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The Significance of Work for Voluntary Associations: A Cross-National Comparison

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Outline of the presentation

- Theories of volunteering
- Data and methods
- Findings
- Conclusions

Key questions

- How employment status and job characteristics influence voluntary membership?
- Is the influence of employment status and job characteristics universal or it varies across different countries?

Definition

Snyder and Omoto (2008) define volunteering as

«freely chosen and deliberate helping activities that extend over time...without expectation of reward or other compensation and often through formal organizations»

Theories of volunteering

- Individual level variables
 - Ascribed status
 - Achieved status
- Contextual variables
 - Structural aspects
 - Cultural aspects

Volunteering: Individual Variables

- Ascribed characteristics:
 - Gender, age, ethnicity, country of origin etc.
- Achieved characteristics:
 - Education +
 - Income +
 - Social status +
 - Religiosity(attendance) +

Volunteering: Contextual

- Structural
 - Law regulation and presence of associations to volunteer for +
 - Ease of volunteering +
 - Homogenous social groups +
 - Affluence of society +
- Cultural
 - Positive attitudes toward volunteering +
 - Religious society +
 - High-trust society +

Volunteering and Work

- Employment status plays key role in volunteering (Wilson and Musick 1997)
- People employed full or part time or self employed more likely to volunteer
- Self-directed work (higher autonomy, complexity and variety) more likely to volunteer

Volunteering and Jobs: “Spillover” theory.

- As Wilson and Musik (1997) note:

«occupations that demand or encourage the use of initiative, thought, and independent judgment at work will encourage, or permit, social participation because the latter depends to some degree on exactly those qualities».

Hypotheses

1. Respondents engaged in the labor force will be more likely to report membership in voluntary associations
2. Among employed respondents, supervisors will be more likely to report membership in voluntary associations
3. Among employed respondents, those with higher creativity, autonomy or intellectual tasks at work will be more likely to report membership in voluntary associations
4. In countries with more developed civic infrastructure, the impact of the work-related factors will be higher

Data and variables

Data: The 5th and the 6th wave of the WVS, 57 countries included in final estimations

Dependent variable: active membership in 4 organizations: 1. art, 2. sport, 3. environment and 4. charitable organizations

Independent variables: employment status (dummies), supervision (dummy), manual/intellectual work, routine/creative work, autonomy at work place.

Control variables: age, gender, education, income in deciles, subjective social class, trust in strangers, emancipative values.

Country-level mediator: Index of Associational and Organizational Rights combining 1) freedom of demonstration 2) freedom for NGO; 3) freedom for labor unions, professional and other organizations

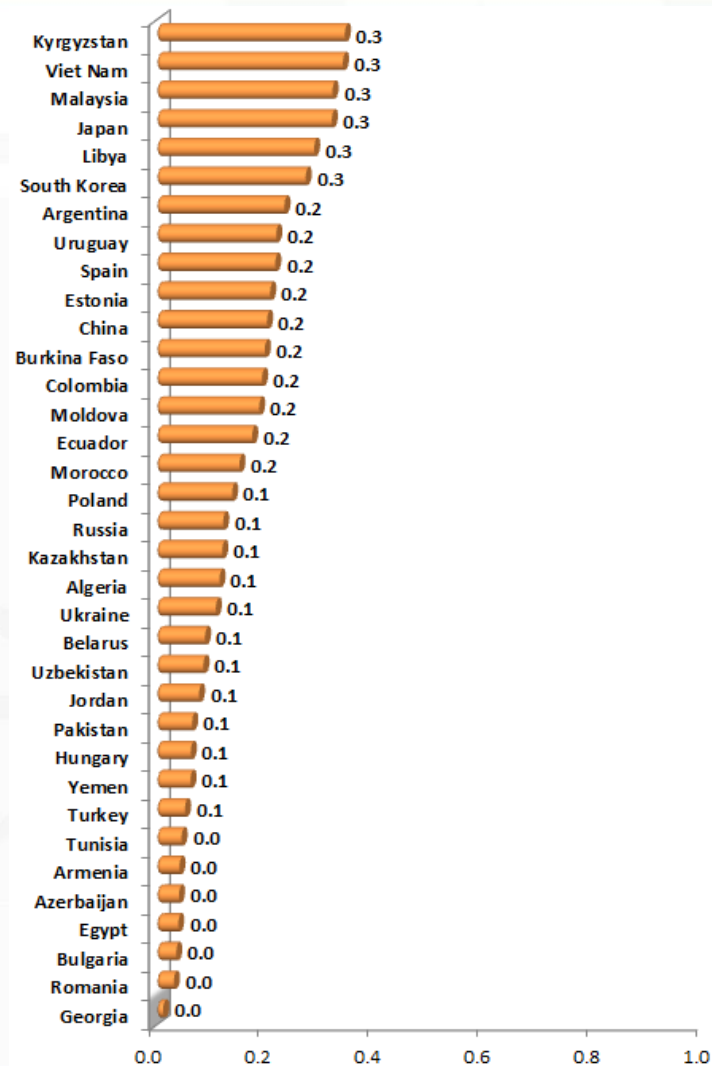
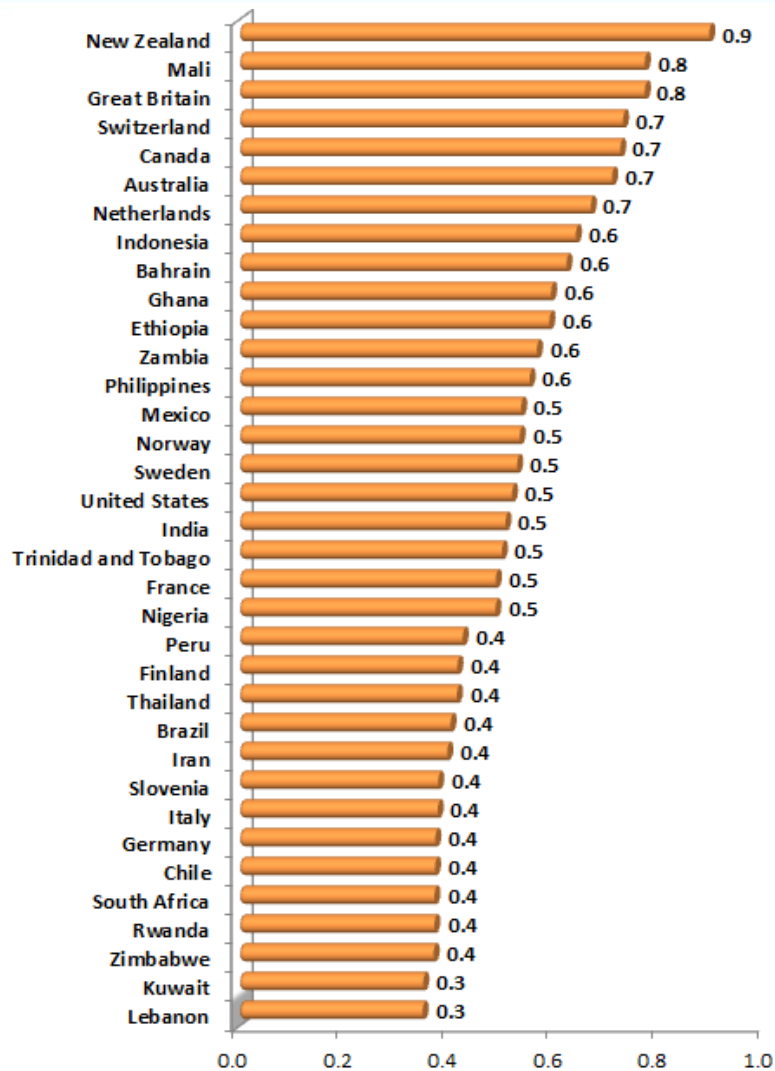
Method and steps of analysis

Method: multilevel Poisson regression with interaction effects

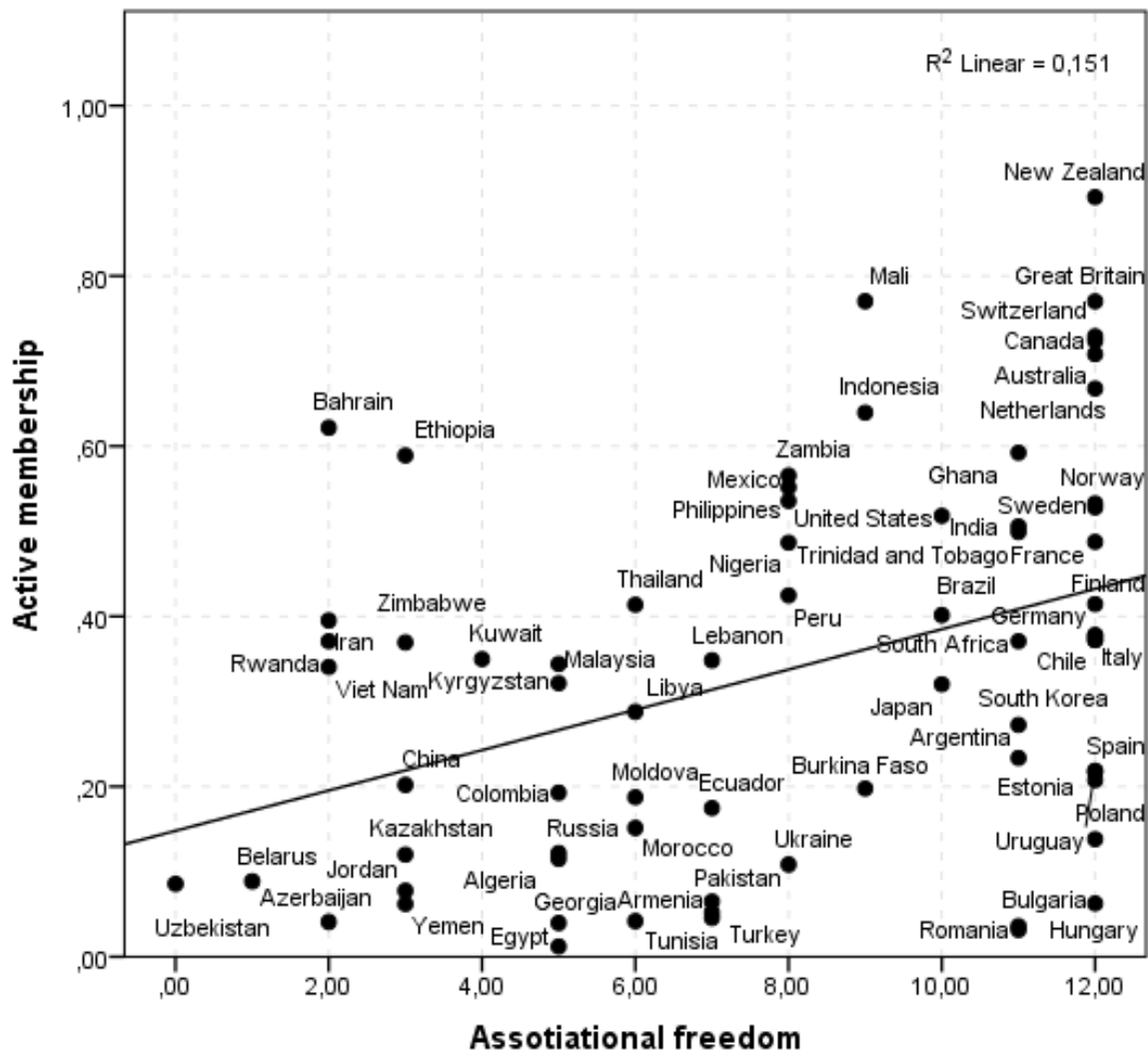
Steps:

1. Testing the influence of employment status on active membership.
2. Testing the influence of employment status and job characteristics (only for employed respondents).

Number of organizations per person (active membership, WVS data)



Active membership and Associational Freedom



Employment status

(Poisson regression, marginal effects)

Dependent variable: active membership in voluntary associations

	lowest level of AF	highest level of AF
Intercept	-2.85(0.32)***	-2.18(0.18)***
Country-level		
Associational freedom	0.66(0.36) †	0.66(0.36) †
Individual level		
Employed (base)	-	
Unemployed	-0.23(0.26)	-0.25(0.08)***
Retired	-0.90(0.21)***	-0.06(0.08)
Housewife	-0.87 (0.21)***	-0.32(0.08)***
Students	0.31(0.15)*	0.24(0.06)***
Number of countries		57
Number of respondents		68022

Job characteristics (Poisson regression, marginal effects)

Dependent variable: overall active membership

	lowest level of AF	highest level of AF
Intercept	-3.14(0.46)***	-2.27(0.24)***
Country-level		
Associational freedom	0.87(0.57)	0.87(0.57)
Individual level		
Full-time (base)	-	-
Part-time	0.23(0.12) †	0.16(0.06)**
Self-employed	-0.25(0.10)**	0.12(0.06)*
Supervision	0.45(0.09)***	0.26(0.06)***
Manual vs. intellectual	0.29(0.28)	0.17(0.08)**
Routine vs. creative	0.42(0.23) †	0.27(0.08)***
Depend vs. independent.	0.09(0.24)	0.07(0.09)
Number of countries		56
Number of respondents		35062

Conclusions

1. Universal effects across countries :
 - Being a student (+)
 - Part-time job (+)
 - Supervisory status (+)
 - **Being a housewife (-)**
2. Being retired has negative effect in countries with low level of AF, while unemployment affect membership negatively in countries with high AF
3. The effect of self-employment is contradictory:
 - **Countries with low AF (-)**
 - Countries with high AF (+)
4. Intellectual and creative work fosters participation in countries with high AF.



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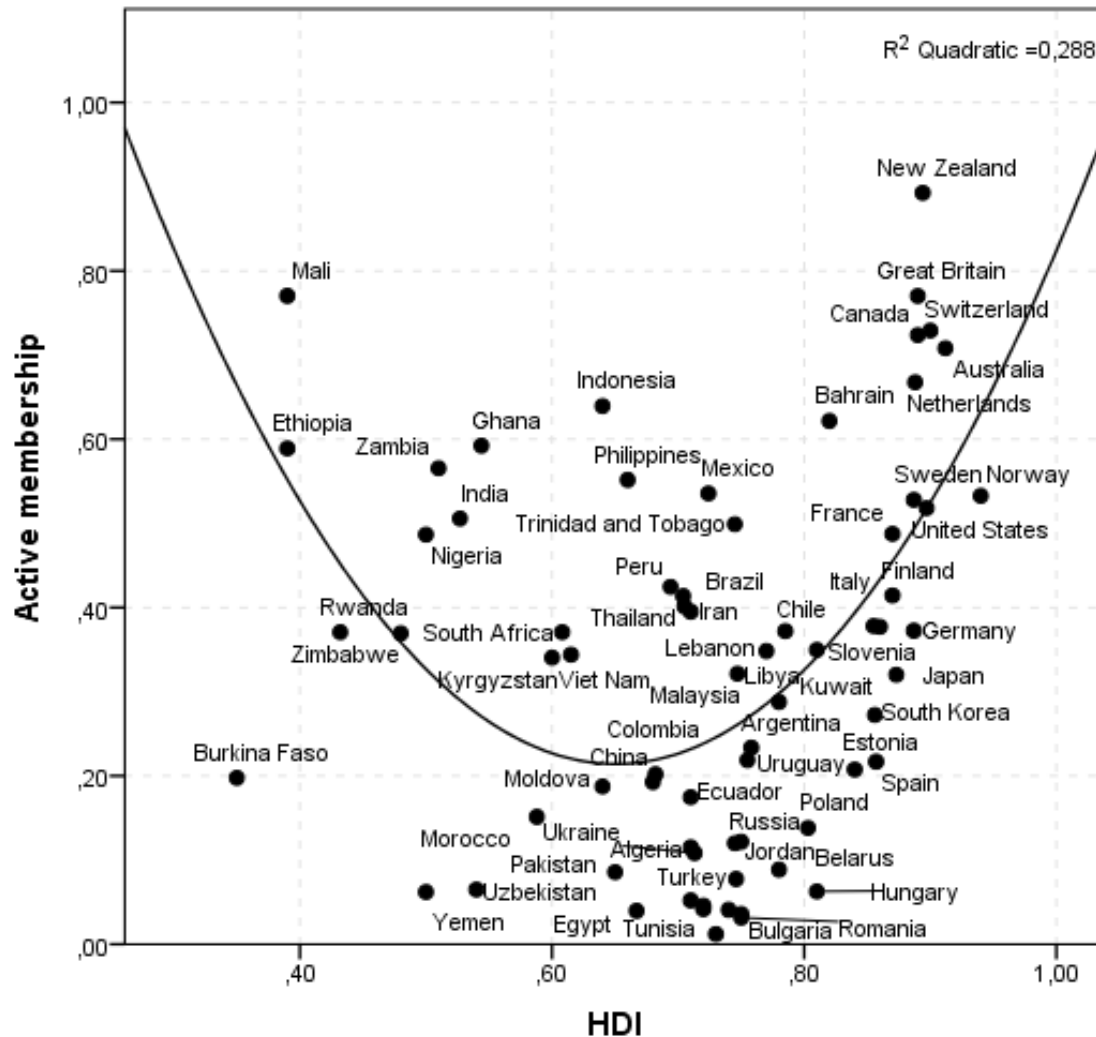
Thank you for your attention!

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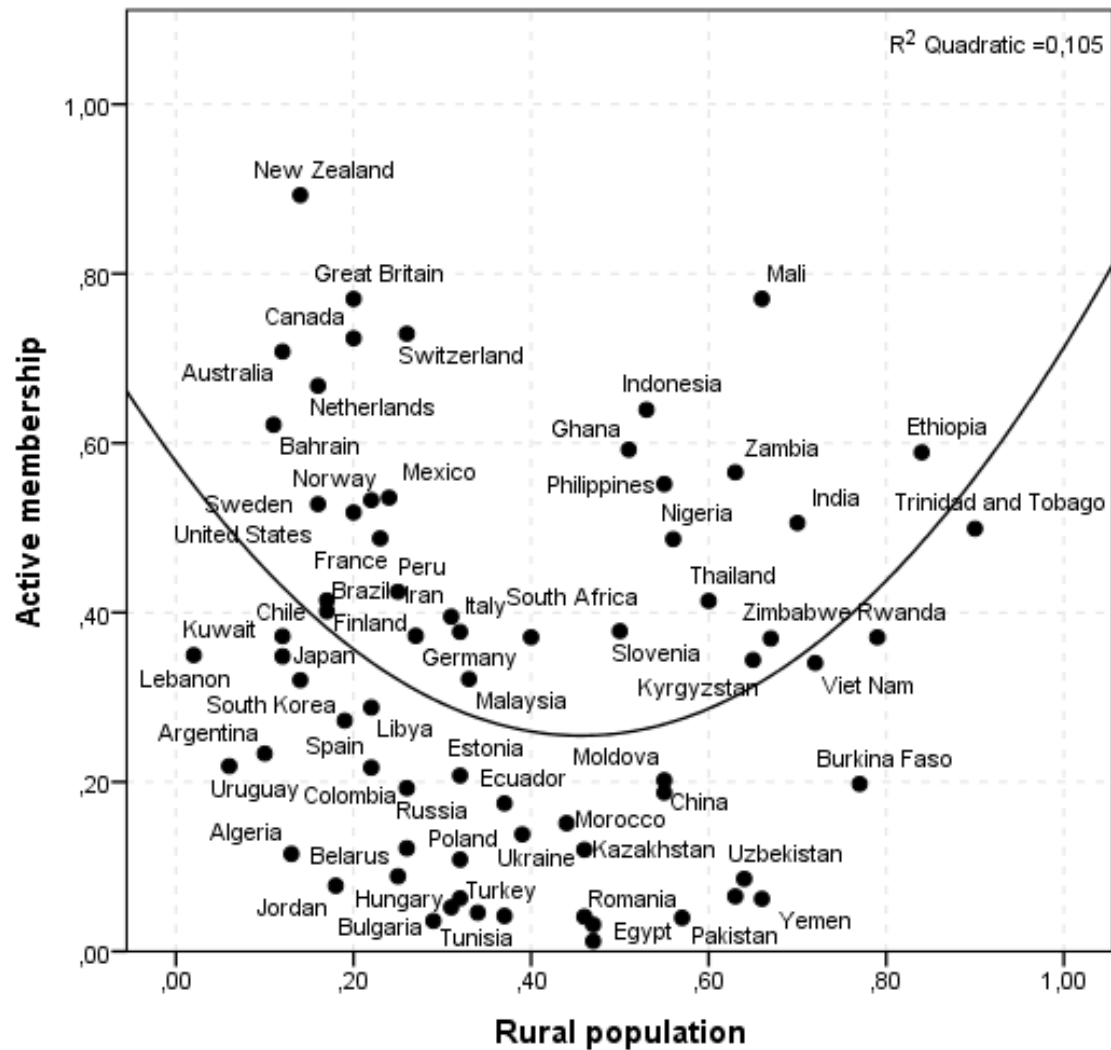
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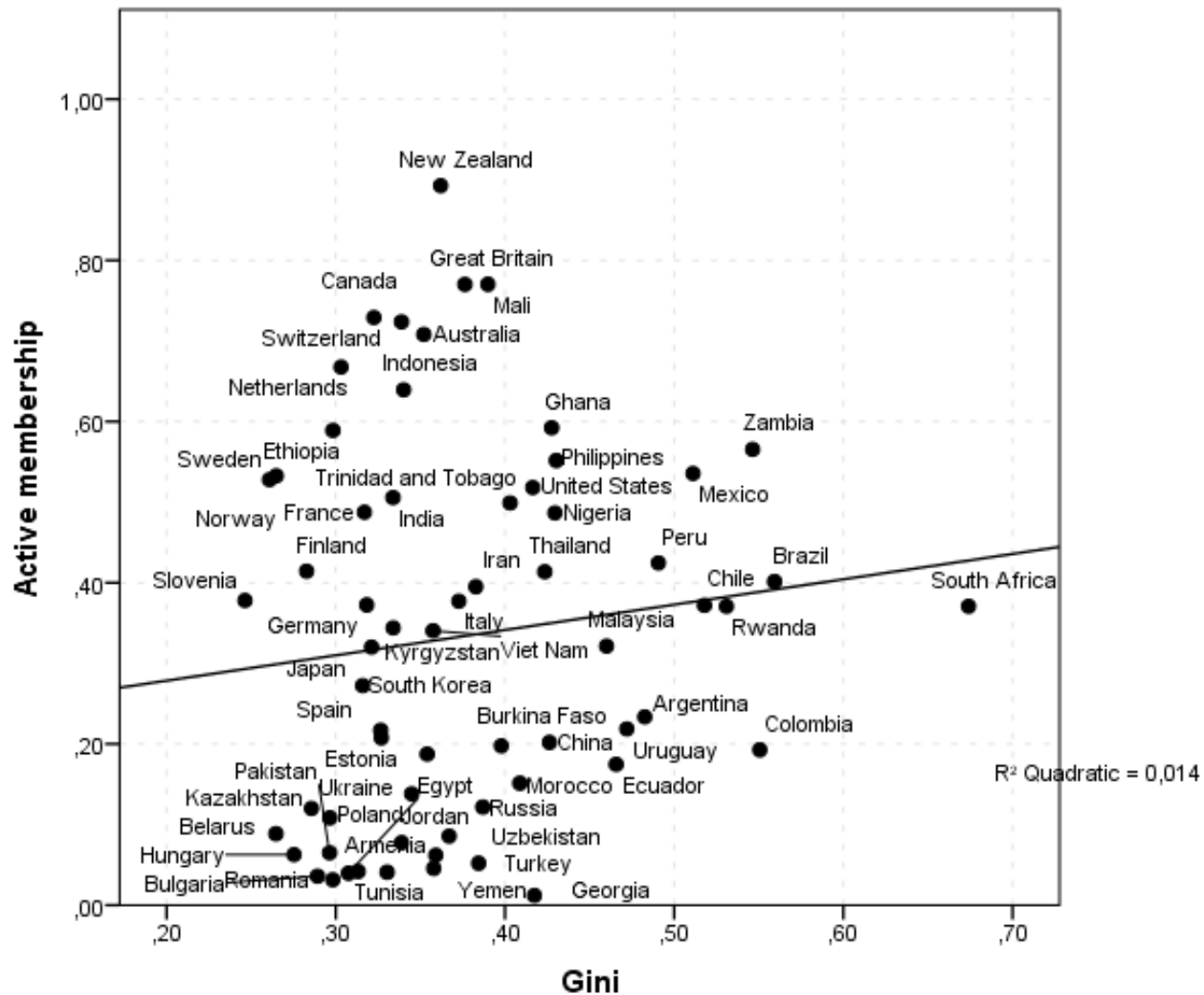
Active membership and HDI



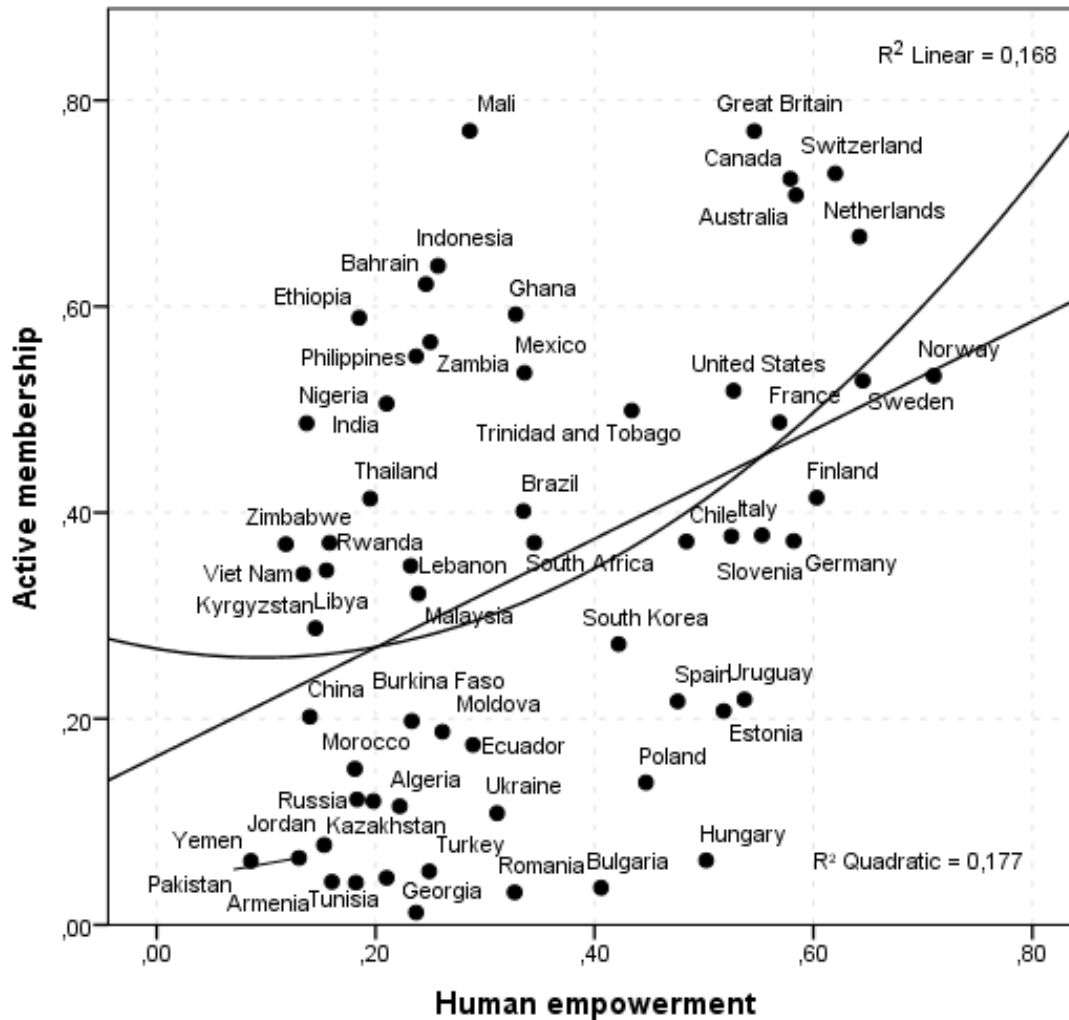
Active membership and rural population

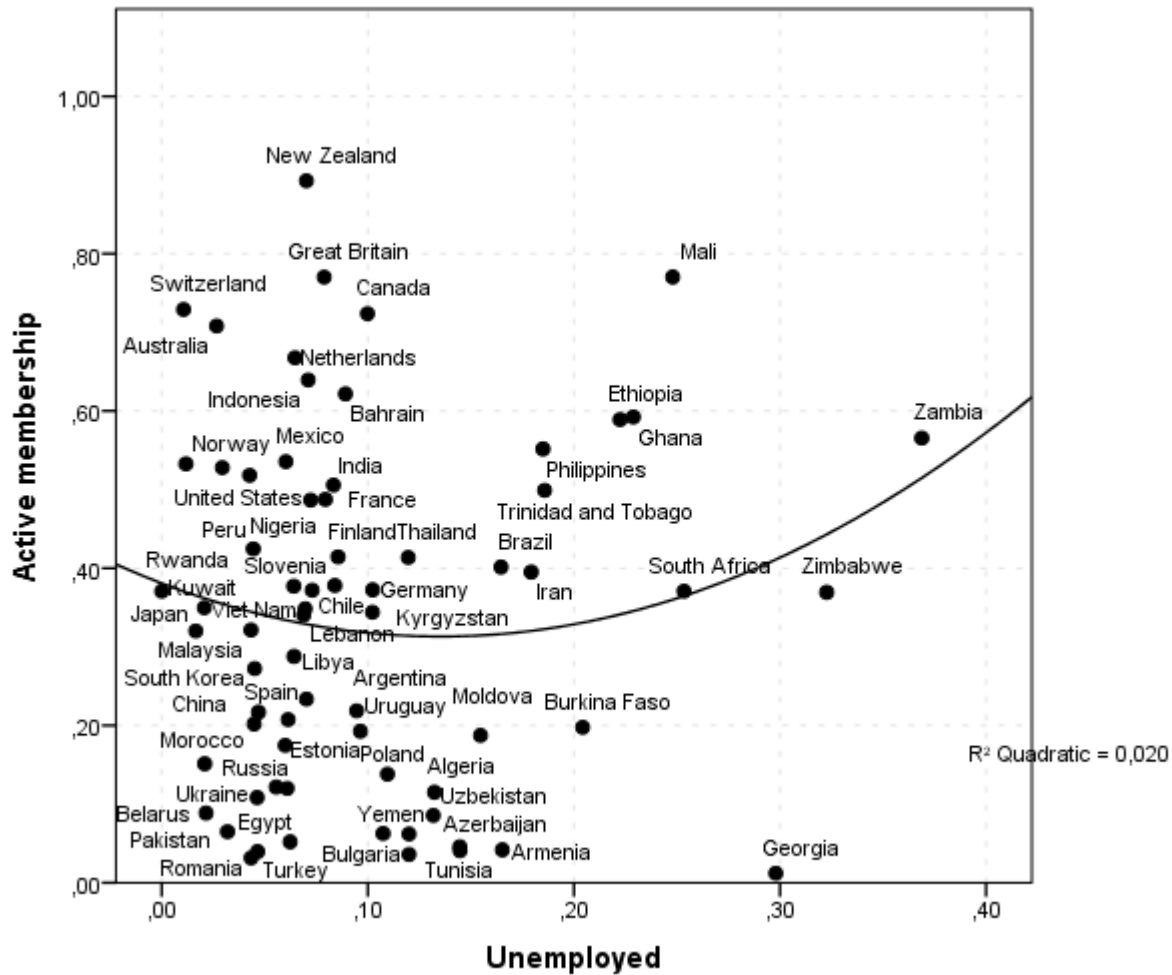


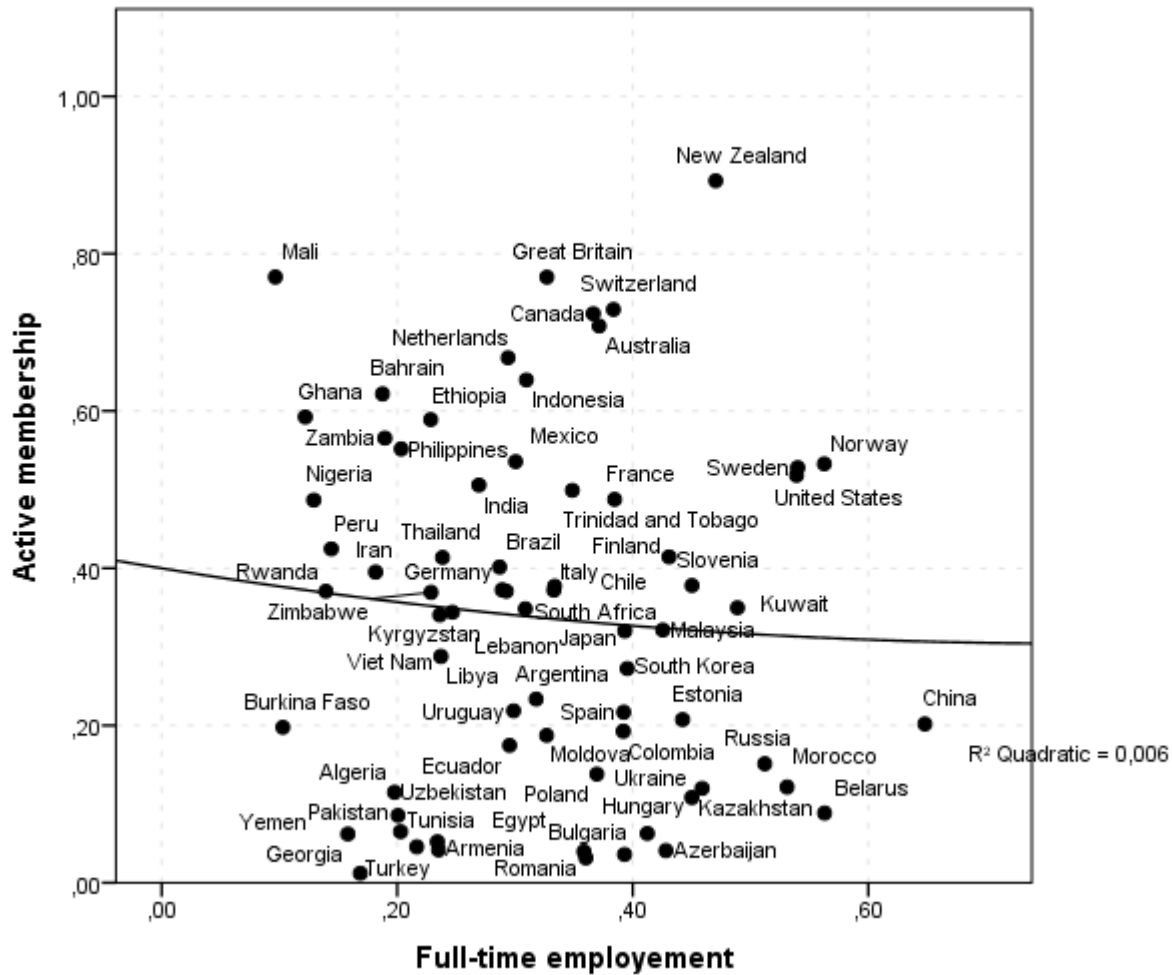
Active membership and inequality

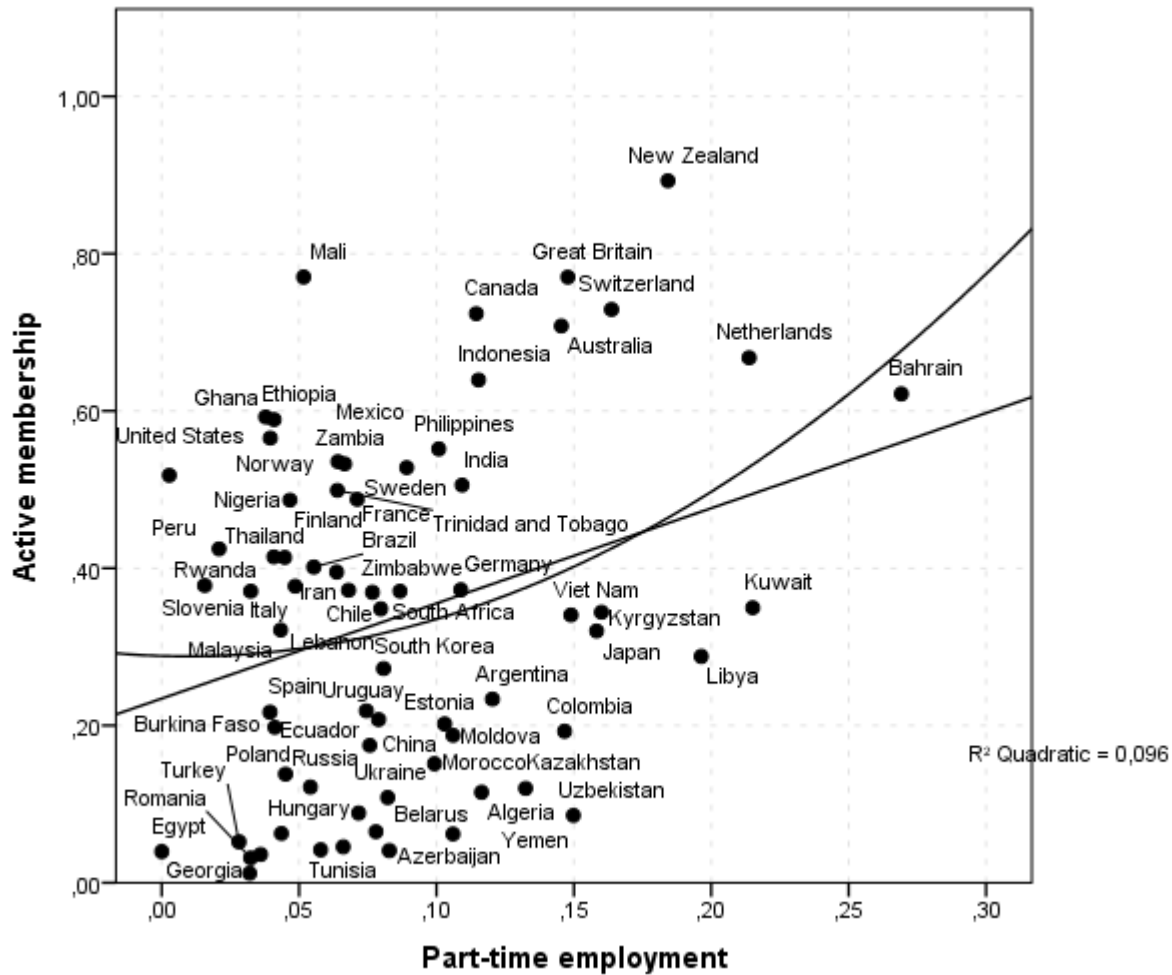


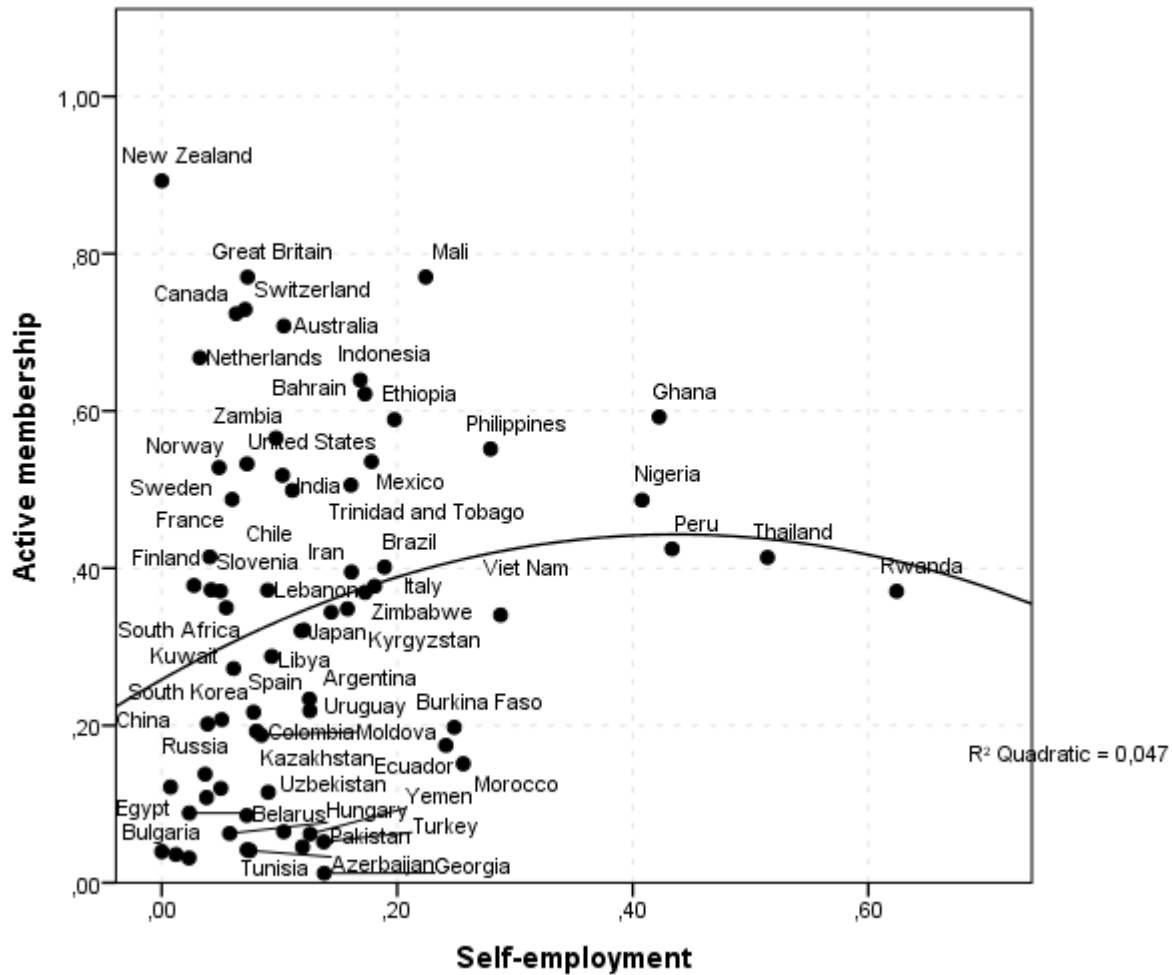
Active membership and Human empowerment

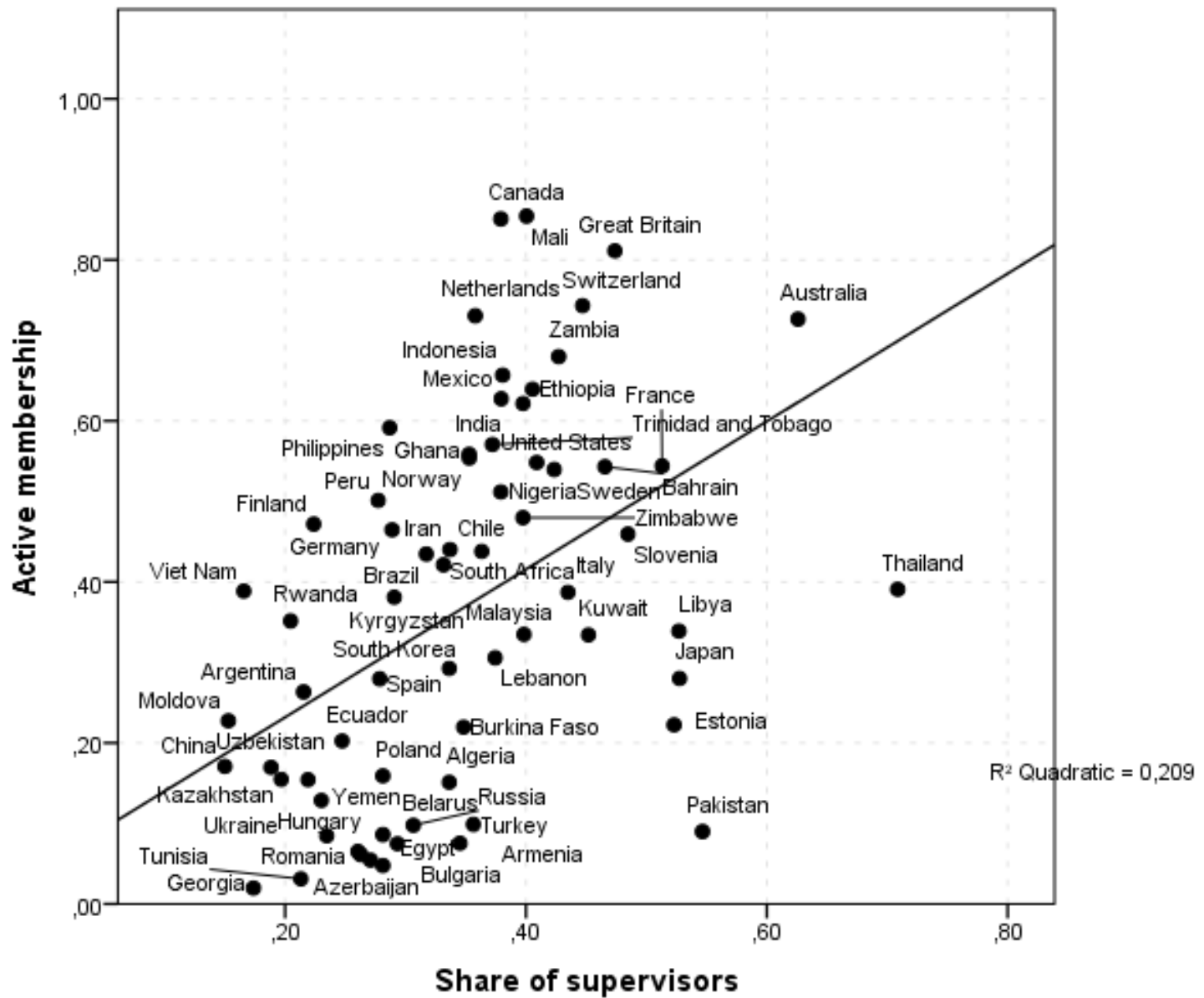


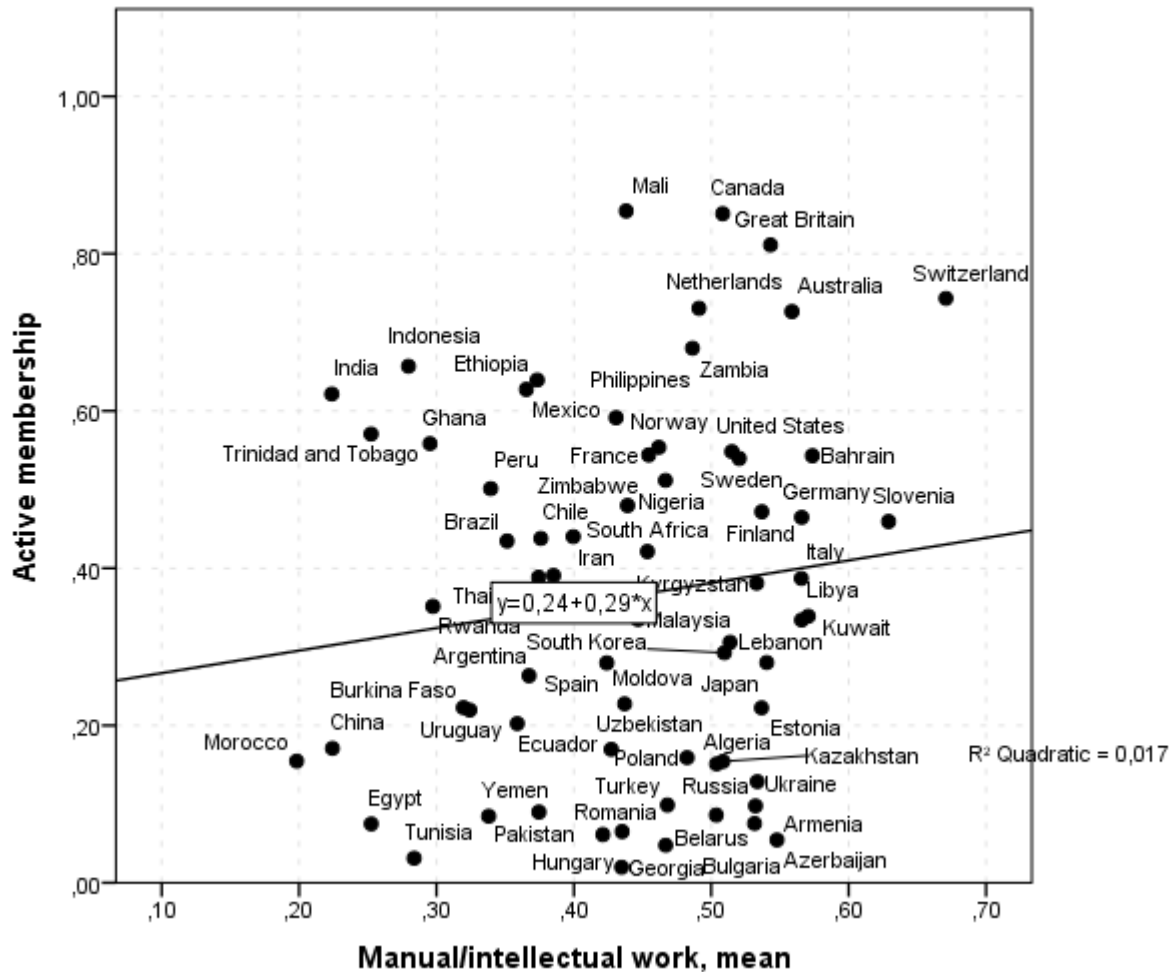


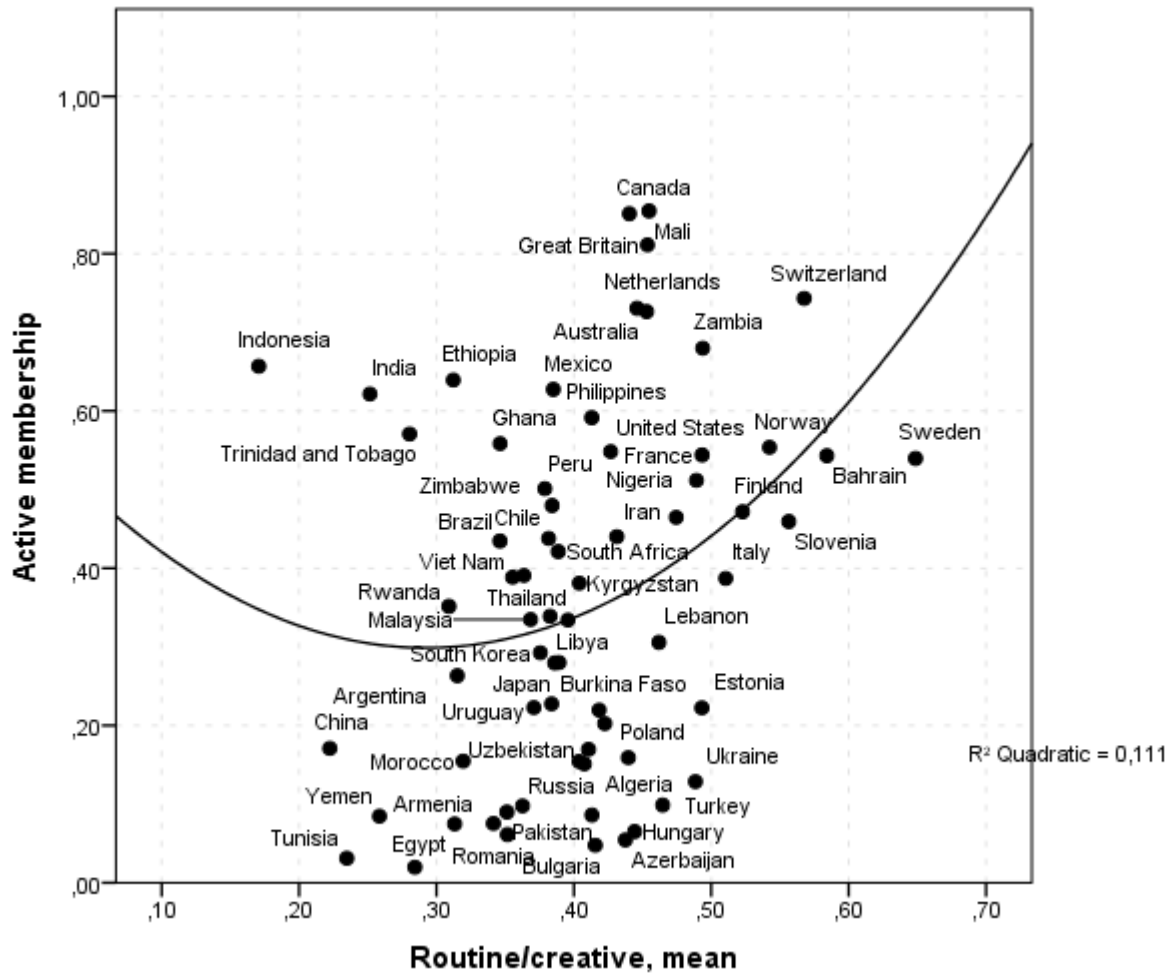


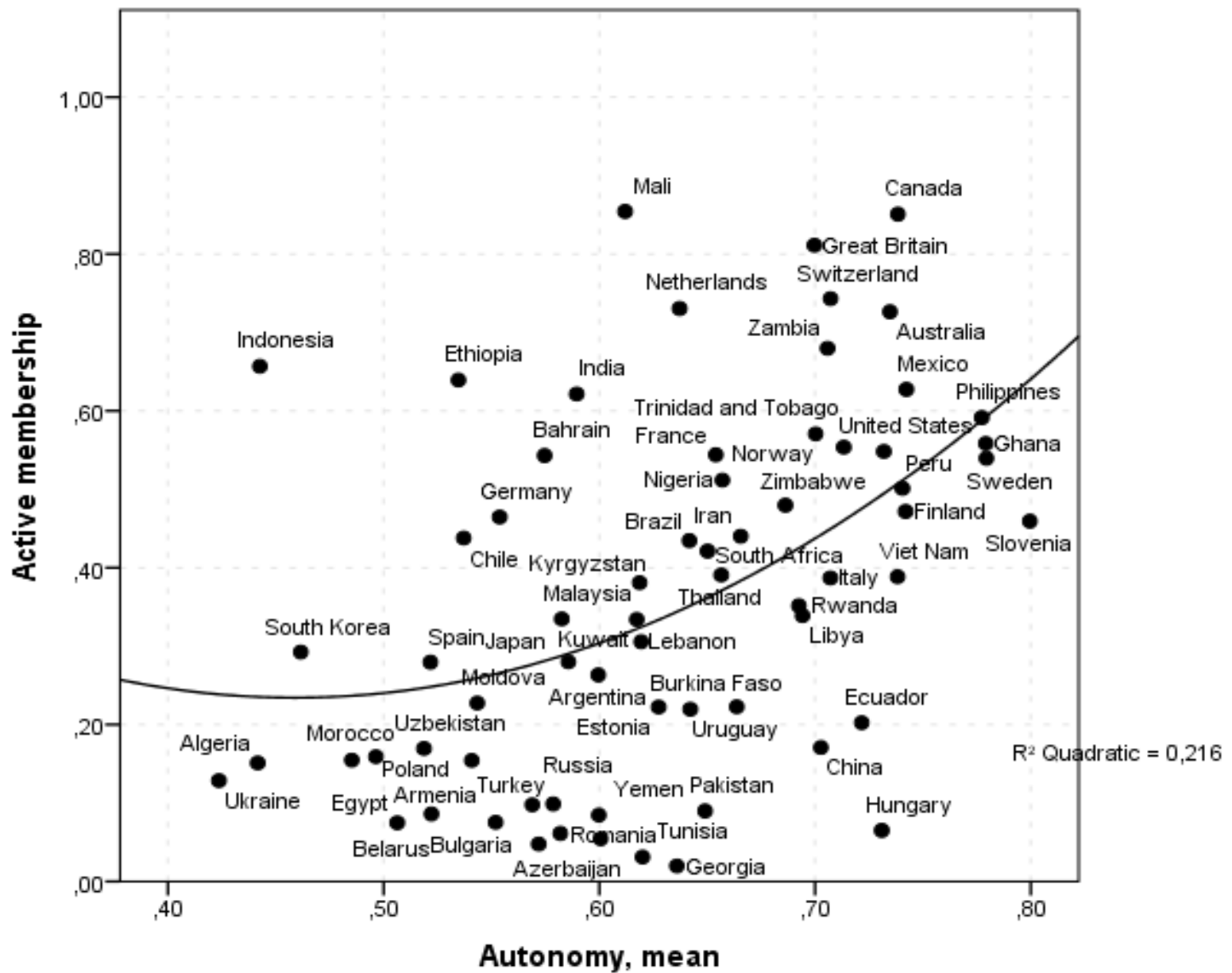


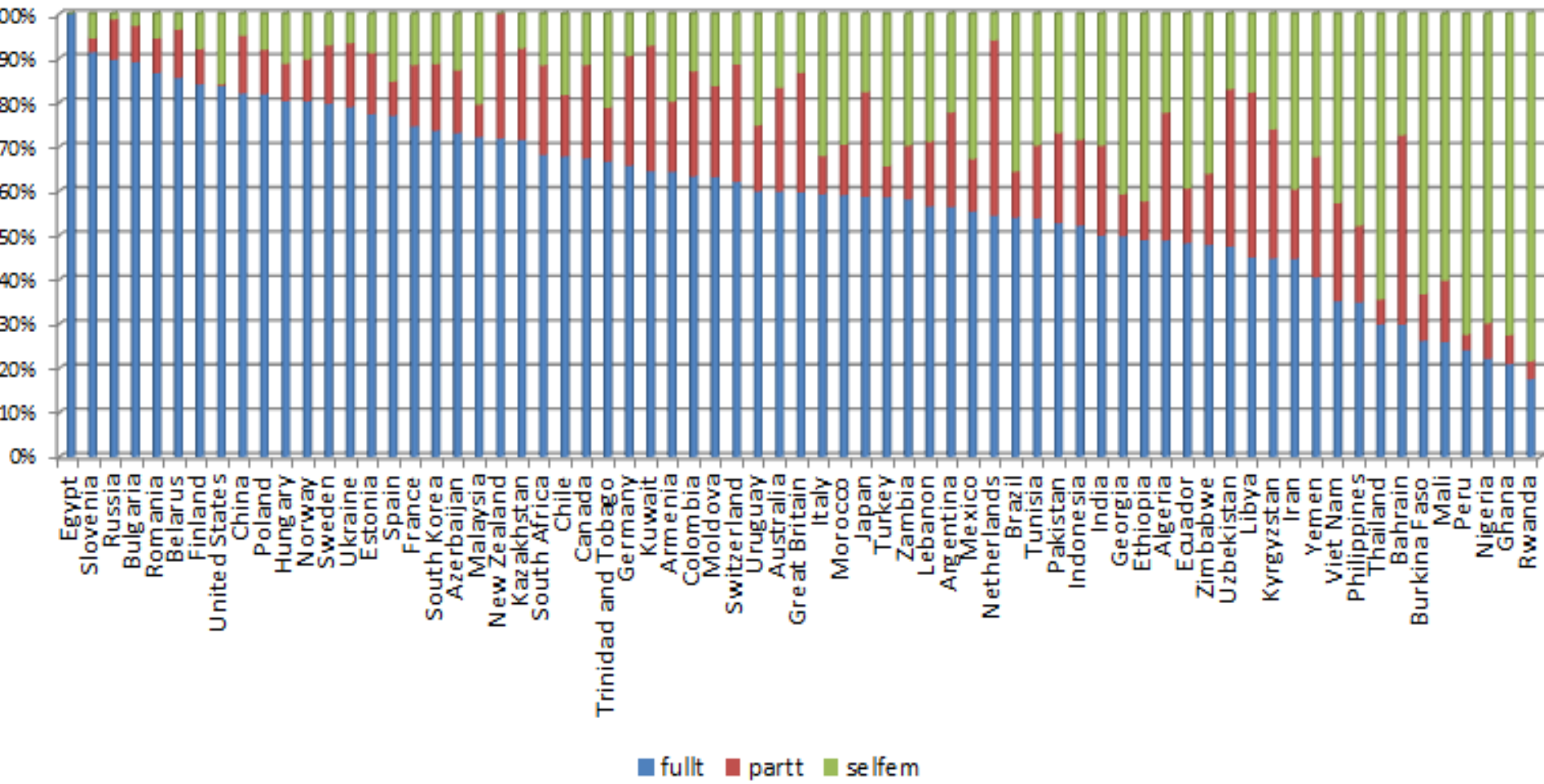












Associational freedom	Countries
0	Uzbekistan
1	Belarus
2	Viet Nam, Rwanda, Iran, Bahrain, Azerbaijan
3	Zimbabwe, Yemen, Kazakhstan, Jordan, Ethiopia, China, Kuwait
5	Russia, Malaysia, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Egypt, Colombia, Algeria
6	Thailand, Morocco, Moldova, Libya, Armenia
7	Turkey, Tunisia, Pakistan, Lebanon, Ecuador
8	Zambia, Ukraine, Philippines, Peru, Nigeria, Mexico
9	Mali, Indonesia, Burkina Faso
10	United States, Japan, Brazil
11	Trinidad and Tobago, South Korea, South Africa, Romania, India, Ghana, Bulgaria, Argentina
12	Uruguay, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Slovenia, Poland, Norway, New Zealand, Netherlands, Italy, Hungary, Great Britain, Germany, France, Finland, Estonia, Chile, Canada, Australia

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