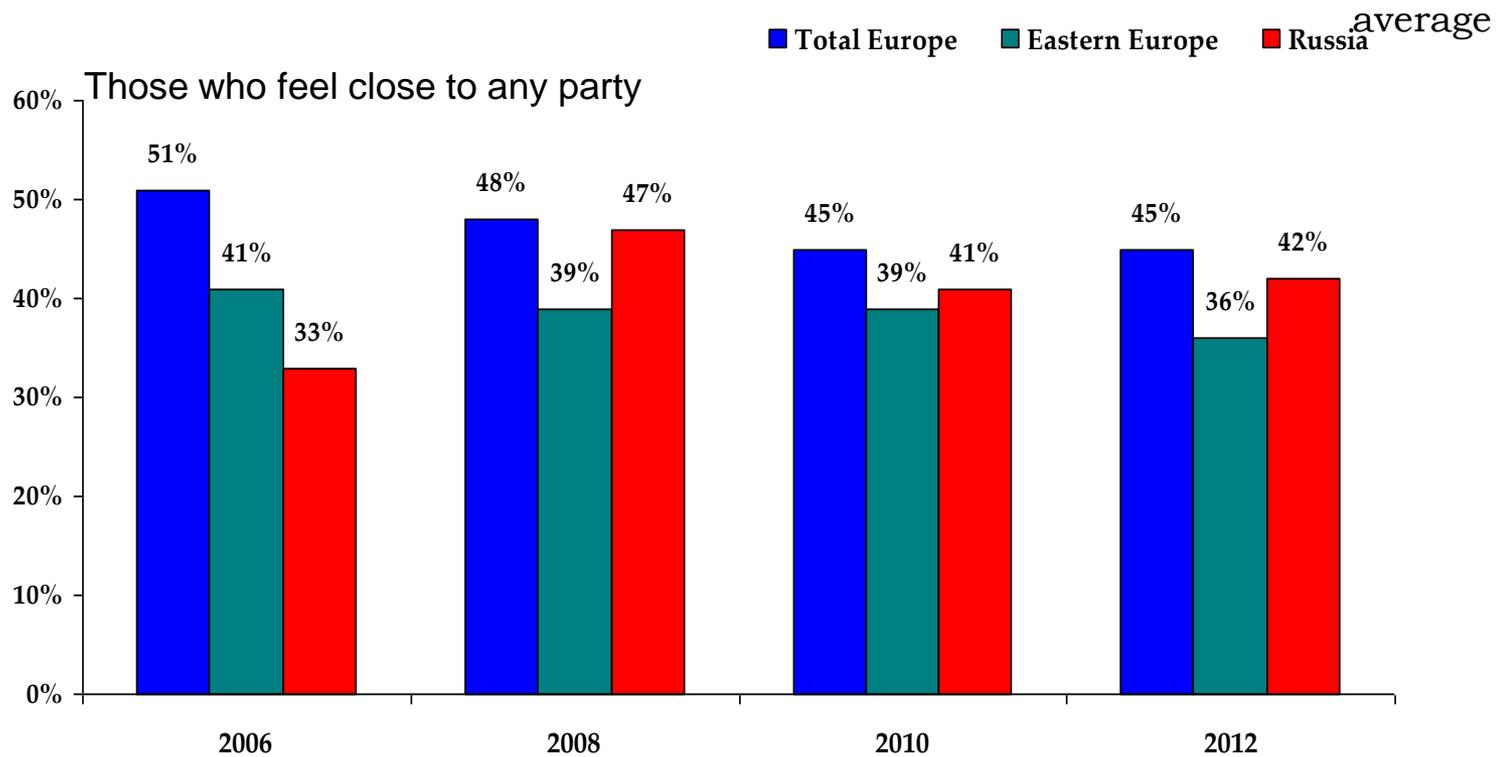
Question: In politics people sometimes talk of "left" and "right". Where would you place yourself on this scale, where 0 means the left and 10 means the right?



Party affiliation in Europe steadily decreased and now it is below 50%.

The largest decrease took place in regions with traditionally weak party alignment – Southern Europe and British islands. But it also decreased somewhat in Nordic countries with traditionally highest level of party identification.

Russia goes through the opposite process of gradual structuring of party alignment. Recently reached average European level and it is higher than East European average



Question: Is there a particular political party you feel closer to than all the other parties?

Сторонники Левого и Правого идеологического спектра имеют более четкую партийную идентификацию, чем сторонники центра. Но рост партийной идентификации происходил в России в основном среди Правых и Центра и немного упал среди Левых



Party Affiliation among supporters of different Political Ideologies

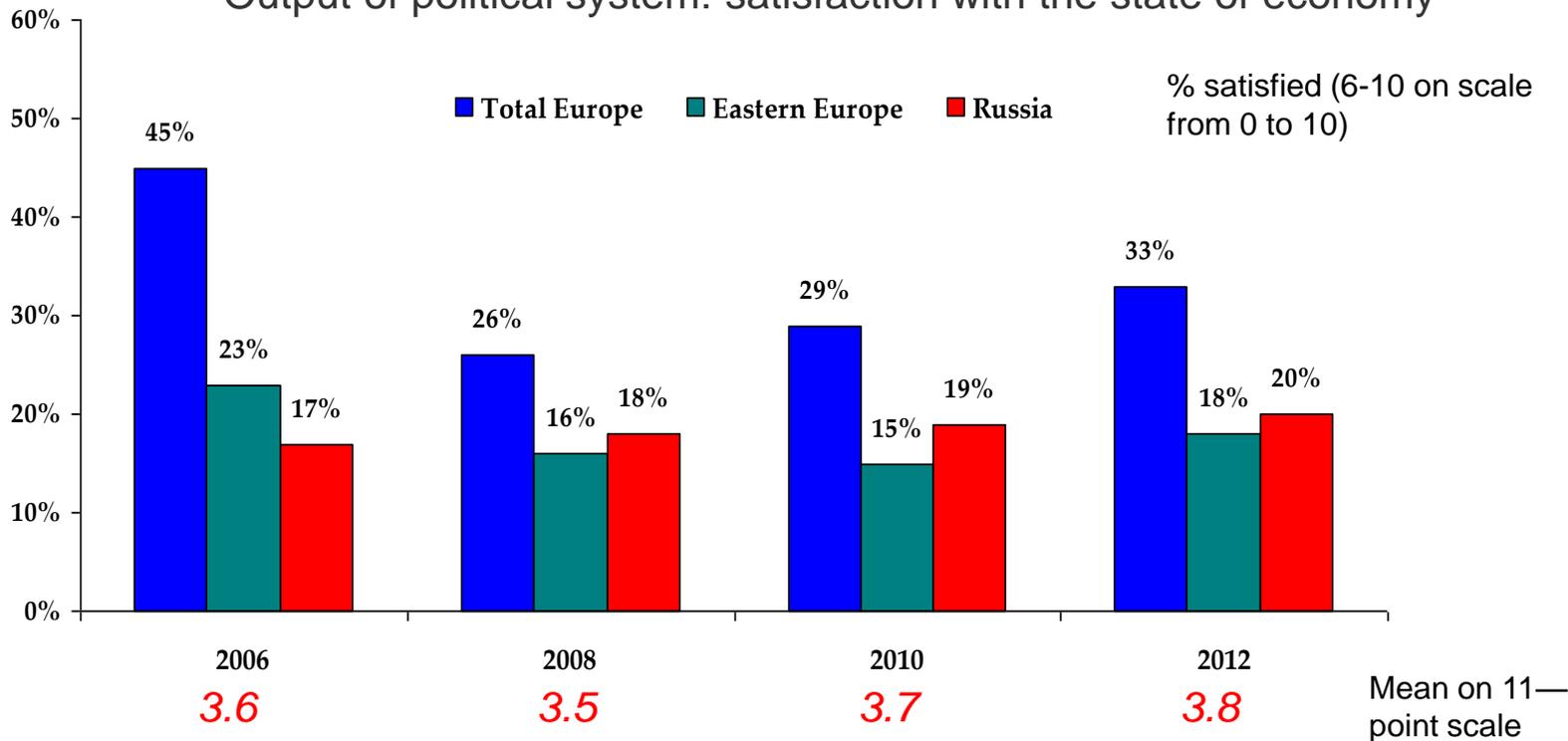
	2006	2008	2010	2012
Left	53%	61%	55%	48%
Center	31%	47%	37%	37%
Right	50%	66%	57%	55%
None	25%	31%	31%	31%

Question: Is there a particular political party you feel closer to than all the other parties?

Satisfaction with national economy divides Europe three different parts – highly satisfied North and Continental part, medium satisfied British North and very unsatisfied South and Eastern Europe. This division did not get smaller in 2000s but in opposite the gap is even stronger.

The satisfaction with national economy in Russia is the same low as in other countries of Eastern Europe. But the main different is very small but increase of the level of satisfied on the background of very high drop in Western and Southern Europe and relatively stable negative evaluations in Eastern Europe.

Output of political system: satisfaction with the state of economy



Question: On the whole how satisfied are you with the present state of the economy in [country]? Please answer using this card, where 0 means extremely dissatisfied and 10 means extremely satisfied.

