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Social Capital and Loneliness in Welfare State Regimes Before and After the Global Financial Crisis: Results Based on the European Social Survey

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Table 1. Average levels of social contact (1=never, 7=every day), social trust (0=you can't be too careful, 10=most people can be trusted) and share (%) of older people (>=60) reporting absence of loneliness in 18 European countries, European Social Survey, 2006 and 2014.

	Social contacts			Diff	Social trust			Diff	Absence of loneliness		Diff
	2006	2014			2006	2014			2006	2014	
Nordic (n=4283)											
Finland	4.84	4.73	-0.11	6.53	6.81	0.27	74.00	81.60	7.60		
Denmark	5.20	5.11	-0.09	6.87	6.93	0.06	82.30	86.20	3.90		
Norway	5.10	5.03	-0.07	6.87	6.71	-0.16	78.00	81.30	3.30		
Sweden	4.98	5.11	0.14	6.25	6.12	-0.12	74.80	74.70	-0.10		
	<i>5.01</i>	<i>4.96</i>	<i>-0.05</i>	<i>6.61</i>	<i>6.63</i>	<i>0.02</i>	<i>77.20</i>	<i>80.60</i>	<i>3.40**</i>		
Anglo-Saxon (n=2862)											
United Kingdom	5.10	4.89	-0.21	5.51	5.55	0.04	74.20	74.40	0.20		
Ireland	4.78	4.46	-0.33	5.47	5.00	-0.47	71.50	67.30	-4.20		
	<i>4.99</i>	<i>4.69</i>	<i>-0.30***</i>	<i>5.50</i>	<i>5.30</i>	<i>-0.20*</i>	<i>73.30</i>	<i>71.10</i>	<i>-2.20</i>		
Continental (n=7269)											
Austria	4.81	4.69	-0.12	4.51	4.83	0.33	67.60	69.70	2.10		
Belgium	4.89	4.93	0.03	4.81	4.96	0.15	72.40	71.90	-0.50		
France	4.99	4.98	-0.01	4.39	4.61	0.23	68.80	66.70	-2.10		
Germany	4.31	4.46	0.15	4.49	5.09	0.60	67.60	81.30	13.70		
The Netherlands	5.13	5.13	0.00	5.67	6.03	0.37	71.70	82.40	10.70		
Switzerland	5.03	4.87	-0.16	5.48	5.89	0.41	78.30	82.20	3.90		
	<i>4.80</i>	<i>4.80</i>	<i>-0.01</i>	<i>4.87</i>	<i>5.23</i>	<i>0.36***</i>	<i>70.90</i>	<i>76.50</i>	<i>5.60***</i>		
Southern (n=2404)											
Portugal	5.91	5.70	-0.21	4.02	3.32	-0.71	41.10	57.90	16.80		
Spain	5.34	5.18	-0.16	4.86	4.50	-0.36	64.30	71.20	6.90		
	<i>5.67</i>	<i>5.42</i>	<i>-0.25***</i>	<i>4.37</i>	<i>3.94</i>	<i>-0.43***</i>	<i>50.60</i>	<i>64.90</i>	<i>14.30***</i>		
Eastern (n=3971)											
Hungary	3.23	2.93	-0.31	3.96	3.86	-0.10	55.60	52.10	-3.50		
Estonia	4.33	3.82	-0.51	5.36	5.68	0.32	57.30	59.20	1.90		
Poland	3.76	3.71	-0.05	3.77	3.77	0.00	56.80	62.40	5.60		
Slovenia	4.05	4.13	0.08	3.84	3.89	0.05	56.90	70.00	13.10		
	<i>3.85</i>	<i>3.62</i>	<i>-0.23***</i>	<i>4.27</i>	<i>4.43</i>	<i>0.16</i>	<i>56.60</i>	<i>60.10</i>	<i>3.50*</i>		

ESS 2006 n=9792, ESS 2014 n=10997; T-test was used to compare changes in means of social contacts and social trust in five welfare regimes, whereas Chi-square was used for assessing changes in absence of loneliness in five welfare regimes. Significance levels: * p<0.5, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001

Table 2a. Odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals for the absence of loneliness in 2006, n=9792

