

## **Civic Participation in a Transforming Society: Motivational Forces, Social Capital and Trust**

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The transformation to democracy asks for the creation of democratic institutions and procedures and the change of attitudes towards engagement in public life. Civic participation is connected to social capital and generalized trust.

Surveys demonstrate that the level of civic participation in transforming societies is much lower than in established democracies. This can be attributed to the Soviet legacy, but it is difficult to explain positive association, in western and negative association, in transforming countries, of civic engagement with generalized trust.

The study's objective is to investigate citizen motivation in becoming a member of volunteer organizations. Hypotheses will be tested to determine whether participation is prompted primarily by the need for security and control in response to an insecure environment or by generalized trust and the need to belong.

Two types of associations are studied: those focused on achieving tangible goals (i.e. political parties, professional associations and trade unions) and those focused on self-expression and sharing (i.e. congregations and fan clubs). The role of control motivation is examined in the task-oriented associations while the need to belong will be looked at in the other associations. The socialization effect of civic engagement on generalized trust is estimated.