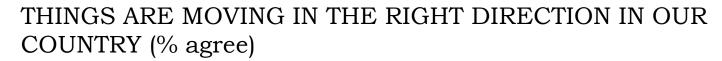




Comparing some basic indicators





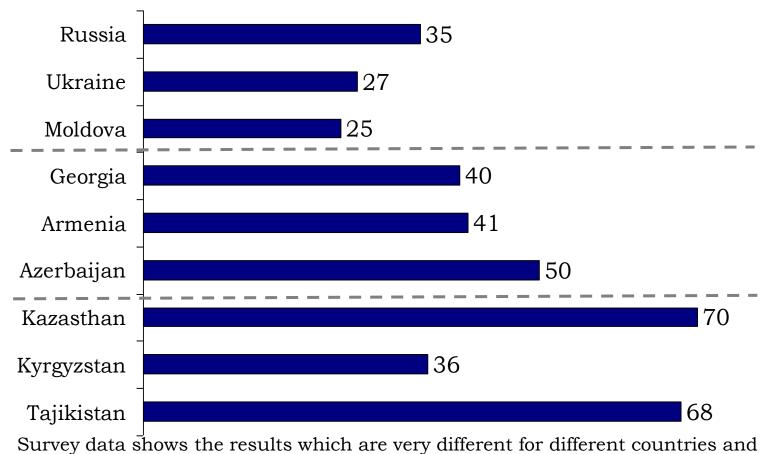












not consistent with our knowledge of relevant issues in given countries. Why?



Issue of Acquiescence











- Suggested definition
 - response style when respondents tend to answer questions in the survey consistently using particular categories of approval/ agreement/ in favor/ support regardless of the question content.
- Measuring: In comparative context the differences in level of acquiescence between cultures were often suspected, but not often measured.
- **Need:** information about acquiescence issues before the survey, on survey-design stage



Impact on measurement and comparability











Increase of measurement error

✓ Reliability of distribution (skewness, under or over-estimation)

Comparability issues

- ✓ the size of acquiescence effect can be different in different cultures and countries
- ✓ Acquiescence effect can be differential (which parameters?) and not the same in different cultures



Design of experiment



Hypothesis: acquiescence effect can be different within and between different cultures and nations



Research questions



✓ Does the size of acquiescence effect differ between countries?



✓ Does these issues undermine the data comparability?



✓ Is acquiescence effect different between different social groups (gender, age, language, ethnicity, urbanity, education)



- ✓ Is acquiescence effect different for different survey questions-topics? The primary hypothesis that it should be rather stable regardless of the topic
- Is acquiescence effect the same for different answer scales?



Region for experiment















Cultural diversity of the region

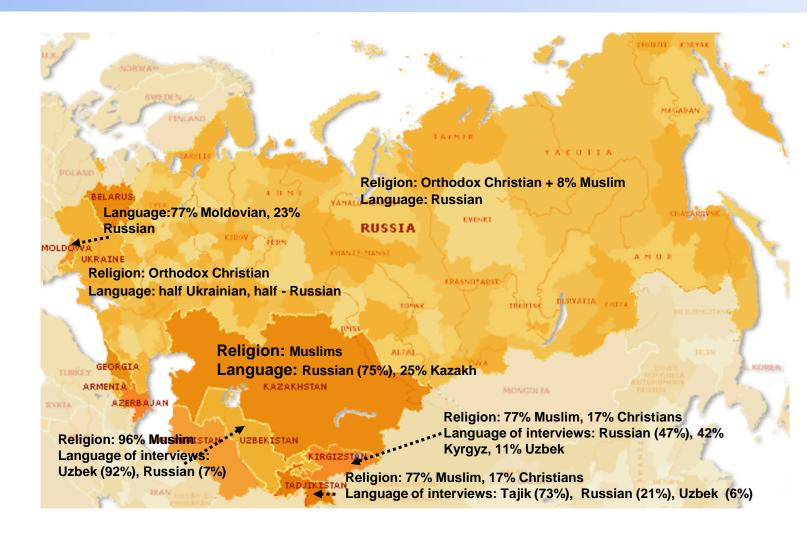












Language=Language of interview selected by respondent



Design of experiment











Design: set of 3 questions were located in first part of the questionnaire, the same questions in reverse form were located at the end of the interview.

