

Harmonization of the minority status. Case of the Russian-speaking minority in the former Soviet states

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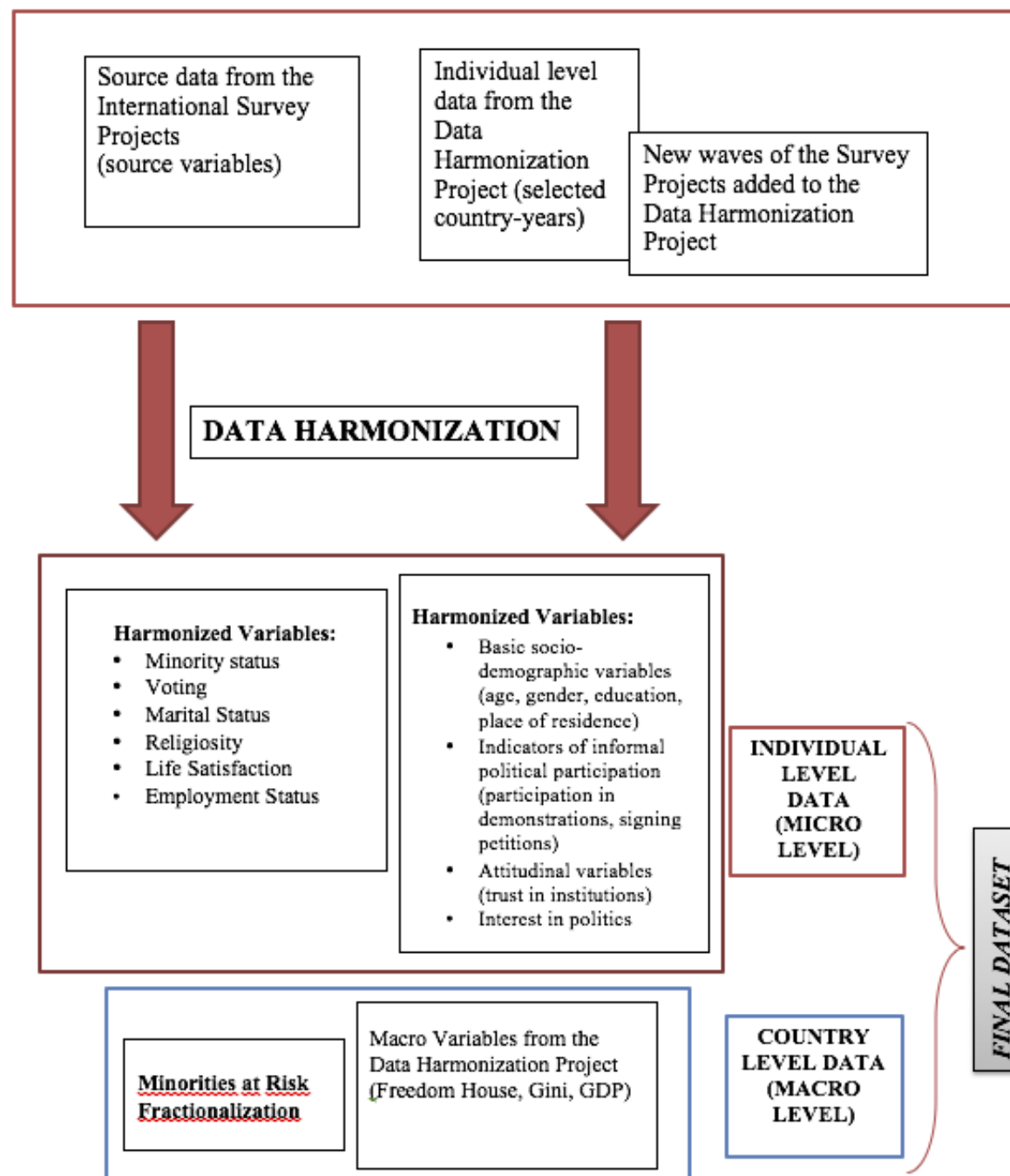
University of Mannheim



Source: www.theodora.com/maps

Project Description

- Substantive focus: differences in political participation between a given country's Russian-speaking minority and the majority population in former Soviet states
- There is no single international survey project that adequately covers all the former Soviet republics since the Soviet Union's collapse, to current times.