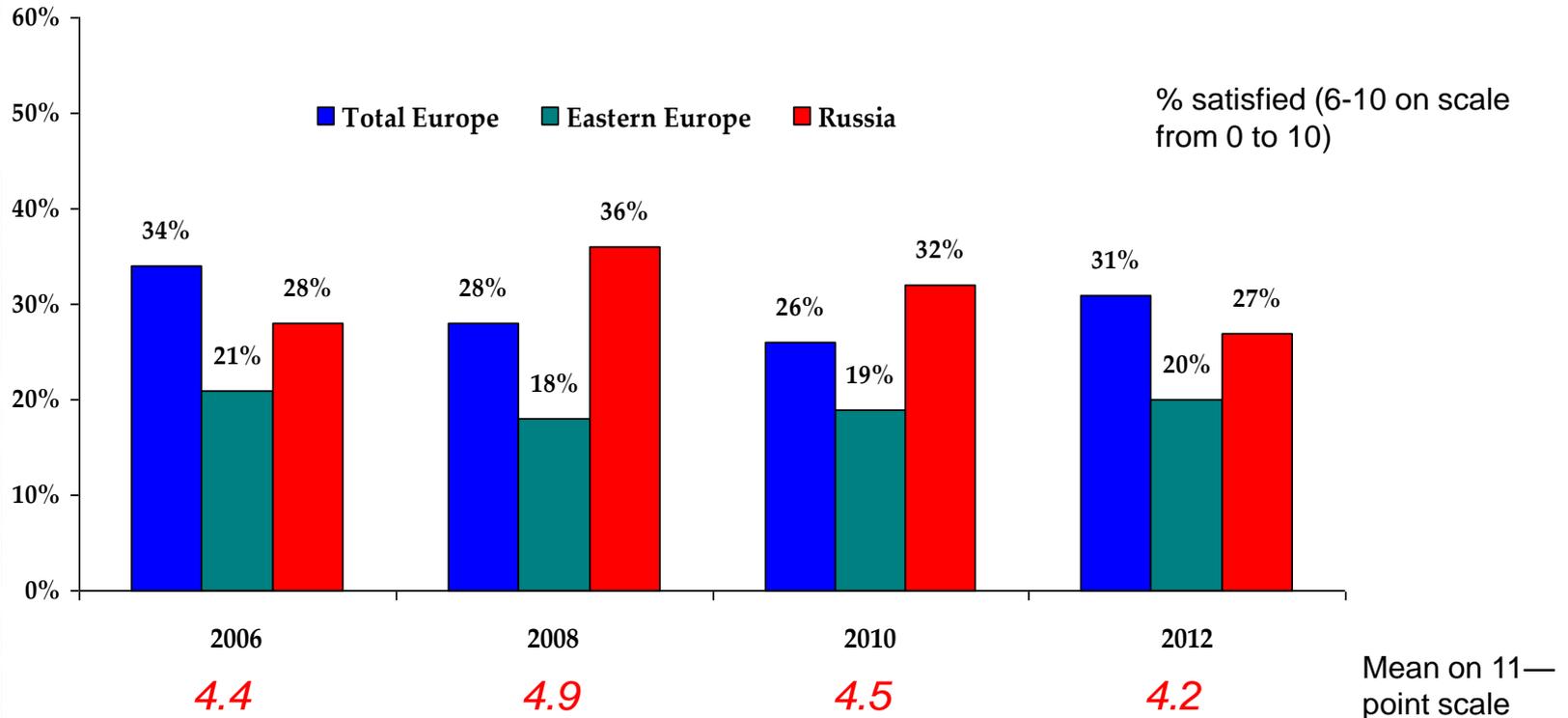
The satisfaction with national government' performance increased substantially in Europe in average in time of economic crisis. The most substantial change is in Southern Europe but – it dropped almost twice



The satisfaction of government' performance in Russia increased during economic crisis time but rather quickly return to the initial pre-crisis level although it is still higher than Eastern European average



Output of political system: satisfaction with government



Question: Thinking about the [country] government, how satisfied are you with the way it is doing its job? Please answer using this card, where 0 means extremely dissatisfied and 10 means extremely satisfied.



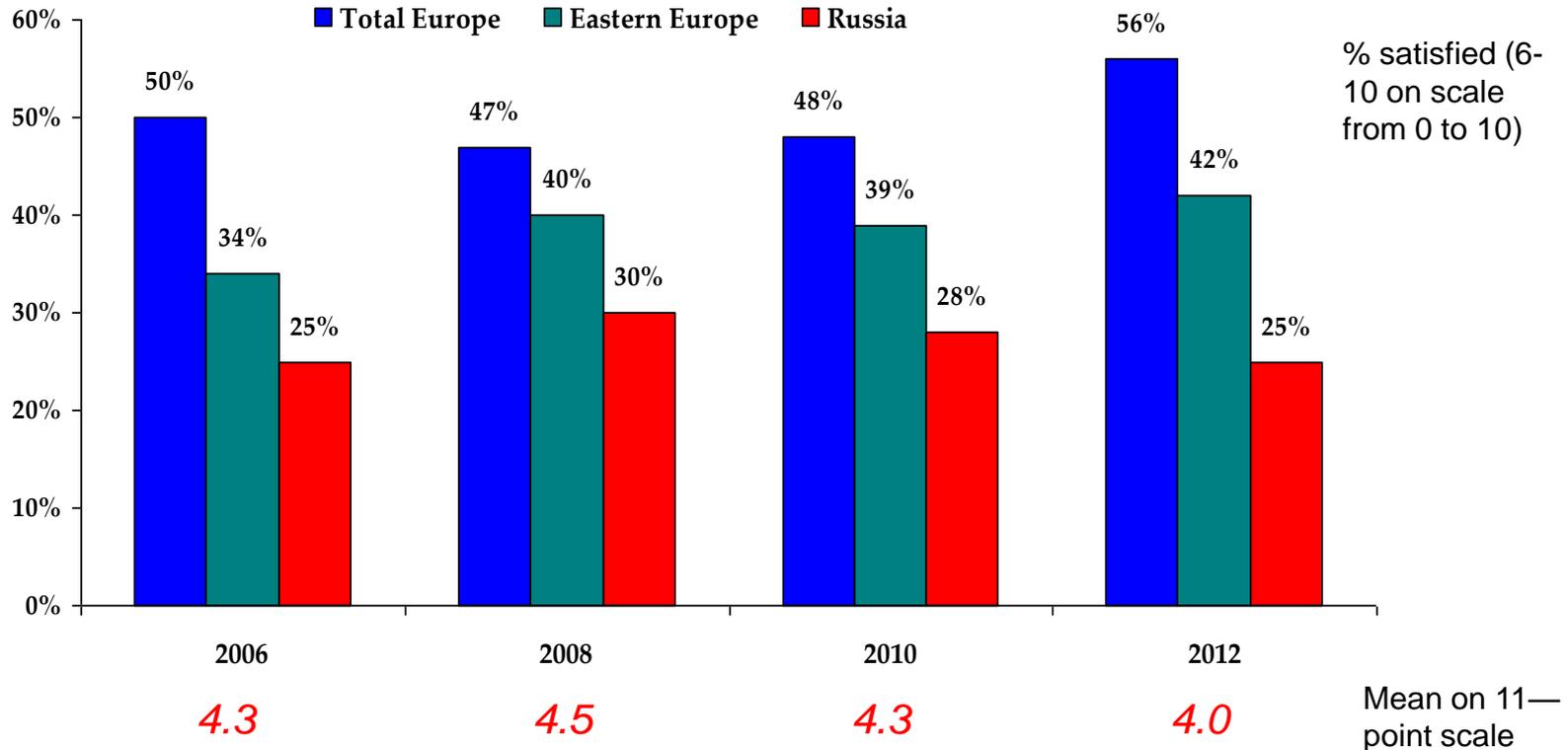
More than half of Europeans are generally satisfied with the state of their national education system and the level of satisfaction tend to increase both in most parts of Europe. Even in Southern countries the drop in satisfaction with such services is only very small

The state of education system is rated extremely high in Nordic countries and rather high other Western Europe, but much lower in Southern and Eastern Europe.

The satisfaction with social services – education in particular – is much lower in Russia than the satisfaction with overall government’ performance or state of national economy while in other

European countries it is opposite. It remains of the lowest in Europe

Output of political system: satisfaction with the work of education system

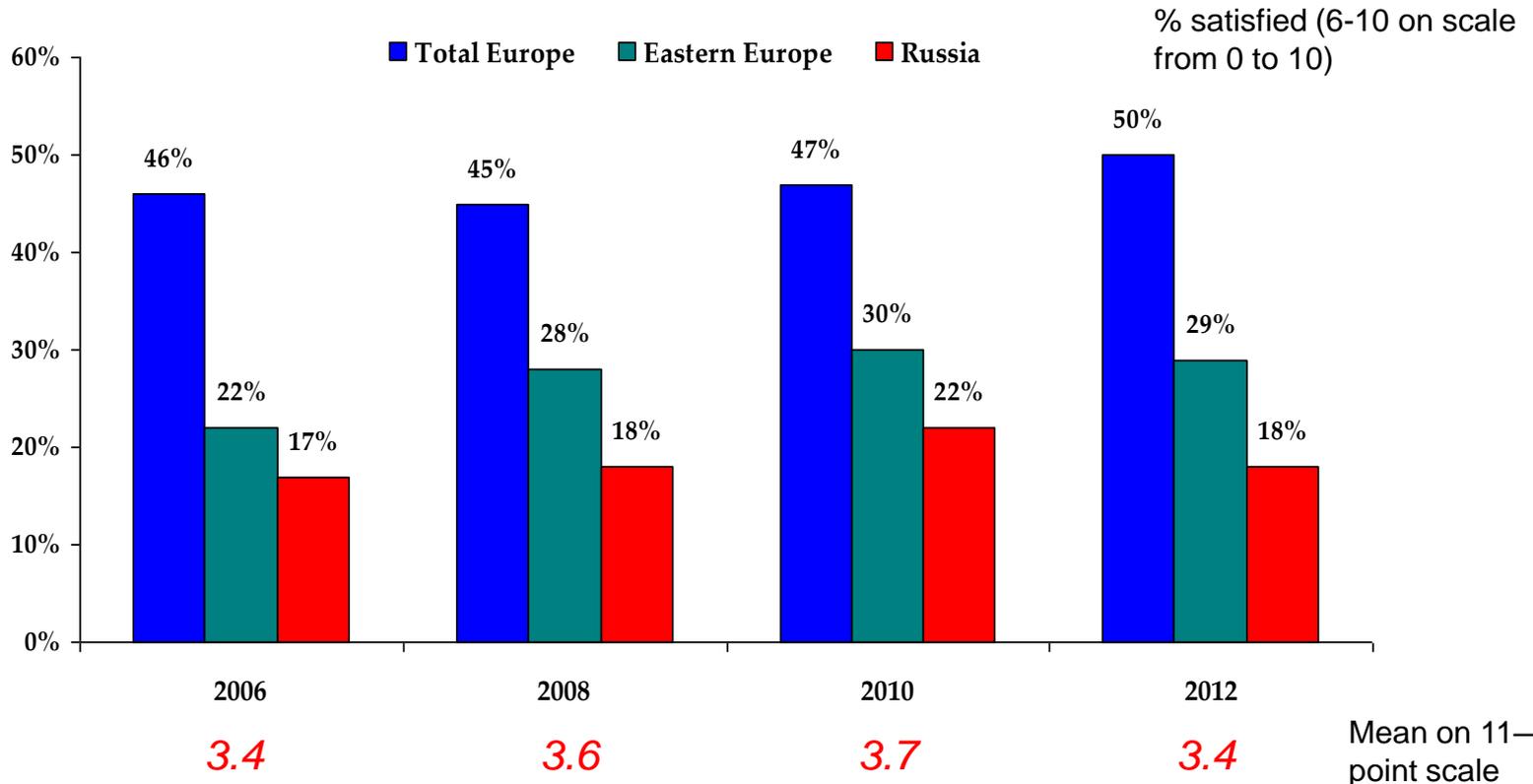


Question: What you think overall about the state of education in [country] nowadays? Please answer using this card, where 0 means extremely dissatisfied and 10 means extremely satisfied.

