

NATIONAL RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

Social capital as the source of SWB in the late life in Central and Eastern European countries

Anna Ermolina

Higher School of Economics, Institute for Social Policy, Research fellow Laboratory for Comparative Social Research, Associate Researcher E-mail: aermolna@hse.ru



Background

- Social support (Berkman, 2000; Lennartsson, 1999), social integration (Berkman, Glass, 2000), social cohesion (Kawachi, Berkman, 2000)
- Structural and cognitive components (Bain, Hicks, 1998)
- Multilevel approach (Subramanian, Kim & Kawachi, 2002; Poortinga, 2006; Yip et al., 2007)
- '... in none is the importance of social capital is well established as in the case of health and well-being' (Putman, 2000)



- 1. What forms of social capital have the most influence on SWB in the late life?
- 2. Does social capital operate at the individual or collective level?



Data & Methodology (1)

- ESS (2012)
- Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine
- 8867 individuals of 50 years and over



Data & Methodology (2)

- <u>Dependent variables</u>: subjective health, happiness, life satisfaction
- <u>Control variables</u>: age, gender, type of settlement, marital status, the highest level of education, employment status, number of household members living together, belonging to any religion or denomination
- <u>Independent variables</u>: the aggregated social trust indicator, political participation, voluntary activity, social activity, the frequency of social contacts,
- receiving help from close people, providing help to close people



Data & Methodology (3)

Ordinal regressions for **subjective health**, **happiness** and **life satisfaction** (Subramanian, Kim & Kawachi, 2002; Poortinga, 2006 ; Kim & Kawachi, 2006):

- 1. Sociodemographic characteristics (*Model 1*)
- 2. + social capital indicators at the individual level (*Model 2*)
- 3. + social capital indicators at the aggregated level (*Models 3a* and 3b**)
- 4. + interactions between social capital indicators at the individual and aggregated levels (*Models 4a* and 4b**)
- * The aggregated social capital indicator is (a) receiving support from close people; (b) providing support to close people



Life satisfaction in age gap across OECD countries and Russia



Eurostat (2013), *ESS (2012)

Higher School of Economics , Moscow, 2017



The frequency of contacts with friends

Daily



EU



100%

Hungary



Lithuania



Higher School of Economics, Moscow, 2017

Eurostat (2006), *ESS (2006)



Participation in social activities



Participation in activities of political parties or trade unions

■ 18 - 64 ■ 65+



Participation in informal voluntary activities

Higher School of Economics , Moscow, 2017

■ 18 - 64 ■ 65+



SWB in Central and Eastern European countries





Social capital in Central and Eastern European countries

	+	—
Social trust	Estonia, Lithuania, Slovenia	Poland, Slovakia
Social contacts	Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic	Hungary
Social activity	Ukraine	Slovakia
Voluntary activity	Slovakia, Slovenia	Hungary, Poland, Lithuania
Political activity	Czech Republic	Hungary, Ukraine
Receiving/ Providing help	Slovenia	Russia

