

# **Social Capital in Central and Eastern Europe before and after the Transition**

*Moderators:*

**Irén Kukorelli - Zoltán Csizmadia**



# The social capital before transition

- “Dictatorship and especially totalitarianism destroys social capital” (Paldman – Svendsen 2000)
- The social capital was weakened under an officially planned, organized and controlled mechanism
- the one of fundamental aims of state-socialism was to build distrust, cynicism, systematic “atomisation”, and “clientization” which caused the vanish of civic networks
- The deep-structure of the Eastern and Central European society disintegrated
- Socialism as a system destroyed this kind of capital, therefore the transitional societies had to start with minimal social capital in the 90s
- and they have a considerable “time-loss”

# The role of social capital in the transition decade

**The missing link in the development process:  
the (shortage of) “positive”, normal social capital  
therefore  
They have to reinforce it because...**

- social capital is an essential resource in the transition from non-democratic, non-market regimes to market democracy
- an important factor of production and economic, rural and social development
- develop horizontal and vertical connections and integration to improve the partnership

# The Controversial Social Capital

## Positive (normal)

- civic engagement,
- trust,
- friendship,
- acquaintances
- solidarity

## Negative (grey/black networks)

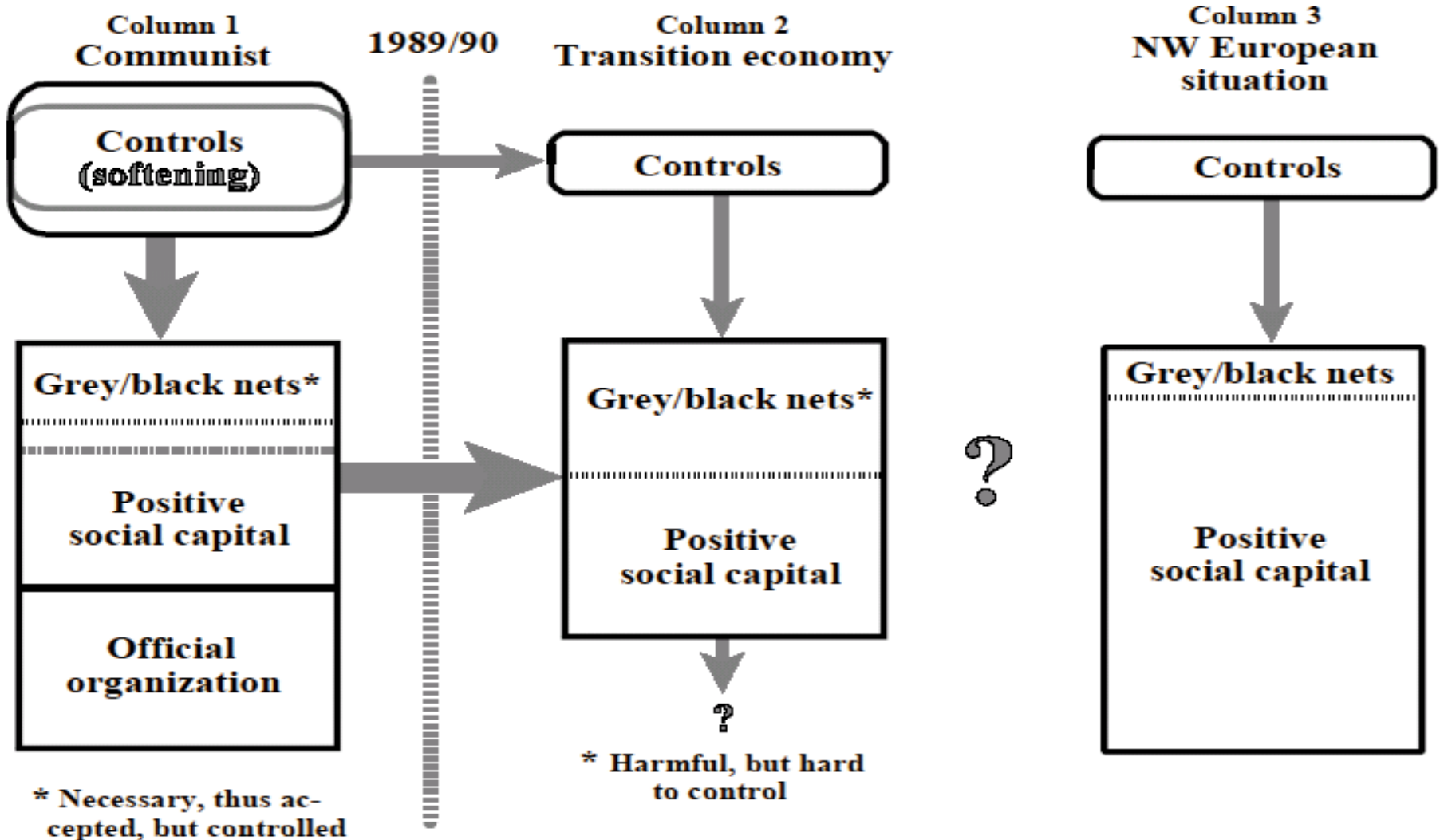
- corruption,
- mafias,
- gangs,
- clientism

