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## **Work involvement factors of voluntary bodies or charities in European countries**

*The paper deals with the factors of involvement in the work of voluntary or philanthropic organizations in European countries. Multiple linear regression and correlation analysis based on the data of the third wave of European Social Survey (ESS-3) were used to reveal the above mentioned issue. The analysis has shown that socio-economic factors and key components of the social capital – trust to people and communication with other people – proved to be uninfluential. Other components of the social capital (active aid to other people, help or participation in local arrangements), and socio-political practices proved to be most influential and widely-spread among population of most European countries. The behavioral character of these influential factors is common for them.*

**Keywords:** *work in voluntary or philanthropic organizations, involvement factors*

### ***Introduction***

Participation in the activities of voluntary bodies and charities – an important component of civil society development. As a result of mutual influence and interaction in associations their members gain experience of being responsible for group decisions. People of different social groups embodied in an association become far more moderate and tolerant. Among many reasons motivating people to join into groups – is decentralization of political system that stimulates growth of number of groups and diversity of ways to access management to realize their own interests. Public organizations are mainly focused on specialized interests. Although sometimes activity of such organizations spread over into social issues of a larger scale. Historically these groups became spokespeople of the modern-

ization era and one of the main forms of civil society structuring. T. Parsons marked out such important traits of associations as egalitarianism, voluntariness, compliance with procedures of decision-making [Parsons, 1998: p. 41–43]. At the same time he thought that first associations were Christian sects, independent of ascriptively formed communities (ethnic or territorial) and focused on defined religious tasks related to saving of the soul of each individual human [Parsons, 1998: p. 47–48]. Sociologists are also inclined to connect their activity in voluntary associations with a high degree of social differentiation, which is the consequence of modernization. In S. Huntington's judgement, politically developed society differs from undeveloped first and foremost with quantity, value and effectiveness of the voluntary bodies existing in it [Huntington, 2004: p. 105]. In complex societies rises a demand for creation of multiple organizations and groups to achieve goals.

In studies of people's involvement in Ukraine's public organizations attention is paid to the dynamics of changes of socio-demographical characteristics of its members [Avuyeva, 2003; Bekeshkina, 2008; Stegnyy, 2007]. It appears that members of public and political organizations stand out by having a higher level of education and interest in politics, Internet usage, commitment to activistic and democratic values and belonging to the middle class. IT has been noted that western region's populace is more predisposed to membership in organizations than others. Moreover, it turns out that participation in religious organizations and church communities is appropriate for the western part of Ukraine while for the eastern part – membership in political parties is appropriate. These results allow outlining of the approximate social portrait of the members of socio-political organizations. In the direct study of the factors of membership in public organizations, partial influence of the ideological and regional delimitation, education, interest in politics and political identification is shown. Yet the biggest and most stable influence in public organizations is provided by active leisure skills, like sports, in particular [Reznik, 2009].

The attained results of the studies, however, mostly show singular slice of the sociological information relative to the probable formal participation in a public organization. It lacks fixation of dependencies that could state connection to long participation in the work of these organizations. There exists a demand for the application of statistical methods, capable of adequate reproduction of elements of theoretical groundworks in case of stability determinants and repeatability of behavioural forms of functioning of civil society in context of differences of political and socio-economic development of different European countries.

### ***Theoretical methods***

From the vast amount of theoretical methods that explain work involvement factors of voluntary bodies and charities, some prove to be effective and practically significant in modern empirical studies. Socio-economic status, which is traditionally defined as an income, career, and education level etc. derivative is considered by socio-economical method as an incentive for civic activities and participation in voluntary body. A high socio-economical status gives advan-

tages to a person, because it grants possession of information, skills and competence that are needed. It also assists adoption of the essential standards and models of civic behavior (including the sense of a civic duty), that may stick out as motives of involvement of a person into voluntary bodies, that allow acquisition of experience and needed support from official authorities. Socio-economic status is determined by distribution of the following social resources: education, which forms the habit of looking for new information, readiness to acquire new skills and ability to self-mobilize; money, availability of which frees up time for participation in civic activities; high social status and prestige, to the bearers of which authorities listen to more willingly; and finally, separate behavioural skills, for example, ability to skillfully state his demands in a simple manner that is acceptable for politicians and bureaucrats. While studying issue of stratification of political activity, Verba, Schlozman and Brady applied the Civic Voluntarism Model. Basic factors of this model are resources, motivation and mobilization [Verba, Schlozman, Brady, 1995: p. 269–273; Verba, 2005]. All three of these factors mutually amplify each other and provide cumulative political advantages to its bearers. However, the study proves that resource shortage impedes activity far stronger than lack of motivation though both motivation and resources play a certain role. At the same time, it has been established “that activity connected with money expenditures is directly dependent on the education, while the activity, which is connected with money expenditures is dependent on the income and only indirectly – on education by virtue of its influence on the income level. Activity, connected with income level and based on money, rather directed at rich and at politics, that assists the wealthy ones; activity connected to education and timetable provided greater influence in politics to the informed and tolerant” [Verba, 2005: c. 981]. This way, distinction between influence of education and influence of income makes social traits of civic activity more expressive, while factors of timetable differentiation and money expenditure exposes the nature of civic activity.

