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SATISFACTION WITH LIFE AND POLITICAL CULTURE
- THE COMPARISON BETWEEN YOUNG PEOPLE
FROM SLOVENIA AND CROATIA

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***Abstract:** In this paper we present an analysis satisfaction with life and political culture among young people (aged from 15 to 30 years) in Slovenia (n=535) and Croatia (n=370). The main goal of the research is to determine whether (and how) the impact the satisfaction with political culture on satisfaction with life. A written “online” survey (with google-drive) was conducted from 25/4/2013 to 7/5/2013. Based on the linear regression (F: 124.77, p-value = 0.000, R-square = 0.121) we found out that there is a statistically significant at 5% significance level relationship between the satisfaction with political culture and satisfaction with life. We also note that there are statistically significant differences among the Slovenia and Croatia young people (p-value = 0.000) regarding the satisfaction with life and political culture.*

***Keywords:** young people, satisfaction with life, political culture, linear regression.*

1. Introduction

The following research study, which is the focus of this paper, considered the following four questions: Is there a statistically significant difference in the satisfaction with life between Slovenian and Croatian young people? Is there a statistically significant difference in the satisfaction with political culture between Slovenian and Croatian young people? Does satisfaction with life depend on the satisfaction with political culture? Is the majority of the young people in Slovenia and Croatia completely or mostly agree with the statement that with the entry of Croatia in EU will improve the political relationship between Slovenia and Croatia? We assume:

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Hypothesis 1: There is a statistically significant difference in the satisfaction with life between Slovenian and Croatian young people.

Hypothesis 2: There is a statistically significant difference in the satisfaction with political culture between Slovenian and Croatian young people.

Hypothesis 3: Satisfaction with life depends on the satisfaction with political culture.

Hypothesis 4: The majority of the young people in Slovenia and Croatia are completely or mostly agree with the statement that with the entry of Croatia in EU will improve political relationship between Slovenia and Croatia.

Research data has been acquired through the use of a questionnaire. For data exploration using Excel, Megastat, IBM SPSS 20. We used descriptive analysis, t-test for independent samples and linear regression.

2. Literature Overview

Satisfaction is a pleasant emotion associated with quality of life. Otherwise, you can survive without the satisfaction and happiness but that life is a miserable and without any real quality. People are looking for satisfaction and they strive for satisfaction and happiness. It is very important that we feel satisfied, fulfilled and happy.

Young People are our Future. But are they satisfied with life and political culture? There is a lot of research on satisfaction with life (hereinafter referred to as SWL) or well-being but there is no research about satisfaction with political culture (hereinafter referred to as SWPC) and also relationship between them.

“Happiness” began gaining standing as a field in economics in the 1970s, especially with the work of Easterlin (1974, Kacapyr, 2008).

Oswald (1997) reports the general conclusions of country-specific studies: income contributes, but only marginally, to happiness; unemployment lowers happiness dramatically; happiness is positively related to marriage, education, being female, being white and being self-employed; happiness declines until an adult reaches age 30 and then begins to increase with age.

Borooah’s (2006) study shows that self-reported happiness depends on faith in a deity; income; employment; family and social life; and good health.

Easterlin (1995) finds that income is not an important determinant of happiness in the USA with a correlation coefficient of 0.2.

Kacapyr (2008) finds that social and economic factors explain about 66 % of the variation in self-reported happiness across countries. Respondents in former socialist-bloc countries report surprisingly low levels of SWL given their circumstances while Latin Americans report higher-than-expected levels of happiness.

The Satisfaction With Life Scale (SWLS) is a global measure of happiness, defined as the cognitive, judgmental component of satisfaction with life. Research indicates that job satisfaction is significantly related to life satisfaction. Since the 1930's there has been a great deal of interest in the relationship between employee well-being and productivity.

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Hersey (1932, Zelenski et. al, 2008) reported a positive relationship between daily emotions and performance.

According to research in November 2010, 85 % of the people in Slovenia were satisfied with their lives, of which 21 % were very satisfied. Very dissatisfied were 3 % of people in Slovenia (<http://www.stat.si/>, Vorina, Škafar, 2013).

The results of the study (Rathi, 2011) demonstrated a positive relationship between psychological well-being and organizational commitment and its components, namely affective, continuance, and normative commitment.

Vorina (2013) study (n=1006) shows that the engagement of employees would increase if the satisfaction with life increase.