Mixed structure

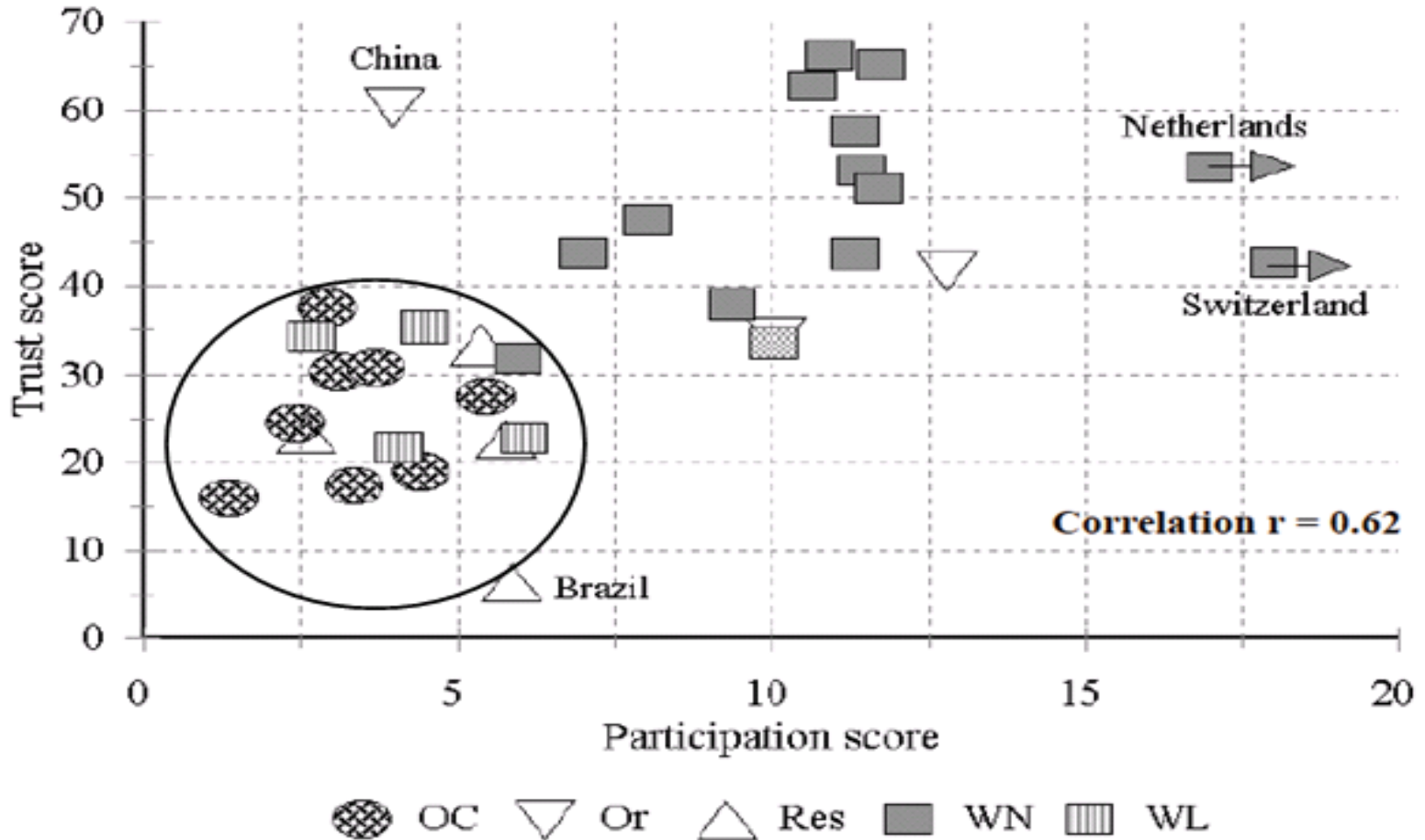
Mainly the proportion changed during the last 10-15 years