Minimum 25 minutes difference in the time of interview were between first and second set of questions

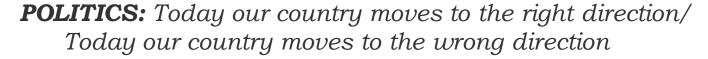
The same scale 5-points agree-disagree labeled scale with mid-point was used for all items.

Sample: qquestions were included in the survey **Post-Soviet Trends** (CESSI). This comparative survey of post-Soviet ccountries is based on bi-annual national surveys, minimum size is 1000-2000 people, face-to-face interviews in respondent's homes



Design of experiment - items







GENDER ROLES: Women can manage large businesses the same well as men/ Women can not manage large businesses the same well as men



ETHIC RELATIONS: When important decisions about national affairs are taken, the opinion of all ethnic groups living in our country should be the same important as the opinion of ___ MAIN ETHNIC GROUP/ When important decisions about national affairs are taken, ___ MAIN ETHNIC GROUP should take main decisions, and the opinion of other ethnic groups living in our country should be less important

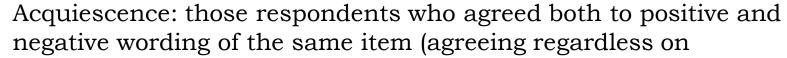






Size of acquiescence effect in different countries















question content)	POLITICS	GENDER ROLES	ETHNIC ATTITUDES
Tajikistan	20%	24%	15%
Kyrgyzstan	11%	21%	15%
Kazakhstan	13%	21%	18%
Azerbaijan	2%	4%	8%
Armenia	12%	19%	25%
Georgia	12%	3%	5%
Moldova	11%	22%	28%
Ukraine	4%	11%	16%
Russia	11%	15%	24%



Size of acquiescence effect











- ✓ Size of acquiescence effect is different between countries – in some countries it is consistently lower than in other countries
- ✓ Acquiescence effect is not the same for different survey topics within one country (in most countries it was the lowest for Politics and highest for Ethnic relations)
 - Strength of opinion (opinion which are better formed, stronger supported is less influenced by acquiescence effect than less formed opinion
 - The easier the question, the less is acquiescence effect The more consolidated is the opinion in the society, the lower the acquiescence effect



Acquiescence effect among different ethnic and lingustic groups. Example of











Kazakhstan

		Language of interview		Ethnicity	
POLITICS	Total 13%	Kazakh 22%	Russia 11%	Kazakh 16%	Other 9%
GENDER ROLE	21%	27%	19%	24%	16%
ETHNIC RELATION	18%	33%	15%	22%	13%



Acquiescence effect among different ethnic and linguistic groups. Example of











Kyr	gyzsta	an

		Language of interview		Ethnicity	
	Total	Kyrgyz	Other	Kyrgyz	Other
POLITICS	11%	14%	6%	12%	8%
GENDER ROLE	23%	26%	12%	22%	16%
ETHNIC ATTITUDE	15%	19%	10%	17%	10%



Differential acquiescence effect











- ✓ Acquiescence effect is related to education (it is stronger among less educated groups). But it is very weakly related to gender or age.
- ✓ Acquiescence is strongly related to ethnicity it is higher among some cultures and lower among others. It is related stronger to culture (ethnicity) than with country (the same ethnic groups in different countries shows similar degree of acquiescence effect)
- ✓ Acquiescence effect is related to language which was chosen for interview even when ethnicity is taken into account. It may due to the translation issues. Or it can be related to the integration to their native country.



Further research











- ✓ Different scales is the size of acquiescence effect different or similar for different scales (agree-disagree, approve-disapprove, in favoragainst)
- ✓ More topics or more items of the same topic. Are there topics where acquiescence effect is higher and why? Is acquiescence the result of methodological weakness of the question (difficult, long, unclear) or the indicator of unformed opinion/ controversial opinions?