

DISSERTATION PROJECT

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Social Determinants of Life Expectancy in Transition Economies

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Short description of the topic:

This thesis investigates the impact of social determinants on life expectancy in 16 transition economies from 1995 to 2012 by a panel data regression analysis.

The result suggests that, air quality, coverage for tertiary education, spending in health care have statistically positive associations with life expectancy. But the proxy variable of democracy, Economic Freedom and out-of-pocket health expenditure are not significant factors of life expectancy. To be specific, 1 microgram per cubic meter reduction in PM 2.5 air pollution(mean annual exposure) is associated with a gain of 2.16 months of life expectancy at birth. 100 dollars increase in health expenditure per capita is associated with a gain of 2.4 months of life expectancy at birth. 10% points increase in the gross enrolment ratio for tertiary school is associated with a gain of 3.6 months of life expectancy.

Proposed structure:

Chapter 1 Introduction

Chapter 2 Literature review

Chapter 3 Background

Chapter 4 Variables and methodology

Chapter 5 Data and model

Chapter 6 Discussion

Sources (basic selection):

Bobak, M., Murphy, M., Rose, R., & Marmot, M. (2007). Societal characteristics and health in the former communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union: a multilevel analysis. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 61(11), 990–996. <http://doi.org/10.1136/jech.2006.052134>.

Safaei, J. (2012) Post-Communist Health Transitions in Central and Eastern Europe. *Economics Research International*, Volume 2012, Article ID 137412, 10 pages, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1155/2012/137412>.

OECD (2017). *Health at a Glance 2017: OECD Indicators*, OECD Publishing, Paris, http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/health_glance-2017-en.