Determinants of the civic society usually are explained by the theory of the social capital. Social capital has various manifestations in traditions of civic culture of certain countries. According to theory of social capital civic activity is caused by an accumulated social resource or to be more precise by residing in informal networks, activities in the public organizations and by trust in people and social institutes [Demkiv, 2004]. Namely, socio-cultural factors prevailed in the empirical study of the civic activity in modern Italy, which was conducted by a composite author headed by R. Putnam. Density of the membership in associations is first of all connected with the level of interpersonal trust between citizens and their perception of the level of mutuality and cooperation [Putnam, 2001: p. 199–226.]. Operationalization of social capital is used in other empirical studies, where besides the early mentioned often are used such factors as collective efficiency, sense of commonality, neighbors solidarity, community awareness. Along with this important factor there are outside home connections, particularly active participation in the local life. Length of residency on a certain territory, regular contacts with friends, relatives, neighbors and presence of relatives living in close vicinity itself assists acceleration of an individual in a social structure [Fahmy, 2006: p. 63–65]. It is exactly propensity for social interaction based

on the place of residency that makes an individual able to reach mutual understanding with like-minded people. Ability to interact in the process of involvement into a voluntary body forms cooperation skills, that help forming horizontal networks of civic society.

One more important involvement factor in public associations is considered to be – experience of political participation. Separate kinds of political participation that provide skills of social interaction, contacting the authorities, collecting signatures for petitions etc. simultaneously help such important for the civil society democratic skills as as tolerancy [Diamond, 1999; Hooghe, 2003]. This kind of explanation of formation of behavioural forms of civil society gives a concept of civil practices in a transitory society [Reznik, 2011]. This concept examines civic activity as an incarnation of aspiration to realize socio-political reforms of an active part of a transitory society. In that way, civic practices are systematic, reproductable and constant actions of different social entities (individuals and groups) in public sphere, appearing to be a form of realization of their own interests and providing existence, reproduction and transformation of social and political institutes. Through civic practices becomes apparent a phenomenon of civic-mindedness – civilian's recognition of one's rights and responsibilities in the life of the country, creation of conditions for a most exhaustive uncovering of one's potential, one's creative self-expression. In the process of institutionalization of public sphere as an informal network for exchange of information and standpoints its subjects acquire organizational skills and airing of one's views, this way producing civic practices. On the other hand, political authorities gradually develop an ability to apprehend public opinion and listen to it. Therefore, public opinion acquires controlling functions through civic practices. Moment of public's transitory state stresses the sphere of politics, as it is in this conditions transformation of the political space perpetually occurs. If public organizations involvement in stable democratic communities can be determined by social capital of active individuals, then organizational type of civic activities of a society in a transitory state is mainly combined with socio-political practices.

And finally, empirical studies of participation in public organizations show a limited amount of influential factors. In one of the earliest empirical studies of factors of participation in public associations, a link between socio-economic status and readiness to participate was exposed [Scott, 1957]. A comparative study showed a noticeable influence of such factors as education (among better-educated people level of participation is higher), age (the older people become the higher level of participation gets), employment (fully employed are more inclined to participate than partially employed). Yet such factors as gender, marital status, type of settlement people live in were revealed to have sufficiently low influence [Curtis, Grabb, Baer, 1992]. Similar results were also reported in a British study [Moyser, Parry, 1997]. These conclusions have something in common with points of a civic voluntarism model in relation to importance of resource factors. A comparative study that was conducted in 33 democratic countries showed that voluntary membership in associations is more integral among those nations for which these conditions are met: (1) multiconfessional Christian and predominantly protestant religious formations, (2) long and constant functioning of democratic institutions, (3) socio-democratic or liberal-democratic political

systems and (4) high level of economic development. Among nations that meet such conditions are Americans, Canadians, Dutch and Scandinavian nations [Curtis, Baer, Grabb, 2001]. These results should be accounted for as evidence of influence of religious factor. Moreover, Nai and Verba in their political participation determination model along with political involvement factors and party identification applied such psychological factor as sense of personal involvement in one's community affairs [Verba, Nie, 1987]. This factor exposes a link between personality and community, confidence in importance of one's contribution to public benefit, and therefore formation of the sense of "Us", that is undoubtedly assists collective forms of activity.

On the one hand, economic examination of the theory of social capital shows substantial correlation of all types of civic activities with involvement in voluntary activities and informal networks. Although it is paradoxical that connection between civic activities and trust to others was revealed to be negative [Pattie, Seyd, Whiteley, 2003: p. 458]. Other empirical studies also revealed a weak connection of the social capital model, especially trust factor to civic activity [Fahmy, 2003; Fahmy, 2006]. In a similar study in Ukraine, only one of the factors of social capital had a strong, but negative influence on a dependent variable in the latest years – trust between family members and relatives. Notably a link is traced between absence of trust between family members and relatives and participation in public organizations. Here the case in question is not about the denial of concept of social capital, but about a person not finding understanding and support from his household members, that looks for such among like-minded people in public organizations [Reznik, 2011: p. 260–264].