The state of health services are rated slightly lower than education but the satisfaction tends to increase gradually.

The difference in evaluation of health system in West and East European countries is extremely large, but the level of satisfaction with health care is graduate increase in many Eastern European countries too. The situation in Russia is radically different and does not change

Output of political system: satisfaction with the work of health care system



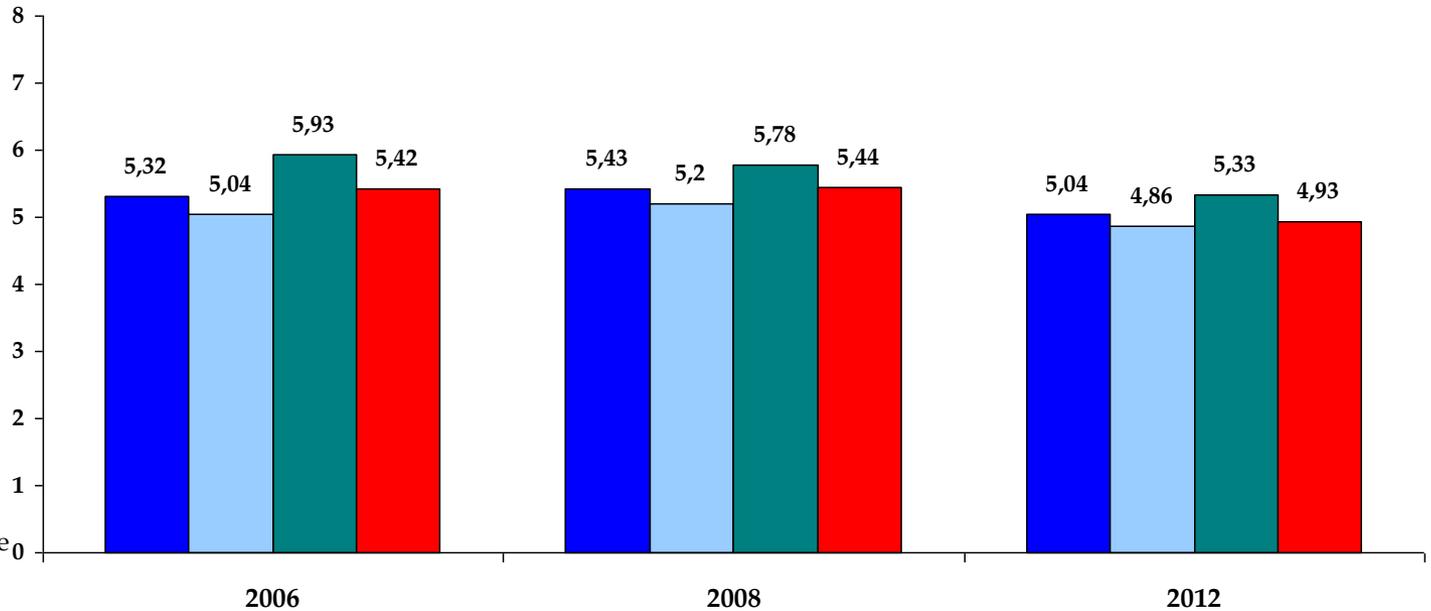
Question: What you think overall about the state of health services in [country] nowadays? Please answer using this card, where 0 means extremely dissatisfied and 10 means extremely satisfied.

The attitudes to further development of European unification are less and less negative in Europe although the changes are not dramatic

The attitude of Russians toward European unification is rather complicated - 29% is in favor of further growth of EU, but about the same proportion of people think it already goes too far, 6 years ago the first camp was larger (32% compared to 22%)

Unification go further

■ Total Europe ■ West Europe ■ Eastern Europe ■ RUSSIA



Unification already gone too far

Question: Now thinking about the European Union, some say European unification should go further. Others say it has already gone too far. Using this card, what number on the scale best describes your position?

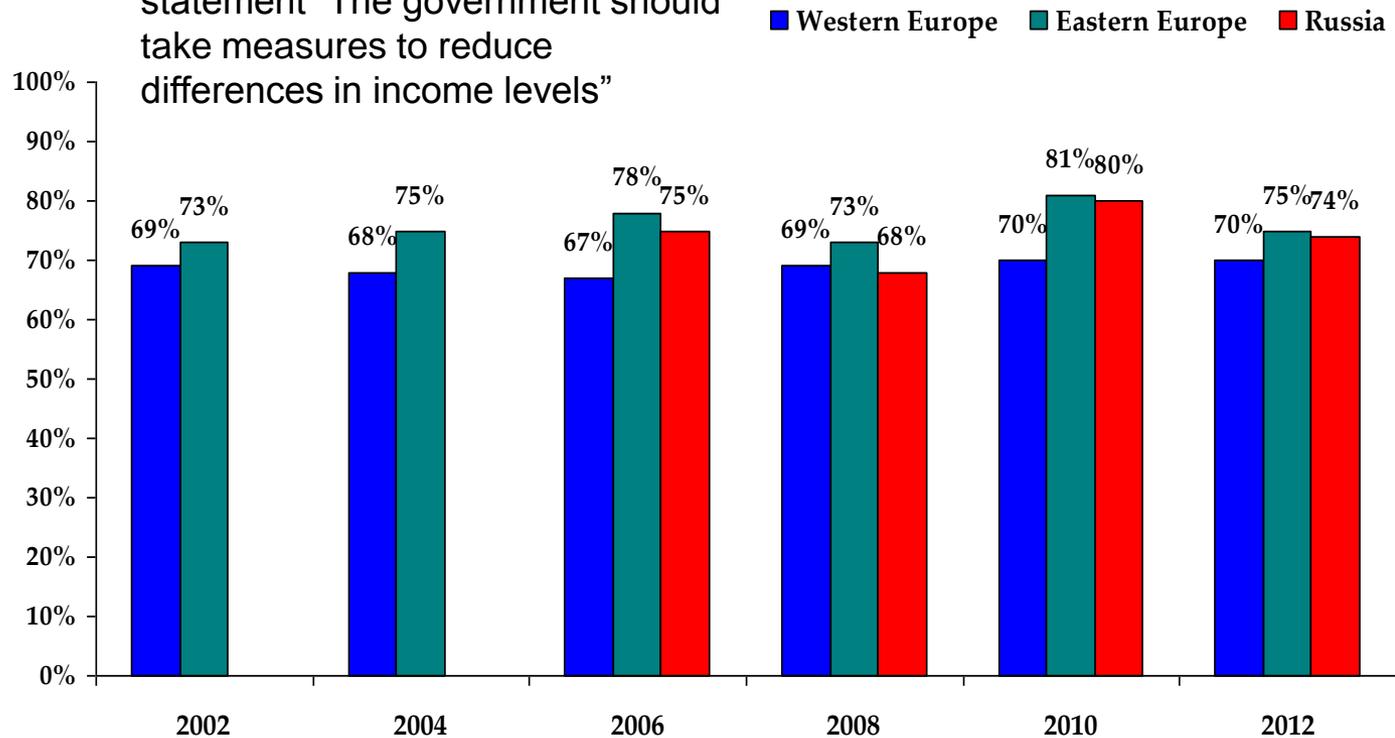


Attitudes toward inter-group relations within society

Most Europeans are supports of government involvement into stimulating income equality and these views are very stable in all parts of Europe

South Europe has the largest proportion of supports for government involvement into re-distribution of incomes and it remains stable for all recent years.

% strongly agree or agree wit the statement “The government should take measures to reduce differences in income levels”

