European Social Survey

Discussion on the Bulgarian participation in the ESS: academic and policy benefits and challenges

20th June, 2016, Sofia

Importance of ESS Data for Analyzing Stratification and Social Mobility

Prof. Rumiana Stoilova
Lachezar Nyagolov, PhD Student

Institute for the study of Societies and Knowledge
at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

ISSK
Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Content

1. Dynamic of Subjective Stratification in Bulgaria
2. Self identification in stratification - international comparison, in focus are the post communist countries
3. Social mobility in Bulgaria and Hungary
4. Conclusions

Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Main issues

The first part of the presentation examines the changes in the subjective social stratification in Bulgaria (1992 – 2012).

In the next part we continue with international comparison on the level of social structure for subjective stratification between Bulgaria and several typological selected EU post communist countries.

Importance of ethnicity and gender for subjective stratification in the middle and upper class in Bulgaria and Hungary is included in the regression analysis.

In the last part , using data from the sixth round of ESS for 2012 we present a social mobility analysis for Bulgaria and Hungary.

Importance of Subjective Stratification

- Subjective perception of persons position in society is an important factor in determining the state of society because it not only allows to present a snapshot of its current state, but also to see the dynamics of the self-assessment over time.
- The self-assessment of the occupied hierarchical position in society affects the degree of satisfaction and well-being in the particular society (Kelley and Kelley 2009).
- The subjective self-assessment of individuals is influenced by different indicators - level of education, socio-professional status, income level, ethnicity, gender (Bellat and Kieffer 2008).

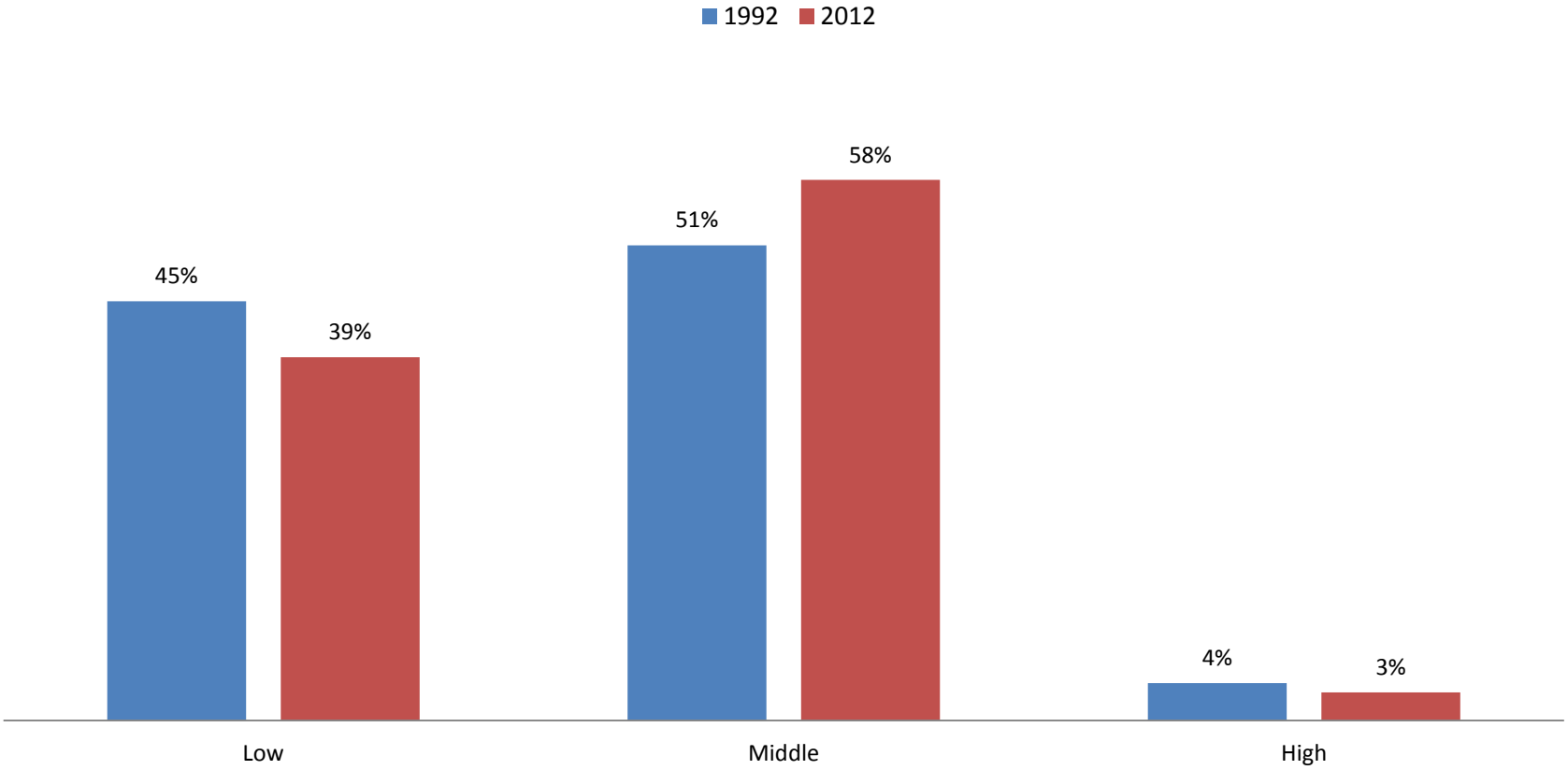
1. Dynamic of Subjective Stratification in Bulgaria