Thus, analysis of empirical studies of work involvement factors of voluntary bodies and charities, all in all, proved effectiveness of the topics theoretical groundworks. Comparative cross-cultural sociological studies show, that most reproduced are socio-economic factors (education, income and employment) and key operational factors of the social capital (trust in people, mutual assistance, regular contacts with people at the place of residency, participation in the local community's life etc.). Besides, religious practices should be taken into account in the analysis of participation in voluntary associations. Attention towards socio-political practices looks promising for the methodological application in our study.

### ***Data description***

Empirical base is formed by the body of the third wave of the international comparative project "European Social Survey" (ESS-3), that was conducted through the years of 2006–2007. In the questionnaire of the third wave of study were questions that were directed at studying the issues of civic activity. A survey is conducted once in every two years among populace of European countries and is focused on the important sociological indices under a common for all countries programme and sample group, which is representative of the European countries' adult populace. The survey was conducted in Ukraine by Ukrainian Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences employees; a "SOCIS" firm's polling circuit was used through a random (zoned) sample group. The sam-

pled population was made up of Ukraine's citizens, age 15 and above. Ukraine's head of the project and national representative in the executive committee of the ESS project is E. Golovaha, national coordinator is A. Gorbachik, national expert at that time was N. Panina. Funding of the project's implementation in Ukraine was provided by the Ukraine's National Academy of Sciences and the "Vidrodzhennya" fund.

### ***Procedure and research methodology***

To identify work involvement factors of voluntary bodies and charities in European countries method of multiple linear regressions was applied. This method allows a most precise study of influence of different factors on the dependent variable with an ordinal scale. To build a multiple linear regression a method of automatic input of factors of a model (Enter) was applied, because it allows to demonstrate clearly the influence of all the variety of certain factors through the determination coefficient  $R^2$ . As a variable an order variable E1 was used (by the question answered: "Within the last 12 months, how often did you participate in any voluntary socially beneficial activities or any charities?"), measured on an 6 point scale with the available responses: "1 – at least once in a week; 2 – at least once in a month; 3 – at least once in every 3 months; 4 – at least once in every six months"; 5 – even more rarely; 6 – never". As independent variables used in the body of ESS-3 (for more detail see : *Appendix*), the next factors were selected: 1) socio-economic resources(education, employment, income); 2) social capital (trust in people, communication with other people, active assistance to other people, participation in local events); 3) religious practices (regular church attendance for the purpose of praying); 4) socio-political practices (behavioural forms of political participation).

To sort the factors based on the relative strength of influence of these variables on the dependable order variable, a connection that was based on the Pearson's coefficient (Pearson's  $R$ ) was measured, which along with the explanation of strength of the connection also showed the type of connection (from -1 to 1), namely a straight line, positive or a negative feedback. First and foremost, to reveal a statistical link, coefficients' significance must be taken into account (sig.), which shouldn't exceed the value of "0,05".