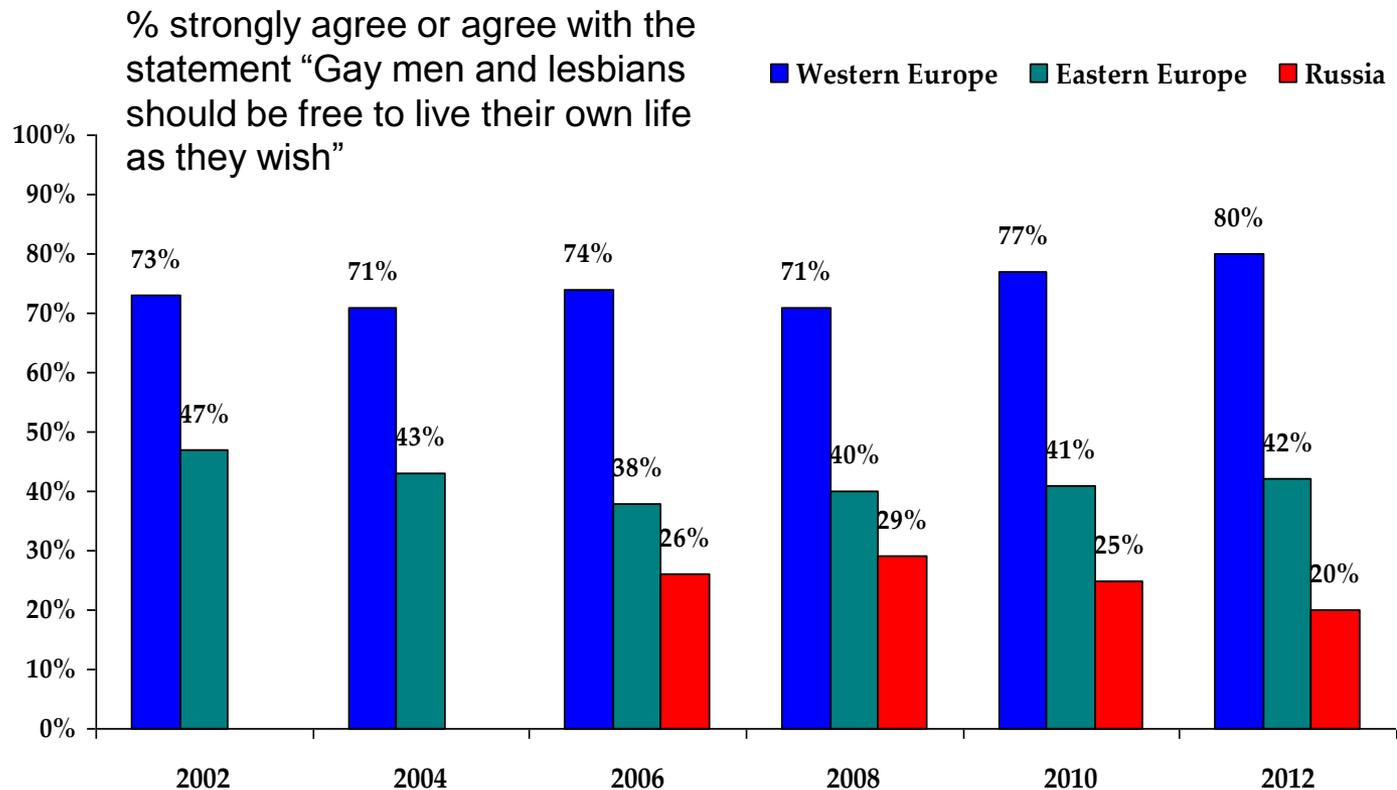


Question: To what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements - The government should take measures to reduce differences in income levels (answers 1 agree strongly, 2 agree, 3 neither agree nor disagree 4 disagree 5 disagree strongly)



Tolerance toward sexual minorities is rather higher in Western Europe and tend to increase in recent years but it is almost twice lower in East Europe and the increase is extremely small

Tolerance toward homosexuals increase in all parts of Europe including Southern Europe and Eastern Europe where the acceptance of homosexuals is much lower. The exception is Russia.



Question: To what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements - Gay men and lesbians should be free to live their own life as they wish (answers 1 agree strongly, 2 agree, 3 neither agree nor disagree 4 disagree 5 disagree strongly)

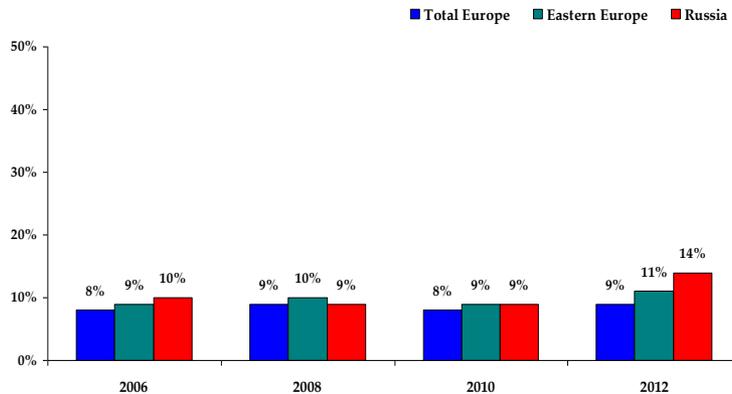


Regardless of many events and discussions on immigration issues in Europe, Europeans are rather tolerant toward immigration and it did not change much for the recent years

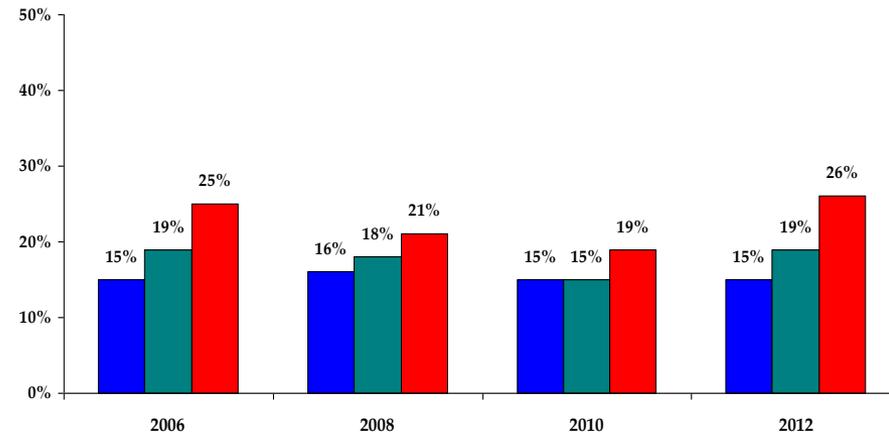
The lowest acceptance of immigrants are in Southern Europe, the differences between other parts of Europe are rather small.

Anti-immigrant views in Russia are much stronger than in other parts of Europe and after some decreased in 2008-2010 it tend to grow again.

Относительно людей своей расы или национальности



Относительно людей другой расы или национальности
% of None should be allowed



Question: To what extent do you think [country] should allow people of the same race or ethnic group as most [country]'s people to come and live here? (allow many to come and live here, allow some, allow a few, allow none)

Question: How about people of a different race or ethnic group from most [country] people?

Если в Европе в целом взгляды на то как мигранты влияют на экономику делят людей на два противоположных больших лагеря, то в России тех, кто оценивает такое влияние отрицательно - большинство

В Европе доля тех, кто считает, что мигранты влияют на экономику их стран более-менее положительно 37% и доля таких людей остается в среднем почти неизменна (в Западной Европе доля таких людей гораздо выше, чем в Восточной), то в России так думают лишь пятая часть опрошенных. Оценка влияния мигрантов на культуру в России еще более негативна, хотя в среднем в Европе она выше, чем в отношении оценки влияния на экономику (47% в среднем в Европе считают такое влияние положительным). Но особенно негативно россияне оценивают влияние мигрантов на качество жизни в стране.



Good for the economy

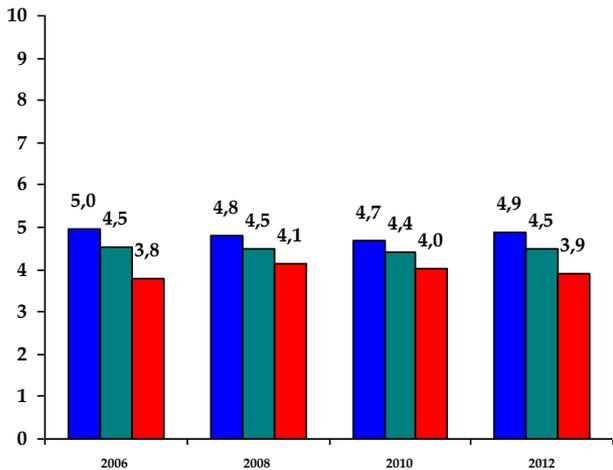


Bad for the country



На экономику

■ Total Europe ■ Eastern Europe ■ Russia

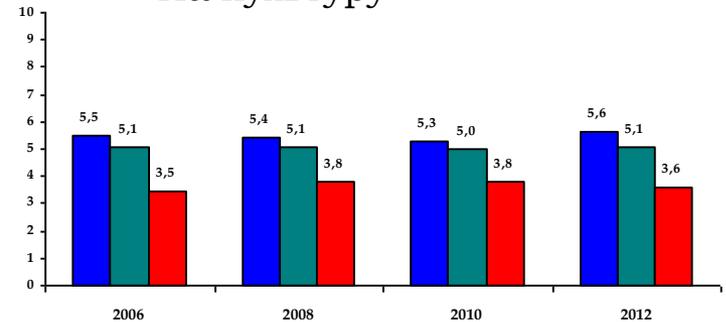


Question: Would you say it is generally bad or good for [country]'s economy that people come to live here from other countries? (answer scale from 00- bad for the economy to 10 good for the economy)

Question: Would you say that [country]'s cultural life is generally undermined or enriched by people coming to live here from other countries? (answer scale from 0- cultural life undermined to 10 cultural life enriched)

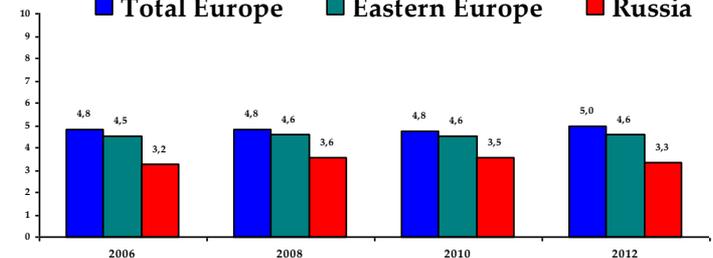
Question: Is [country] made a worse or a better place to live by people coming to live here from other countries? (answer scale from 0 – worse place to live to 10 – better place to live)

