

Reflections on student mobility from Russia, Eastern  
Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia:  
Macro- and meso-level analyses

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A photograph of a group of students in a courtyard. The students are engaged in various activities: some are walking, some are sitting on a bench, and others are standing in small groups talking. The courtyard is paved with stone tiles and has a green lawn in the foreground. In the background, there is a brick building with several windows and some greenery. The overall atmosphere is casual and social.

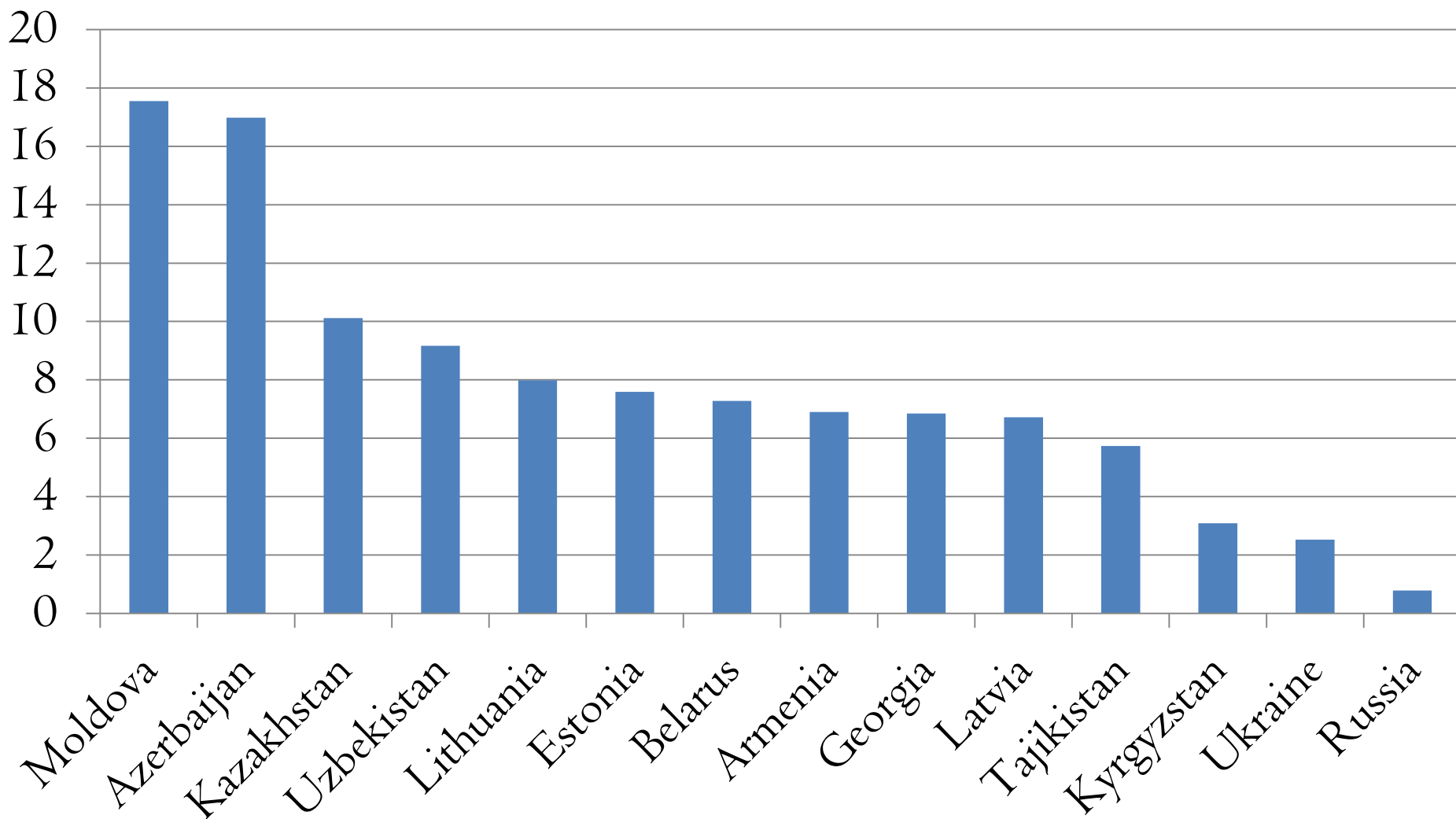
Actors

Rationales and implications



1. Armenia; 2. Azerbaijan; 3. Belarus; 4. Estonia; 5. Georgia; 6. Kazakhstan; 7. Kyrgyzstan; 8. Latvia; 9. Lithuania; 10. Moldova; 11. Russia; 12. Tajikistan; 13. Turkmenistan; 14. Ukraine; 15. Uzbekistan.