### ***Results***

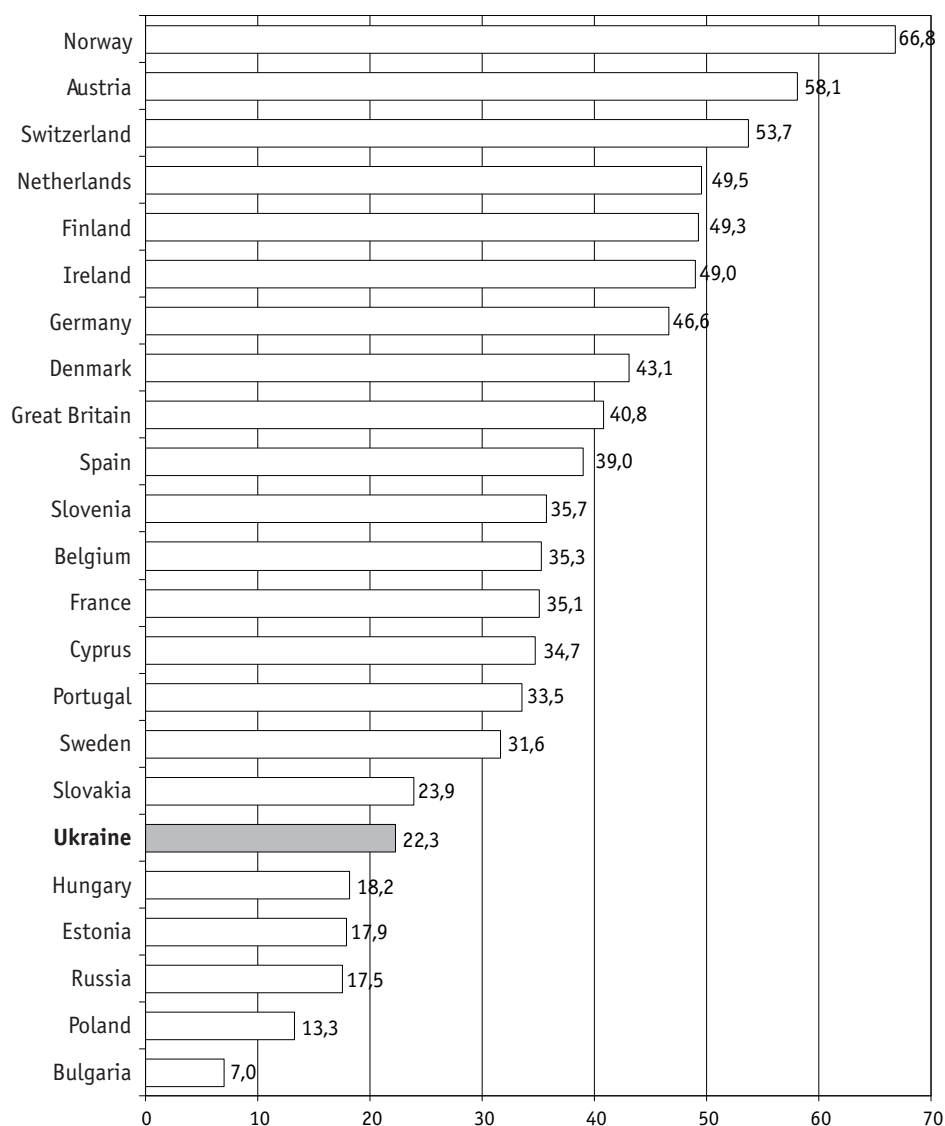
Distribution of the frequency of work involvement in voluntary bodies and charities in each European country demonstrates differences in the level of socio-economic development (see table 1). The highest frequency of participation in voluntary socially beneficial activities or in charities is mainly represented in western European countries – Austria, Great Britain, Denmark, Netherlands, Germany, Norway, Finland, France and Switzerland. The lowest frequency is in post-socialistic countries (Bulgaria, Estonia, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary and Ukraine).

**Table 1**

**Allocation of the answers of the European countries' citizens to the question:  
“ Within the last 12 months, how often did you participate in any voluntary  
socially beneficial activities or any charities?”, 2006–2007, %**

Countries	Once in a week	Once in a month	Once in every three months	Once in every six months	Even more rarely	Never	Total
Austria	12,9	13,0	7,2	5,8	19,2	41,9	100,0
Belgium	7,7	6,5	6,0	5,1	9,9	64,7	100,0
Bulgaria	0,4	0,4	0,7	0,5	4,9	93,0	100,0
Great Britain	9,1	7,8	5,5	6,5	11,9	59,2	100,0
Hungary	1,7	2,6	1,6	3,0	9,3	81,8	100,0
Germany	13,0	14,2	6,2	3,0	10,2	53,4	100,0
Denmark	10,2	9,8	6,0	5,6	11,5	56,9	100,0
Ireland	8,9	9,3	5,3	11,0	14,6	51,0	100,0
Spain	2,3	8,5	4,9	5,9	17,4	61,0	100,0
Cyprus	1,2	3,7	4,6	8,0	27,1	55,3	100,0
Netherlands	17,4	10,9	5,8	5,0	10,4	50,5	100,0
Norway	9,1	14,0	10,5	9,7	23,6	33,2	100,0
Poland	0,7	1,5	1,4	3,2	6,6	86,7	100,0
Portugal	2,6	2,5	3,6	8,6	16,2	66,5	100,0
Russia	1,5	1,3	2,4	4,6	7,8	82,5	100,0
Slovakia	1,5	2,6	2,0	3,4	14,3	76,1	100,0
Slovenia	5,1	7,2	5,1	8,1	10,3	64,3	100,0
<b>Ukraine</b>	<b>1,9</b>	4,3	3,6	6,6	6,0	77,7	100,0
Finland	4,6	8,4	6,6	10,5	19,3	50,7	100,0
France	11,9	8,1	4,4	4,2	6,6	64,9	100,0
Switzerland	18,2	12,8	6,4	5,9	10,4	46,3	100,0
Sweden	5,8	5,9	4,3	3,4	12,1	68,4	100,0
Estonia	1,7	2,0	2,1	3,7	8,4	82,1	100,0

Such arrangement of countries is seen even when the shares of those who participated only once in a voluntary socially beneficial activities or charities are taken into account (see pic.). More than a half of populace has experience of being involved in horizontal networks of civil society in such countries as Norway, Austria, Switzerland, Netherlands, Finland and Ireland. In the post-socialistic countries (with the exception of Slovenia) the share of one-time and more participation makes up around 20% and less.



