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**GENDER DIFFERENCES IN SELF-  
RATED HEALTH IN THE LATER LIFE  
IN POST-SOCIALIST COUNTRY: DOES  
SOCIAL COHESION MATTER?**

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# Gender differences in SRH in post-socialist Estonia

Working-age population:

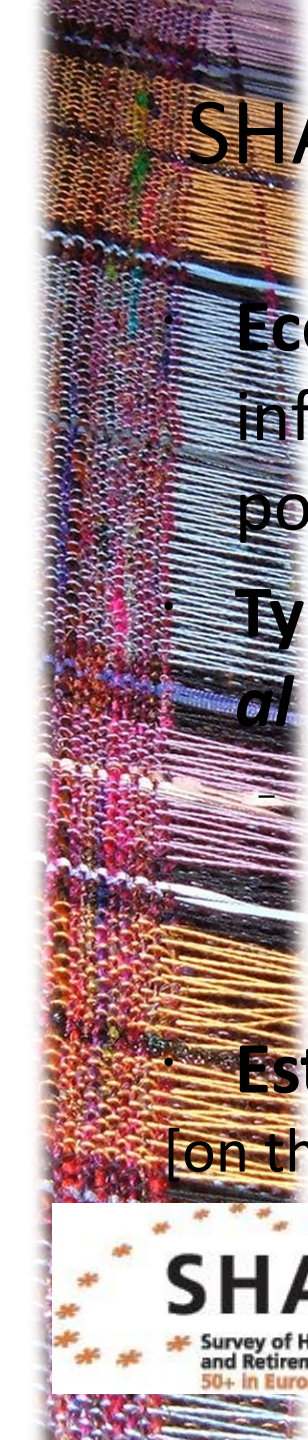
East-West health divide:

gender differentials in SRH in the East are especially marked compared to the West

Absence of gender gap in SRH in Estonia

Similar patterns of influence of socio-economic factors on men's and women's SRH in Estonian neoliberal welfare regime and Finnish social democratic welfare regime

Vulnerability explanation holds for Estonia (not for Finland):  
in Estonia women suffer from low social cohesion and lack of economic resources to a greater extent than Estonian men

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- SHARE : Gender differences in SRH in post-socialist Estonia - Methodology
  - Ecological model: *type of social cohesion* as influencing level and patterns of healths of aged population in given country
  - **Type of social cohesion** is measured by (cf *Deindl et al 2013*)
    - Income inequality (Gini coefficient)
    - General social trust (mean of answers on question, whether most people can be trusted)
  - **Estonia** as East *versus* social democratic **Denmark** [on the backdrop of other post-socialist countries]



# SHARE : Countries as Types of social cohesion

	Social cohesion		SRH in later life
	Income inequality:GINI	General social trust	Level of SRH
Estonia	<b>HIGH</b> 0.320	<b>HIGH</b> 5.309	<b>HIGH</b>
Poland	<b>HIGH</b> 0.305	Medium 3.856	<b>HIGH</b>
Hungary	Medium 0.272	Medium 4.151	<b>HIGH</b>
Czechia	LOW 0.256	Medium 4.448	Medium
Slovenia	LOW 0.246	Medium 4.115	Medium
Denmark	LOW 0.252	<b>HIGH</b> 6.922	LOW

# Measures

## The status of SRH

“Would you say your health is excellent, very good, good, fair or poor?”.

(0) at-least-good (excellent, very good) and good vs.

(1) less-than-good (fair and poor) health.

## Social Networks

structure - the number of people with whom respondents discussed important things;

social support: (a) gifts, (b) help which the respondent given or received;

network quality - overall satisfaction with relationships to social network members.

## Economic resources

- perceived economic situation (“How household is able to make ends meet”)

education

employment.

**our** – ever smoked, physically active

# Data analysis

## **Logistic regression analysis.**

Dependent variable : The risk of **perceiving own health to be less-than-good.**

### **1. The impact of gender on SRH in pooled model for all six countries.** Estonia is a point of reference.

Model : resident of country and gender, interaction country\*gender

### **2. The impact of gender on SRH separately in each country:**

Gross effects – Model 1

Net effects - Model 2: Model 1 + Social Networks measures,

Model 3: M 2 + Economic resources + behavior

Gender-specific impact of Social Networks (interaction terms)





# Gender differences in less-than-poor SRH by countries, %



Risk of having less-than-poor SRH: Men compared to women in selected countries (Estonia as referent in pooled model), interaction terms, odds ratios



# Gender differences in SRH by countries

Gender differences in SRH – odds			
	<b>Gross:</b> Gender gap: men vs women	<b>Net:</b> Controlled for Social network measures	<b>Net:</b> Controlled for SN and economic resources and behavior
	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
Estonia	0.93**	0.95*	0.99
Poland	0.92*	0.95	1.02
Hungary	<b>0.76***</b>	<b>0.77***</b>	0.96
Czechia	0.94*	1.00	1.15***
Slovenia	0.90**	0.93	1.08
Denmark	0.89*	0.89*	1.07

# Gender-specific impact on less-than-good self-rated health by countries

	Social Networks					
	Structure: size	Support: Gift given	Support: Gift received	Support: Help given	Support: Help received	Quality: Satis- faction
EE	1.09***			0.87**	1.26**	
PL	1.15***	1.65***	0.46***			
HU	1.10***	1.26*				1.05*
Cz		0.89*				0.96*
SI	0.92**	0.61***		0.76*		
DK				0.65***		

# Summary: Gender differences in SRH by types of social cohesion

	Social cohesion		Gender differences in SRH		
	Income inequality: GINI	General social trust	<b>Gross:</b> Gender gap  Model 1	<b>Net:</b> Controlled for Social network measures Model 2	<b>Net:</b> Controlled for SN and economic resources* Model 3
Estonia	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>HIGH</b>	Narrow	Narrow	
Poland	<b>HIGH</b>	Medium	Narrow		
Hungary	Medium	Medium	<b>SOME</b>	SOME	
Czechia	LOW	Medium	Narrow		SOME
Slovenia	LOW	Medium	Narrow		
Denmark	LOW	<b>HIGH</b>	Narrow	Narrow	



# Conclusions

## ESTONIA vs DENMARK:

Patterns of gender differences in SRH are quite similar ,  
substantial difference in economic inequality.

## ESTONIA vs OTHER post-socialist countries :

Variety of gender differences patterns

under different patterns of social cohesion.

- SN work in Estonia and Denmark in rather different ways to produce at first glance similar results
- Social cohesion reveal itself also through the particularities of welfare state?
  - Danish social-democratic versus Estonian neoliberal welfare state.