Subjective health	Model 2	Model 3a	Model 3b	Model 4a	Model 4b
Social trust	0.129 (0.024)***	0.171 (0.025)***	0.183 (0.025)***	-0.410 (0.195)*	-0.470 (0.223)*
Social contacts (less than once a month)	-0.309 (0.067)***	-0.353 (0.067)***	-0.321 (0.067)***	-0.346 (0.067)***	-0.316 (0.067)***
Social contacts (less than once a week)	0.117 (0.056)*	0.060 (0.056)n.s.	0.064 (0.056)n.s.	0.062 (0.056)n.s.	0.066 (0.056)n.s.
Social activity compared to others of same age (much less than most)	-0.792 (0.150)***	-0.779 (0.151)***	-0.844 (0.151)***	-0.796 (0.151)***	-0.858 (0.151)***
Social activity compared to others of same age (less than most)	-0.441 (0.147)**	-0.532 (0.148)***	-0.594 (0.148)***	-0.551(0.148)***	-0.612 (0.148)***
Social activity compared to others of same age (about the same)	-0.435 (0.141)**	-0.450 (0.142)***	-0.480 (0.142)***	-0.467 (0.142)***	-0.494 (0.142)***
Social activity compared to others of same age (more than most)	-0.378 (0.151)*	-0.417 (0.152)**	-0.428 (0.152)**	-0.425 (0.152)**	-0.436 (0.152)**
Voluntary activity (never)	-0.211 (0.060)***	-0.274 (0.061)***	-0.268 (0.061)***	0.478 (0.471)n.s.	0.308 (0.525)n.s.
Political activity (no)	-0.026 (0.062)n.s.	-0.038 (0.062)n.s.	-0.013 (0.063)n.s.	-0.035 (0.062)n.s.	-0.008 (0.063)n.s.
Receiving help (below median)	-0.075 (0.060)n.s.	-0.024 (0.060)n.s.	-0.026 (0.060)n.s.	-0.040 (0.060)n.s.	-0.041 (0.061)n.s.
Providing help (below median)	-0.476 (0.062)***	-0.397 (0.063)***	-0.366 (0.063)***	-0.389 (0,063)***	-0.359 (0.063)***
Receiving help		4.832 (0.328)***		4.606 (0.361)***	
Providing help			6.253 (0.348)***		6.112 (0.384)***
Receiving help (national level) * Voluntary activity (individual level)				1.210 (0.758)n.s.	
Receiving help (national level) * Social trust (individual level)				0.928 (0.308)**	
Providing help (national level) * Voluntary activity (individual level)					0.842 (0.771)n.s.
Providing help (national level) * Social trust (individual level)					0.957 (0.325)**
Psevdo R-squared (Koks и Snell)	0.167	0.193	0.206	0.194	0.2072
Number of observations	6878	6878	6878	6878	6878

Happiness	Model 2	Model 3a	Model 3b	Model 4a	Model 4b
Social trust	0.262 (0.022)***	0.276 (0.023)***	0.286 (0.023)***	0.086 (0.179)n.s.	0.117 (0.204)n.s.
Social contacts (less than once a month)	-0.249 (0.061)***	-0.261 (0.061)***	-0.251 (0.061)***	-0.263 (0.061)***	-0.254 (0.061)***
Social contacts (less than once a week)	0.076 (0.051)n.s.	0.060 (0.051)n.s.	0.058 (0.051)n.s.	0.060 (0.051)n.s.	0.057 (0.051)n.s.
Social activity compared to others of same age (much less than most)	-0.583 (0.137)***	-0.584 (0.137)***	-0.617 (0.137)***	-0.589 (0.137)***	-0.621 (0.137)***
Social activity compared to others of same age (less than most)	-0.369 (0.134)**	-0.401 (0.134)**	-0.439 (0.134)***	-0.409 (0.134)**	-0.448 (0.134)***
Social activity compared to others of same age (about the same)	-0.315 (0.128)*	-0.323 (0.128)*	-0.342 (0.128)**	-0.329 (0.129)**	-0.347 (0.129)**
Social activity compared to others of same age (more than most)	-0.018 (0.137)n.s.	-0.035 (0.137)n.s.	-0.049 (0.137)n.s.	-0.041 (0.137)n.s.	-0.058 (0.138)n.s.
Voluntary activity (never)	-0.131 (0.056)*	-0.147 (0.056)**	-0.151 (0.056)**	-0.540 (0.430)n.s.	-0.926 (0.479)*
Political activity (no)	-0.044 (0.057)n.s.	-0.050 (0.057)n.s.	-0.041 (0.509)n.s.	-0.047 (0.057)n.s.	-0.037 (0.057)n.s.
Receiving help (below median)	-0.725 (0.056)***	-0.715 (0.056)***	-0.716 (0.056)***	-0.720 (0.056)***	-0.721 (0.056)***
Providing help (below median)	-0.502 (0.058)***	-0.476 (0.058)***	-0.455 (0.058)***	-0.476 (0.058)***	-0.457 (0.058)***
Receiving help		1.495 (0.302)***		1.624 (0.330)***	
Providing help			2.503 (0.321)***		2.748 (0.351)***
Receiving help (national level) * Voluntary activity (individual level)				-0.642 (0.693)n.s.	
Receiving help (national level) * Social trust (individual level)				0.304 (0.282)n.s.	
Providing help (national level) * Voluntary activity (individual level)					-1.149 (0.704)n.s.
Providing help (national level) * Social trust (individual level)					0.250 (0.297)n.s.
Psevdo R-squared (Koks и Snell)	0.220	0.223	0.227	0.223	0.227