Pic. Share of those, who participated in voluntary socially beneficial activities or charities at least once, 2006-2007

Definition of equations of multiple linear regressions in European countries revealed differences in shares of influence of all factors on the dependent order variable of work involvement of voluntary bodies and charities (see table 2). Values of the  $R^2$  factors are considered fairly satisfactory (about 0,4 and higher) in such countries as Austria, Germany, Portugal, Hungary and Ukraine. In Ukraine this share turned out to be the highest – 0,533, that is the share of influence of all the factors that could be explained by the multiple linear regression, which makes up 53,3%. The smallest shares were recorded in Bulgaria and Poland, where multiple regressions explain the influence of the factors that were selected for the analysis within the scope of 12,7% and 17,6% accordingly.



Table 2

Multiple linear regressions for dependent variable of involvement in work of voluntary bodies or charities in European countries, 2006–2007

Countries	Level of education		Paid job		Income level (income satisfaction) <sup>a</sup>		Trust in other people		Communication with other people		Active assistance to other people		Assistance or participation in local events		Religious practices		Socio-political practices		R <sup>2</sup>
	$\beta$	Sig.	$\beta$	Sig.	$\beta$	Sig.	$\beta$	Sig.	$\beta$	Sig.	$\beta$	Sig.	$\beta$	Sig.	$\beta$	Sig.	$\beta$	Sig.	
Austria	0.034	0.145	-0.033	0.155	-0.049	0.032	-0.069	0.002	-0.042	0.066	0.245	0.000	0.245	0.000	0.162	0.000	0.251	0.000	0.430
Belgium	-0.033	0.210	0.044	0.082	-0.028	0.272	-0.025	0.272	-0.152	0.000	0.172	0.000	0.160	0.000	0.144	0.000	0.196	0.000	0.257
Bulgaria	-0.098	0.006	0.009	0.791	0.032	0.363	0.008	0.801	0.001	0.968	0.135	0.000	0.191	0.000	0.019	0.541	0.146	0.000	0.127
Great Britain	-0.023	0.303	0.009	0.702	-0.053	0.025	-0.004	0.823	-0.074	0.000	0.181	0.000	0.282	0.000	0.133	0.000	0.189	0.000	0.336
Hungary	0.002	0.937	-0.064	0.004	-0.020	0.370	-0.017	0.445	-0.039	0.076	0.126	0.000	0.490	0.000	0.067	0.000	0.084	0.000	0.396
Germany	-0.017	0.355	0.023	0.210	-0.059	0.002	-0.016	0.383	-0.081	0.000	0.147	0.000	0.315	0.000	0.077	0.000	0.294	0.000	0.381
Denmark	0.016	0.537	-0.033	0.220	0.026	0.339	0.067	0.008	-0.130	0.000	0.078	0.000	0.262	0.000	0.144	0.000	0.231	0.000	0.271
Ireland	-0.074	0.004	-0.001	0.965	-0.024	0.363	-0.051	0.028	-0.080	0.001	0.195	0.000	0.342	0.000	0.140	0.000	0.162	0.000	0.367
Spain	-0.084	0.009	-0.018	0.552	-0.019	0.519	-0.023	0.396	-0.038	0.168	0.302	0.000	0.045	0.123	0.156	0.000	0.257	0.000	0.280
Cyprus	-0.163	0.000	-0.051	0.139	0.055	0.137	0.023	0.464	-0.137	0.000	0.164	0.000	0.355	0.000	0.055	0.097	0.136	0.000	0.333
Netherlands	0.007	0.767	0.085	0.000	-0.039	0.083	-0.013	0.555	-0.114	0.000	0.315	0.000	0.155	0.000	0.134	0.000	0.208	0.000	0.332
Norway	-0.055	0.016	0.035	0.128	0.001	0.973	-0.018	0.396	-0.110	0.000	0.123	0.000	0.291	0.000	0.152	0.000	0.186	0.000	0.291
Poland	-0.107	0.000	0.013	0.615	0.006	0.835	-0.081	0.002	-0.028	0.282	0.136	0.000	0.244	0.000	0.046	0.073	0.098	0.000	0.176
Portugal	-0.062	0.033	-0.056	0.036	0.063	0.027	-0.019	0.438	0.038	0.126	0.324	0.000	0.372	0.000	0.070	0.005	0.079	0.002	0.419
Russia	-0.024	0.308	0.003	0.885	-0.029	0.206	-0.028	0.185	-0.050	0.020	0.183	0.000	0.354	0.000	0.042	0.046	0.171	0.000	0.333
Slovakia	-0.010	0.747	-0.003	0.929	0.003	0.911	-0.019	0.515	-0.075	0.015	0.168	0.000	0.325	0.000	0.075	0.009	0.059	0.050	0.242
Slovenia	-0.110	0.000	0.020	0.473	0.027	0.367	-0.028	0.301	0.019	0.486	0.173	0.000	0.355	0.000	0.090	0.001	0.101	0.000	0.251
Ukraine	-0.007	0.701	-0.026	0.152	0.009	0.618	-0.076	0.000	0.009	0.594	0.149	0.000	0.534	0.000	0.079	0.000	0.166	0.000	0.533
Finland	0.028	0.243	0.050	0.037	-0.024	0.321	-0.026	0.203	-0.144	0.000	0.047	0.031	0.179	0.000	0.168	0.000	0.292	0.000	0.281
France	-0.023	0.323	0.042	0.056	-0.020	0.395	-0.030	0.155	-0.106	0.000	0.215	0.000	0.227	0.000	0.095	0.000	0.233	0.000	0.306
Switzerland	-0.051	0.059	-0.013	0.613	0.018	0.488	-0.025	0.313	-0.073	0.003	0.178	0.000	0.264	0.000	0.118	0.000	0.145	0.000	0.237
Sweden	-0.006	0.800	-0.002	0.919	-0.014	0.572	-0.041	0.066	-0.073	0.001	0.071	0.002	0.152	0.000	0.166	0.000	0.271	0.000	0.205
Estonia	-0.011	0.659	0.034	0.181	0.018	0.453	0.016	0.488	-0.059	0.014	0.207	0.000	0.364	0.000	0.030	0.202	0.172	0.000	0.324