Political culture is defined by the International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences as "the set of attitudes, beliefs and sentiments which give order and meaning to a political process and which provide the underlying assumptions and rules that govern behavior in the political system." It encompasses both the political ideals and operating norms of a polity. Political culture is thus the manifestation in aggregate form of the psychological and subjective dimensions of politics. A political culture is the product of both the collective history of a political system and the life histories of the members of the system and thus it is rooted equally in public events and private experience." (Freedman, 1986)

A political culture is a set of attitudes and practices held by a person that shapes their political behaviour. It includes moral judgments, political myths, beliefs, and ideas about what makes for a good society. A political culture is a reflection of a government, but it also incorporates elements of history and tradition that may predate the current regime. Political cultures matter because they shape a population's political perception and actions. Governments can help shape political culture and public opinion through education, public events, and commemoration of the past. Political cultures vary greatly from state to state and sometimes even within a state. Generally speaking, however, political culture remains more or less the same over time.

Example: The United States and Great Britain are both democracies, but each has a distinct political culture. The American government derives its powers from a written constitution drafted by men who feared monarchs and strong central governments, which is why they divided the federal government into three distinct branches. Also, the American political system is dominated by two political parties. Great Britain, in contrast, has a long history of the monarchy and has never had a written constitution. Even though the current monarch holds the official title of the head of state, her powers are nominal, leaving Parliament - the legislative body - as the dominant element of the government. And unlike the United States, Great Britain currently has nearly half a dozen political parties that regularly seat candidates in Parliament (<http://www.sparknotes.com/us-government-and-politics/political-science/political-culture-and-public-opinion/section1.rhtml>).

One of the biggest challenges for the study of politics is the questions: Does political participation lead to happiness or not? Research in this area has been made on the theory in which the focus on co-operation of democratic politics and life satisfaction. The research shows that people are not happier because they are participating in politics (<http://www.iadb.org/res/publications/pubfiles/pubWP-638.pdf>).

3. Exploratory Data Analysis

Sample. We chose to investigate the population – young people (from 15 to 30 years old) from Slovenia (n=535) and Croatia (n=370). Occasional sample consisted of 905 respondents. The study included 276 (30.5 %) men and 629 (69.5 %) women, 7 (2.1%). There were 19 people (2.1 %) with completed primary school level of education or less, 493 respondents (54.5 %) with completed secondary school level of education and 393 people (43.4 %) with completed vocational school level of education or more. The average age of respondents is 23.04 years, standard deviation is 3.12 years, the average monthly income is 484.68 euros, standard deviation is 323.60 euros.

Accessories-description questionnaire. The questionnaire consisted of 16 claims or questions which have been divided into three sections. The first set consisted of five demographic data (sex, country, age, income, level of education) and the second set consisted of five factors about satisfaction with life. The satisfaction with life (SWL) was measured by SWLS consists of 5-items: In most ways my life is close to my ideal; The conditions of my life are excellent; I am satisfied with my life; So far I have gotten the important things I want in life; If I could live my life over, I would change almost nothing. The assessment scale had a 5 points: 5 - Strongly agree; 4 - Agree; 3 - Neither agree nor disagree; 2 - Disagree; 1 - Strongly disagree. The satisfaction with political culture (SWPC) was measured by 5 items: I have complete confidence in the government and its work; Our politicians are honest; The government is working hard to do well for a citizen; Legal order and principle of a state governed by the rule of law are respected in our country; Our president is a respectable person. The assessment scale had a 5 points: 5 - Strongly agree; 4 - Agree; 3 - Neither agree nor disagree; 2 - Disagree; 1 - Strongly disagree. We also measured the opinion that By entering of Croatia to the EU, the political relations between Croatia and Slovenia have improved significantly. A written “online” survey (with google-drive) was conducted from 25/4/2013 to 7/5/2013.

Used methods, data processing. The collected data were analyzed using IBM SPSS, version 20. We have also used the Microsoft tools Word and Excel. Regarding the purpose and objectives of the research we used descriptive statistics, linear regression and t-test.

Verification of the adequacy of the measurement instrument. The reliability of a questionnaire, which measure SWL is Cronbach's alpha 0.876 (Tables 1 and 2), the reliability of a questionnaire, which measure satisfaction with political culture (SWPC) is Cronbach's alpha 0.797 which means a lot or exemplary reliability of measurement.