International Survey Project	Sample Size	Time Span	Country coverage
Caucasus Barometer/2009	5761	2009	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia
Caucasus Barometer/2010	6012	2010	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia
Caucasus Barometer/2011	6133	2011	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia
Caucasus Barometer/2012	6715	2012	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia
Caucasus Barometer/2013	5953	2013	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia
New Baltics Barometer/1	6136	1993	Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania
New Baltics Barometer/2	3339	1995	Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania
New Baltics Barometer/3	2923	1997	Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania
New Baltics Barometer/4	3126	2000	Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania
New Baltics Barometer/5	3068	2001	Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania
New Baltics Barometer/6	3009	2004	Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania
Consolidation of Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe/2	5304	1998-2001	Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine
European Social Survey/2	4020	2004-2005	Estonia, Ukraine
European Social Survey/4	3506	2009	Estonia, Ukraine
European Social Survey/6	2380	2012	Estonia
European Social Survey/7	4301	2014-2015	Estonia
European Values Study/3	2018	1999	Estonia, Latvia
European Values Study/4	13587	2008	Armenia, Azerbaijan,Belarus,Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Ukraine
Life in Transition/2	14149	2010	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan
World Values Survey/2	15127	1996-1997	Armenia, Azerbaijan,Belarus, Georgia, Estonia,Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Ukraine
World Values Survey/4	2051	2002-2003	Kyrgyzstan,Moldova
World Values Survey/5	3546	2008-2009	Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine
World Values Survey/6	12372	2011-2014	Armenia, Azerbaijan,Belarus,Estonia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan
TOTAL:	134536	1993-2015	

Comparing Minority Groups

Achieving comparable measures (Lambert 2005)

- The “absolutist” approach: one marker of minority status, e.g. citizenship or language
- + conceptual clarity
- - lack of precision (one indicator is not enough)
- The “relativist” approach: cross-classification of different ethnic referents
- + precision
- - hard to achieve (more than one indicator is needed)

Russians or Russian-speakers?

Russians

Ethnic Russians

Russian diaspora

Russian-speakers (Russophones)

Russian community

Russians in (Latvia/Kazakhstan/Estonia...)

Imperial Minority

Compatriots

Russians in the near abroad

Slavic minorities

Baltic Russians

Linguistically russified non-Russians

....

and

Russian at heart (according to President Putin)

- *Russian-speaking population is a new category of identity in the post-Soviet world (Laitin 1998)*
- *In 1991 the 14 countries were home to 25 million ethnic Russians and 36.5 million native speakers of Russian (Pavlenko 2008)*
- *The term “Russian speakers”(“Russophones”), implying peoples with shared historical destinies, common social roles, interests, and culture, is more adequate than “Russians” (or especially “ethnic Russians”), for analyzing the fortunes of former settler populations (Kosmarskaya 2011)*

Comparing Question Wording

International Survey project	Item Wording	Identification of Minority Status		
		<i>Language used at home</i>	<i>Ethnic group</i>	<i>Native language</i>
Caucasus Barometer	There are a number of ethnic groups living in this country. Which ethnic group do you consider yourself a part of?		X	
Consolidation of Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe	In what language did/do you communicate with your mother ?			X
European Social Survey	What language or languages do you speak most often at home ?	X		
European Values Study	Language of the interview	X		
Life in Transition	What is your mother tongue ?			X
World Values Survey	What language do you normally speak at home ?	X		
New Baltics Barometer	What language did you speak at home when you were a child ?			X

External Sources

Country	Harmonized Dataset, % of the Russian-speakers (all categories) (1990-2014)	UNSD Demographic Statistics (1999-2011) usual language	Eurasian monitor (2007), language at home	Центр социального прогнозирования (2005) active usage of the Russian Language	Gallup Polls 2007 Russian as preferred language of the interview
Armenia	1	1	3	32	3
Azerbaijan	3	0,2	6	24	6
Georgia	3	0,4	1	38	7
Kyrgyzstan	14	13	20	30	38
Kazakhstan	50	*	43	66	68
Uzbekistan	4	*	*	20	*
Tajikistan	1	1	5	16	5
Lithuania	15	7	4	21	*
Latvia	40	34-36	37	57	*
Estonia	35	30	30	39	*
Belarus	78	63-70	62	78	92
Ukraine	46	30	38	61	83
Moldova	17	11	18	56	23

Source: 1) Harmonized Data; 2) <http://data.un.org/Data.aspx?d=POP&f=tableCode:27>; 3) <http://www.eurasiamonitor.org>; 4) Русский язык в мире: современное состояние и тенденции распространения. Вып. 3. — М.: Центр социального прогнозирования, 2005; 5) <http://www.gallup.com/poll/109228/russian-language-enjoying-boost-postsoviet-states.aspx>

One indicator of the minority language or control variables?
(Slomczynski, Tomescu-Dubrow and Jenkins 2016)

$$\ln \left(\frac{P}{P-1} \right) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \beta_5 X_5$$

Independent variables: propensity to engage in different types of political activities, e.g., participation in demonstrations, signing petitions and voting in elections

Main predictors

X1=Tertiary education

X2= Language (Russian-otherwise)

Control variables

X3=Language spoken at home

X4=Language of the ethnic group

X5=Native language

	Model 1		Model 2	
	(no control v-s)		(with control v-s)	
	<i>B</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>OR</i>
Participation in Demonstration				
Education	0.511***	1.666	0.516***	1.676
Language	-0.078**	0.925	-0.142***	0.867
Signing Petitions				
Education	0.572***	1.772	0.613***	1.846
Language	-0.265***	0.767	-0.392***	0.676
Voting in the Last Elections				
Education	0.541***	1.718	0.535***	1.707
Language	-0.667***	0.513	-0.593***	0.553

Thank you!

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