<sup>a</sup> Note. In equations for Estonia, Hungary and Ukraine index of income level was exchanged with index of income satisfaction.

The Analysis of the standardized coefficients of the defined equation (column  $\beta$ ) reflects the influence of the relevant predictors on the dependent variable. Among the factors included into the regression model, such independent variables, as a paid job, income level (income satisfaction) and trust in people, for the overwhelming amount of countries doesn't exert a statistically significant influence on the work involvement of the voluntary bodies and charities (significance of such factors is shown in the column *Sig.*). Level of education factor turned out to be an influential one only among seven countries (Bulgaria, Ireland, Spain, Cyprus, Poland, Portugal, and Slovenia). On the other hand, factor of communication with other people proved to be influential among such countries as Belgium, Great Britain, Denmark, Cyprus, Netherlands, Germany, Norway, Finland, France, Sweden and Switzerland.

The most widespread and influential among the absolute majority of European countries are the factors of active assistance to other people, assistance or participation in local events as well as the factor of socio-political practices. Among all predictors, represented in equations as work involvement factors of voluntary bodies or charities, the most influential one in the European countries was the factor of assisting or participation in local events. Only in Finland and Sweden the most influential was the factor of socio-political practices. For Austria, Belgium and France the influence of the aforementioned factors was For Austria, Belgium and France the influence of the aforementioned was mostly similar. Meanwhile Spain's and Netherland's most influential factor was helping other people. As for Ukraine the most influential was the factor of assistance or participation in local events. The next nearest arranged by the influence are factors of socio-political practices, active assistance to other people, religious practices factor and trust in people factor.

The application of the Pearson's partial correlation coefficient (Pearson's  $R$ ) for sorting of the factors by the relative strength of influence of these variables on the dependent order variable allowed to reveal statistical link (see table 3). The most statistically strong (Pearson's correlation coefficient  $R \geq 0,4$ ) and the most widespread among the absolute majority of European countries are the inter-connections between the factors of participation in the voluntary socially beneficial activities or in charities and factors of participation in local events, active assistance to other people and socio-political practices. The highest correlation coefficients between the work involvement factors of voluntary bodies or charities and the factor of assistance or participation in local events were shown in such countries as Austria (0,493), Great Britain (0,495), Estonia (0,498), Ireland (0,501), Cyprus (0,433), Germany (0,479), Norway (0,425), Portugal (0, 572), Russia (0,474), Slovakia (0,451), Slovenia (0,453), Hungary (0,604), Ukraine (0,676) and Switzerland (0,405). The highest correlation coefficients between the dependent variable and the active assistance to other people factor are shown in such countries as Austria (0,456), Ireland (0,424), Netherlands (0,472), Portugal (0,554), Hungary (0,405) and Ukraine (0,513). The highest correlation coefficients between the work involvement factors of voluntary bodies or charities and socio-political practices factor were shown in such countries as Austria (0,411), Germany (0,408) and Finland (0,422). It should be noted, that correlation analysis revealed, although insignificant, but statistically meaningful

Table 3

Correlation between index of participation in voluntary socially beneficial activities or charities and social factors, Pearson's *R*, 2006–2007