Table 1. Case Processing Summary, SWL

	N	%
Valid	905	100
Cases excluded	0	0
Total	905	100

Source: SPSS 20, Author's creation

Table 2. Reliability Statistics, SWL

Cronbach's Alpha	N of items
0.876	5

Source: SPSS 20, Author's creation

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Table 3. Case Processing Summary, SWPC

	N	%
Valid	905	100
Cases excluded	0	0
Total	905	100

Source: SPSS 20, Author's creation

Table 4. Reliability Statistics, SWPC

Cronbach's Alpha	N of items
0.797	5

Source: SPSS 20, Author's creation

4. Findings of the Research-test Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: There is a statistically significant difference in the satisfaction with life between Slovenian and Croatian young people.

The hypothesis 1 was tested by using the t-test for independent samples. Hypothesis 1 can be accepted. In Tables 5 and 6 we can see that $t(903) = 19.63$ $p\text{-value} = 0.000$, and therefore we conclude that there is a statistically significant difference between Slovenian and Croatian young people in SWL. Croatian young people are more SWL ($M = 18.22$, $SD = 3.59$) than Slovenian young people ($M = 15.11$, $SD = 4.77$) (Table 6).

Table 5. T-test - SWL and country

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		T-test for Equality of Means		
		F	Sig.	t	df	P-value
Sum five factors (SWL)	Equal variances assumed	43.305	0.000	10.63	903	0.000
	Equal variances not assumed			11.18	896.55	0.000

Source: IBM SPSS 20, Excel, Author's creation

Table 6. Sum-SWL and country

Country	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
Croatia	18.22	370	3.59
Slovenia	15.11	535	4.77
Total	16.38	905	4.59

Source: IBM SPSS 20, Excel, Author's creation

Hypothesis 2: There is a statistically significant difference in the satisfaction with political culture between Slovenian and Croatian young people.

The hypothesis 2 was tested by using the T-test for independent samples. Hypothesis 2 can also be accepted. In Tables 7 and 8 we can see that $t(903) = 11.41$ p -value = 0.000, and therefore we conclude that there is a statistically significant difference between Slovenian and Croatian young people in SWPC. Croatian young people are more SWPC ($M = 10.31$, $SD = 3.36$) than Slovenian young people ($M = 7.87$, $SD = 3.01$) (Table 8). Both of them are very dissatisfied with the political culture ($M = 8.87$, $SD = 3.37$).

Table 7. T-test - SWPC and country

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		T-test for Equality of Means		
		F	Sig.	t	df	P-value
Sum five factors (SWPC)	Equal variances assumed	12.568	0.000	11.42	903	0.000
	Equal variances not assumed			11.20	736.82	0.000

Source: IBM SPSS 20, Excel, Author's creation

Table 8. Sum-SWPC and country

Country	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
Croatia	10.31	370	3.356
Slovenia	7.87	535	3.012
Total	8.87	905	3.375

Source: IBM SPSS 20, Excel, Author's creation

Hypothesis 3: Satisfaction with life depends on the satisfaction with political culture.

Hypothesis 3 was tested with models of linear regression. In the Model we chose independent variables X – SWPC (summary of the 5 factors). The dependent variable (Y -SWL) was measured as the sum of 5 factors by SWLS. The linear regression Model (1) with estimated parameters is:

$$Y = 12.178 + 0.474 \cdot X \quad (1)$$

$n = 905$, R -squared = 0.121, Adjusted R -squares = 0.120, Standard Error = 4.304, $F(1, 903) = 124.77$, P -value = 0.000.

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Table 9. Regression Model : K=1, n=905

R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
0.348	0.121	0.120	4.304	1.87

Source: IBM SPSS 20, Excel, Author's creation

Table 10. Regression Model, F-test

Model	Sum of Squares	df	F	P-value
Regres.	2311.566	1	124.771	0.000
Resid.	16729.435	903		
Total	19041.001	904		

Source: IBM SPSS 20, Excel, Author's creation

Table 11. Regression Model, K=1, n=905

	Coeff.	Standard Error	t Stat	P-value
Intercept.	12.178	0.402	30.27	0.000
X	0.474	0.042	11.17	0.000

Source: SPSS 20, Author's creation

In Model (Table 9, 10, 11) 12.1 % of total sum of squares is explained by the estimated model. Variables X- SWPC (p-value=0.000) is statistically significant at 5% significance level. The regression coefficient β shows that if X- SWPC would increase, the regression value of SWL also increases. Therefore hypothesis 3 is accepted.

Hypothesis 4: The majority of the young people in Slovenia and Croatia are completely or mostly agree with the statement that with the entry of Croatia in EU will improve the political relationship between Slovenia and Croatia.