На культуру



На качество жизни

■ Total Europe ■ Eastern Europe ■ Russia



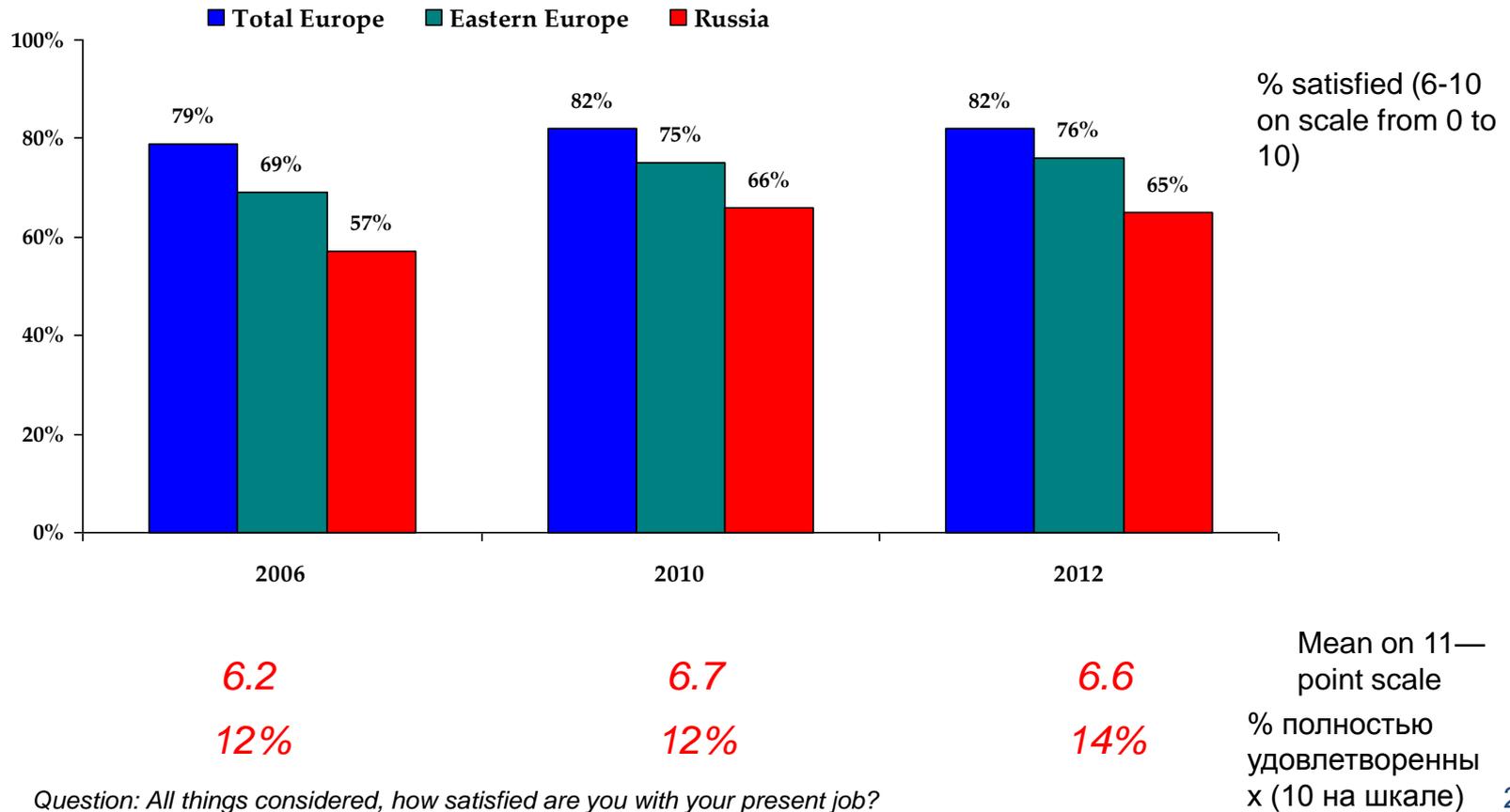
Attitudes toward micro-environment: job, broad social contacts, safety issues



- Job and labor relations remains one of the most important domain of life in Europe, the source of material well-being, social status and promotion, social contacts and self-expression
- The satisfaction of current job is very high in Europe in general and the changes there are minor. Some differences between East and West Europe in this respect slowly disappearing. Russia occupies one of the lowest places in Europe by the level of job satisfaction – but the trends in recent years is also positive
- Mutual social help differs West and East Europe a lot. Involvement into charity activity is rather high and stable in West Europe and much lower in East Europe. But in recent years Eastern Europe shows substantial positive change and Russia move to the same direction even faster than average.

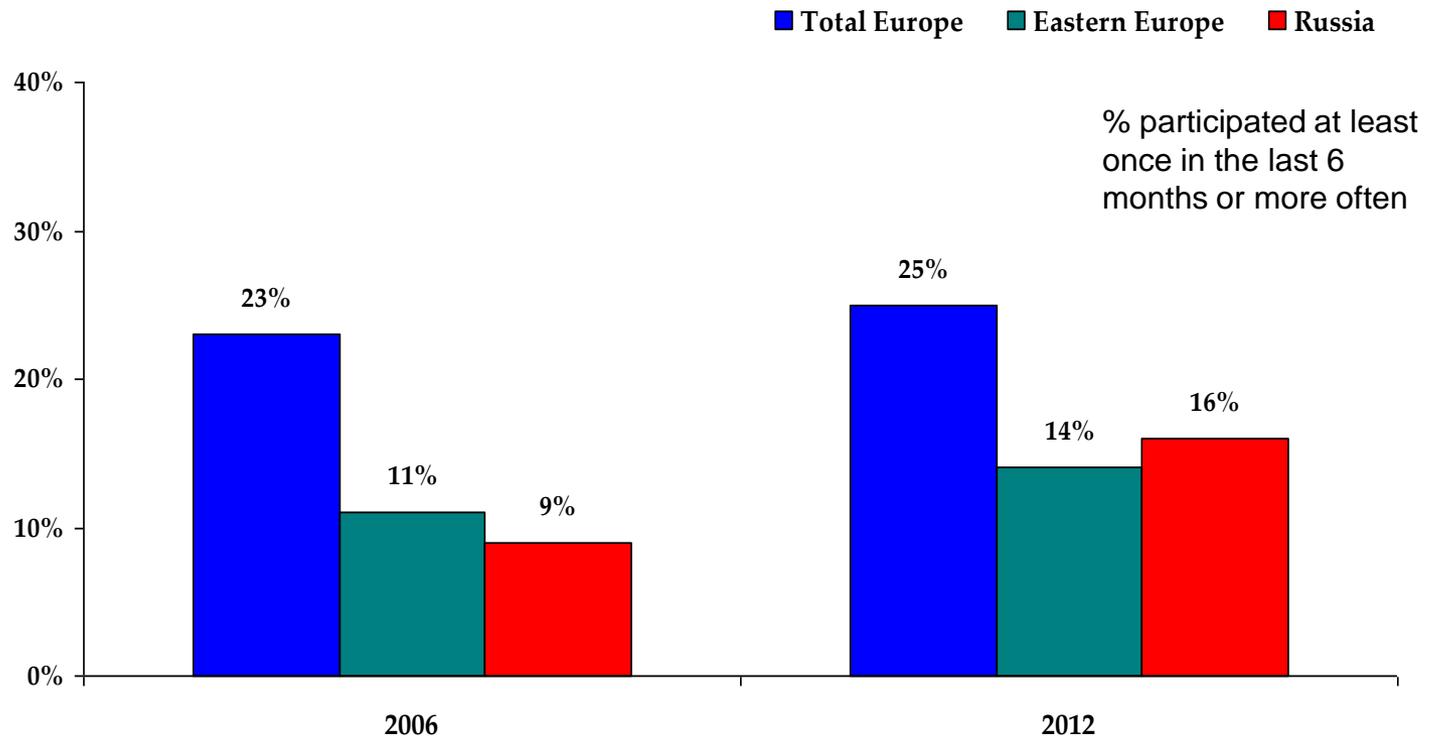
Most Europeans are satisfied with their job and job satisfaction. The difference in job satisfaction between East and West is gradually diminishing due to the increase in Eastern Europe. Economic crisis did not influence job satisfaction much

The level of job satisfaction in Russia is one of the lowest in Europe. However it grows rather substantially for the recent years but still did not reach the level of Eastern European average. It may due to the quality of jobs and increase of salaries and wages.



Participation in socially-important voluntary work differs Western and Eastern societies in Europe. The gap gets smaller but very slowly

There are rapid changes in participation in voluntary and charity activities in Russia in the recent years. The level of participation used to be lower than Eastern European average but in last 6 years it grew faster than the region. The increase is among people of all age groups (except those older than 60) and among people with different incomes

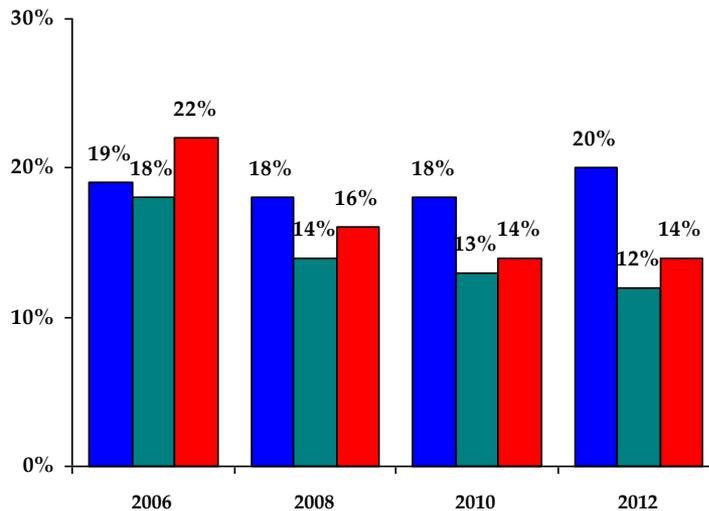


Question: In the past 12 months, how often did you get involved in work for voluntary or charitable organisations? (at least once a week, at least once a month, at least once every 3 months, at least once every 6 months, less often or never)

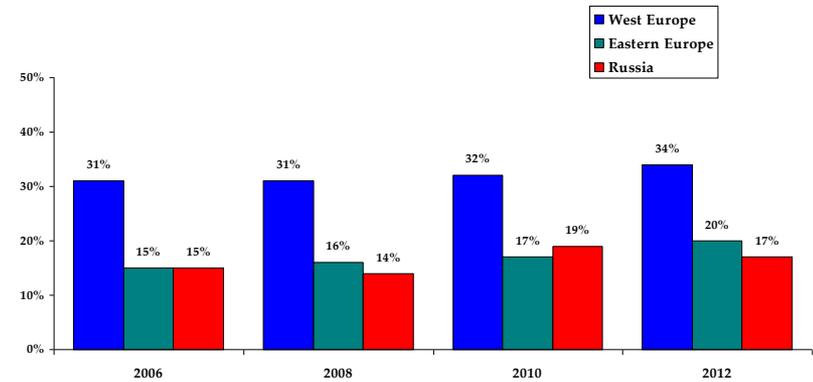
Situation with feelings on personal safety (actual and potential) improved substantially since the middle of 00-s in Russia (as in Eastern Europe in general)

Actual experience of crime like burglary/assault decreased substantial in Eastern Europe since the middle of 00-s (stable in Western Europe) and it is almost twice lower than in Western Europe now. But subjective feeling of safety is twice higher in Western Europe than in Eastern Europe.