The self-assessment dynamic is presented in two time points – the state in 1992 and 2012

- The data for 1992 is from ISSP
- The data for 2012 is from the ESS

Although the data is from different surveys and it won't be possible to have full comparability, still it is possible to make a general assessment of the changes, because both surveys are elaborated on a high academic level and include all EU member states.

Subjective Stratification in Bulgaria 1992-2012



Source : Social Inequality II (ISSP 1992/1993) and ESS 2012

www.europeansocialsurvey.org

Results

There is a decrease of the percentage of people who assess their position in society as lower than middle (by 6 percent points).

Middle class is growing over time with 7 percent's and the upper class is fairly constant.

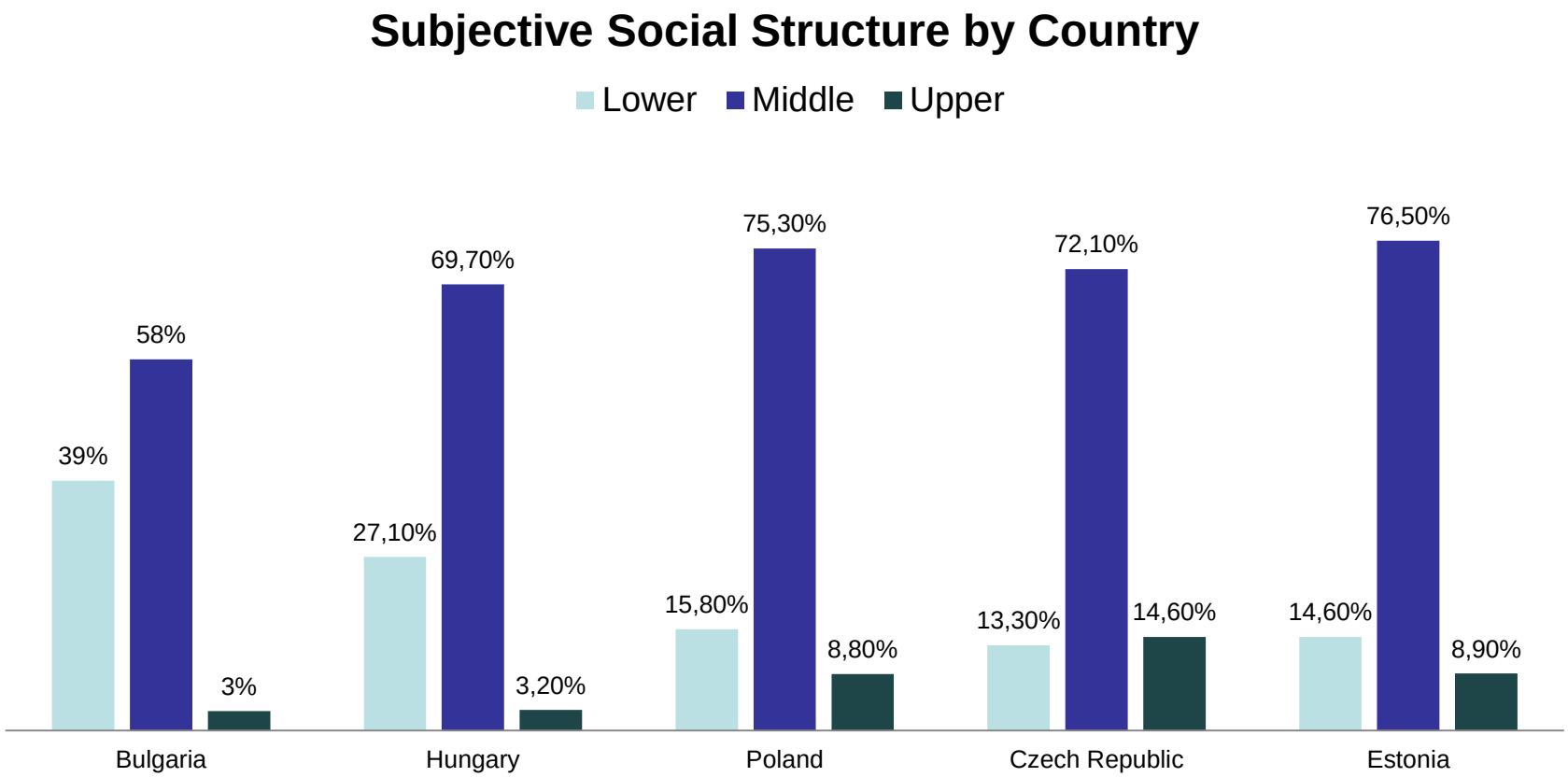
2. Subjective Stratification - international comparative perspective

Two research questions:

1 . Could be identified different social structure composition along to the division between conservative, social-democratic, liberal and southern type among the post-communist countries , which are placed in one category by Esping-Andersen (1993)?

2. Does the division from the begging of the transformation - of countries that become "capitalist but without capitalists" and those lagging behind who create "capitalists without capitalism", still exist (Szelenyi 2001)?

International comparison- descriptive analysis



Source : ESS 2012

www.europeansocialsurvey.org

Results