Countries	Level of education		Paid job		Income level (income satisfaction) <sup>a</sup>		Trust in other people		Communi- cation with other people		Active assistance to other people		Assistance or participation in local events		Religious practices		Socio- political practices	
	<i>R</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
Austria	-0.067	0.001	-0.122	0.000	-0.087	0.001	-0.130	0.000	-0.201	0.000	0.456	0.000	0.493	0.000	0.283	0.000	0.411	0.000
Belgium	-0.166	0.000	-0.035	0.133	-0.099	0.000	-0.102	0.000	-0.319	0.000	0.309	0.000	0.343	0.000	0.166	0.000	0.344	0.000
Bulgaria	-0.157	0.000	-0.062	0.022	-0.061	0.045	-0.027	0.313	-0.034	0.215	0.224	0.000	0.288	0.000	0.062	0.022	0.293	0.000
Great Britain	-0.196	0.000	-0.043	0.037	-0.133	0.000	-0.092	0.000	-0.198	0.000	0.388	0.000	0.495	0.000	0.299	0.000	0.360	0.000
Hungary	-0.170	0.000	-0.163	0.000	0.060	0.021	-0.064	0.013	-0.136	0.000	0.405	0.000	0.604	0.000	0.144	0.000	0.266	0.000
Germany	-0.155	0.000	-0.068	0.000	-0.158	0.000	-0.110	0.000	-0.244	0.000	0.373	0.000	0.479	0.000	0.183	0.000	0.408	0.000
Denmark	-0.116	0.000	-0.101	0.000	-0.054	0.049	-0.053	0.043	-0.292	0.000	0.263	0.000	0.389	0.000	0.217	0.000	0.353	0.000
Ireland	-0.149	0.000	-0.046	0.049	-0.118	0.000	-0.092	0.000	-0.162	0.000	0.424	0.000	0.501	0.000	0.223	0.000	0.312	0.000
Spain	-0.184	0.000	-0.090	0.000	-0.118	0.000	-0.111	0.000	-0.178	0.000	0.383	0.000	0.289	0.000	0.133	0.000	0.364	0.000
Cyprus	-0.207	0.000	-0.069	0.033	-0.072	0.046	-0.071	0.027	-0.290	0.000	0.352	0.000	0.433	0.000	0.074	0.021	0.224	0.000
Netherlands	-0.105	0.000	0.058	0.012	-0.056	0.024	-0.106	0.000	-0.253	0.000	0.472	0.000	0.323	0.000	0.204	0.000	0.326	0.000
Norway	-0.148	0.000	-0.067	0.005	-0.065	0.008	-0.116	0.000	-0.234	0.000	0.292	0.000	0.425	0.000	0.234	0.000	0.332	0.000
Poland	-0.178	0.000	-0.049	0.042	-0.075	0.005	-0.099	0.000	-0.100	0.000	0.280	0.000	0.347	0.000	0.042	0.081	0.217	0.000
Portugal	-0.144	0.000	-0.072	0.001	-0.015	0.608	-0.019	0.384	-0.109	0.000	0.554	0.000	0.572	0.000	0.104	0.000	0.195	0.000
Russia	-0.115	0.000	-0.050	0.017	-0.071	0.002	-0.086	0.000	-0.107	0.000	0.381	0.000	0.474	0.000	0.179	0.000	0.325	0.000
Slovakia	-0.081	0.001	-0.080	0.001	-0.032	0.293	-0.085	0.000	-0.258	0.000	0.328	0.000	0.451	0.000	0.150	0.000	0.230	0.000
Slovenia	-0.130	0.000	-0.068	0.009	-0.060	0.040	-0.087	0.001	-0.140	0.000	0.321	0.000	0.453	0.000	0.149	0.000	0.211	0.000
<b>Ukraine</b>	-0.109	0.000	-0.163	0.000	0.115	0.000	-0.155	0.000	-0.076	0.001	0.513	0.000	0.676	0.000	0.167	0.000	0.295	0.000
Finland	-0.092	0.000	0.009	0.709	-0.070	0.004	-0.049	0.034	-0.323	0.000	0.206	0.000	0.334	0.000	0.267	0.000	0.422	0.000
France	-0.162	0.000	0.028	0.212	-0.082	0.001	-0.099	0.000	-0.219	0.000	0.367	0.000	0.373	0.000	0.171	0.000	0.368	0.000
Switzerland	-0.135	0.000	-0.061	0.009	-0.047	0.083	-0.115	0.000	-0.176	0.000	0.363	0.000	0.405	0.000	0.110	0.000	0.251	0.000
Sweden	-0.134	0.000	-0.053	0.021	-0.073	0.002	-0.091	0.000	-0.193	0.000	0.166	0.000	0.270	0.000	0.217	0.000	0.351	0.000
Estonia	-0.102	0.000	-0.032	0.210	0.051	0.049	-0.044	0.088	-0.206	0.000	0.381	0.000	0.498	0.000	0.138	0.000	0.301	0.000

<sup>a</sup> Note. In equations for Estonia, Hungary and Ukraine index of income level was exchanged with index of income satisfaction.

links between dependent variable and other independent variables. In particular, a connection among all the European was established with level of education and among the majority of countries – a connection with the paid employment.

### *Summary*

The main advantage of international comparative studies is the opportunity to reproduce casual social phenomena, which usually are conditioned by a specified situation in a specified society. Comparison of factors influences on a specified phenomenon allows revealing perpetual incentives that are at least common in similar geographical conditions and have propensity toward identity aggregation, in our case – European civilization. It is namely thanks to comparative study that revealed the most widespread determinants of European countries' civic society functioning.