The least personal safety in Russia is in Moscow city and in small towns.



Respondent or household member victim of burglary/assault last 5 years



Feeling of safety of walking alone in local area after dark (% very safe)

Question: How safe do you – or would you - feel walking alone in this area after dark? Do or would you feel very safe, safe, unsafe or very unsafe?

Question: Have you or a member of your household been the victim of a burglary or assault in the last 5 years?

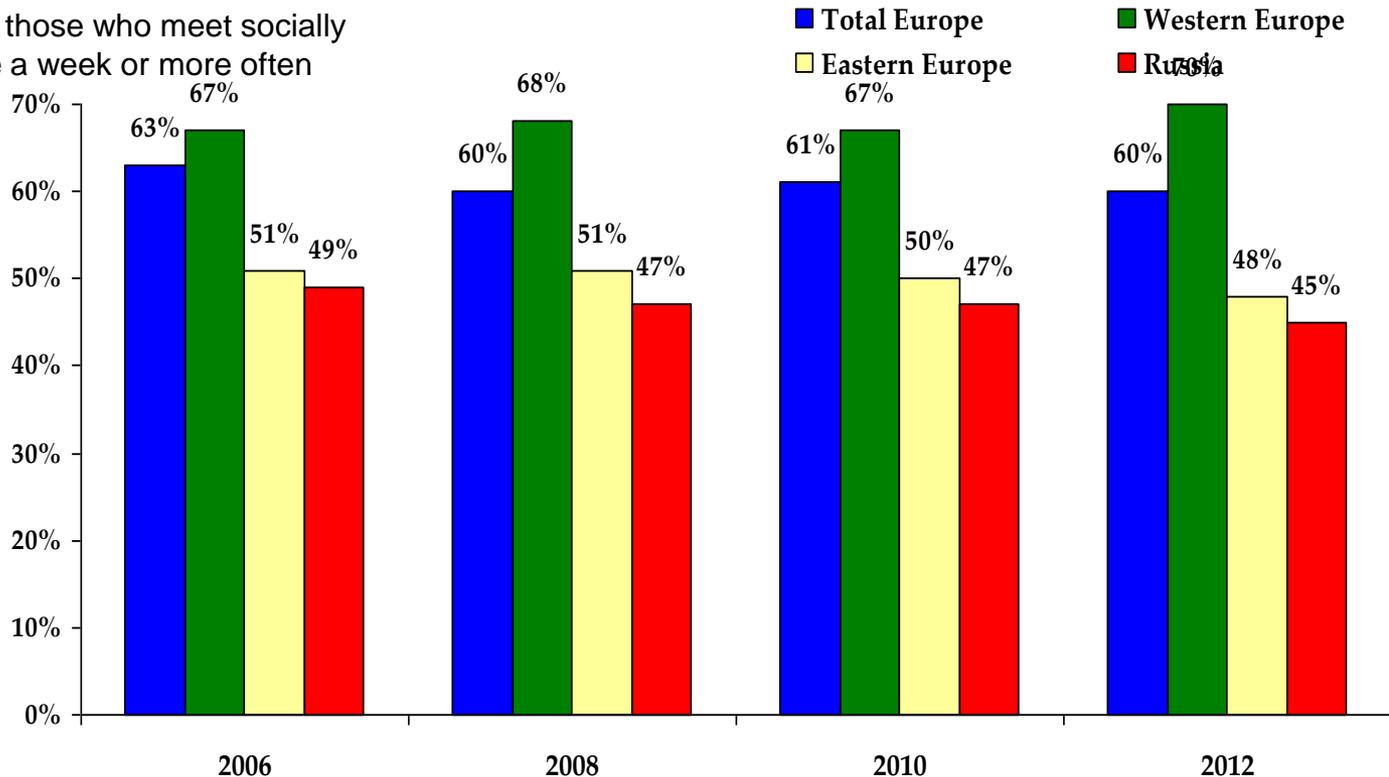


Attitudes toward personal contacts, religious views, health

Social contacts are less intensive in Eastern Europe than in other parts of Europe and this difference does not get smaller.

Age differences are key factors in defining the frequency of social contacts – older people communicate much less than younger people all across Europe and in Russia in particular

% of those who meet socially once a week or more often

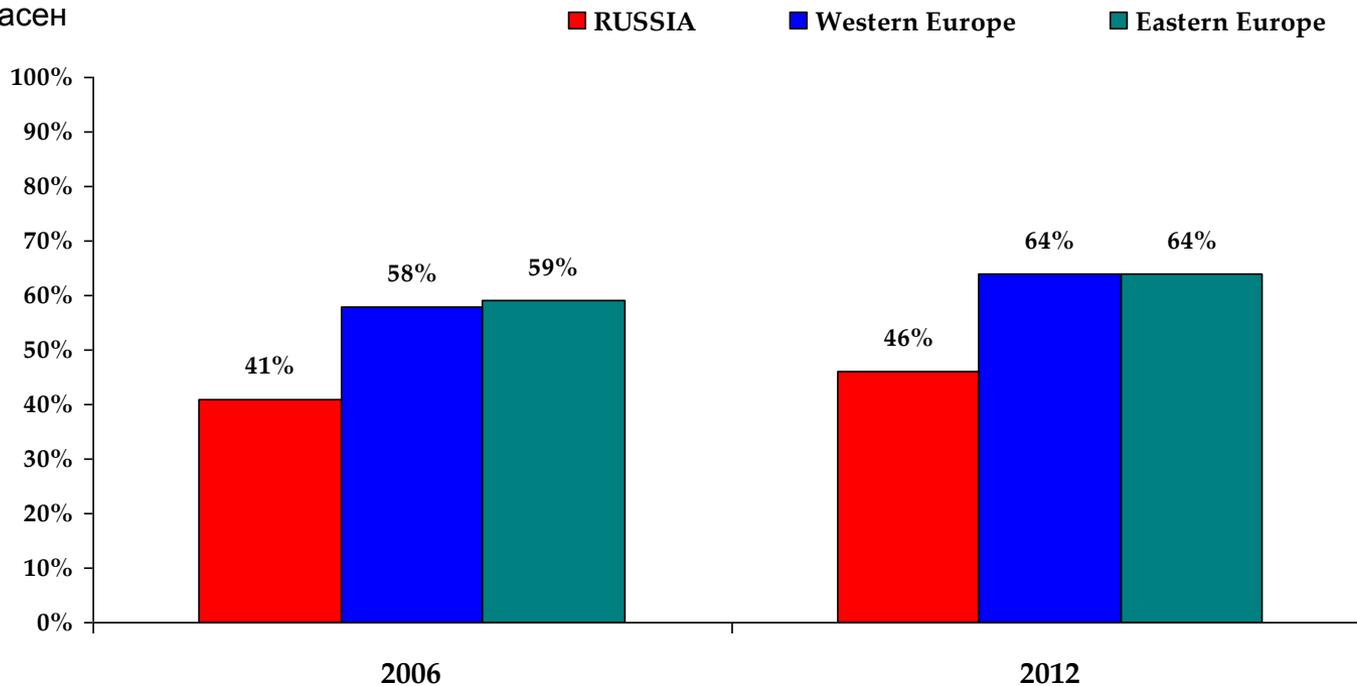


Question: How often do you meet socially with friends, relatives or work colleagues? (never, less than once a month, once a month, several time a month, once a week, several times a week, every day)

Attitudes toward people in local area in Russia substantially different than in other parts of Europe. Although some Northern countries show similar pattern, still it differs Russia from many other Europeans



% полностью согласен+скорее согласен

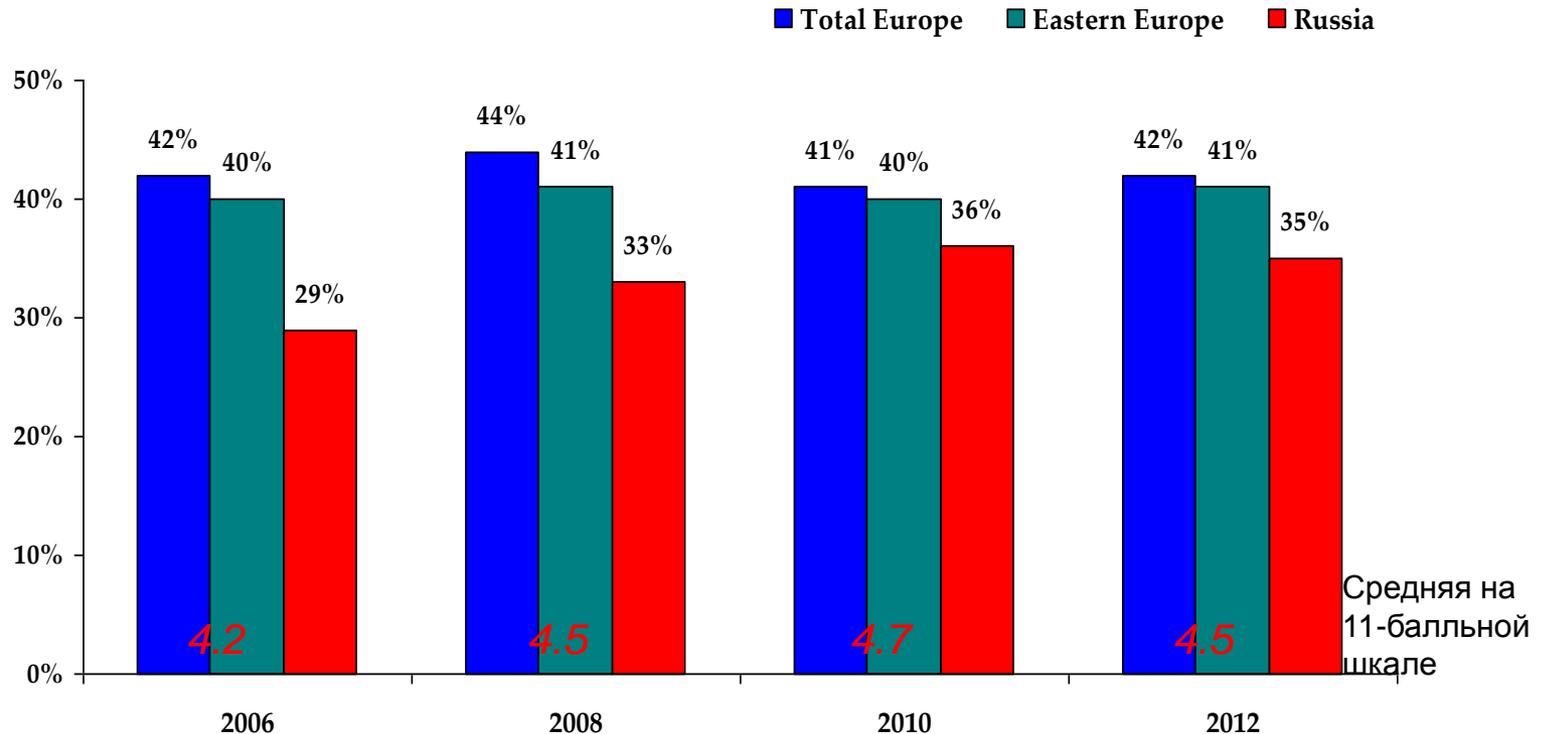


Question: How much you agree or disagree with the statement - I feel close to the people in my local area (answer scale agree strongly, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, disagree strongly)

d27 | Я считаю, что достаточно близко к людям, которые живут в моем районе, в округе