# The development of social capital in the CEE-countries

Paldam – Svendsen (2000)



# Generalized trust and perceived political participation in 33 countries, World Values Survey (WSV) 1995



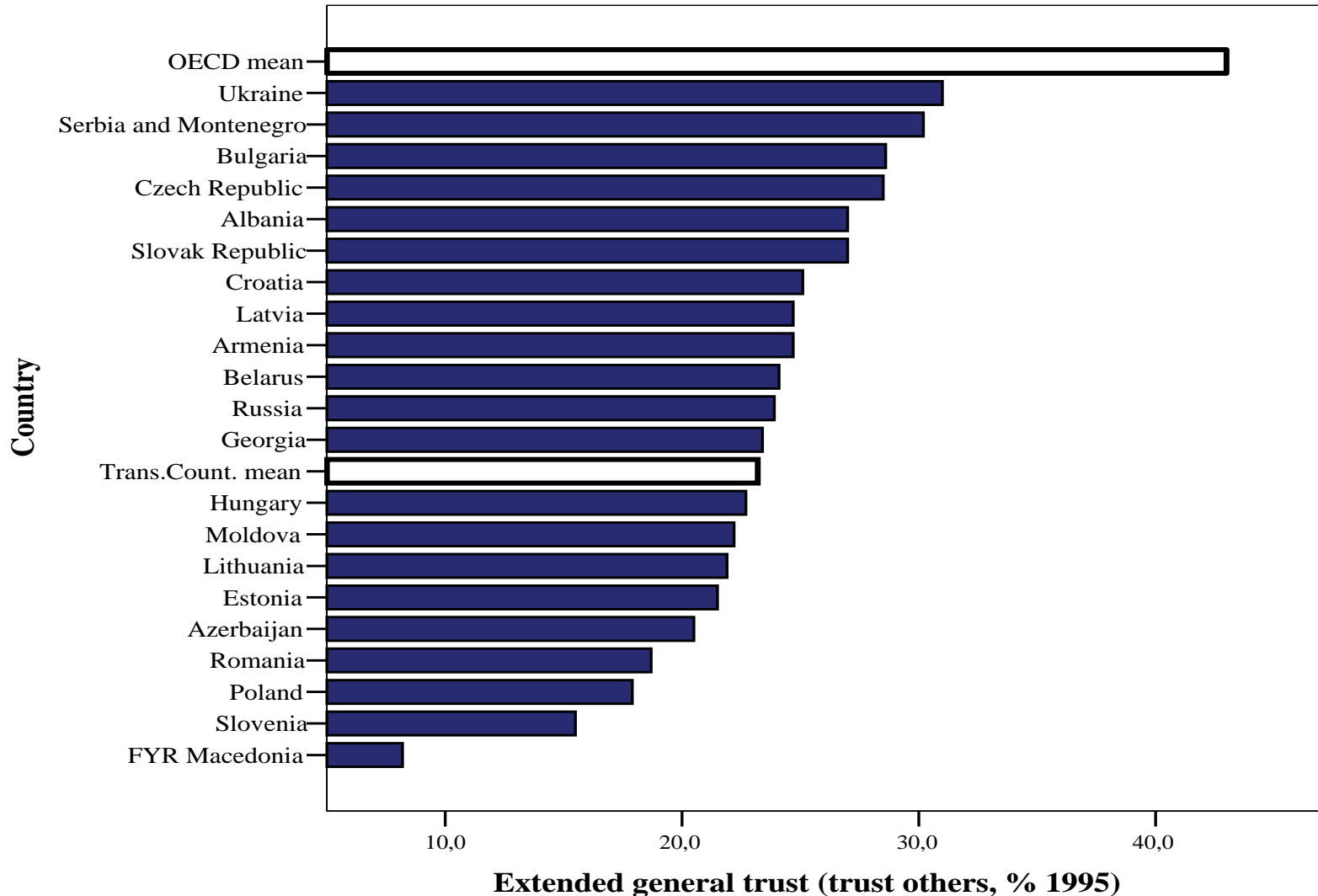
Symbols: OC: CEE countries, WN: Western-North, WL: Western-Latina, Or: Oriental countries, Res: Remaining

Resource: Paldam – Svendsen 2000: 14.