- Differences between Poland, Czech Republic and Estonia in all of the social classes are minimal – 3% in the lower layer and are within 4% in the middle and 5% in the upper class. Czech Republic is the country with the best stratification indicators.
- Hungary is outstanding from the rest of the Central European countries with size of the lower class of 27% and smaller upper class of only 3%.
- Bulgaria and Hungary have the largest lower classes and similar upper classes.

International comparison- regression analysis

1. Logistic regression was used to determine the impact of key factors on the self-assessment of the respondents.

- The self-assessment for the subjective stratification is put as dependent variable using three categories - low, middle and upper class. The reference category is lower.
- Independent variables - level of education, socio-professional group, household income, gender and ethnicity

2. The regression analysis is made for Bulgaria and Hungary as countries with closes levels of the three social classes.

Socio-professional groups and levels of education

The social-professional groups in the regression are created using the ISCO coding and grouping used by ILO:

- high skilled white collar (ISCO codes 1,2 and 3) includes legislators, senior officials and managers, professionals and technicians and associate professionals;
- low skilled white collar (ISCO codes 4 and 5) includes clerks and service workers and shop and market sales workers;
- high skilled blue collar (ISCO codes 6 and 7) includes skilled agricultural and fishery workers and craft and related trades workers;
- low skilled blue collar (ISCO codes 8 and 9) includes plant and machine operators and assemblers and elementary occupations.