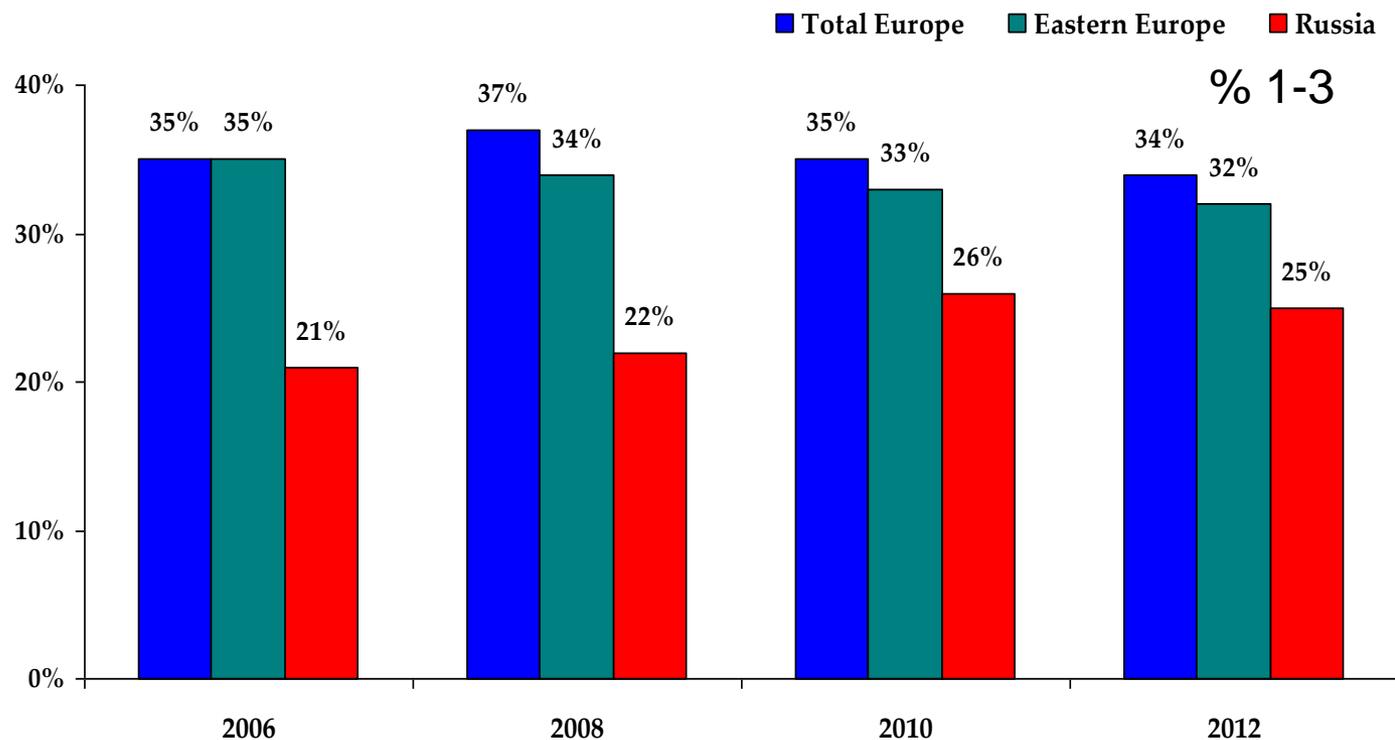
The level of religiosity is stable across Europe. Differences of Eastern and Western Europe are minimal

Russia is one of the few countries in Europe where the level of religiosity is increasing in the last years. But the initial level is much lower than European average, even few years ago Russia used to be one of the most secular country in Europe but now this situation is changing



Question: Regardless of whether you belong to a particular religion, how religious would you say you are? (answer scale from 0 – not at all religious to 10 – very religious)

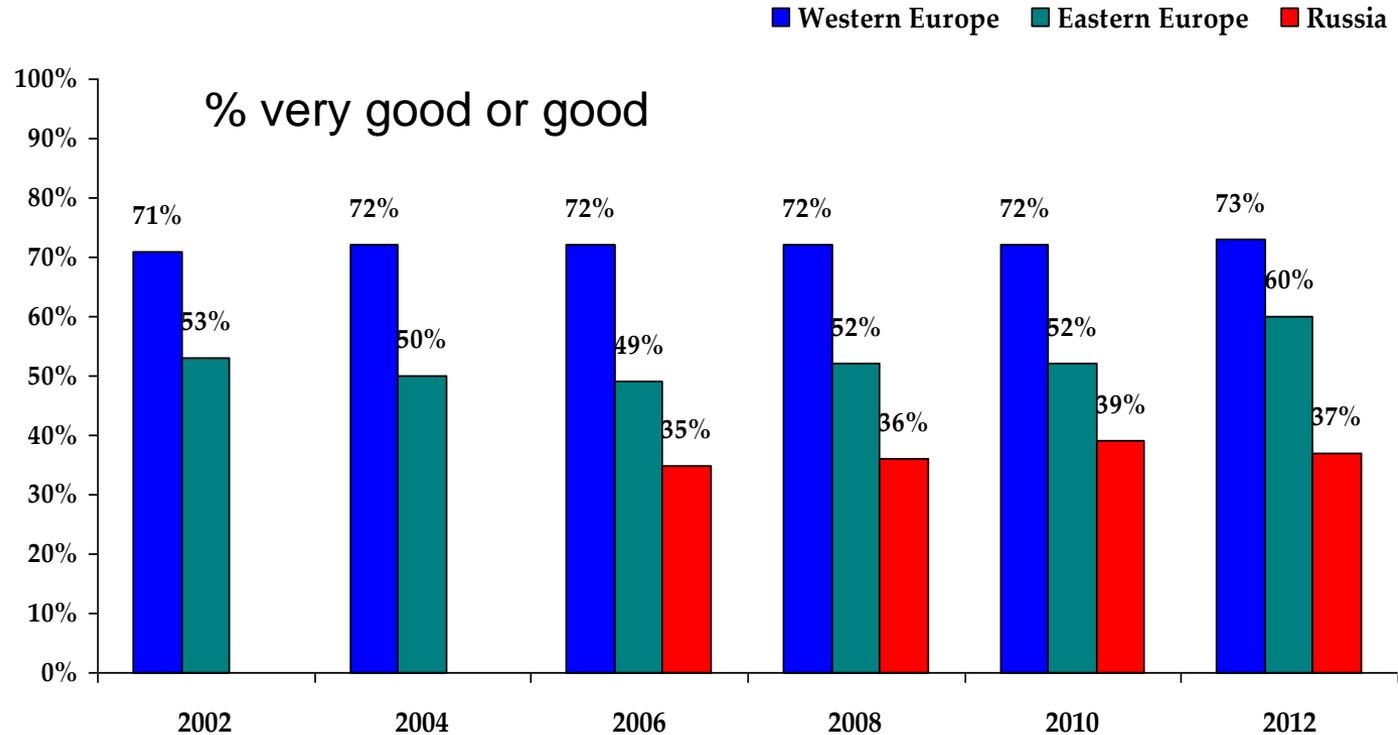
Религиозное самосознание и религиозное поведение в Европе связаны гораздо теснее, чем в России. Однако и религиозное поведение в России постепенно увеличивается, хотя и не такими темпами как религиозное самосознание



Question: Apart from when you are at religious services, how often, if at all, do you pray? (every day, more than once a week, once a week, at least once a month, only on special holy days, less often or never)

Self-assessment of personal health is rather stable characteristic in Europe in the recent decade – about two thirds of general population evaluate their health positively

