

**What People Want?
Public Support for
Political and Economic
Cooperation in the Black
Sea Area**

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Research sources:
(1) VCIOM polls
(2) Eurasia Monitor data

VCIOM
Weekly nationwide polls representative according to gender, age, level of education, type of residential unit. N = 1600. All Federal districts, 40 regions and republics, 138 cities and villages. Sampling error doesn't exceed 3,4

EM
15 companies located in 14 post-Soviet countries (with exception to Turkmenistan). Polls ran upon nationwide representative samples (1100-2000 respondents per country, normally total N = over 16 000). Twice per year.

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Schwarzesmeerkonferenz, St. Petersburg - Black Sea Region Conference, St. P.

Factors which define public support for foreign policy choices in the post-Soviet Black Sea Area

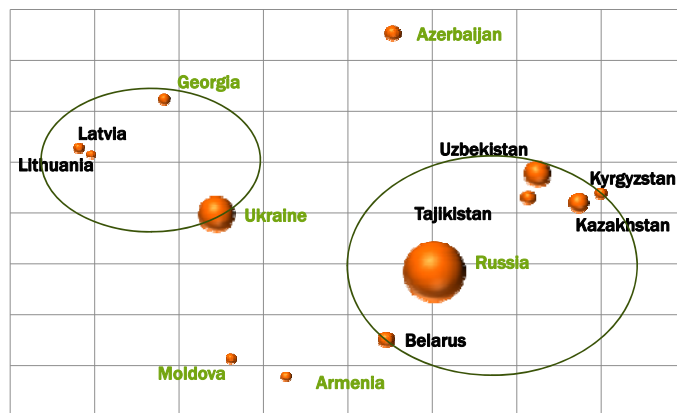
Politics
Economics
History



www.saspa.su.se/regionalkonferens...09.11.2012
Schwarzmeerkonferenz: Black Sea Region Conference 2012

Subjective feeling of attachment:

Mutual "friendliness" (Which of the FSU countries are friendly towards our country?) The share of respondents which called another country being "friendly".
Diameter of the circles is proportionate to the population size of the state.