Level of education is recoded using the ISCED classification in three groups – basic and lower, secondary and tertiary.

Regression model for Bulgaria

Logistic regression for subjective social position			
		Self assessment of social position (ref.cat. – low)	
		Middle	Upper
Education of the respondent(ref.cat. – secondary)	Basic and lower	-.757**	-.775
	Tertiary	,366*	1.054**
Socio-professional group (ref.cat. – low skilled white collar)	High skilled white collar	,512**	,546
	High skilled blue collar	,281	-,273
	Low skilled blue collar	,052	-,619
Level of income (ref.cat. – middle)	Lower than middle	-,558**	-,719
	Higher than middle	,898*	1,641**
Gender of the respondent (ref.cat. –man)	Woman	-,024	-,478
Ethnicity (ref.cat. – Bulgarian)	Roma	-1,970**	-17.824
	Turkish	-.786**	-1.286
Number of cases	1609		
Nagelkerke	0.239		

Source : ESS 2012,

www.europeansocialsurvey.org

Results

When we look at the chance for **self assessment in the middle class**:

- The level of education is statistically significant – the lower education reduces this chance, and university education increases it.
- Only the high skilled white collars is statistically significant – increasing the chance
- Level of income is statistically significant – lower than middle income reduces the chance and higher than middle increases the chance
- From the ascribed statuses gender is not a significant predictor, but ethnicity is statistically significant and the chance for the representatives of the minority groups is lower in comparison to the Bulgarians

When we look at the chance for **self assessment in the upper class** the impact of the factors is changed. Only tertiary education and higher than middle income are significant and increasing the chance for identification with the upper class.

Regression model for Hungary

Logistic regression for subjective social position			
		Self assessment of social position (ref.cat. – low)	
		Middle	Upper
Education of the respondent(ref.cat. – secondary)	Basic and lower	-.458**	.019
	Tertiary	,672**	.921
Socio-professional group (ref.cat. – low skilled white collar)	High skilled white collar	,325	1,248*
	High skilled blue collar	-,183	-,145
	Low skilled blue collar	-,291	-,395
Level of income (ref.cat. – middle)	Lower than middle	-,760**	,338
	Higher than middle	,363*	,248
Gender of the respondent (ref.cat. –man)	Woman	-,102	-,354
Ethnicity (ref.cat. – Hungarian)	Other	-,644	-17,770
Number of cases	1130		
Nagelkerke	0.161		

Source : ESS 2012

www.europeansocialsurvey.org

Results (Hungary)

When we look at the chance for self assessment in the **middle class**:

- The level of education is statistically significant – the lower education reduces this chance, and high education increases
- None of the socio-professional groups is statistically significant
- Level of income is statistically significant – lower than middle income reduces the chance and higher than middle increases the chance
- Neither gender or ethnicity is statistically significant

When we look at the chance for self assessment in the **upper class** the impact of the factors is quit different. Only the high skilled white collar group is significant and increasing the chance for self assessment in the upper class than in the lower.

Summary of the regression results (Bulgaria and Hungary)

Although Bulgaria and Hungary are the two countries with most similarities in the levels of subjective stratification, the explanation effect of the independent variables is not similar – 16% in Hungary and 24 % in Bulgaria.

The socio-professional group and ethnicity are statistically significant for the middle class identification in Bulgaria but not in Hungary.

Tertiary level of education is significant for the chance of self assessment in the upper class for Bulgaria but not for Hungary.