# Outbound mobility ratio (%), by country of origin



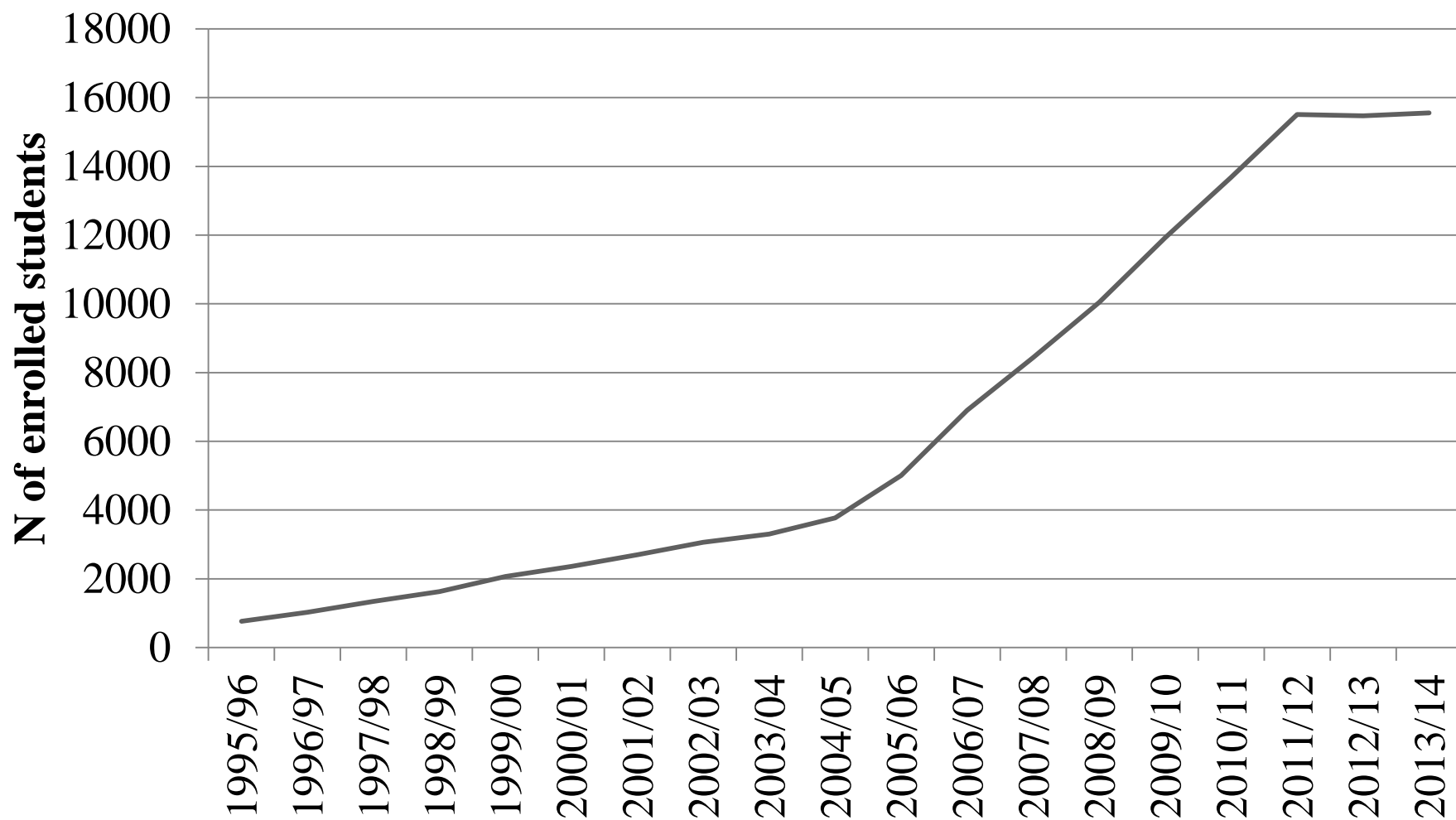
# Outbound student mobility from post-Soviet countries

Predictors	Model A	Model B
Gross tertiary enrolment ratio, total (%)	-.491*	-.547*
Labour force participation rate, total (%)	-.645**	-.596**
Population total		-.391*
GDP per capita (\$)		.280
Constant	21.449 (3.109)	20.481 (3.243)
N	14	14
R <sup>2</sup>	59	77
F	7.96	7.66
(df)	(2)	(4)
P	.007	.006
RMSE	2.46	2.02

\*p<.05, \*\* p<0.01

Country of origin	OMR	Destination country I	Destination country II	Destination country III	Destination country IV	Destination country V	Destination country VI	Destination country VII	Destination country VIII
Moldova	17.6	Romania	Russia	Italy	Ukraine	France	Germany	Bulgaria	USA
		7432	4902	2001	1703	825	597	466	363
Azerbaijan	17.0	Russia	Ukraine	Turkey	Georgia	UK	Germany	USA	Belarus
		10530	7599	6989	860	638	580	371	293
Kazakhstan	10.1	Russia	Kyrgyzstan	USA	UK	Czech Republic	Malaysia	Germany	Poland
		35106	4357	1884	1725	1174	1089	695	401
Uzbekistan	9.2	Russia	Kazakhstan	Ukraine	Kyrgyzstan	Germany	USA	Korea	Malaysia
		10211	5588	2072	1219	789	426	411	379
Belarus	7.3	Russia	Poland	Lithuania	Germany	Czech Republic	Italy	Ukraine	France
		26434	3413	1894	1173	577	502	461	351
Armenia	6.9	Russia	France	Ukraine	Germany	USA	Greece	UK	Italy
		3602	824	604	418	330	214	145	119
Ukraine	2.5	Russia	Poland	Germany	Italy	Czech Republic	USA	Hungary	France
		9586	9485	5444	1903	1876	1426	1269	1128
Russia	0.8	Germany	USA	France	UK	Czech Republic	Ukraine	Finland	Belarus
		9480	4688	3643	3604	3455	2930	2206	2128
Lithuania	8.0	UK	Denmark	Poland	Germany	Netherlands	Russia	USA	France
		5041	1716	950	865	496	457	272	260
Estonia	7.6	UK	Finland	Germany	Denmark	Russia	USA	Netherlands	Sweden
		1152	538	489	450	388	209	138	133
Georgia	6.8	Kazakhstan	Canada	Germany	Ukraine	Armenia	Russia	Australia	USA
		6639	2655	1852	1517	1256	1143	580	436
Latvia	6.7	UK	Denmark	Germany	Russia	Netherlands	USA	France	Finland
		2084	823	672	658	398	282	168	125
Tajikistan	5.7	Russia	Kyrgyzstan	Kazakhstan	Ukraine	Saudi Arabia	Turkey	USA	Egypt
		6458	885	476	422	385	364	299	215
Kyrgyzstan	3.1	Russia	Kazakhstan	Germany	Saudi Arabia	USA	Tajikistan	Egypt	France
		3215	963	494	361	250	162	109	89
Turkmenistan		Ukraine	Russia	Belarus	Turkey	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Azerbaijan	USA
		14053	10128	8153	5887	1090	369	177	170
Chankseliani & Hessel (2016a)									

# Cumulative numbers of degree-mobile students from former Soviet countries to the UK, by year



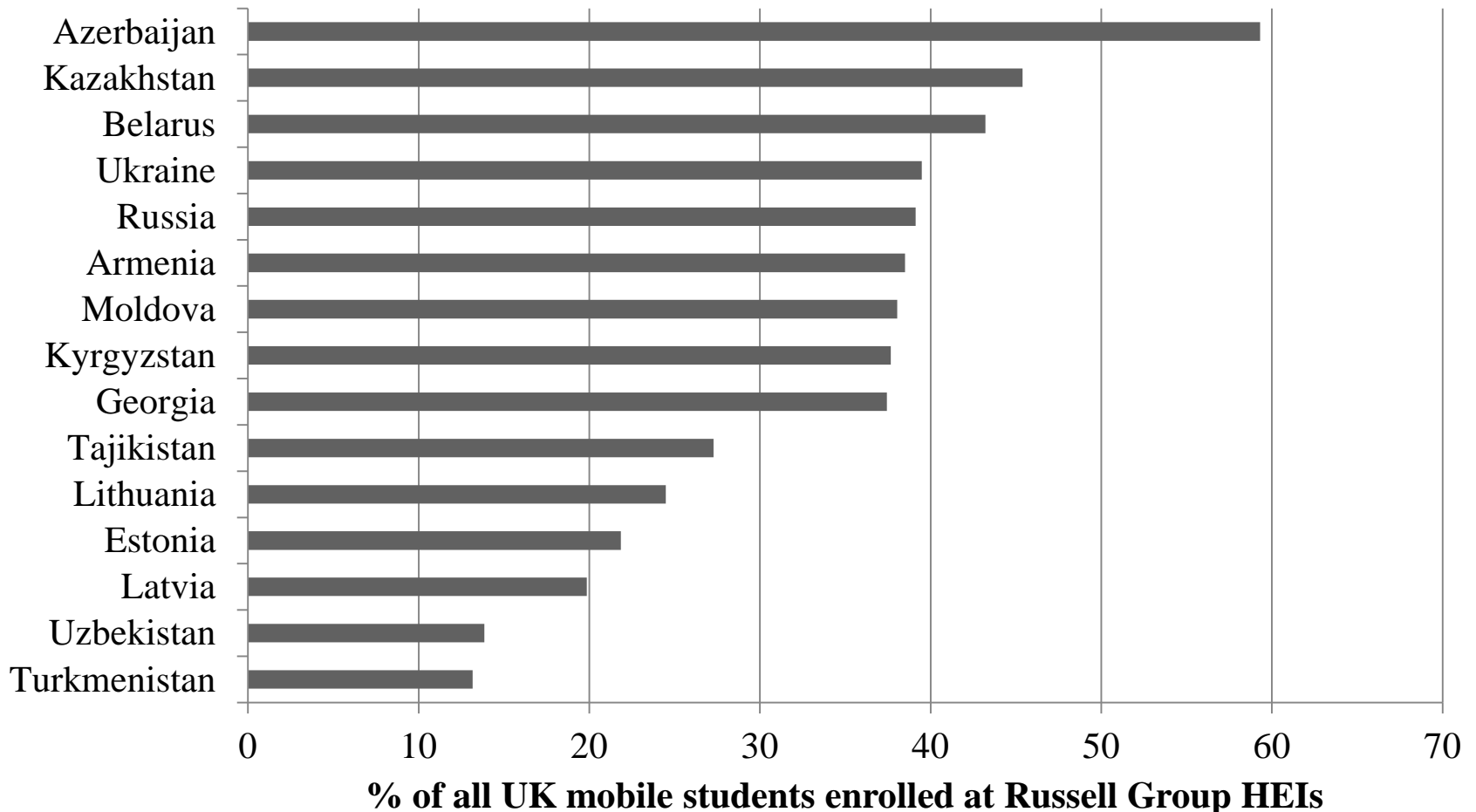
It has partially to do with the countries in the region recovering from the Soviet days, changing internally in terms of the societal structures, how education is viewed, the opportunities that are available, and obviously having more opportunities to engage with outside – it was previously quite controlled where they could travel. The economy picking up in the country so you have more of a middle class who have an actual interest in study abroad and who can afford study abroad; and obviously demographic increases where you have a population increase of young people and for some of the countries the local universities just don't have the capacity to deal with these increases and the demand of places. For some of the countries this is one of the big reasons why they have scholarship programmes at Master's level. They just don't have the capacity in –country to offer the Master's programmes that are required and that there is interest. So it's a capacity issue for some countries. Of course the other side would be that perhaps UK universities for X number of reasons engage more with the countries and make people more aware of opportunities of studying in the UK. [...] we are benefitting from having this reputation of UK universities that is really top-notch and that that's the best education you can get. (I)



Numeric identifier of the HEI	N of enrolled students from the countries of interest	Nation	Russell Group
<b>GROUP I</b>			
1	510	Scotland	No
2	442	Scotland	Yes
3	371	England (London)	No
4	273	England	Yes
5	258	England (London)	Yes
6	201	England	Yes
<b>GROUP II</b>			
7	160	England	Yes
8	140	England	Yes
9	133	England	No
10	116	Wales	No
<b>GROUP III</b>			
11	83	England	No
12	66	England	No
13	53	Wales	No
14	9	England	No

# Russell Group

	Cumulative Non-EU		Cumulative EU	
<b>Russell Group</b>	3,232	41.5%	1,788	23.0%
<b>Not Russell Group</b>	4,550	58.5%	5,983	77.0%
<b>Total</b>	7,782	100%	7,771	100%



# Rationales of internationalisation in the UK

economic

socio-cultural

academic

political

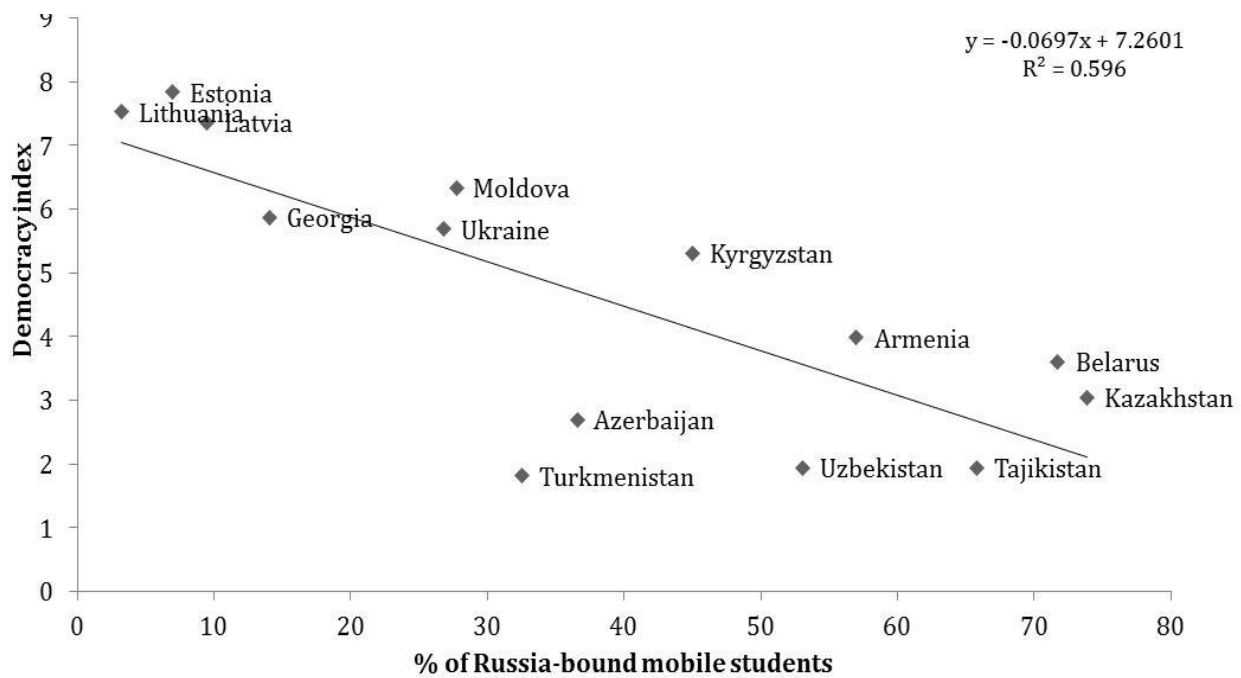
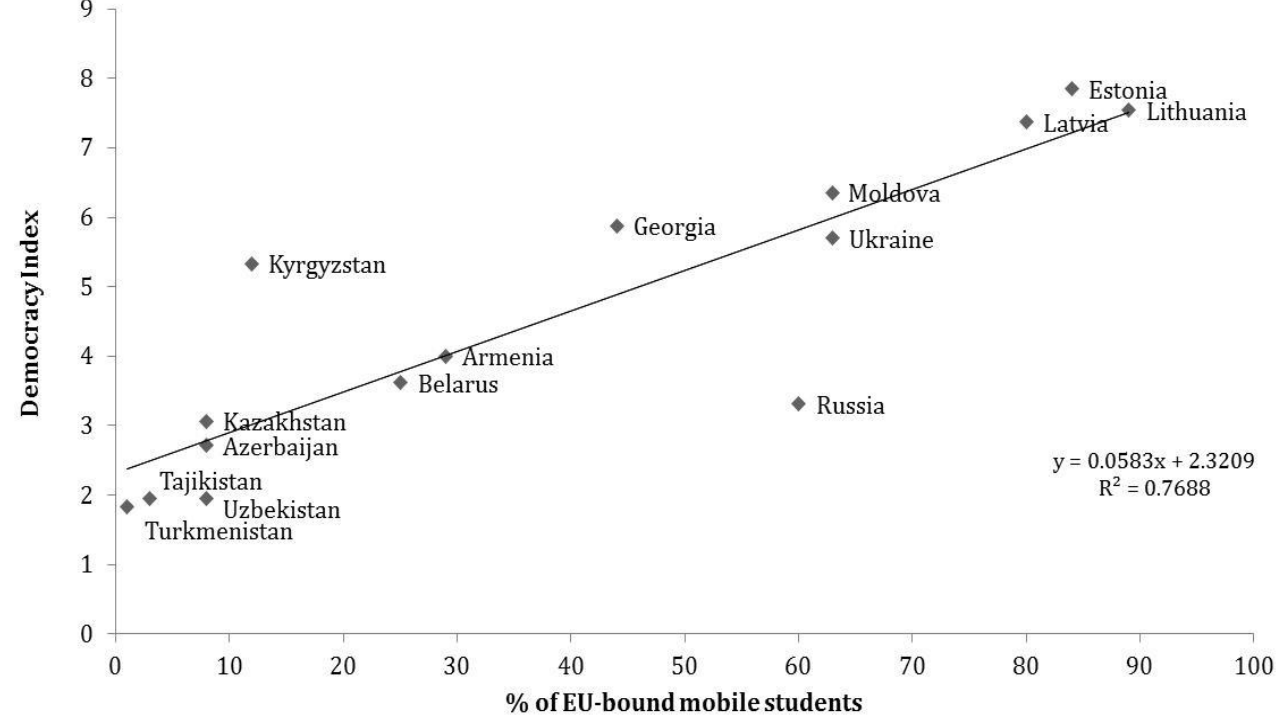
# Implications for individual states?