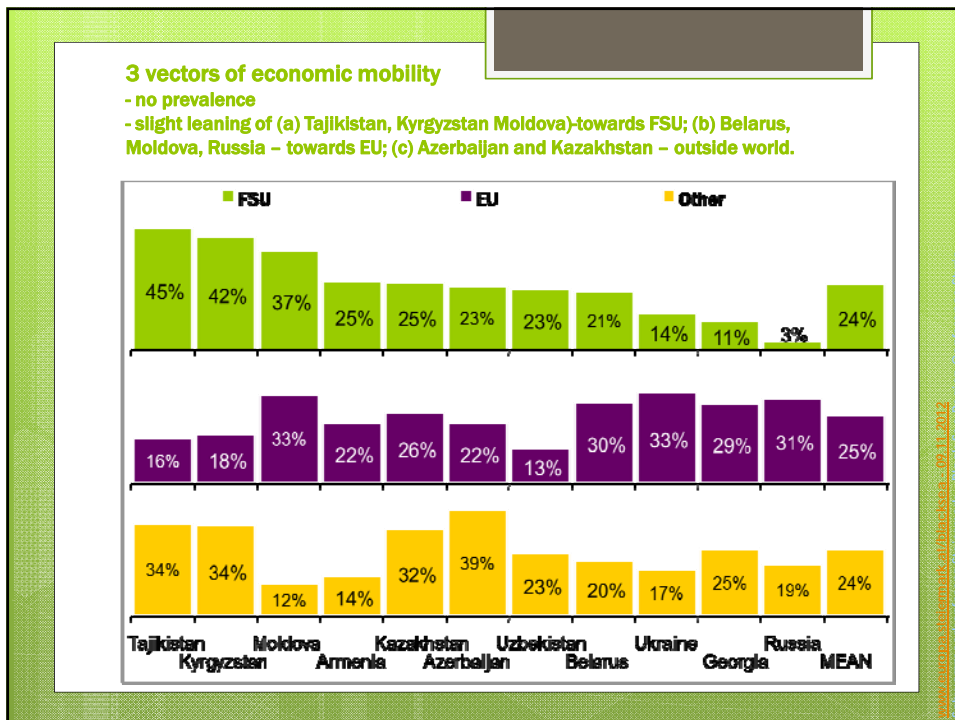
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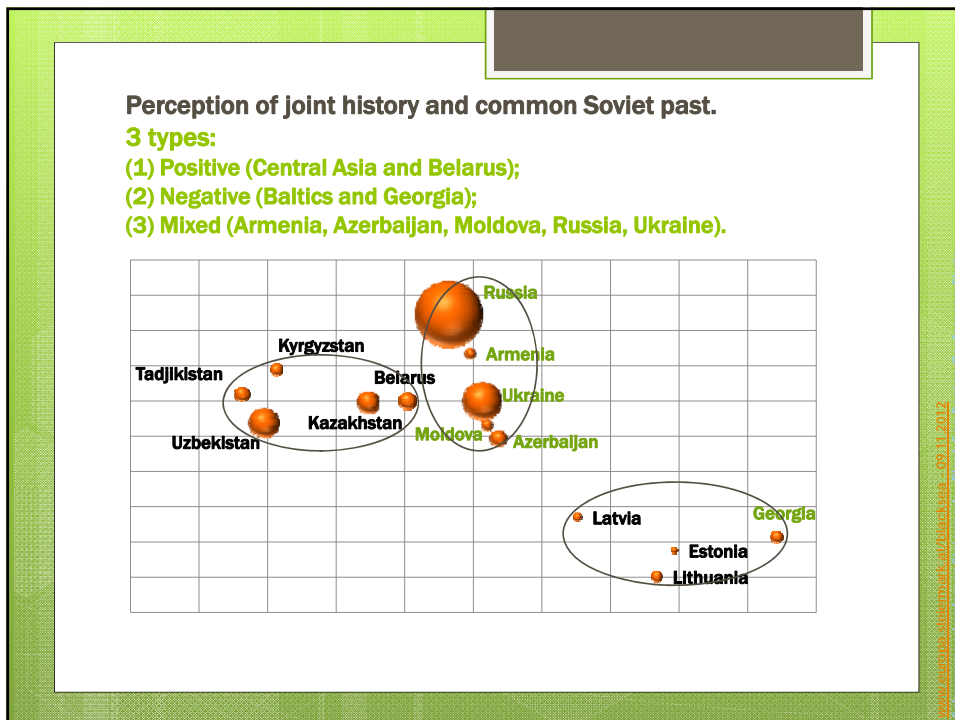
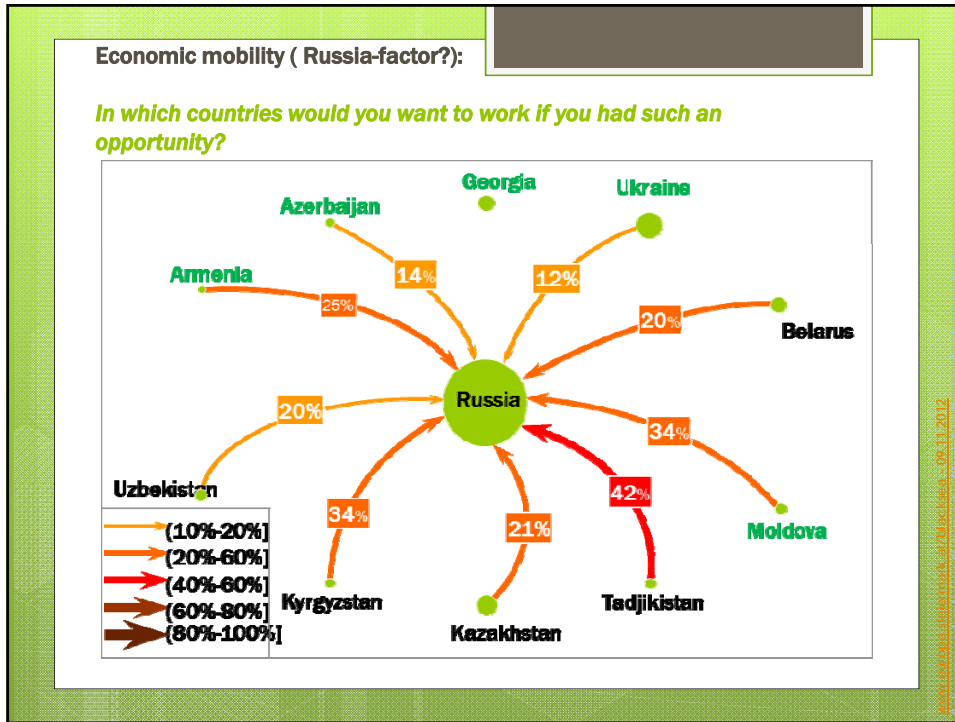
Integration:

*If you were to decide such things, which country do you think should your state **get united with?***

	Russia	Belarus	Ukraine	Kazakhstan	Armenia	Georgia	Tadjikistan	Uzbekistan	Kyrgyzstan	Moldova	Latvia
with Russia		48	54	53	59	7	86	49	71	45	27
with Belarus	38		34	5	1	1	6	4	7	1	11
with Ukraine	25	12		4	1	6	8	5	7	7	5
with Kazakhstan	27	9	12		0	0	24	11	38	1	2
with Armenia	15	2	2	1		3	1	2	2	1	1
with Azerbaijan	12	2	3	2	0	8	1	2	2	0	1
with Georgia	9	1	2	0	1		1	2	2	1	2
with Tadjikistan	10	2	2	1	0	0		4	2	0	1
with Uzbekistan	12	2	3	3	0	0	19		13	0	1
with Kyrgyzstan	11	2	2	3	0	0	8	6		0	1
with Moldova	15	2	6	1	0	1	1	1	1		1
with Turkey	4	1	2	5	1	4	5	3	11	1	1
with EU	13	22	21	17	11	40	10	10	10	29	28
no need to unite with any state	33	23	20	33	27	36	9	36	20	19	36

www.eurobarometer.europa.eu/2012/11/13/12323 - 09.11.2012
SchwarzmeerKonferenz/Siedelmarkt - Black Sea Region Conference 2012

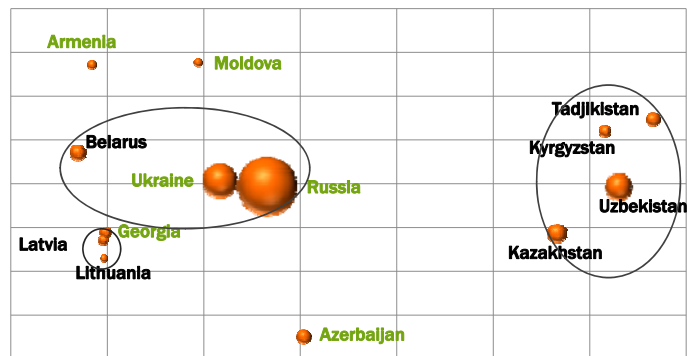




Dynamics of mutual interest

(“What is the country is interesting personally to you in XXI?”) The share of respondents in each country exhibiting any interest towards another state.

Diameter of the circle is proportionate to the population size of the state.



www.sozis.kit.edu/soznet/1144/soznet_07.11.2012
Schwarzmeerkonferenz Steiermark - Black Sea Region Conference Styria

Conclusions

- Mutual interest at the FSU (including BSA) is pretty low currently, due to domestic focus and other forces that attract the post-Soviet states (EU, Turkey, etc...)
- The strongest aspect attracting most interest and support for joint political and economic initiatives is nature, history, cuisine and folklore. “High arts” (literature, theatre and music) are following this aspect with large interval. Therefore such spheres could be the major integration markers within the region (and most effective).
- Interest differentiation is very high. Highest indifference towards the neighbors is exhibited by the citizens of: **Russia**, Kazakhstan, **Georgia**. Highest interest by: **Moldova**, Kyrgyzstan, **Tadjikistan**.



www.sozis.kit.edu/soznet/1144/soznet_07.11.2012
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Models, [potentially] affecting political and economic decisions in the common FSU Black Sea area interests:

- Economic factors (i.e. high economic interest towards Russia from Moldova on the public level – labor migration)
- Political interests and preferences (i.e. joint humanitarian interest between Georgia and the Baltics – not BSA, which correlates with mutual perception of friendliness)
- Historical and cultural factors – even in the absence of political cooperation (i.e. interest of Russians towards Georgian culture)



www.vciom.ru/interpolak/13112012
Schwarzmeerkonferenz 2012, Black Sea Region Conference, SWIN

Thank you!

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