

SATISFACTION IN RUSSIA

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CONCLUSIONS

As discussed in this chapter people in Russia are in general satisfied with their life although the percentage (completely) dissatisfied is considerable higher than in most West European studies. With respect to the satisfaction with the specific domains of life examined in this study, people in Russia are very satisfied with their social contacts (where the percentages are comparable to those found in the Western countries) and also quite satisfied with their housing. However not many people in Russia seem to be satisfied with their financial situation. The comparison between Russians and Tatars appears to indicate that these two ethnic groups have a lot in common in terms of their level of satisfaction. However, there was a general tendency for the Russians to express less satisfaction with life in general, housing and finance than Tatars.

In this study the effects of the demographic variables such as gender, age, education and income on satisfaction scores in Russian and Tatars populations have been estimated. The hypothesis stated in the introduction, that stronger effects of income and education would be found in East European countries than in West European countries, is not confirmed by the results of this study. The effects of these variables (income and education) are comparable to those reported in most of the West European countries presented in this book. The explained variance for the satisfaction variables increased by adding the extra demographic variables such as marital status, kind of housing and some others. The largest increase was found for satisfaction with housing, probably because of the additional predictor 'accommodation'. However, even after correction for measurement error also, a large amount of unexplained variance in the satisfaction scores still remains, therefore we can conclude that demographic characteristics are not the major determinants of satisfaction in Russia. In the Russian and in the other nationality groups, general life satisfaction is correlated most strongly with the domain specific variable of satisfaction with finance, somewhat lower with satisfaction with housing, and least with satisfaction with social contacts. This pattern is in accordance with the hypothesis concerning the relationships between the satisfaction variables in Eastern European countries, stated in Chapter 1. In the Tatars ethnic group, this hypothesis is not completely confirmed: satisfaction with life in general had a slightly higher correlation with the domain specific satisfaction variable of social contacts than with satisfaction with finances.