The analysis has shown that socio-economic factors don't impact the frequency of voluntary bodies and charities work involvement on the whole. The fact, that correlation analysis revealed statistically meaningful connections between work involvement factors of voluntary bodies or charities and factors of socio-economic resources and results of multiple linear regression equations has levelled their influence and testifies to utilization of these factors in the mechanism of a more complex determination model. It is demonstrative that key parts of social capital – trust and communication with other people – were also revealed uninfluential. While the other parts of the social capital (active assistance to others, aid or participation in local event) and socio-political practices turned out to be most influential and most widespread among European countries. And that is undoubtedly an example of effectiveness of theoretical methods approach, which examine the conception of new institutions as a process of accumulation of behavioural preconditions – social practices. Although conditions of civil practices concept were confirmed only partially, because the connection between frequency of participation in voluntary socially beneficial activities or charities and socio-political practices proved not to be the strongest one, the idea itself of the role of civil practices in the process of institutionalization of public sphere materialized in full nevertheless. As analysis has shown that in European countries participation in social and public activities creates grounds for informal networks of social interaction, in thanks to which entities gain skills of shaping and airing their views, exchange of information, thus creating civil practices.

## *APPENDIX*

### **Independent variables, used in the body of ESS-3**

**Level of education:** measured on the basis of question F6: "What is the highest level of education that you have received?" on the 6 point scale with the possible responses "0 – incomplete elementary education (less than 4 years of high school); 1 – elementary education (4–7 years of high school); 2 – incomplete secondary education (8–9 years of high school); 3 – complete

secondary education (10–11 years of high school); 4 — specialized secondary education (technical school, higher than the secondary, though still not higher education); 5 — first degree of higher education (bachelor's degree)".

**Paid job:** dichotomic slack variable, that acquires the value of 1 for those who responded to question F8c: "Which of these options best of all describes your situation in the course the last seven days?", by marking the position "paid job (or temporary on vacation) or (wage worker, self-employed, family business job)", and the value of 0 — for those who didn't mark the aforementioned position.

**Level of the aggregated income:** measured on the basis of question F32: "If you combine your income from all the sources of income, what will your family's monthly aggregated net income (after the payment of all the taxes and mandatory assessments) be?" using a created after the survey universal 12 point scale.

**Quality of one's own income:** measured on the basis of question F33: "Which of the statements on this card is the describes your current family income the best?" with the possible responses: "1 — I am living comfortably on the this income; 2 — this income is liveable; 3 — this level of income creates some hardships for me; 4 — this level of income creates serious material hardships for me".

**Trust in people:** measured on the basis of the question A8: "How strongly should you, in common, trust dealing with people or should you be more cautious?" scaling from 0 to 10 points, where 0 points means you should be cautious, while 10 — is most people can be trusted.

**Communication with other people:** measured on the basis of question C4: "Could you please tell, in comparison with your peers, how often do you communicate with other people — on your own volition, for your own pleasure and not work-related?" on the 5 point scale with possible responses: "1 — far lesser than my peers; 2 — lesser, than most; 3 — approximately the same; 4 — more often than most; 5 — far more often than most".

**Active assistance to other people:** measured on the basis of question E2: "Without regard for the things that you do for your family, at work or participating in activities of different public organizations, how often in the duration of the last 12 months have you actively assisted other people?" on a 6 point scale with these possible responses: "1 — at least once a week; 2 — at least once a month; 3 — at least once every three months; 4 — at least once every six months; 5 — even rarer; 6 — never".

**Assistance or participation in local events:** measured on the basis of question E3: "How often in the duration of the last 12 months have you helped or participated in any public activity at the place of your residency?" on a 6 point scale with these possible responses: "1 — at least once a week; 2 — at least once a month; 3 — at least once every three months; 4 — at least once every six months; 5 — even rarer; 6 — never".

**Religious practicies:** measured on the basis of question C22: " Without regard for such cases as weddings or burials how often do you attend church (chapel, mosque, synagogue)?" on a 7 point scale with these possible responses:

"1 — every day; 2 — more than once a week; 3 — once a week; 4 — at least once a month; 5 — only on religious holidays; 6 — even rarer; 7 — never".

**Socio-political practices:** an additive index, built on responses to this question: "Different ways exist to improve business in the country and assist the prevention of serious problems. Had you happened to do anything, in the duration of the last 12 months, of the things I will know say?" and the calculation of the arithmetic average values of the list of seven activities: B13 — "have you turned to politicians, government representatives or local authorities?"; B14 — "have you worked in a political party or movement?"; B15 — "have you worked in any other organization or association?"; B16 — "have you worn any politically advertising insignia, any other political attributes or have you put up leaflets?"; B17 — "have you signed any petitions?"; B18 — "Have you participated in authorized rallies or demonstrations? "; B19 — "Have you boycotted any industrial or agricultural products?".

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