3. Social mobility

Correlation between socio-professional statusses of the respondent and of the father - Bulgaria 2008

	Socio-professional group of the father				Number of cases	%
Socio-professional group of the respondent	High skilled white collar	Low skilled white collar	High skilled blue collar	Low skilled blue collar		
High skilled white collar	21.8%	18,4%	36,3%	23.5%	597	100%
Low skilled white collar	7%	13,4%	**42,5%** ↑	**37,2%** ↑	374	100%
High skilled blue collar	3.8%	6,3%	44,2%	45.8%	319	100%
Low skilled blue collar	**4%** ↓	**7,8%** ↓	**32.3%** ↓	**56%** =	579	100%
Total number of cases	1896					

Source : ESS 2008, Cramer's V - 210*, Number of cases - 1896

Results (Bulgaria 2008)

- The highest reproduction of the socio-professional status of the father is in the lowest group, 56% of the low blue-collar workers also have fathers from this group.
- The most upward mobile people are in the low white collars with 80% having fathers from the lower groups.
- The group that receives the most significant number of downward mobile people is the low blue-collar, where 44% of people have fathers from higher socio-professional groups, most of which 32,3% are from the high blue-collar.
- The second group for downward mobility is that of the high blue collar, where 10,1 % have fathers from the group of high white collars.

Correlation between socio-professional groups of the respondent and of the father – Bulgaria 2012

	Socio-professional group of the father				Number of cases	%
Socio-professional group of the respondent	High skilled white collar	Low skilled white collar	High skilled blue collar	Low skilled blue collar		
High skilled white collar	24.9%	**17,6% ↑**	**36,5% ↑**	**21% ↑**	586	100%
Low skilled white collar	10.1%	17,3%	42,3%	30,4%	444	100%
High skilled blue collar	3.5%	10,4%	31,3%	53%	317	100%
Low skilled blue collar	**2,1% ↓**	**5,8% ↓**	**34% ↓**	**51,8% =**	432	100%
Total number of cases	1779					

Source : ESS 2012, Cramer's V - 235*, Number of cases - 1779

www.europeansocialsurvey.org

Results (Bulgaria 2012)

- The highest reproduction of the socio-professional status of the father is in the lowest group, 52% of the low blue-collar workers also have fathers from this group.
- The most upward mobile people are in the high white collars where 75% have fathers from lower group and the low white collars are next with 73%.
- The group receiving the highest number of downward mobile people is the low blue-collar - 48% of people have fathers from higher socio-professional groups, most of which 34% are from the high blue-collar.
- **The comparison for Bulgaria of social mobility 2008-2012 shows constancy in the trends of social reproduction and downward mobility but the upward mobility is different – with higher levels in 2008 in the low white collars and in 2012 in the high white collars.**

Correlation between the socio-professional groups of the father and the respondents - Hungary

Socio-professional group of the respondent	Socio-professional group of the father				Number of cases	%
	High skilled white collar	Low skilled white collar	High skilled blue collar	Low skilled blue collar		
High skilled white collar	13%	**8,6% ↑**	**60,8% ↑**	**17.6% ↑**	454	100%
Low skilled white collar	8.9%	8.9%	53,1%	29%	303	100%
High skilled blue collar	2.4%	5.5%	50.2%	42%	255	100%
Low skilled blue collar	**2,3% ↓**	**3% ↓**	**33% ↓**	**61,7% =**	433	100%
Total number of cases	1445					

Source : ESS 2012, Cramer's V - 225*, Number of cases - 1445

www.europeansocialsurvey.org

Comparison between Bulgaria and Hungary (2012)

The overall trends of social mobility in Bulgaria and Hungary are similar but still with one important difference:

Although the most significant number of people with **downward mobility** is in the low blue collar group for both countries, the second group for Bulgaria is that of the high blue collar and for Hungary is the low white collars.

4. Conclusions

- When we look at Bulgaria alone there is a change from 2008 to 2012 for the upward mobility as the main recipient group for 2008 was the low white collars and in 2012 is the high white collars.
- The difference between Bulgaria and the Central European countries are still significant.
- For the subjective placement in the middle of the social structure , level of education and income are equally significant for Bulgaria and Hungary but for the identification with the upper class in Bulgaria university education and high incomes are significant in comparison to Hungary where the high managerial and professional position is significant.

Conducting international comparative studies with unified questionnaires displays differences with high analytical potential for the scientific community, for doctoral students working on their dissertations, who can use advanced analytical methods .

Thank you for the attention!

Rumiana.Stoilova@gmail.com
Rstoilova@bas.bg
ikhar4@hotmail.com
Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences