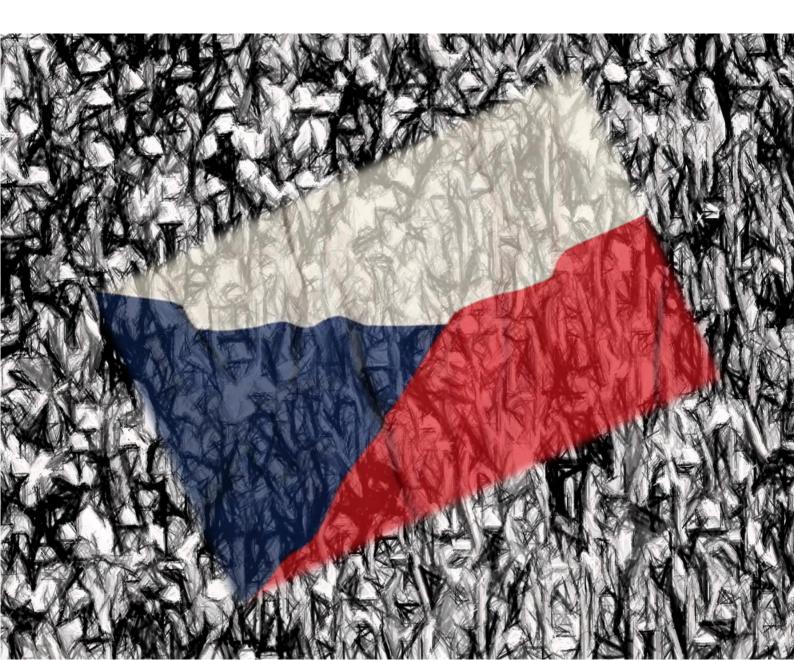
WHAT MATTERS TO CZECHS

Social, Political and Economic Values

A Report from the Anatomy of Civil Societies Research Project



The Anatomy of Civil Societies Research Project is examining the characteristics of individuals who provide financial and human capital support to civil society organisations. The 5-year, Australian Research Council funded project is a collaboration between colleagues in universities in Australia, North America and Europe.

WHAT MATTERS TO CZECHS: SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC VALUES

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Societies are complex entities with competing and conflicting and supporting and reinforcing characteristics. This study, part of a multiyear project sponsored by the Australian Research Council (ARC) in conjunction with the University of Technology, Sydney and Melbourne Business School, seeks to chart the social, economic and political preferences of society, using a unique methodology that provides us with a more accurate and robust picture of how individuals, as citizens, make fundamental trade-offs about things of material interest to their society.

The study was conducted in the Czech Republic with 673 participants, chosen to match the profile of the voting age population.¹ Similar studies were conducted in the UK, Australia and Germany, providing data on more than 9,000 individuals.² Examined were 16 categories of general social, economic and political issues that ranged from the local (for example, crime and public safety) to the global (for example, global security) along with 113 sub-issues that also varied from the local (for example, public transport and children's schooling) to the global (for example, nuclear non-proliferation and third world debt). This information was linked to data on the population's religious and political activities, its general demographics, and donating and volunteering activities with civil society organisations.

Some obvious and not so obvious results arise from this study. What is perhaps most obvious is that local issues dominate global issues. Most fundamentally – at both category and individual issue level – Czechs are much more concerned about issues that relate to their own lives and their local community as well as to their personal rights and liberties. A less obvious finding is how little these preferences differ across the Czech demographic spectrum. It would be expected that there would be certain differences between men and women, old and young or rich and poor. However, our results show that this is less likely than expected. Although some demographic differences exist, they are marginal and do not really drive the big issues motivating the population at large.

What is potentially the most critical finding is that issues that matter to the population are only weakly related to support for issues-based organisations in civil society. In fact, it seems there may be no relation between people financially supporting an issue and where that issue fits into their values after it is traded off against the full gamut of potential concerns. As an example, animal welfare organisations rate in the top five for donations, yet from the salience point of view, respondents put it in the bottom half.

Our findings also show that some of the most salient issues in the top five for the Czechs are related to the issues the Czech government is struggling with. The Czech Republic is currently experiencing the longest recession in its history and it is not surprising that economic growth is salient to most of the population. Legal rights,

¹ This was reweighted and bootstrapped to achieve an effect sample of 853 to balance out the difference between the number of males and females achieved from the sample

² A series of additional country studies are currently being conducted and will be released when available. Other published studies can be downloaded from: http://www.medara.gureia.arg/agail.acanopmic.and.political.voluce.reports.2/

http://www.modern-cynic.org/social-economic-and-political-values-reports-2/

another issue in the top five, reflect on a poor enforceability of law and most importantly on a very slow and inefficient judicial power. Czechs are also very cautious about industrial pollution, yet another long-pending problem for the government to solve and alleviate the impact of the heavy industry to the environment from the times when the companies were state-owned.

Overall, our results present a nuanced view of the social, economic and political preferences of the Czech population. It is valuable in informing businesses, policy makers, politicians and civil society organisations in developing their strategies for the future.

2. INTRODUCTION

WHY EXAMINE SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC VALUES?

In this, the first of our global values studies to examine the Czech Republic, we investigate the citizenship's perspectives on a range of social, economic and political issues. The research looks at individual preferences using a unique methodology that gives us a detailed profile on how people trade-off economic, social and political issues – something standard surveys do not do. The benefit of our approach is in gaining a more realistic and nuanced understanding of people's values, allowing policy makers, third sector groups, and others to more effectively understand what really matters to their key stakeholders and giving them options that are in line with what is truly salient.

WHAT WAS DONE IN THE STUDY?

The study is based on six distinct, but related, data collection exercises on a sample representative of the voting age population in the Czech Republic:

- 1. Best-worst experimental assessments of 16 general categories of economic, political and social issues. This allowed us to identify general categories of issues that matter to people.
- 2. Best-worst experimental assessments of the sub-category issues within each of the general categories, 113 in total. This allowed us to examine what matters within and across issue categories.
- 3. An assessment of the individual's satisfaction with their home and work/school life, personal health, and the political situation.
- 4. A battery of demographic and social and political questions about each respondent's situation and position in society (including educational status, employment status, income). This section also recorded religious activities and beliefs, and voting and political party affiliations.
- 5. An ethical disposition inventory to measure participants' altruistic tendencies.
- 6. Finally, respondents were asked about their donating and volunteering activities across nineteen general categories, from working in their local church or school to being involved in political parties, museums, homeless or healthcare organisations, animal welfare and environmental organisations and other categories of Civil Society Organisations.

The hallmark of this study is the application of the best-worst experimental assessment. Nearly all research and polling exercises addressing social economic and political issues consider the issues one at a time, typically via a simple multipoint scale. Usually these polling exercises require participants to nominate their position on a scale, for example between one and five, in response to a view, or scenario, put forward by the researcher. However, as outlined in work by members of this research team,³ a scaling approach distorts and overstates the importance of

³ Auger, P., Devinney, T.M. & J.J. Louviere (2007). "Using best-worst scaling methodology to investigate consumer ethical beliefs across countries," *J. of Business Ethics*, vol. 70, no. 3, pp. 299-326.

emotive social issues while failing to address what really matters in a more realistic situation where trade-offs must be made. This arises because the social issues that matter to people do not exist in isolation to economic issues. Both kinds of issues form part of people's beliefs and political preferences and infiltrate other aspects of their lives. In this sense, the value of a single issue cannot be examined in isolation, as the value of one social, political or economic issue can only be determined by how it stands against other competing issues. We address this by creating a situation where people must make trade-offs amongst issues, thereby effectively generating a relative measure of their value, importance and salience. In addition, because we examine a wide range of issues (more than 100), we get a better approximation to how people actually value issues, from the very unimportant to the most critical. Because of how we study the problem, we can get a picture not just as to what matters to society, in general, but to individuals in that society.

WHO WAS STUDIED?

The study takes a representative sample of the Czech population, focusing on voting age population. In the Czech Republic, citizens over 18 years of age are eligible to vote in all public elections. The study captures information about each participant's voting and political activities, religious beliefs and practices, and donating and volunteering activities. We also asked respondents to rate their satisfaction, both generally and in relation to their life circumstances. Participants rated their satisfaction with circumstances in their immediate personal situation (school, workplace) and at the societal level (politics).

CORE DEMOGRAPHICS

The study covers a representative sample of Czech voters representing 673 respondents. As a result of imbalance within the sample, which contained twice as many women as men, the data was reweighted. Through repeated sampling and bootstrapping, we ended up with an effect sample of 853, achieving a balanced sample to equal the number of women to the number of men, without having any significant impact on the results. The average respondent's annual household income is 255,017 Kč before tax amounting to 21,251 Kč monthly, and he or she has on average 1.3 children. More than half of all respondents own their home, either with a mortgage or outright (61.66%). Less than half of the study population is married or widowed (47%), while a quarter is single. Nearly all of the study participants – 98% – are Czech citizens.

RELIGIOSITY

The Czech Republic has historically a large proportion of population that expresses no religious affiliation. In our study, almost one third claimed to be Atheist. The rest of the sample population has a strong tendency to Christianity, with more than 89% of those not considering themselves Atheist identifying themselves as Christians. A small group of almost 3% follow Islam. Only 6% of all respondents' education was completed at a religiously affiliated institution and every tenth person had converted to their current religious position.

As intensity of belief and activity does not necessarily align directly with religious affiliation, we asked respondents about their beliefs in a higher power and an

afterlife. The results are given in Table 1, showing that every third Czech is a resolute Atheist and does not believe in an afterlife. The table also compares results among USA, Australia, UK and Germany, showing the Czechs together with Germans to be the least religious.

	Intensity and Direction of Belief				
	Do Not Believe	Fairly Unsure	Neither Sure or Unsure	Fairly Sure	Absolutely Certain
Belief in a Higher Authority (God)					
USA	8%	7%	10%	20%	55%
Australia	22%	12%	16%	23%	27%
UK	28%	13%	18%	19%	22%
Germany	33%	9%	21%	21%	16%
Czech Republic	30%	4%	24%	26%	16%
Belief in an Afterlife					
USA	11%	9%	14%	20%	46%
Australia	22%	14%	21%	20%	24%
UK	28%	16%	20%	16%	20%
Germany	35%	12%	25%	14%	14%
Czech Republic	33%	7%	31%	15%	14%

TABLE 1: INTENSITY OF RELIGIOUS BELIEF

Our study examines a variety of religious activities, from the private and personal to public and collective. On average, the typical individual goes to church for only 9.7 weeks of the year. People practice their religion and play out their beliefs in a variety of ways. The level of religious intensity of Czech people's private lives is very low. Only 4.6% of respondents engage in sayings prayer at meals, about 8% of respondents view religious websites or listen to religious music. The evidence from our study leads to the conclusion that Christian activity is at the periphery of the daily lives and concerns of the average Czech household.

The typical experience of education of the adult population is a secular one, as generations have not been choosing to entrust their children's education directly to religious groups. Our study investigates the attendance at religious-based schools across all education and finds that from nursery school through university, the average Czech adult completed only 6% of their education at a religious-based school or university. That is a very low number compared to the UK and the USA, where the attendance at the religious-based schools amounts to around 11%.

When it comes to the societal level and to preferences on whether there should be any connection between political leadership and religion, our findings show a low significance to Czech voters of the religious beliefs of politicians. When asked if religious authorities should influence political outcomes, more than 93% of respondents answered they should not. Compared to other countries in this study, it is the lowest result.

	Religious beliefs of politicians matter to your vote (% Yes)	Should religious authorities influence political outcomes (% Yes)
USA	40.5%	24.2%
Australia	12.4%	11.5%
UK	22.0%	14.5%
Germany	17.6%	7.6%
Czech Republic	12.2%	6.8%

TABLE 2: RELIGIOUS BELIEFS OF POLITICIANS FOR VOTERS

Our findings confirm that religion, represented mostly by Christianity, plays a marginal role in Czech society, and that the level of trust towards religious institutions is extremely low. This is not surprising, given the national temperament, and, most importantly, following on from 40 years of antireligious propaganda by the Communist regime; resulting in the significant displacement of religious activity from Czech society.

POLITICS

The major political parties frame the nature of public political debate on major issues that affect society. Study participants were queried as to which political party was closest to representing their political beliefs. Nearly 35% of respondents believed the socialist party (CSSD) represented their political values. Right wing parties, represented by ODS, TOP9 and VV, were aligned with 50% of the respondents in the study. The remaining 16% were aligned with the Communist party.

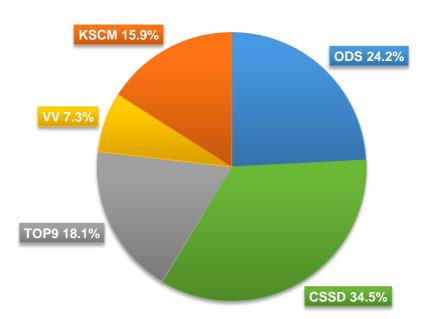


FIGURE 1: POLITICAL VALUES BY ALIGNMENT WITH POLITICAL REPRESENTATION When it comes to supporting parties via the ballot box, though, democratic support across all major parties decreases by almost 42%. This shows the dissatisfaction with the major political parties, and a tendency to look for an alternative, and support independent candidates.

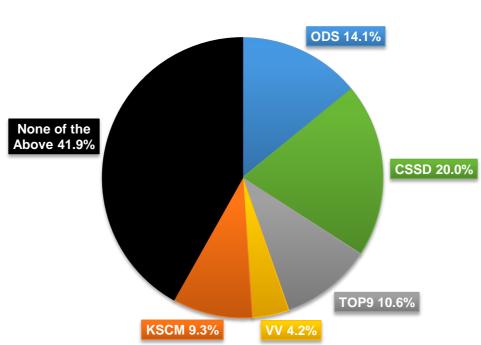


FIGURE 2: VOTING BEHAVIOUR

SATISFACTION WITH LIFE

The average person in the Czech declares him or herself to be moderately happy with most of their aspects of life, such as life overall, school/job situation, their home life and health. Unsurprisingly, the political situation is less satisfying with a score of 3.6 out of 5.0. When we asked respondents to rate their happiness on a similar scale, the average score reached 2.4, which is still relatively happy.





ETHICAL DISPOSITION INVENTORY

To get a measure of the study participants' levels of altruism, we conducted an ethical disposition survey using the well-known Machiavellianism scale.⁴ Machiavellianism corresponds to an individual's tendency to be unscrupulous and deceptive in pursuit of a personal goal. The results measured Machiavellianism along a scale from 0-100 where scores above 60 are said to represent 'high Machiavellianism'. A position on the low end of the scale has been shown to indicate individuals hold higher levels of trust for others⁵ and greater altruism.⁶ For the Czech population the mean and median scores - at 58.96 and 59, respectively are in the modest Machiavellianism range. Comparable mean and median scores for citizens of the UK are 56.24 and 56.00, for Australians they are 55.44 and 55.00, for Germans they are 57.82 and 58.00 and for Americans they are 53.98 and 55.00. The modal response is at the neutral score of 60 (8.7 per cent of the population have this score). 9.8 per cent of the population fall into the 'high' Machiavellianism range (with a score over 70), while over 14.2 per cent fall into the 'low' Machiavellianism range (with a score less than 50). Overall, the results reveal the Czech population to have a 'low tendency towards Machiavellianism, with few individuals in the extreme top of the distribution. Overall, the results reveal the population to be only weakly Machiavellian.

SUPPORT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY: FINANCIAL AND HUMAN CAPITAL

Involvement in civil society reveals the kinds of organisations in the Czech Republic that are able to engage people, which, in turn, suggest the issues that matter enough for people to support them actively. The pattern of involvement also indicates the relative influence of different issues and the organisations that represent those issues.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have grown dramatically around the world; they have increased in number, capacity and influence. They rely on the support of private citizens in order to undertake their mission. Civil society refers to the range of non-governmental and non-profit organisations that represent the interests and values of those who support them. The definition of CSOs may include community groups, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), labour unions, charitable organisations, faith-based organisations, civil rights groups and philanthropic foundations. These organisations are dedicated to considerations that may be ethical, cultural, political, scientific, religious or philanthropic.⁷

The Czech government encourages the existence of CSOs, and their support through three main channels: 1) subsidies from the state budget, 2) tax allowances for general public and also 3) mandatory contributions from the organisations operating in the lottery business. The Czech Republic Ministry of Finance qualifies a range of organisations for deductible charitable contributions as specified in the law.

⁴ Christie, R. & F.L. Geis (1970). Studies in Machiavellianism. New York: Academic Press.

⁵ Gunnthorsdottir, A., McCabe, K. & V. Smith (2002). "Using the Machiavellianism Scale to Predict Trustworthiness in a Bargaining Game," *Journal of Economic Psychology*, Vol. 23, No. 1, pp. 49-66.

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 Wilson, D.S. & M. Csikszentmihalyi (2007). "Health and the Ecology of Altruism," in S.G. Post (ed.), *Altruism and Health: Perspectives from Empirical Research*, Oxford, UK: Oxford.

 ⁷ World Bank (2011). *Defining Civil Society*, http://go.worldbank.org/4CE7W046K0. Accessed 21 Feb 2012.

As per the law, qualified organisations must operate for a purpose that is educational, scientific, cultural, social, medical, ecological, humanistic, charitable as well as for the prevention of cruelty to children and animals, for registered religious, sports and political organisations and for the police and fire rescue.

One third of the study population donate money to CSOs, but almost only one in seven volunteer their time. The average annual donation is 162.54 Kč, which equals to about 0.42% of the average household income. Compared to the USA or UK, where donations equal to approximately 1% of the annual household income, contributions by the Czechs towards CSOs are quite low.

Donations are tax deductible because the public benefits; there is no private benefit to any individual or organisation. Hence, giving is often represented as altruistic, or 'doing good'. However, most donations are made to organisations close to the giver and with which it is likely that the giver has another relationship, either as a member or user of its services. Health and medical institutes have the highest percentage of givers of any individual category. Adding together the percentage of people who donate to religious organisations and places of worship reveals that almost 14% of Czech donations are connected with religion.

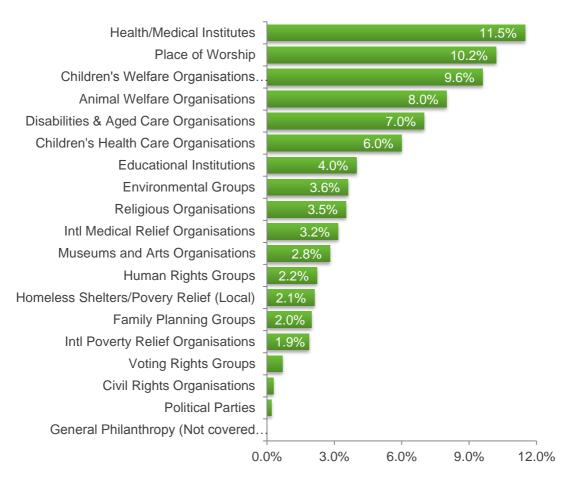
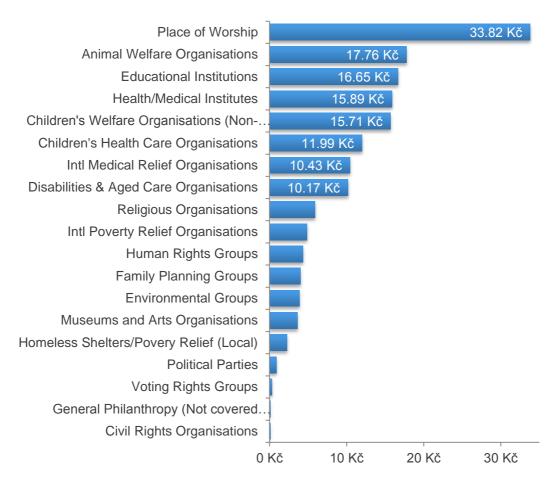


FIGURE 4: PERCENT OF PEOPLE DONATING TO CSOs BY CSO TYPE

FIGURE 5: AVERAGE DONATION BY TYPE OF CSO



Looking at the values of amounts donated reveals a slightly different pattern of giving. Czechs donate, on average, almost 34 Kč to their place of worship. This is double the amount compared to the next largest category, being animal and welfare organisations (18 Kč). Health and medical institutes ranked fourth. However if we combine children's health care and children's welfare organisations together, they would rank second with the average donation of 28 Kč.

Whether this indicates that many donors are trusting religious organisations to decide which issues deserve their donations, or that many donors trust religious organisations to tackle the issues that matter to them and so give them their donations, or something else entirely, requires further investigation currently being undertaken as part of this study.

Most donations range from 10 Kč to 34 Kč, which indicates that Czech non-profit organisations must work really hard to build each supporter's donation to the 162.54 Kč annual total average.

Volunteering behaviour displays a pattern similar to donation behaviour. It is important to mention that the number of Czechs who volunteer is even lower than the number of Czech donating, about 14.5%. Again, place of worship attracts the highest proportion of volunteers, followed by educational institutions and environmental groups. The rest of the organisations do not reach 3% of volunteers.

Volunteering in educational institutions occurs at a slightly higher level of activity than donating, which is consistent with the fact that nearly all Czech educational institutions are state supported. Interestingly, environmental groups ranked just behind educational institutions in terms of volunteering, which is disproportionate to the level of donation they receive.

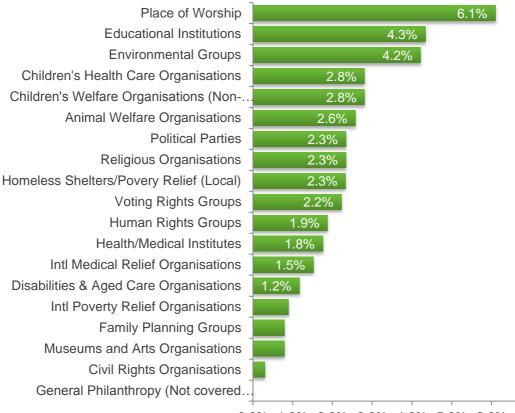
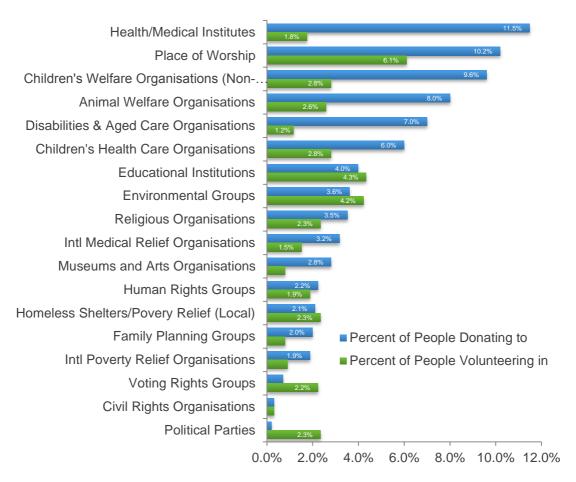


FIGURE 6: PERCENT OF PEOPLE VOLUNTEERING BY CSO TYPE

0.0% 1.0% 2.0% 3.0% 4.0% 5.0% 6.0% 7.0%

This reveals another example of the importance of salient proximity when it comes to Czechs' involvement in civil society. Czechs are actively involved in their places of worship and with educational institutions, as these organisations connect them with their familial, community and spiritual obligations. Places of worship have longstanding programs of low-skilled volunteer activities, such as fundraising, youth leadership and even property maintenance. Many people are connected to these organisations through their families and their local communities, and they will commit to volunteer activities on an ongoing basis. Indeed, some voluntary activities are built over generations and people grow up with members of their family demonstrating a model of adulthood that includes active involvement in their place of worship and their school. Many other kinds of NGOs lack this advantage of salient proximity. The majority of CSOs get little volunteer involvement either because the consideration represented may be remote to the average individual's life experience, or the CSO may be dedicated to a consideration that has not had time to become integrated into community activities.

FIGURE 7: DONATING AND VOLUNTEERING BY CSO



This pattern of involvement in organisations that have high touch points in Czechs' lives, and their engagement with CSOs, does not extend to participation in health and medical institutes. More people donate to health and medical institutes than any other type of organisation, probably inspired by someone close who has been afflicted by a particular health or medical condition. Salience thus inspires donations to health and medical institutes, however further involvement is low and that also applies to similar types of organisations, such as children's health care or disabilities and aged care organisations. The reason being is that such organisations use very specialised, expert services, which have fewer opportunities for volunteer involvement.

Respondents demonstrate a higher participation rate in volunteering than in donating with political parties. As per the research data, Czechs are slightly more involved in political parties than they are in voting rights and human rights groups or even family planning groups and cultural institutions, which are fundamentally inconsequential on these dimensions and receive very little support from the general population.

The research data indicates that while there is modest support for organisations that are proximate to the lives of their supporters – either through religious activity, education, family health issues or welfare of children and domestic animals – most types of civil society organisations receive very little support from the general population of the Czech Republic.

3. WHAT MATTERS TO CZECHS: A GENERAL PROFILE

In order to capture the general issues that are salient to Czechs we asked participants to evaluate sixteen categories of social, political and economic issues. The categories were based on those used in surveys to produce reports on public opinions on major topics, in longstanding programmes such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁸ and Eurobarometer,⁹ which the European Commission applies to its decision making. We also based our issue categories on those used in the research on social, economic and political causes and issues and obtained advice from political and social writers and academics. The general categories of social issues are listed in Table 3. In addition, each category was made up of a list of sub-category issues that we will discuss shortly. Table 3 also lists some of the indicative sub-category issues. Appendix 1 contains a complete listing.

Individuals' preferences for these issues are determined in a series of trade-offs via what are known as best-worst scaling experiments (See Appendix 2 for a discussion of the approach). Best-worst scaling models the cognitive process individuals use as they select the largest perceptual difference seen in a set of options. Best-worst scales are particularly relevant to the examination of social, political and economic issues for three reasons.

First, because the individual must make trade-offs amongst a set of options, the behaviour being examined is more realistic than when using traditional multi-point scales. In other words, individuals are making choices that require that they reveal how they discriminate since they must reveal what they would sacrifice.

Second, a common issue with surveys addressing social issues is that individuals indicate that "everything matters". Best-worst approaches require that individuals make distinct choices; hence they cannot avoid making a decision that excludes an option.

Third, best-worst approaches allow researchers to directly estimate the utility value that individuals get from a choice in a way that is comparable across individuals. Traditional surveys do not allow this because of what is known as "scale invariance" – in other words, one individual's score of "3" on a scale is not comparable to another individual's "3". However, when two individuals make the same choice amongst a set of options, the choice is the same for both individuals.

In our best-worst experiments individuals were presented with specially designed blocks of options representing social, political and economic issues. Their task was to evaluate those issues *in the conduct of their life* and make two choices: (a) which in the set they considered the most important and (b) which in the set they considered the least important.

⁸ http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/ Accessed 12 May 2012

⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

TABLE 3: GENERAL CATEGORIES OF SOCIAL ISSUES AND SELECTEDSUB-ISSUES

General Categories	Selected Sub-Issues
Food and health	Water and sanitation, GM foods, obesity, abortion
Local crime and public safety	Safety, child pornography, violent crime, corruption
Rights to basic services	Healthcare, food, education, benefits of last resort
Civil and personal liberties	Rights: legal, to vote, marital, free speech etc.
Equality of opportunities	Discrimination based on age, gender etc.
Individual economic well-being	Inflation, taxation, interest rates, cost of living
Worker/employment rights	Work safety, unions, retirement, child labour
Environmental sustainability	Pollution, climate change, biodiversity loss
Societal economic well-being	Poverty, employment, energy prices, growth, deficit
Global security	Terrorism, nuclear weapons, criminal syndicates
Societal social well-being	Quality of schooling, public transport, immigration
Global economic well-being	Resources management, trade, global finance issues
Animal welfare	Treatment of individual animals and species' survival
Global social well-being	Peace, diseases, poverty
Minority rights	Rights including cultural preservation and expression
Commercial Rights	Commerce and ownership such as IP rights

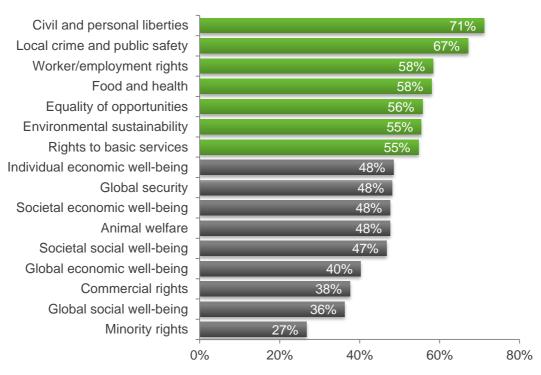
THE MOST SALIENT ISSUES TO CZECHS

To identify the salient issues for Czechs, we asked respondents to examine a number of issues and make a series of trade-offs amongst those issues. What emerged is a picture of the importance for each issue category and the sub-issues in the categories.

We can see the salience of the general categories in Figure 8. To make the results easier to understand, we have translated them into a 0-100% scale. The issues at the top are more likely to be selected when put up against the other issues. For example, a score of 100% would imply that whenever that issue was pitted against all other issues it is chosen 'most important' every time. A score of 0% implies that the issue is chosen as 'least important' every time. The beauty of the approach is that the likelihood that an issue is superior in a choice set to any other issue is just the ratio of the two scores.

Civil and personal liberties is the top issue category with a score of 71%, implying that it will be selected as 'most important' seven times out of ten against any mixture of the other issue categories. For simplicity, we distinguish between the issues that dominate the preferences of our Czech respondents in green and those that fall below the middle score of 50% in grey.

FIGURE 8: SALIENCE OF GENERAL CATEGORIES OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES FOR CZECHS



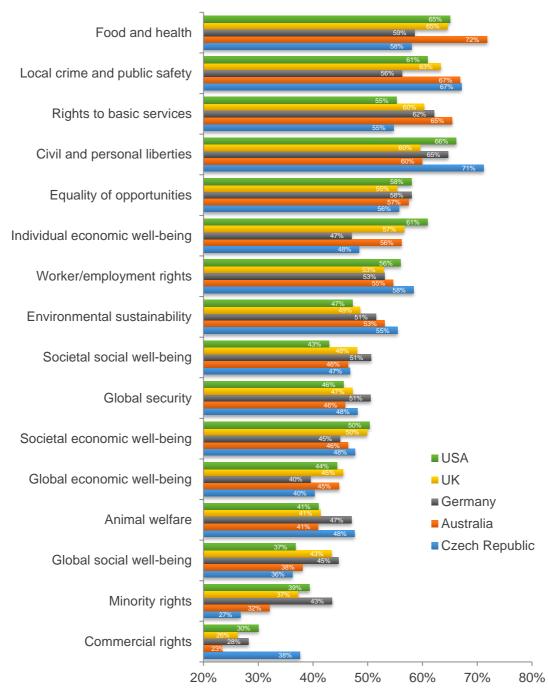
What the results reveal is that the most salient issues for Czechs in the conduct of their lives are those most immediate and closest to their personal welfare. It is not surprising that civil and personal liberties are the most salient issues to Czechs, due to their historical background. These are followed closely by local crime and public safety and worker/employment rights, to close off the top three. Czechs are effectively indifferent to global and societal issues, rating these significantly lower. Minority rights issues have virtually no real resonance with the population. Overall what we see is that issues impacting people's lives directly matter the most, followed by environmental issues, global security, animal welfare and the least of the concern are global economic and societal well-being, businesses and minorities.

Is this salience of proximate issues to Czech citizens unique to people in the Czech Republic? What is telling about these results when compared to our investigations in Germany, the USA, the UK and Australia is the stability across nations; we find that an issue's salience to a person's life still determines its priority. Slight national variations result from strong elements of national culture that can make an issue more or less primary for that national population. For example, Germans focus on conflict and peace more than other nationalities. These variations suggest that history has a part to play in moulding issue preferences via influencing prevailing cultural identities critical contemporary communal issues, such as the 9/11 events in the US.

Figure 9 gives the salience scale for all the nations we have studied so far. The UK and Australia are by far the closest in agreement, with the seven top issues being identical. People in the UK put societal economic well-being slightly ahead of Australians, while Australians are slightly more environmentally conscious.

Comparing the nations in our study, surprisingly few strong differences emerge. Czechs, Germans and Americans put civil and personal liberties ahead of every other issue. Germans downplay individual economic well-being for societal social well-being and global security. Concerns about environmental sustainability are salient only for Czechs, Germans and Australians, with Americans being the least environmentally concerned of the five countries studied. Commercial rights are significantly more of a concern for Czechs compared to all other nations in our study. Aside from small national differences, all the nations in our study put less proximate issues at the lower end of the scale of concerns.

FIGURE 9: SALIENCE OF GENERAL ISSUE CATEGORIES ISSUES: A FIVE NATION COMPARISON



4. WHAT MATTERS: DISTINCTIVE BREAKDOWNS

This section describes general population breakdowns, based on income, age, politics, religiosity and gender, and looks at shifts in the salience of the general categories of social, political and economic issues. Our data allows for many relevant comparisons. Appendix 3 includes some tabular results for those seeking more detail.

GENDER

Differences between the genders in terms of their priorities are slight. Women are more interested in local crime and public safety and also worker/employment rights, rating it number three. Men are less interested in issues associated with environmental sustainability and issues like individual economic well-being.

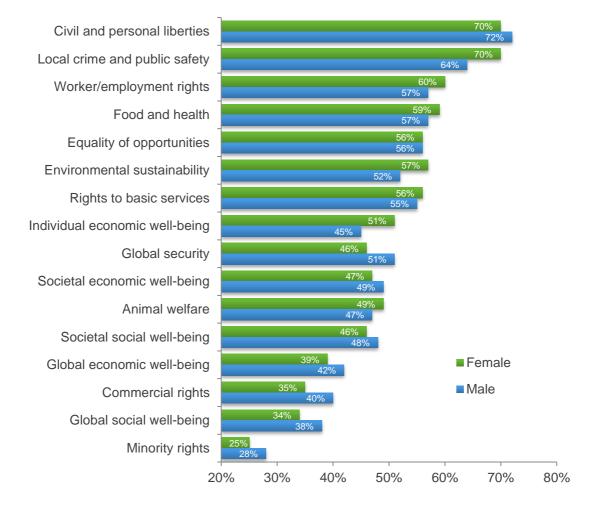


FIGURE 10: ISSUE CATEGORY SALIENCE AND GENDER

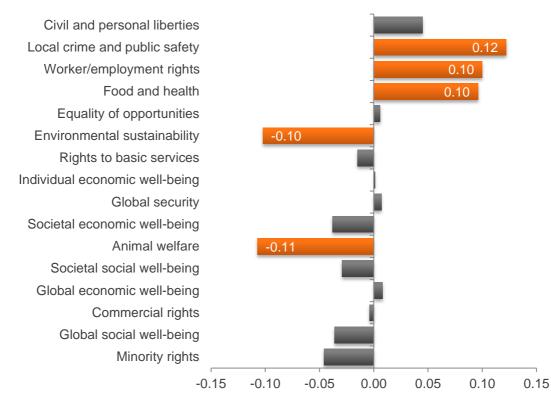
The largest difference we find is with local crime and public safety and also with individual economic well-being, where there is a 6-point gap between the genders. Interestingly, men are more interested in bottom categories, such as minority rights, commercial rights and global social well-being, however they remain a subsidiary issues. Overall, the basic ordering of the general categories of social, economic and political issues differ little by gender.

AGE

There are a significant number of material differences when we examine the relationship between age and issue preferences. We do this in two ways.

First, we look at the simple relationship between age and preferences. Figure 11 presents the correlations between age and category preferences. Significant effects are shown in orange (correlation above ± 0.05 in magnitude).





We see in this figure that three issue categories are positively related to age. These are the very top concerns covering local crime and public safety, worker/employment rights and food and health. Two issues are negatively related to age, meaning that they are more likely to be of concern to younger people. These issues include environmental sustainability and animal welfare.

Second, we break the survey population into groups that represent 10-year age blocks to examine if there are any specific age groupings that stand out. This is presented in Figure 12.

What we see here is that civil and personal liberties, the most salient category for the whole study population, is also the most salient category for all age groups, same as the second highest – local crime and public safety. However, the third category as per the salience for the general public – worker/employment rights – is only important for working population, but not as important for the youngest and the eldest group category. That is implying the previous conclusion that people are concerned about those issues that are having a direct impact on them.

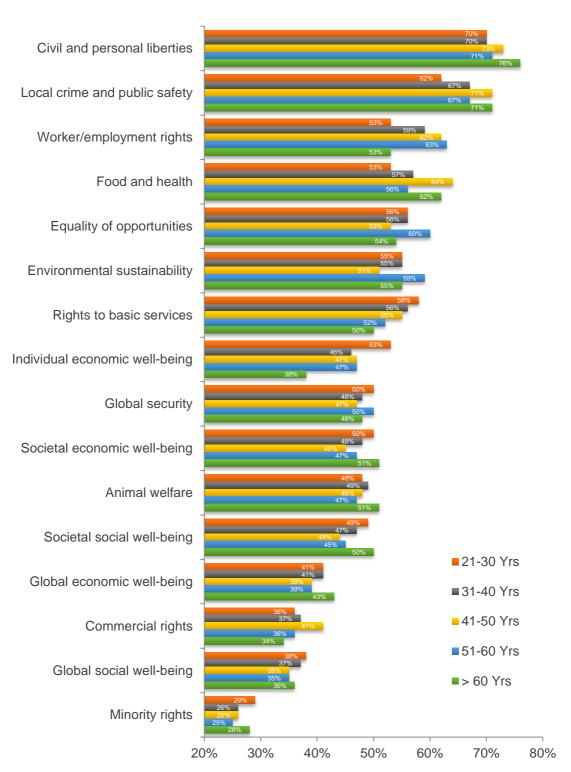


FIGURE 12: ISSUE CATEGORY SALIENCE AND AGE

The category with the largest difference between the youngest and eldest, being 15 points, is individual economic well-being. For respondents aged over 60 the issue drops to thirteenth place and effectively ceases to be salient. However for 21-30 year olds this issue moves up to the sixth place, implying that it is a salient issue for the people who are at the beginning of their working life.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

As with our examination of the relationship between age and social, economic and political preferences, we can investigate the influence of income in two ways.

First, we examine the correlations between income and issue category preferences. Significant relationships with income are indicated in Figure 13 (correlations are significant when beyond \pm 0.05). Household income is related negatively to two issues – civil and personal liberties and global security, meaning that they are most likely to be of concern to respondents with lower income. On the other end of the income scale, environmental sustainability and animal welfare are significantly positively related to household income, being of concern to respondents with higher income.

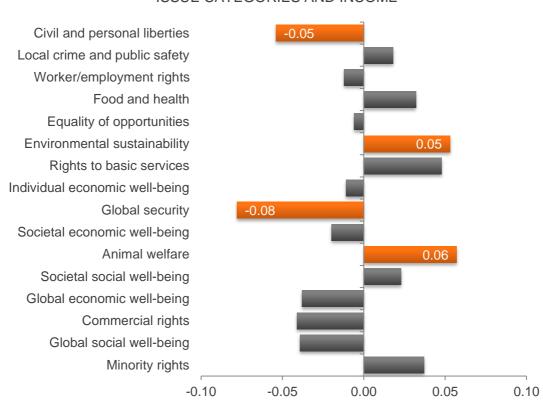
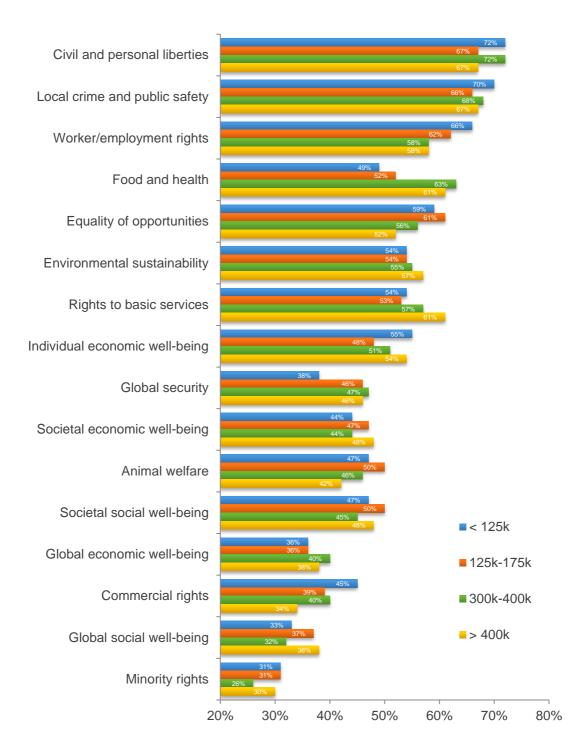


FIGURE 13: CORRELATION BETWEEN THE SALIENCE OF ISSUE CATEGORIES AND INCOME

Next, if we examine differences in category preferences based on income by looking at income ranges, we see a slight polarisation occurring between high-income and low-income households. This is given in Figure 14.

One issue that is strongly correlated with income is global security. The differences between those with the lowest income and the rest of the sample – with global security issue not mattering materially to the former group and to the latter – is what drives the correlation seen in Figure 14 (which shows high and low income groups).





The general category of worker/employment rights is less salient for households in the higher income bracket. Also, equality of opportunities decreases in salience for more well-off households. Surprisingly, while issues like food and health and also rights to basic services could be expected to matter more to the lower income households, based on our results these issues are actually more salient for households with higher income.

EDUCATION

To some extent, education impacts on what issues matter to Czechs, but its overall effect is minimal. Those with a university education are slightly more concerned about civil and personal liberties, food and health, global security and animal welfare. Those with no university education are slightly more concerned about local crime and public safety and worker/employment rights. The only issue category, where we can see some distinctive difference is individual economic well-being, being more salient to people without university degree. However, overall the material effects are only really seen at the extremes and there is less that separates Czechs on this dimension than one would find compelling.

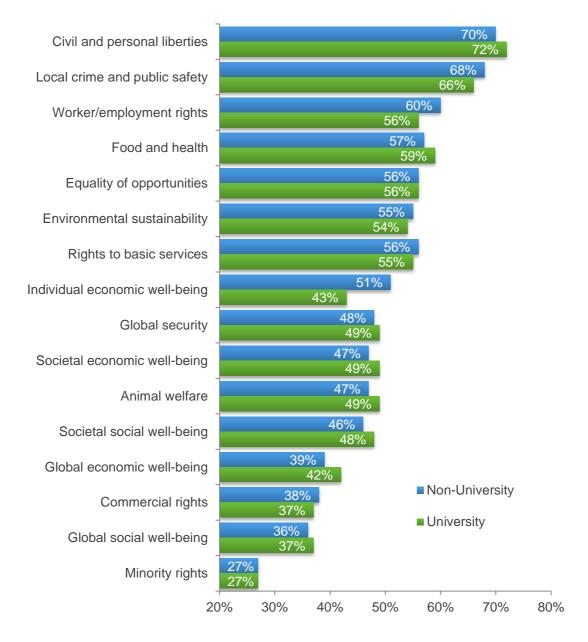


FIGURE 15: ISSUE CATEGORY SALIENCE AND EDUCATION

RELIGIOSITY

The study collected an extensive battery of information about the individual's religious practices and beliefs. For simplicity, we focus on one question only: the extent to which the individual believed in god or a higher power. Study participants were queried about their belief in a god on a scale from "absolutely do not believe in the existence of a higher power" to "absolutely certain in their belief as to a higher power's existence".

This information was first analysed by looking at the correlation between the degree of belief in a higher authority and social, economic and political preferences. The issue category correlations with religious belief are given in Figure 16. They reveal that those with stronger beliefs are more likely to give higher salience to global security and global social well-being and give lower salience to equality of opportunities, individual economic well-being and commercial rights. Another way to interpret this is that the more agnostic or atheistic a respondent, the more they put value on individual economic and commercial issues.



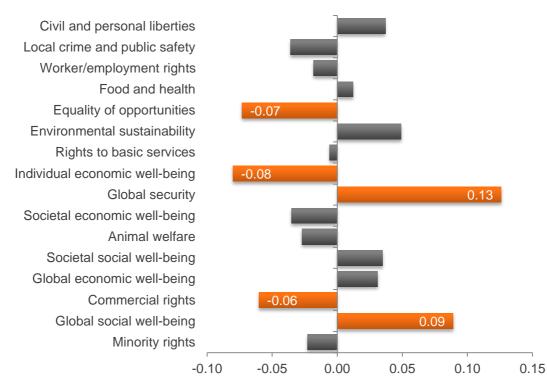


Figure 17 looks at the responses at each level in the scale. What this reveals is that the intensity of religious belief has a moderate influence on social and economic preferences. The profile of issues for those who have absolute certainty of the existence of a higher power does slightly vary from the general population profile, putting more salience on issues such as food and health and environmental sustainability. On the other side of the scale, the profile of people who do not believe

in the existence of a higher power, matches the general population profile almost completely with an exception for global security issue which drops three places.

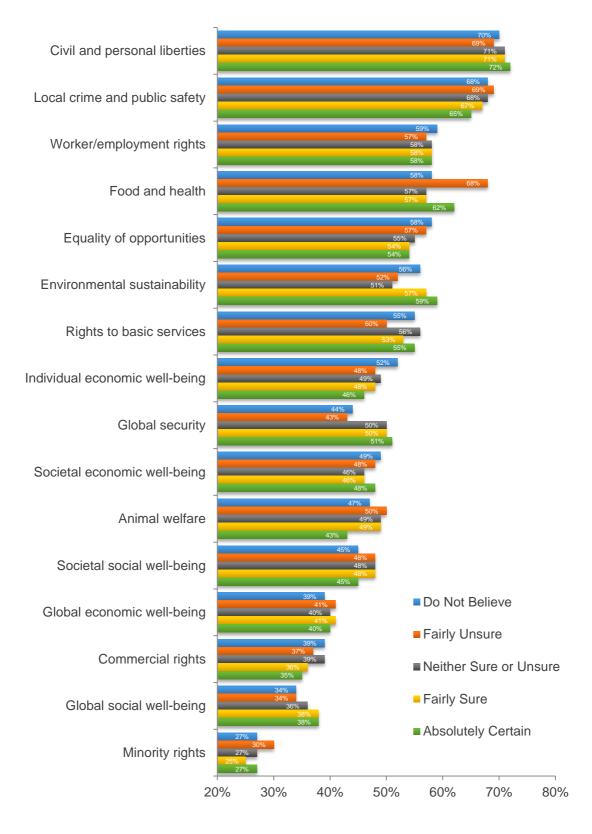
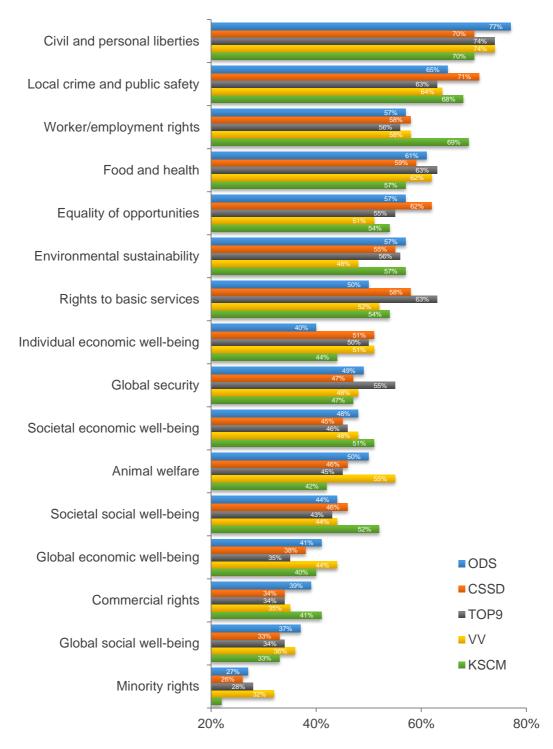


FIGURE 17: ISSUE CATEGORY SALIENCE AND BELIEF IN A HIGHER POWER

POLITICAL BELIEFS

The study collected an extensive battery of information about individual's political beliefs and activities. For simplicity, we focus on one question only: Which political party best aligns with their political beliefs? This allows us to look at the most extreme case where individuals view themselves in line with a specific and organised political agenda.





For respondents who align with right wing parties, including ODS, TOP9 and VV, the most salient issues include civil and personal liberties, food and health and global security. On the other hand, supporters of left wing parties rated the following issues as important - local crime and public safety, worker/employment rights (primarily KSCM supporters) and societal social well-being – which is consistent with the left wing orientation.

HAPPINESS

There is considerable discussion in the economics and politics literature about the role of happiness to economic and political development. This has expanded to the point that next to Gross National Product there are measures of Gross National Happiness. To capture whether such a measure is truly relevant we included it in our examination of social, economic and political values. Again, we do this by examining the general tendency and then the specifics of the extremes of the scale.



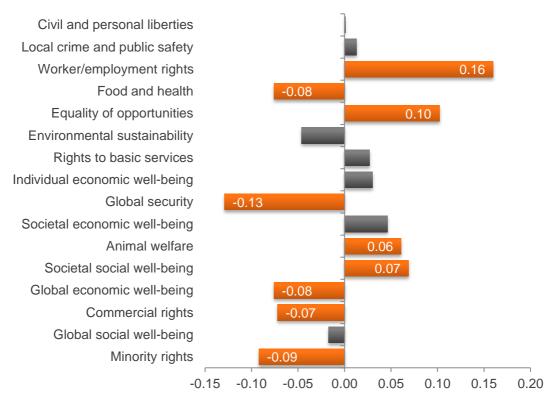


Figure 19 provides the correlations between happiness and salience of the issue categories. Remembering that a lower happiness score is 'better', the correlations have to be read in reverse (significant effects are in orange). Hence, there is a positive relationship (negative correlation) between happiness and the salience of food and health, global security, global economic well-being, commercial rights and minority rights. Those individuals who are less happy give more salience to work related issues, such as worker/employment rights and equality of opportunities, but also to issues that are more distant to their daily lives, such as animal welfare and societal social well-being.

When we look at the individual scale responses in Figure 20, extremely happy people and happy people in the study give marginally more salience to food and health, rights to basic services, animal welfare and global economic well-being. However extremely happy people find worker/employment rights much less salient, moving the issue five places lower. From the extremely unhappy and unhappy people point of view, the most salient issues are worker/employment rights, equality of opportunities and societal economic and social well-being. Individuals with stronger concerns about individual economic well-being are also likely to be less happy.

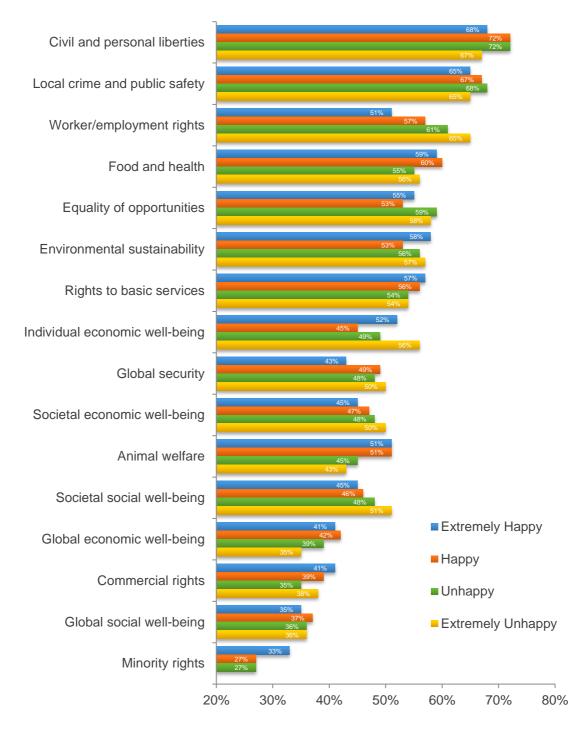


FIGURE 20: ISSUE CATEGORY SALIENCE AND HAPPINESS

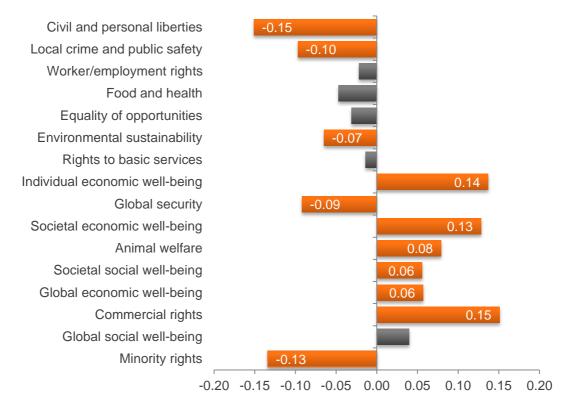
ETHICAL DISPOSITION

The ethical disposition of the studied population was measured with the Christie and Geis Machiavellianism scale. As noted earlier, a low score has historically been associated with individuals who are more trusting of others, take into consideration the impact of their behaviour on others and are generally more altruistic. A higher score represents a greater predisposition for Machiavellianism; that is, the tendency to be manipulative and deceptive. A neutral population score on the scale is 60. By this measure the Czech population is slightly lower on average (mean = 59).

The results in Figure 21 show the category preferences based on any correlation with salience of the social, economic and political issue categories. Overall, a correlation of ± 0.05 is sufficient for a significant relationship.

Those with higher Machiavellianism scores are more likely to give higher salience to individual economic well-being, societal economic well-being and commercial rights. Those with lower Machiavellianism scores put more emphasis on civil and personal liberties, local crime and public safety, global security and minority rights.

FIGURE 21: CORRELATION BETWEEN THE ISSUE CATEGORY SALIANCE AND MACHIAVELLIANISM



Also, potentially interesting is that those individuals with higher Machiavellianism scores are less likely to donate to a CSO (correlation = -0.094) and also likely to give to fewer causes when they do donate (correlation = -0.054) but these effects are much smaller for Czechs than for citizens of the other countries we have studied.

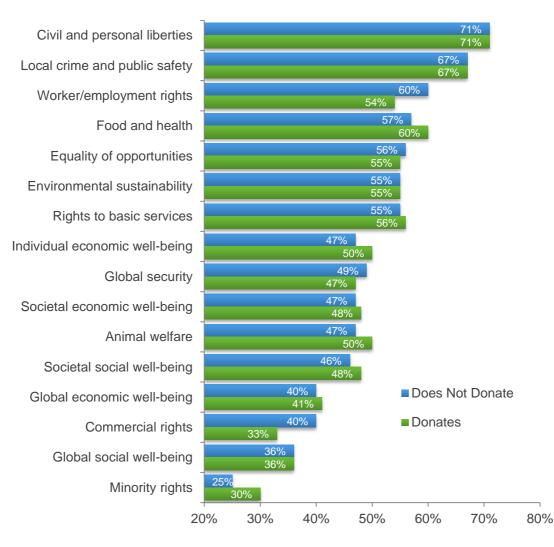
INVOLVEMENT IN CIVIL SOCIETY

The issues that matter to Czechs are important to civil society organisations and political parties that rely on the support of private individuals. Almost one third of study participants are involved with CSOs by donating money and about fifteen per cent give their time through volunteering.

In our study, most donations were collected by religious organisations, with strong showings also by children's and animal welfare, educational organisations and health and medical institutes. These causes do not necessarily translate into specific issues. We find that the overall profile of issue categories does not alter from the population norm for either the donating part of the study or the non-donating part.

Also, there is no evidence that financial support for a cause translates into greater salience for the cause underlying that CSO. For example, Czechs give reasonably strong financial support to animal welfare, yet when they must trade off animal welfare as an issue against more local or personally relevant concerns, animal welfare is not a significantly salient issue to them.

FIGURE 22: GENERAL ISSUE SALIENCE AND DONATING BEHAVIOUR



Volunteers comprise a significant minority in our study. The greatest number of volunteers dedicates their time to places of worship followed by educational institutions and environmental groups. This pattern is quite consistent across all the countries in our study. For the small group of volunteers seen in this study, local crime and public safety is slightly more important and animal welfare and societal social well-being issues move three places higher in significance ranking. Overall, volunteers, as expected show marginally more interest in the society around them.

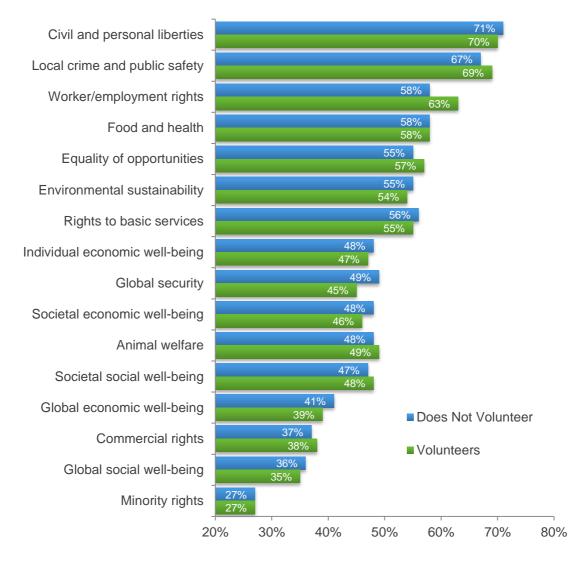


FIGURE 23: ISSUE CATEGORY SALIENCE AND VOLUNTEERING

Figure 24 presents an overview of the relationship between the act of donating or volunteering and issue category preferences. The figure presents the correlation between donors and non-donors and volunteers and non-volunteers and the salience of the issue categories. The cut-off for a significant effect is a correlation of ± 0.05 (for clarity this is not shown in orange as was the case in the prior correlation graphs).

What we see here is that those with more concerns about Food and health, Animal welfare and Minority rights are more likely to support via donation. Interestingly, there

is no positive correlation of donation for the top three salient issues. Those concerned about Worker/Employment rights are more likely willing to volunteer rather than donate, however there are no further correlations between other issues and volunteering. Commercial rights are negatively related to donating, though this issue is at the bottom of the salience for the study population.

Overall, these results reveal that those donating and volunteering have different preferences; but primarily at the margin and most likely influenced by factors that are only weakly related to the causes to which they donate or for which they volunteer.

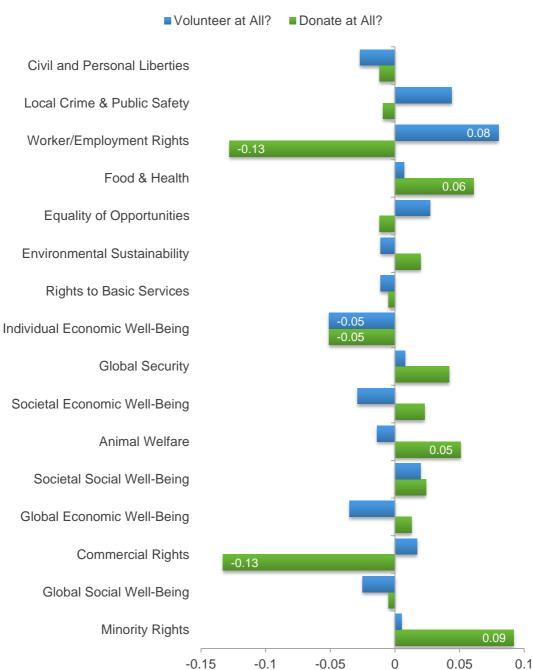


FIGURE 24: CORRELATION BETWEEN ISSUE CATEGORY SALIENCE AND DONATING AND VOLUNTEERING

5. WHAT MATTERS AT THE MICRO LEVEL?

We uncover greater detail about what matters to the population across a large number of specific, yet wide ranging issues by examining the trade-offs respondents make between sub-category issues.

Study participants made a series of trade-offs within the 113 total sub-issues, allowing us to produce a relative ordering of precise issues underlying the categories. The results indicate how individuals value distinct issues within the general, umbrella categories of social, economic and political concerns we have already discussed. In addition, the results indicate how people's concern for specific issues stack up against relatively mundane matters (such as schooling, food, healthcare, schooling and working conditions) and less immediate concerns (including third world debt or poverty, slavery and human trafficking). For simplicity our discussion here will address the issues at the top and bottom of the assessment. All 113 sub-issues are listed in Appendix 1 and Appendix 3 contains all the scores.

Overall, the top categories of the general issues profile covered in section 3 above also appear in the most salient sub issues, and we see much more detail of what drives preferences for certain classes of issue. For example, the most salient category, civil and personal liberties is high overall because of primary concerns about seven of the category's sub issues: right to life, right of liberty, legal rights, freedom from harm, right of free speech, right of identity, right to a nationality. The second most salient category overall, local crime and public safety with the total of five issues in the top 25, is salient because it contains issues of safety and personal property, right to private protection, child pornography and sexual exploitation, protection from violent crime and from terrorism at home. Worker/employment rights is the third most salient category overall, yet it has only two issues in the top 25 sub-issues, including right to retirement benefits and freedom to engage in a trade, profession or occupation. The fourth highest issue category, food and health, has only one representative in the top 25 – clean water and sanitation.

Interestingly, societal economic well-being is not that salient at the category level, having ranked the tenth, however it has three sub issues in the top 25 with one of them – economic growth – being the third highest sub issue just after right to life and right of liberty.

All-in-all we see a multifaceted logic for why specific categories dominate.

Sub-Issue	Rank	Category
Right to Life	1	Civil and Personal Liberties
Right of Liberty	2	Civil and Personal Liberties
Economic Growth	3	Societal Economic Well-being
Legal Rights	4	Civil and Personal Liberties
Industrial Pollution	5	Environmental Sustainability
Safety of Personal Property	6	Local Crime and Public Safety
Freedom from Harm	7	Civil and Personal Liberties
Deforestation and Habitat Destruction	8	Environmental Sustainability
Right of Free Speech	9	Civil and Personal Liberties
Disabilities	10	Equality of Opportunities
Age: Elderly	11	Equality of Opportunities
Right to Private Protection	12	Local Crime and Public Safety
Child Pornography & Sexual Exploitation	13	Local Crime and Public Safety
Right of Identity	14	Civil and Personal Liberties
Right to Retirement Benefits	15	Worker/Employment Rights
Protection from Violent Crime	16	Local Crime and Public Safety
Cost of Daily Living	17	Individual Economic Well-Being
Clean Water and Sanitation	18	Food and Health
Freedom to Engage in a Trade, Profession or Occupation	19	Worker/Employment Rights
Right to a Nationality	20	Civil and Personal Liberties
Unemployment	21	Societal Economic Well-Being
Energy Prices	22	Societal Economic Well-Being
Right to Minimum Standard of Living	23	Rights to Basic Services
Recycling of Materials	24	Environmental Sustainability
Protection from Terrorism at Home	25	Local Crime and Public Safety

TABLE 3: TOP 25 SUB-ISSUES OF SALIENCE TO CZECHS

A similar effect is seen when we examine the bottom 25 sub-issues, presented in Table 4. We find that the least salient of the general preference categories of issues (given in section 3) predominate in the bottom 25 sub issues. This is not surprising. Minority rights category dominates the bottom 25 with all five sub issues, including right of secession/separation, right to speak a foreign language, right to cultural expression in public, right to cultural preservation and right to engage in cultural practices. The only other category with all its sub issues being in the bottom 25 is commercial rights. Surprisingly though, the second least salient category overall, global social well-being, has only two sub-issues in bottom 25, being population growth and third world debt.

Issues affecting the well-being of society and animal welfare concerns also end up in the bottom 25, as do global issues relating to global social and economic well-being. These issues are categorically less salient for the Czechs overall.

Sub-Issue	Rank	Category
Social Isolation	89	Societal Social Well-Being
Inflation	90	Individual Economic Well-Being
Population Growth	91	Global Economic Well-Being
Income Inequality	92	Societal Social Well-Being
Immigration	93	Societal Social Well-Being
Free Trade Policy	94	Global Economic Well-Being
Physical Property Rights	95	Commercial Rights
Ancillary Pollution	96	Environmental Sustainability
Humane Farming	97	Animal Welfare
Religion	98	Equality of Opportunity
Third World Poverty	99	Global Social Well-Being
Interest Rates	100	Individual Economic Well-Being
Population Growth	101	Global Social Well-Being
Protection Against Over-Hunting/Fishing	102	Animal Welfare
Freedom to Start/Own a Business	103	Commercial Rights
Freedom to Trade	104	Commercial Rights
Third World Debt	105	Global Economic Well-Being
Balance of Payments/Trade Deficits	106	Societal Economic Well-Being
Intellectual Property Rights	107	Commercial Rights
Right of Commercial Domain	108	Commercial Rights
Right to Engage in Cultural Practices	109	Minority Rights
Right to Cultural Preservation	110	Minority Rights
Right to Cultural Expression in Public	111	Minority Rights
Right to Speak a Foreign Language	112	Minority Rights
Right of Secession/Separation	113	Minority Rights

TABLE 4: BOTTOM 25 SUB-ISSUES OF SALIENCE TO CZECHS

AN INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON OF CZECHS' INTERESTS

We next compare what matters to Czechs in relation to four quite similar countries that have analogous demographics and broadly similar societies, political systems and economies. Data collected from the USA, Germany, the UK and Australia shows that preferences are generally consistent across these populations. What is unique to these other countries is explored further in each country's report. The data in table 5 and 6 demonstrate that the same categories polarise to the top and bottom of the overall issues profile, with some national distinctions.

The below tables highlight in colour the top three sub-issues across all five nations to show the level of similarity among the studied countries. Some of the sub-issues are denoted in bold, meaning that they appear in top/bottom 25 for all five studied countries. In the top 25, there are eleven sub issues which appear in all five countries. The bottom 25 has even thirteen sub-issues matching across all five countries. However excluding the Czech Republic from this comparison, the similarity across other four nations would be tighter, agreeing on sixteen sub-issues within the top 25.

TABLE 5: TOP 25 SUB-ISSUES ACROSS FOUR NATIONS

Rank	United States	Germany	United Kingdom	Australia	Czech Republic
1	Clean Water and Sanitation	Right to Life	Cost of Daily Living	Clean Water and Sanitation	Right to Life
2	Cost of Daily Living	Right of Liberty	Clean Water and Sanitation	Protection from Violent Crime	Right of Liberty
3	Economic Growth	Clean Water and Sanitation	Child Pornography & Sexual Exploitation	Cost of Daily Living	Economic Growth
4	Protection from Violent Crime	Freedom from Harm	Protection from Violent Crime	Child Pornography & Sexual Exploitation	Legal Rights
5	Right of Free Speech	Right of Access to Food	Economic Growth	Right of Access to Healthcare, Medicines	Industrial Pollution
6	Child Pornography & Sexual Exploitation	Right of Free Speech	Right of Access to Food	Right of Access to Food	Safety of Personal Property
7	Right to Life	Child Pornography & Sexual Exploitation	Right to Life	Mental Illness	Freedom from Harm
8	Right of Liberty	Quality Schooling	Right of Access to Healthcare, Medicines	Alcoholism and Drug Abuse	Deforestation and Habitat Destruction
9	Freedom from Harm	Economic Growth	Disabilities	Disabilities	Right of Free Speech
10	Legal Rights	Disabilities	Age: Elderly	Age: Elderly	Disabilities
11	Disabilities	Age: Elderly	Mental Illness	Economic Growth	Age: Elderly
12	Right of Access to Food	Right of Access to Healthcare, Medicines	Freedom from Harm	Freedom from Harm	Right to Private Protection

13	Age: Elderly	Right to Retirement Benefits	Right to a Safe Work Environment	Right to Life	Child Pornography & Sexual Exploitation
14	Mental Illness	Age: Youth	Right to Minimum Standard of Living	Right to a Safe Work Environment	Right of Identity
15	Right to a Safe Work Environment	Protection from Violent Crime	Infant Mortality	Suicide	Right to Retirement Benefits
16	Alcoholism and Drug Abuse	Cost of Daily Living	Life Expectancy	Right of Free Speech	Protection from Violent Crime
17	Right to Religious Freedom	Right to Retirement at a Pre-specified Age	Right to a Minimum Wage	Infant Mortality	Cost of Daily Living
18	Protection of Children in the Labour Force	Right of Identity	Protection of Children in the Labour Force	Legal Rights	Clean Water and Sanitation
19	Infant Mortality	Right to a Minimum Wage	Right of Free Speech	Protection from Terrorism at Home	Freedom to Engage in a Trade, Profession or Occupation
20	Right to Retirement Benefits	Right to Minimum Standard of Living	Poverty	Right to Choose/Abortion	Right to a Nationality
21	Right to Choose/Abortion	Deforestation and Habitat Destruction	Protection from Terrorism at Home	Right to a Minimum Wage	Unemployment
22	Stability of Financial System	Protection of Children in the Labour Force	Right of Liberty	Right of Liberty	Energy Prices
23	Right to a Minimum Wage	Mental Illness	Alcoholism and Drug Abuse	Obesity	Right to Minimum Standard of Living
24	Protection from Terrorism at Home	Infant Mortality	Energy Prices	Deforestation and Habitat Destruction	Recycling of Materials
25	Right of Access to Healthcare, Medicines	Peace (Freedom from Conflict)	Deforestation and Habitat Destruction	Energy Prices	Protection from Terrorism at Home

TABLE 6: BOTTOM 25 SUB-ISSUES ACROSS FOUR NATIONS

Rank	United States	Germany	United Kingdom	Australia	Czech Republic
89	Free Trade Policy	Religion (Equality of Opportunities)	Third World Debt	Personal Pollution (Global Social)	Social Isolation
90	Social Isolation	Inflation	Population Growth (Global Social)	Ancillary Pollution	Inflation
91	Personal Pollution	Income Inequality	Income Inequality	Global Criminal Syndicates	Population Growth (Global Economic)
92	Unilateral Military Action	Population Growth (Global Economic)	Right to Form/Join a Labour Union	Government Budget Deficit	Income Inequality
93	Right to Cultural Expression in Public	Ancillary Pollution	Public Transport	Right to Engage in Cultural Practices	Immigration
94	Protection of Endangered Species	Right to Cultural Expression in Public	Personal Pollution	Third World Debt	Free Trade Policy
95	Global Criminal Syndicates	Population Growth (Global Social)	Unilateral Military Action	Population Growth (Global Social)	Physical Property Rights
96	Public Transport	Right to Form/Join a Labour Union	Global Criminal Syndicates	Free Trade Policy	Ancillary Pollution
97	Income Inequality	Third World Debt	Ancillary Pollution	Humane Farming	Humane Farming
98	Physical property rights	Unilateral Military Action	Protection of Endangered Species	Right to Form/Join a Labour Union	Religion
99	Balance of Payments/ Trade Deficits	Public Transport	Free Trade Policy	Right to Benefits of Last Resort	Third World Poverty
100	Right to Benefits of Last Resort	Freedom from Animal Testing	Humane Farming	Balance of Payments/Trade Deficits	Interest Rates

101	Right to Strike	Free Trade Policy	Right to Benefits of Last Resort	Income Inequality	Population Growth (Global Social)
102	Third World Poverty	Personal Pollution	Balance of Payments/Trade Deficits	Physical property rights	Protection Against Over- Hunting/Fishing
103	Population Growth (Global Social)	Government Budget Deficit	Right to Cultural Expression in Public	Right to Cultural Expression in Public	Freedom to Start/Own a Business
104	Humane Farming	Balance of Payments/ Trade Deficits	Right to Strike	Protection Against Over- Hunting/Fishing	Freedom to Trade
105	Right to Speak a Foreign Language	Right to Strike	Right to Speak a Foreign Language	Unilateral Military Action	Third World Debt
106	Third World Debt	Protection Against Over- Hunting/Fishing	Freedom from Animal Testing	Right to Speak a Foreign Language	Balance of Payments/Trade Deficits
107	Freedom to start/own a business	Right of Secession/Separation	Right of Secession/ Separation	Freedom from Animal Testing	Intellectual Property Rights
108	Freedom from Animal Testing	Interest Rates	Protection Against Over- Hunting/ Fishing	Right to Strike	Right of Commercial Domain
109	Right of Secession/ Separation	Physical property rights	Freedom to start/own a business	Freedom to start/own a business	Right to Engage in Cultural Practices
110	Freedom to trade	Right of commercial domain	Physical property rights	Freedom to trade	Right to Cultural Preservation
111	Intellectual property rights	Intellectual property rights	Freedom to trade	Right of Secession/Separation	Right to Cultural Expression in Public
112	Protection Against Over- Hunting/ Fishing	Freedom to trade	Intellectual property rights	Intellectual property rights	Right to Speak a Foreign Language
113	Right of commercial domain	Freedom to start/ own a business	Right of commercial domain	Right of commercial domain	Right of Secession/Separation

We next compare the sub-issues that are the top and bottom 25 concerns for each national population more in detail. The data in Table 5 and Table 6 demonstrate that many of the same categories end up in the top and bottom categories as rated by the populations of all the nations studied. It also reveals some agreement between countries. Australians and UK citizens agree on the salience of many issues. Czechs and Germans put right to life and right of liberty in their top two, much higher than Australia or the UK, whose citizens do not rate civil liberties quite as significant. Americans are quite similar in that sense, rating personal liberties quite high as well. What is unique to these other countries is explored further in each country's report.

People from all five studied nations find it easy to agree on what types of issues are least salient to their lives. Citizens of the UK, Germany, Australia and the US are unanimous in having little regard for issues associated with commerce and ownership. All these issues, known collectively as commercial rights, are categorically unimportant when compared with all the other concerns that figure in people's lives. Czechs are slightly different in this sense, rating commercial rights as second least salient right after minority rights, which dominates the bottom with all five issues.

Deforestation and loss of habitat ranks in the top 25 for Czechs, Germans, Australians and those in the UK, whereas Americans are quite unique in not having a strongly formulated position on environmental concerns, having no environmental issues in their top 25. The only issue showing highly ranked for Czechs and not being present in the top 25 for other studied nations is industrial pollution. The possible explanation, why industrial pollution is that much salient for the Czechs, is most probably the historical focus on heavy industry as such, having large factories within close proximity to cities and thus having people's lives impacted directly.

6. THE OVERALL PICTURE: THE CZECH REPUBLIC AS A CONSERVATIVE SOCIETY

The results in this report provide a short overview of a complex and intriguing inquiry into the salience of key social, economic and political issues to members of Czech society. In creating this report our goal was to provide a less stereotyped and more nuanced assessment and one that was less likely to be influenced by the way in which individuals respond to opinion polls.

What we see in these results is a picture of a society that is concerned with local issues that influence its members' daily lives. Although issues of global concern get a lot of press coverage, there is no indication that they resonate sufficiently to remove the salience of key local, economic and social concerns.

That being said, it is not the case that Czech society is either conservative or social democratic in the most extreme characterisation of that stereotypes. Czechs give a high degree of salience to civil liberties, public safety, employment rights and also basic services and health. Where the more conservative aspect of the Czech population is seen, is the high importance of local security and in the downplaying of issues like minority rights. Equally, Czech society does not reveal a preference for commercial rights, being consistent with other countries included in this study. More social democratic issues, which were salient to our respondents, are workplace and employment rights and equality of opportunities.

When we examine our results for the Czechs in contrast with the results of other nations in this study, we find several interesting facts. First, there is a remarkable degree of stability in our findings. Although specific issues move up and down a bit here and there, the overall picture of the Czech society is not that different from American, British or Australian and is actually very close to German society. Local and primary issues predominate, and what are less important are issues relating to global matters and population, animals, minorities and commerce. This is interesting given some of the contemporary events such as the different performance of national economies and expected impacts on issues that matter to citizens. However, it does reveal that there is a common denominator that drives most social economic and political preferences that CSOs, policy makers and political parties would be unwise to follow.

For a more societal perspective, our results show that strongest aspects of giving are related to religion, to health and medical institutes and to animal welfare. Volunteering behaviour is mainly characterised by local affiliation by religious and educational institutions being the most important causes for volunteering. Donating and especially volunteering are related not so much to the link between the cause and the preferences of the people involved with the cause, but with the link between the organisation and the individual. This is potentially disheartening to many CSOs where there is a belief that it is the cause that matters to the individual donating or volunteering, however this might be just a myth.

Finally, there is a desire at times to want to characterise individuals based upon their demographics or life circumstances. We find that this is not reliable in trying to understand an individual's social, economic and political preferences. Indeed, with our methodology we see that there are not many ways of discriminating amongst individuals based on such obvious factors as gender, income, education and so on, which only show a small number of significant differences. What seems to matter is something more deeply embedded in the individual that shows up in other ways – such as in their political orientation, religious beliefs or general personality (as measured in our case by Machiavellianism).

This report was an overview only and much more can be gleaned by attempting to understand not just the findings here but from the results from the other countries where this investigation is operating. However, this simple summary aims to provide a provocative look at Czech society in a new way.

APPENDIX 1: CATEGORIES AND SUB-CATEGORY ITEMS IN THE SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC VALUES INVENTORY

The inventory includes 16 categories of issues that individually contain up to 12 subcategory issue items. The total number of sub-category issue items is 113. The categories and items were extensively pre-tested and meant to be inclusive of major issues that would be relevant across a range of countries based on their economic and social development. Hence, it is expected that specific items would not necessarily be relevant for individuals in all countries. However, they are included so as to make cross-cultural comparisons meaningful.

- CIVIL AND PERSONAL LIBERTIES—includes issues associated with individual rights and freedom. These include:
 - Right to Life
 - Right of Free Speech/Opinion/Expression (including freedom of the press)
 - Right of Association (freedom of assembly and association)
 - Right of Liberty (freedom from arrest or detention except under authority of law)
 - Right to Vote in Free and Fair Elections
 - Right to Religious Freedom (freedom of thought, conscience and religion)
 - Right of Freedom from Harm and from Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Punishments
 - Legal Rights (the right to a fair trial by a competent and independent court)
 - Right to a Nationality (and not have it removed arbitrarily)
 - Right of Identity (e.g., the right to have a legal 'existence')
 - Freedom of Movement within and across Borders
 - Marital Rights (equal rights between married couples and the right to choose one's spouse)
- **EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITIES**—consists of <u>freedom from discrimination</u> based on a variety of criteria such as:
 - Gender
 - Age (both young and old)
 - Sexual Orientation
 - Marital Status
 - Disabilities
 - Racial/Ethnic Background
 - Religion
- COMMERCIAL RIGHTS—focuses on issues associated with commerce and ownership and includes:
 - Physical Property Rights (freedom to enjoy lawfully acquired property)
 - Intellectual Property Rights (right of ownership of creation of labor; e.g., materials created, etc.)
 - Freedom to Trade (right to make contracts between entities)
 - Right of Commercial Domain (right to locate business operations in country of your choosing)
 - Freedom to Start/Own a Business
- **WORKER/EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS**—includes those rights and freedoms of

workers exclusive of those covered by normal commercial rights. These include:

- Freedom to Engage in a Trade, Profession or Occupation
- Right to Form/Join a Labor Union, i.e. the right of collective bargaining
- Right to Strike, i.e., freedom to withdraw labor
- Right to a Safe Work Environment e.g., OSHA
- Right to Retirement at a Pre-specified Age
- Right to Retirement Benefits i.e. safety guarantees to a pension
- Protection of Children in the Labor Force

- Right to a Minimum Wage
- Right to Out-of-Work Benefits
- RIGHTS TO BASIC SERVICES—addresses access to basic services and include the rights to:
 - Right to Minimum Standard of Living, e.g. clothing, housing
 - Right to Benefits of Last Resort, e.g., welfare, dole
 - Right of Access to Food
 - Right of Access to Healthcare, Medicines
 - Right of Access to Basic Education
- ANIMAL WELFARE—consists of issues dealing with the treatment of animals and preservation of animal species. It includes both rights of an individual animal and protection of a species.
 - Freedom from Animal Testing
 - Freedom from Animal Cruelty
 - Humane Farming
 - Protection of Endangered Species
 - Protection Against Over-Hunting/Fishing

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY—focuses on issues associated with the protection of the natural environment. It includes issues relating to:

- Recycling of Materials, Use of Recycled Materials and Product Disposability
- Industrial Pollution: air, water, soil
- Ancillary Pollution; e.g., chemical runoff from farming, mining
- Personal Pollution; e.g., automobile, wood burning, outdoor grills
- Biodegradability of Materials and Products
- Alternative Energy Generation; e.g., solar, wind, water
- Climate Change
- Loss of Biodiversity
- Deforestation and Habitat Destruction
- MINORITY RIGHTS—deals with rights and protection of minority groups within a society and include:
 - Right to Cultural Preservation
 - Right to Cultural Expression in Public
 - Right to Engage in Cultural Practices
 - Right of Secession/Separation
 - Right to Speak a Foreign Language

LOCAL CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY—relate to issues associated with local societal crime and safety and it contains:

- Safety of Personal Property
- Protection from Violent Crime
- Freedom from Harassment
- Protection from Terrorism at Home
- Child Pornography & Sexual Exploitation
- Human Slavery & People Smuggling
- Protection from Briberv and Corruption
- Right to Private Protection; Self Defense

FOOD AND HEALTH—deals with major health issues that affect the society and include:

- AIDS/HIV Infection
- Obesity
- Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
- Teenage Pregnancy
- Right to Choose/Abortion
- Family Planning
- Suicide
- Mental Illness
- Infant Mortality

- Life Expectancy
- Genetically Modified Foods
- **Clean Water and Sanitation**

INDIVIDUAL ECONOMIC WELL-BEING—focuses on economic issues that affect the individual and their family. These contain issues such as:

- Cost of Daily Living (food, clothing and daily expenses)
- Freedom from Arbitrary and Excessive Taxation
- Housing Affordability
- Interest Rates .
- Inflation .

SOCIETAL ECONOMIC WELL-BEING—involves economic issues at the country (societal) level that may affect the individual and their family, but do so less directly. Such issues include:

- . **Economic Growth**
- Unemployment (general)
- Poverty
- Energy Prices
- Stability of CurrencyGovernment Budget Deficit
- . Balance of Payments/Trade Deficits

SOCIETAL SOCIAL WELL-BEING—deals with social issues at the country (societal) level that may affect the individual and their family. These issues include:

- Quality Schooling
- . Immigration
- . Public Transport (quality and investment)
- Income Inequality
- Youth Inactivity and Unemployment
- Social Isolation (Esp. adult & elderly)

GLOBAL ECONOMIC WELL-BEING—focuses on economic issues at the global level that can affect the individual and society. It contains issues such as:

- Population Growth .
- Free Trade Policy
- Third World Debt
- Depletion of Energy/Resources
- Global Economic Growth
- . Stability of Financial System

GLOBAL SOCIAL WELL-BEING—considers issues of social well-being at the global level, abstracting from the economic issues given earlier. It includes concerns about:

- Income Inequality .
- Third-World Poverty
- Population Growth
- Diseases (epidemics)
- Peace (freedom from conflicts)

GLOBAL SECURITY—includes issues associated with security at the global level and involves:

- Religious Extremism
- Global Terrorism
- Nuclear and Biological Weapons Proliferation
- Global Criminal Syndicates
- Unilateral Military Action
- Genocide/Ethnic Cleansing

APPENDIX 2: STRUCTURE OF THE BEST-WORST TASK

Best-Worst tasks operate by determining a relative ordering of items for each individual. This is superior to both Likert-based scale methods (e.g., responding on a 1-5 scale) and ranking methods but for different reasons.

In the case of Likert scales there are serious issues of what are known as response styles (how people use the scale) and common method problems. In the case of emotive social issues, like those studied here, individuals tend to rate everything as important, making their marginal preferences impossible to understand. When examining individuals across countries, there are potential problems with how individuals in different countries use the scales. In the case of ranking tasks, individuals are good at ranking extremes but cannot effectively distinguish between mid-range items when the list becomes even moderately long. This is particularly relevant here, as there are many issues to be examined and we would expect individuals to differ considerably.

Best-Worst tasks reduce the burden on the respondent by having them: (a) examine only small sets of items in experimentally designed blocks and (b) asks them only to respond with the "best" (most important) and "worst" (least important) in the block. From this we are able to estimate both the relative importance of each item in the set of items considered as well as determining how sure the individual is about their assessment. In addition, this type of task reduces the common method and response style problems because, (1) all individuals are using exactly the same discrete choice measure (an item is either best or worst and this choice is the same for everyone) – hence the scale is the same for everyone – and (2) it is impossible to say everything is important since the task forces a trade-off. As will be noted below, we also account for when individuals don't want to make a trade-off.

In the tasks here, individuals first examined the sixteen general categories. They then evaluated the sub-items within each category. Finally, they were asked to evaluate category sub-items against each other. The nature of the experimental approach allows us to determine the importance of the categories, the importance of sub-issues in a category, and the importance of sub-issues across categories.

The task asked individuals for three pieces of information when presented with a block of items:

- (1) Select the **one issue** among the four that is <u>least important</u> to you in the conduct of your life
- (2) Select the one issue that is <u>most important</u> to you in the conduct of your life and
- (3) Considering the group of issues, are **all, none or some of them** important in the sense that they materially matter to you in the conduct of your life. By this we mean that you give thought to all, some or none of the issues on a regular basis.

Below is an example of how the task looked to individuals when examining the 16 general categories and a screenshot of the actual task. For the 'within' and 'between' category queries, the structure of the task is the same but the block sizes would vary (below the block is a mixture of 4 of the 16 categories), as would the number of blocks individuals are asked to evaluate.

Question no.	Which issue matters LEAST to you?	Sets of issues for you to consider	Which issues matters MOST to you?	Are all, some or none of these "important"?
1		Minority Rights		□ All
	Only one issue selected	Food and Health	Only one issue	□ Some
		Animal Welfare	v - selected	✓ None
		Global Security		

Section A: Views on General Categories of Economic and Social Issues

All questions are required / Click issues to view explanation. You will not be able to proceed until all questions are answered.

Question No.	Which issue matters LEAST to you?	Sets of issues for you to consider	Which issues matters MOST to you?	Are all, some or none of these "important"?
1	0000	Equality of Opportunities Rights to Basic Services Minority Rights Global Economic Well-Being	0000	◯ All ◯ Some ◯ None
2		Civil and Personal Liberties Rights to Basic Services Animal Welfare Environmental Sustainability	00000	All Some None
3		Rights to Basic Services Local Crime and Public Safety Societal Economic Well-Being Global Security	0000	◯ All ◯ Some ◯ None
4		Worker/Employment Rights Rights to Basic Services Individual Economic Well-Being Global Social Well-Being	00000	All Some None

APPENDIX 3: TABULAR PRESENTATION OF A SELECTION OF THE DATA IN THE REPORT

TABLE III.1 BASIC DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender (Male)	50.00%
Age (Mean)	38.88 Years
Income (Household)	255,017 Kč
Home Mortgage or Owned	61.66%
Single	24.97%
Married or Widowed	47.00%
Children (Number)	1.3
Czech Citizen	98.00%

TABLE III.2 DONATING AND VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITY

	Percent of People Donating	Average Amount Donated	Percent of People Volunteering
Health/Medical Institutes	11.5%	15.89 Kč	1.8%
Place of Worship	10.2%	33.82 Kč	6.1%
Children's Welfare Organisations (Non-Medical)	9.6%	15.71 Kč	2.8%
Animal Welfare Organisations	8.0%	17.76 Kč	2.6%
Disabilities & Aged Care Organisations	7.0%	10.17 Kč	1.2%
Children's Health Care Organisations	6.0%	11.99 Kč	2.8%
Educational Institutions	4.0%	16.65 Kč	4.3%
Environmental Groups	3.6%	3.89 Kč	4.2%
Religious Organisations	3.5%	5.92 Kč	2.3%
International Medical Relief Organisations	3.2%	10.43 Kč	1.5%
Museums and Arts Organisations	2.8%	3.60 Kč	0.8%
Human Rights Groups	2.2%	4.34 Kč	1.9%
Homeless Shelters/Poverty Relief (Local)	2.1%	2.29 Kč	2.3%
Family Planning Groups	2.0%	3.99 Kč	0.8%
International Poverty Relief Organisations	1.9%	4.84 Kč	0.9%
Voting Rights Groups	0.7%	0.29 Kč	2.2%
Civil Rights Organisations	0.3%	0.09 Kč	0.3%
Political Parties	0.2%	0.88 Kč	2.3%
General Philanthropy (Not covered elsewhere)	0.0%	0.00 Kč	0.0%

TABLE III.3 OVERALL CATEGORY IMPORTANCE

Category	Importance
Civil and personal liberties	71.14%
Local crime and public safety	67.09%
Worker/employment rights	58.41%
Food and health	57.98%
Equality of opportunities	55.69%
Environmental sustainability	55.42%
Rights to basic services	54.71%
Individual economic well-being	48.45%
Global security	48.14%
Societal economic well-being	47.66%
Animal welfare	47.61%
Societal social well-being	46.79%
Global economic well-being	40.30%
Commercial rights	37.61%
Global social well-being	36.28%
Minority rights	26.73%

TABLE III.4 SUB CATEGORY ISSUE IMPORTANCE

Rank	Sub Category Issue	Importance
1	Right to Life (Civil Liberties)	55.91%
2	Right of Liberty (Civil Liberties)	45.59%
3	Economic Growth (Societal Economic Well-Being)	44.31%
4	Legal Rights (Civil Liberties)	41.43%
5	Industrial Pollution (Environmental Sustainability)	41.38%
6	Safety of Personal Property	39.97%
7	Freedom from Harm (Civil Liberties)	38.78%
8	Deforestation and Habitat Destruction (Environmental Sustainability)	38.06%
9	Right of Free Speech (Civil Liberties)	37.52%
10	Disabilities (Equality of Opportunity)	37.46%
11	Age: Elderly (Equality of Opportunity)	37.05%
12	Right to Private Protection (Crime & Public Safety)	36.44%
13	Child Pornography & Sexual Exploitation (Crime & Public Safety)	35.22%
14	Right of Identity (Civil Liberties)	35.15%
15	Right to Retirement Benefits (Worker/Employment Rights)	35.04%
16	Protection from Violent Crime (Crime & Public Safety)	34.77%
17	Cost of Daily Living (Individual Economic Well-Being)	34.74%
18	Clean Water and Sanitation (Food & Health)	34.37%
19	Freedom to Engage in a Trade, Profession or Occupation (Worker/Employ Rights)	33.90%
20	Right to a Nationality (Civil Liberties)	33.28%
21	Unemployment (Societal Economic Well-Being)	33.23%
22	Energy Prices (Societal Economic Well-Being)	33.11%
23	Right to Minimum Standard of Living (Rights to Basic Services)	32.98%
24	Recycling of Materials (Environmental Sustainability)	32.77%
25	Protection from Terrorism at Home (Crime & Public Safety)	31.62%
26	Age: Youth (Equality of Opportunity)	31.60%
27	Right to Vote (Civil Liberties)	31.57%
28	Freedom of Movement (Civil Liberties)	31.57%
29	Protection from Bribery and Corruption (Crime & Public Safety)	31.39%
30	Climate Change (Environmental Sustainability)	30.64%
31	Marital Status (Equality of Opportunity)	30.58%
32	Right to Out-of-Work Benefits (Worker/Employment Rights)	30.58%
33	Human Slavery & People Smuggling (Crime & Public Safety)	29.89%
34	Poverty (Societal Economic Well-Being)	29.55%
35	Right to a Safe Work Environment (Worker/Employment Rights)	29.48%
36	Marital Rights (Civil Liberties)	29.14%
37	Quality Schooling (Societal Social Well-Being)	28.94%
38	Right to a Minimum Wage (Worker/Employment Rights)	28.91%
39	Right to Retirement at a Pre-specified Age (Worker/Employment Rights)	28.85%
40	Freedom from Harassment (Crime & Public Safety)	28.37%

41	Freedom from Animal Cruelty (Animal Welfare)	27.82%
42	Genocide/Ethnic Cleansing (Global Security)	26.94%
43	Stability of Financial System (Global Economic Well-Being)	26.93%
44	Right to Strike (Worker/Employment Rights)	26.92%
45	Right of Association (Civil Liberties)	26.45%
46	Nuclear and Biological Weapons Proliferation (Global Security)	26.37%
47	Protection of Children in the Labour Force (Worker/Employment Rights)	26.26%
48	Right of Access to Food (Rights to Basic Services)	26.20%
49	Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (Food & Health)	25.80%
50	AIDS/HIV Infection (Food & Health)	25.66%
51	Right of Access to Basic Education (Rights to Basic Services)	25.59%
52	Right to Benefits of Last Resort (Rights to Basic Services)	25.57%
53	Gender (Equality of Opportunity)	25.49%
54	Religious Extremism (Global Security)	25.49%
55	Right to Form/Join a Labour Union (Worker/Employment Rights)	25.44%
56	Income Inequality (Global Social Well-Being)	25.40%
57	Global Terrorism (Global Security)	25.24%
58	Loss of Biodiversity (Environmental Sustainability)	25.02%
59	Right of Access to Healthcare, Medicines (Rights to Basic Services)	24.91%
60	Alternative Energy Generation (Environmental Sustainability)	24.55%
61	Youth Inactivity and Unemployment (Societal Social Well-Being)	24.52%
62	Right to Choose/Abortion (Food & Health)	24.17%
63	Racial/Ethnic Background (Equality of Opportunity)	23.85%
64	Infant Mortality (Food & Health)	23.84%
65	Mental Illness (Food & Health)	23.70%
66	Right to Religious Freedom (Civil Liberties)	23.12%
67	Depletion of Energy/Resources (Global Economic Well-Being)	22.92%
68	Peace (Freedom from Conflict) (Global Social Well-Being)	22.49%
69	Housing Affordability (Individual Economic Well-Being)	22.27%
70	Protection of Endangered Species (Animal Welfare)	22.08%
71	Family Planning (Food & Health)	21.98%
72	Unilateral Military Action (Global Security)	21.87%
73	Global Criminal Syndicates (Global Security)	21.37%
74	Diseases & Epidemics (Global Social Well-Being)	21.14%
75	Genetically Modified Foods (Food & Health)	20.90%
76	Teenage Pregnancy (Food & Health)	20.17%
77	Suicide (Food & Health)	20.00%
78	Public Transport (Societal Social Well-Being)	19.86%
79	Stability of Currency (Societal Economic Well-Being)	19.77%
80	Obesity (Food & Health)	19.23%
81	Freedom from Animal Testing (Animal Welfare)	19.18%
82	Biodegradability of Materials and Products (Environmental Sustainability)	18.81%

83	Government Budget Deficit (Societal Economic Well-Being)	18.68%
84	Global Economic Growth (Global Economic Well-Being)	18.64%
85	Freedom from Arbitrary and Excessive Taxation (Individual Economic Well-Being)	18.16%
86	Sexual Orientation (Equality of Opportunity)	17.49%
87	Life Expectancy (Food & Health)	17.37%
88	Personal Pollution (Environmental Sustainability)	16.83%
89	Social Isolation (Societal Social Well-Being)	16.74%
90	Inflation (Individual Economic Well-Being)	16.62%
91	Population Growth (Global Economic Well-Being)	16.36%
92	Income Inequality (Societal Social Well-Being)	14.90%
93	Immigration (Societal Social Well-Being)	14.17%
94	Free Trade Policy (Global Economic Well-Being)	12.72%
95	Physical Property Rights (Commercial Rights)	12.10%
96	Ancillary Pollution (Environmental Sustainability)	12.06%
97	Humane Farming (Animal Welfare)	11.79%
98	Religion (Equality of Opportunity)	11.48%
99	Third-World Poverty (Global Social Well-Being)	10.96%
100	Interest Rates (Individual Economic Well-Being)	10.54%
101	Population Growth (Global Social Well-Being)	10.10%
102	Protection Against Over-Hunting/Fishing (Animal Welfare)	9.40%
103	Freedom to Start/Own a Business (Commercial Rights)	9.35%
104	Freedom to Trade (Commercial Rights)	9.10%
105	Third World Debt (Global Economic Well-Being)	8.89%
106	Balance of Payments/Trade Deficits (Societal Economic Well-Being)	8.47%
107	Intellectual Property Rights (Commercial Rights)	8.03%
108	Right of Commercial Domain (Commercial Rights)	5.78%
109	Right to Engage in Cultural Practices (Minority Rights)	4.35%
110	Right to Cultural Preservation (Minority Rights)	3.64%
111	Right to Cultural Expression in Public (Minority Rights)	3.48%
112	Right to Speak a Foreign Language (Minority Rights)	2.03%
113	Right of Secession/Separation (Minority Rights)	1.78%