Level of democratic  
development

Student mobility

Apprenticeships in democracy?



Theoretical differentiation: to what extent are political transitions conditioned by social structures/pre-conditions and to what extent are they actor-driven?

How do apprenticeships in democracy work?

More empirical work needed at the individual level!

# Author's publications on this topic

Chankseliani, M. (2017). Four rationales of HE internationalisation: perspectives of UK universities on attracting students from former Soviet countries. *Journal of Studies in International Education*.

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1028315317725806>

Chankseliani, M., & Hessel, G. (2016a). *Case studies of the most popular European destinations for mobile students from Russia, Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia* (Research report). Oxford, UK: The Centre for Comparative and International Education, University of Oxford. Retrieved from <https://ora.ox.ac.uk/objects/uuid:307e125e-6def-4b5e-8c3e-a984a6ddd2d1>

Chankseliani, M., & Hessel, G. (2016b). *International student mobility from Russia, Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia to the UK: trends, institutional rationales and strategies for student recruitment* (Research report). Oxford, UK: The Centre for Comparative and International Education, University of Oxford. Retrieved from <https://ora.ox.ac.uk/objects/uuid%3Afdbb4023-16fe-4542-9b2b-1b47993acf68>

Chankseliani, M. (2015). Escaping homelands with limited employment and tertiary education opportunities: Outbound student mobility from post-Soviet countries. *Population, Space and Place*, 22(3), 301–316. <https://doi.org/10.1002/psp.1932>

Malinovsky, S., & Chankseliani, M. (forthcoming). International student recruitment in Russia: heavy-handed approach and soft power comeback. In A. Oleksiyenko, Q. Zha, I. Chirikov, & J. Li (Eds.), *Higher Education and Global Competition: China, Russia, and De-Sovietization Practices*. Hong Kong: CERC-Springer.

Chankseliani, M. (work in progress). The politics of student mobility: What do the EU-bound vs Russia-bound international student statistics tell us about the democratic development of post-Soviet Eurasia?

Chankseliani, M., & Wells, A. (work in progress). Internationalisation of Latvian Higher Education.



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