Life satisfaction	Model 2	Model 3a	Model 3b	Model 4a	Model 4b
Social trust	0.342 (0.022)***	0.357 (0.023)***	0.372 (0.023)***	0.693 (0.176)***	0.823 (0.202)***
Social contacts (less than once a month)	-0.101 (0.060)*	-0.114 (0.060)*	-0.106 (0.060)*	-0.114 (0.061)*	-0.107 (0.060)*
Social contacts (less than once a week)	0.118 (0.051)*	0.100 (0.051)*	0.093 (0.051)*	0.101 (0.051)*	0.093 (0.051)*
Social activity compared to others of same age (much less than most)	-0.301 (0.135)*	-0.302 (0.135)*	-0.336 (0.135)**	-0.295 (0.135)*	-0.330 (0.135)*
Social activity compared to others of same age (less than most)	-0.182 (0.132)n.s.	-0.214 (0.132)n.s.	-0.260 (0.132)*	-0.206 (0.133)n.s.	-0.251 (0.133)*
Social activity compared to others of same age (about the same)	-0.136 (0.127)n.s.	-0.142 (0.127)n.s.	-0.160 (0.127)n.s.	-0.133 (0.127)n.s.	-0.151 (0.127)n.s.
Social activity compared to others of same age (more than most)	0.115 (0.136)n.s.	0.101 (0.136)n.s.	0.084 (0.136)n.s.	0.104 (0.136)n.s.	0.086 (0.136)n.s.
Voluntary activity (never)	-0.151 (0.055)**	-0.171 (0.055)**	-0.180 (0.055)***	-0.283 (0.425)n.s.	-0.504 (0.473)n.s.
Political activity (no)	0.177 (0.056)**	0.180 (0.056)***	0.197 (0.056)***	0.178 (0.056)**	0.194 (0.056)***
Receiving help (below median)	-0.400 (0.054)***	-0.389 (0.055)***	-0.390 (0.055)***	-0.380 (0.055)***	-0.380 (0.055)***
Providing help (below median)	-0.296 (0.057)***	-0.267 (0.057)***	-0.237 (0.057)***	-0.271 (0.057)***	-0.243 (0.057)***
Receiving help		1.524 (0.299)***		1.555 (0.327)***	
Providing help			2.922 (0.317)***		3.001 (0.348)***
Receiving help (national level) * Voluntary activity (individual level)				-0.176 (0.685)n.s.	
Receiving help (national level) * Social trust (individual level)				-0.537 (0.278)*	
Providing help (national level) * Voluntary activity (individual level)					-0.474 (0.696)n.s.
Providing help (national level) * Social trust (individual level)					-0.661 (0.293)*
Psevdo R-squared (Koks и Snell)	0.178	0.181	0.188	0.182	0.1894
Number of observations	6839	6839	6839	6839	6839



Conclusion

- All forms of social capital positively relate to people's SWB except political activity
- □ Social trust has the largest influence on life satisfaction
- The frequency of social contacts is more crucial for subjective health
- At the national level receiving/providing help from/to close people have the most significant impact on people's SWB
- Cross-level interactions: receiving/providing help from/to close (national level) and social trust (individual level)