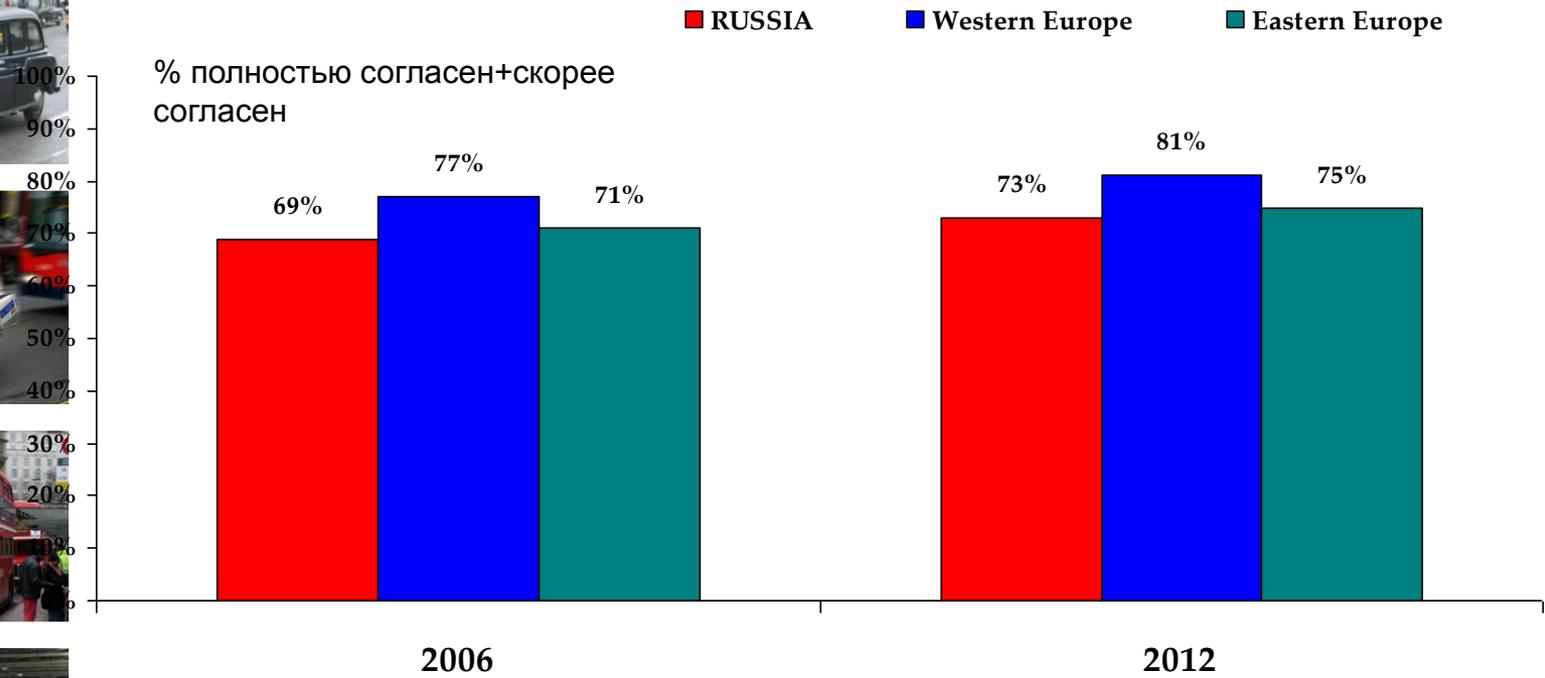
The differences in self-assessment of health between West and East Europe is extremely high. In Western Europe the changes in this indicator for the last decades are minimal. In Eastern Europe we see slow positive change in recent years (but it still can be temporal). Russia is far behind even East European average and the change for the recent years is minimal



Question: How is your health in general? Would you say it is very good, good, fair, bad or very bad?

Positive attitude toward yourself is rather universal in European societies and very stable characteristic

Positive view on your personality is lightly lower in Russia than in other parts of Europe but the differences are not large.

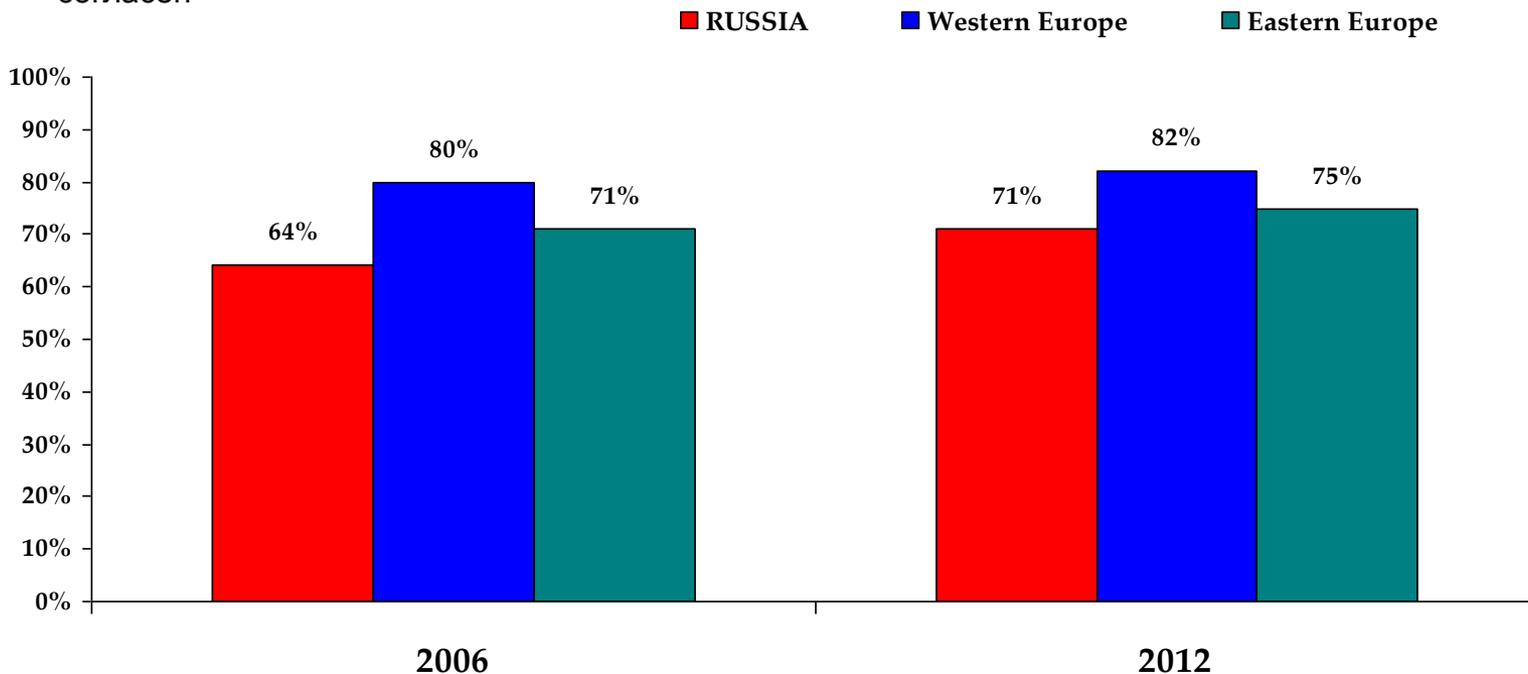


Question: How much you agree or disagree with the statement - In general I feel very positive about myself (answer scale agree strongly, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, disagree strongly)

d3 |В целом я отношусь к себе очень хорошо

Most European feel that they have the control over their own life and this socio-psychological characteristics stays stable for the recent years

% полностью согласен+скорее согласен

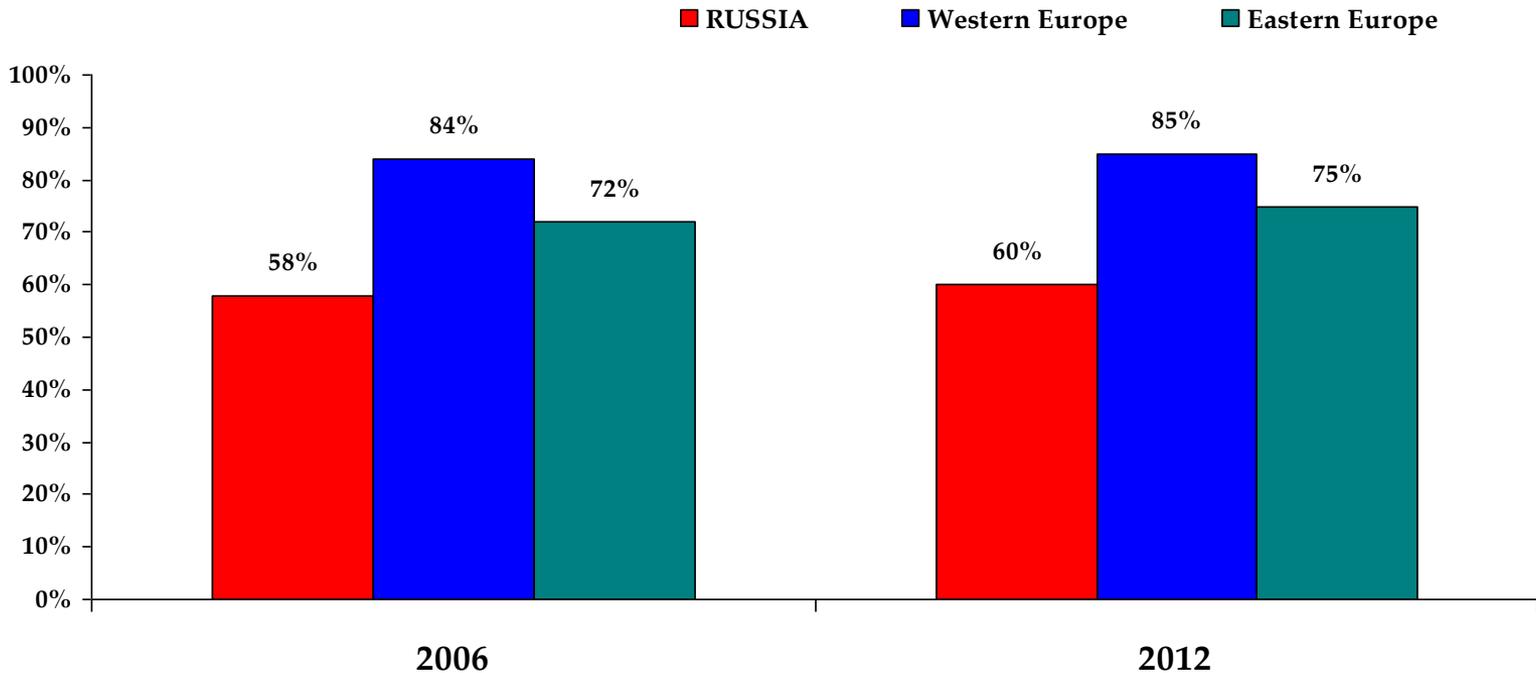


Question: How much you agree or disagree with the statement - I feel I am free to decide for myself how to live my life (answer scale agree strongly, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, disagree strongly)

d16 | Я верю, что могу сам(а) решать как мне жить

Feeling that you do something valuable in life is what differs Russians from other Europeans and these differences do not diminish with time

% полностью согласен+скорее согласен



Question: How much you agree or disagree with the statement - I generally feel that what I do in my life is valuable and worthwhile (answer scale agree strongly, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, disagree strongly)

d23 | В целом я думаю, что то, что я делаю в жизни, ценно и нужно людям