	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3	
	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI
<i>Frequency of being social</i>						
Low	1.00		1.00		1.00	
Moderate	1.87 ***	(1.53-2.15)	1.77 ***	(1.49-2.09)	1.76 ***	(1.48-2.09)
High	2.02 ***	(1.74-2.36)	1.95 ***	(1.67-2.28)	1.97 ***	(1.67-2.31)
<i>Interpersonal trust</i>						
Low			1.00		1.00	
Moderate			1.18 **	(1.05-1.33)	1.14 *	(1.01-1.28)
High			1.67 ***	(1.41-1.98)	1.54 ***	(1.29-1.83)
Welfare regimes:						
Nordic					2.14 ***	(1.66-2.77)
Anglo-Saxon					1.94 ***	(1.61-2.34)
Continental					1.43 ***	(1.24-1.71)
Eastern					1.34 **	(1.09-1.65)
Log likelihood	8638.47		8557.30		8495.96	
Cox & Snell R2	0.172		0.175		0.181	
Nagelkerke R2	0.241		0.244		0.253	

Note: Age, gender, educational level, living situation and self-rated health are controlled for in all models. Welfare regimes are dummy variables.

Significance levels: *p<0.05, **p<0.01, *** p<0.001

Table 2b. Odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals for the absence of loneliness in 2014, n=10997

	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3	
	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI
<i>Frequency of being social</i>						
Low	1.00		1.00		1.00	
Moderate	1.42 ***	(1.21-1.67)	1.38 ***	(1.18-1.62)	1.30 **	(1.10-1.53)
High	1.65 ***	(1.42-1.91)	1.57 ***	(1.35-1.82)	1.47 ***	(1.26-1.72)
<i>Interpersonal trust</i>						
Low			1.00		1.00	
Moderate			1.16 **	(1.04-1.31)	1.11	(0.99-1.25)
High			1.62 ***	(1.38-1.91)	1.51 ***	(1.28-1.79)
Welfare regimes:						
Nordic					1.47 **	(1.15-1.88)

Anglo-Saxon			1.24	*	(1.04-1.49)
Continental			1.21	*	(1.03-1.42)
Eastern			0.94		(0.79-1.13)
Log likelihood	9724.028	9662.67	9641.711		
Cox & Snell R2	0.162	0.165	0.166		
Nagelkerke R2	0.234	0.239	0.241		

Note: Age, gender, educational level, living situation and self-rated health are controlled for in all models. Welfare regimes are dummy variables.

Significance levels: *p<0.05, **p<0.01, *** p<0.001

Table 3. Odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (95% CI) for the joint effects of welfare regime and social contacts and interpersonal trust on the absence of loneliness in 2006 and 2014.

	Social contacts				Interpersonal trust			
	2006		2014		2006		2014	
	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI
<i>Nordic</i>								
Low	1.00		1.00		1.00		1.00	
Medium	2.54	(1.01-6.40)	1.55	(0.64-3.75)	1.23	(0.60-2.51)	1.02	(0.53-1.99)
High	3.39	(1.40-8.19)	1.89	(0.81-4.41)	1.19	(0.57-2.48)	1.14	(0.57-2.28)
<i>Anglo-Saxon</i>								
Low	1.00		1.00		1.00		1.00	
Medium	1.72	(1.06-2.80)	1.30	(0.86-1.96)	0.89	(0.63-1.24)	0.76	(0.56-1.05)
High	1.87	(1.25-2.78)	1.84	(1.26-2.69)	1.26	(0.83-1.93)	1.08	(0.74-1.60)
<i>Continental</i>								
Low	1.00		1.00		1.00		1.00	
Medium	2.06	(1.60-2.66)	1.09	(0.91-1.46)	1.14	(0.97-1.35)	1.20	(1.01-1.42)
High	1.32	(0.99-1.76)	1.15	(0.86-1.53)	1.45	(1.11-1.89)	1.77	(1.35-2.31)
<i>Eastern</i>								
Low	1.00		1.00		1.00		1.00	
Medium	1.62	(1.15-2.29)	1.52	(1.13-2.03)	1.22	(0.90-1.64)	1.23	(0.96-1.58)
High	1.20	(0.85-1.70)	1.32	(0.99-1.76)	2.15	(1.30-3.55)	1.18	(0.78-1.79)
<i>Southern</i>								
Low	1.00		1.00		1.00		1.00	
Medium	1.44	(0.85-2.44)	1.24	(0.78-1.96)	1.20	(0.91-1.58)	1.12	(0.87-1.45)
High	1.76	(1.12-2.74)	1.81	(1.23-2.67)	1.96	(1.27-3.02)	2.13	(1.30-3.48)

Note: Estimates for the joint effect of welfare regime and each social capital variable were calculated, while adjusting for the main effects of all the other explanatory variables. Statistically significant results are emboldened (p<0.05).