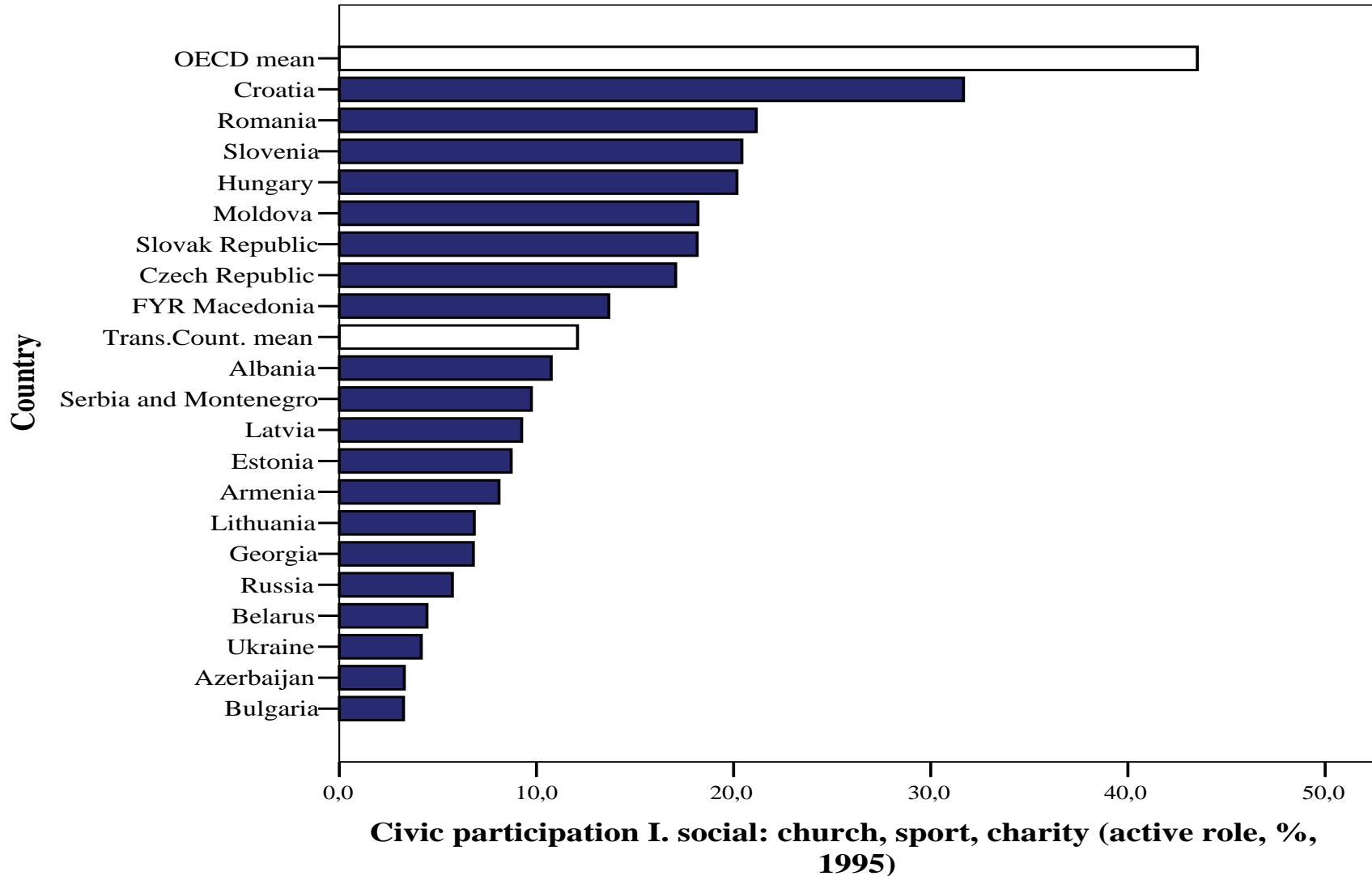


# Extended trust in transition - percentage of respondents that say they trust other people (generally),

## World Values Survey (WVS), 1995



# Civic participation in transition - percentage of respondents who are active (not just a member!) in civic organizations, World Values Survey (WVS), 1995

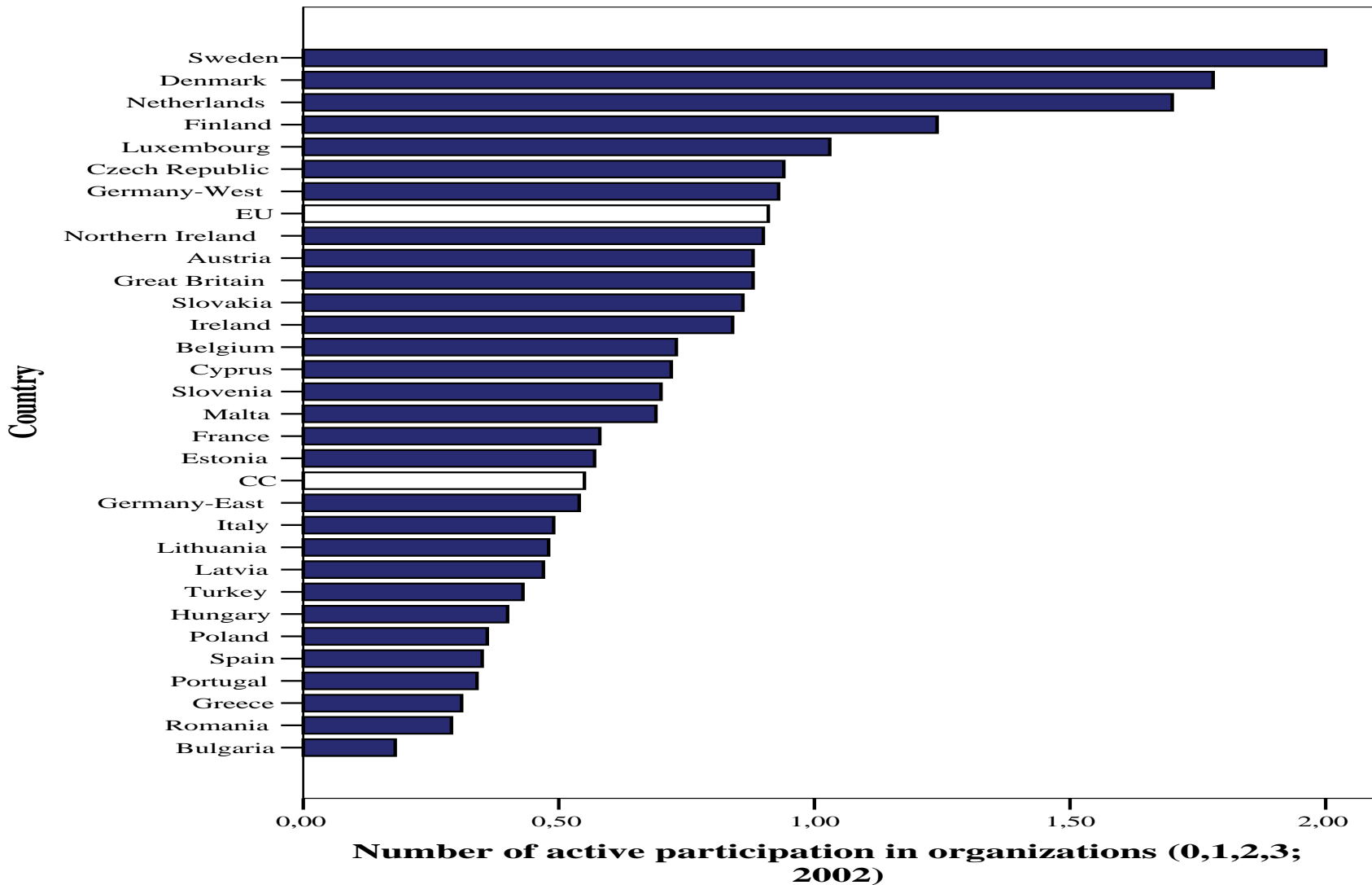






# Civic participation – the number of active participation in various voluntary organizations,

## Candidate Countries Eurobarometer (CCEB) and Standard Eurobarometer 2002



# The main indicators of improving social capital in Hungary

The number of nonprofit organisations between 1982 és 1999 in Hungary

Year	Foundation	Other nonprofit organisation	Total
1982	-	6 570	6 570
1989	400	8 396	8 796
1990	1 865	14 080	15 945
1996	17 109	28 207	45 316
1999	19 754	28 417	48 171

Source: Hungarian Central Saistical Office

# Improving the social capital in Hungary

## Pro

- to increase the number of civil organisation
- the civil movements appeared from zero level
- to increase the identity mainly in the rural microregions (micro-region organisation named by geographical region)

## Cons

- the people (mainly the less-educated and rural people) do not believe in that they can intervene in their future
- this group of people do not believe in the possibility of change

# Questions

- Can the Eastern and Centre European Countries make up for handicap? and HOW?
- Is there any chance to develop the social capital in rural society? And what kind of tools with?
- We are looking forward your experiences from your own countries?