Of the total of 370 respondents in Croatia only 72 (19.45 %) respondents agree or strongly agree that the entry of Croatia to the EU will improve relations between Slovenia and Croatia. In Slovenia, a total of 535 respondents only 55 respondents (10.28 %) agree or strongly agree that the entry of Croatia to the EU will improve relations between the two countries. Therefore, the hypothesis 4 is rejected.

Table 12. Descriptive analysis, by the entry of Croatia in EU will improve the political relationship between Slovenia and Croatia

Scale	Croatia (n)	Percent (%)	Slovenia (n)	Percent (%)	Total (n)	Total (%)
Strongly disagree	34	9	167	31	201	40
Disagree	86	23	127	24	213	47
Neither agree nor disagree	178	48	186	35	364	83
Agree	61	16	43	8	104	25
Strongly agree	11	3	12	2	23	5
Total	370	100	535	100	905	200

Source: SPSS 20, Author's creation

5. Conclusion

In this paper we presented a completely new field of research, we investigated the relationship between the satisfaction with political culture and satisfaction with life in occasional sample of 905 respondents from Slovenia (n=535) and Croatia (n=370).

We accepted three hypotheses 1, 2 and 3, but we rejected hypothesis 4 in the research. We accepted the hypothesis 1, because we found out that there is a statistically significant difference (p-value = 0.000) in the satisfaction with life between Slovenian and Croatian young people. We found out that Croatian young people (M = 18.22, SD = 3.59) are more satisfied with life than young people from Slovenia (M = 15.11, SD = 4.77). We also accepted the hypothesis 2, because we found out that there is a statistically significant difference (p-value = 0.000) in the satisfaction with political culture between Slovenian and Croatian young people. We found out that Croatian young people (M = 10.31, SD = 3.56) are more satisfied with political culture than young people from Slovenia (M = 7.87, SD = 3.01). Both of them are very dissatisfied with the political culture (M = 8.87, SD = 3.37).

The additional hypothesis 3 was also accepted. In Model, n = 905, K = 1 linear regression, explaining 12.1% of the variability of variable Y. We investigated the dependence of the variable Y-SWL (summary of the 5 factors). For independent variables we took one variable: X-SWPC (summary of the 5 factors). We found that the variable X (p-value = 0.000) is statistically significant at the 5% level of risk. F test for the model, the F (1, 903) = 124.77, and p-value = 0.000 showing that the overall model is statistically significant at the 5% significance level. Regression coefficient β ($\beta = 0.474$) shows that if the satisfaction with a political culture increase than also increase the satisfaction with life.

The last hypothesis 4 was rejected, which stated that the majority of the young people in Slovenia and Croatia are completely or mostly agree with the statement that with the entry of Croatia in EU will improve the political relationship between Slovenia and Croatia. Of the total of 370 respondents in Croatia only 72 (19.45 %) responded agree or strongly agree that the entry of Croatia to the EU will improve relations between the two countries. In Slovenia, a total of 535 respondents only 55 respondents (10.28 %) agree or strongly agree that the entry of Croatia to the EU will improve relations between the two countries.

In the future research it would be interesting to study whether there are statistically significant differences between people from Slovenia and Croatia and the other countries with all ages.

If we want a better world, we have to change the political culture immediately. The politicians should be more honest and have to work for the benefit of citizens.

Satisfaction with life = f (satisfaction with political culture)

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ZADOVOLJSTVO ŽIVOTOM I POLITIČKA KULTURA – POREĐENJE IZMEĐU MLADIH LJUDI IZ SLOVENIJE I HRVATSKE

Rezime: U ovom radu prikazujemo analizu zadovoljstva životom i političkom kulturom između mladih ljudi (uzrasta od 15 do 30 godina) u Sloveniji i Hrvatskoj. Osnovni cilj istraživanja je da se utvrdi da li postoji (i kakav je) uticaj zadovoljstva političkom kulturom na zadovoljstvo životom. Pisana „online“ anketa je sprovedena od 25. aprila 2013. godine do 07. maja 2013. godine. Upotrebom linearne regresije došli smo do saznanja da postoji statistički značajna veza između zadovoljstva političkom kulturom i zadovoljstva životom. Takođe smo zabeležili da postoji statistički značajna razlika između mladih ljudi u Sloveniji i Hrvatskom u pogledu zadovoljstva životom i političkom kulturom.

Ključne reči: mladi ljudi, zadovoljstvo životom, politička kultura, linearna regresija