



# What factors divide and consolidate Russian population in Estonia?

**Prof. Triin Vihalemm**

*University of Tartu, Estonia*

**International conference „Integration Challenges in a Radicalizing World“  
29 – 30 November 2016, Tallinn, Estonia**



KULTUURIMINISTEERIUM



NORWEGIAN EMBASSY



BRITISH  
COUNCIL



TALLINN UNIVERSITY





# What factors divide and consolidate Russian population in Estonia?

Triin Vihalemm

University of Tartu



KULTUURIMINISTEERIUM



NORWEGIAN EMBASSY



BRITISH  
COUNCIL

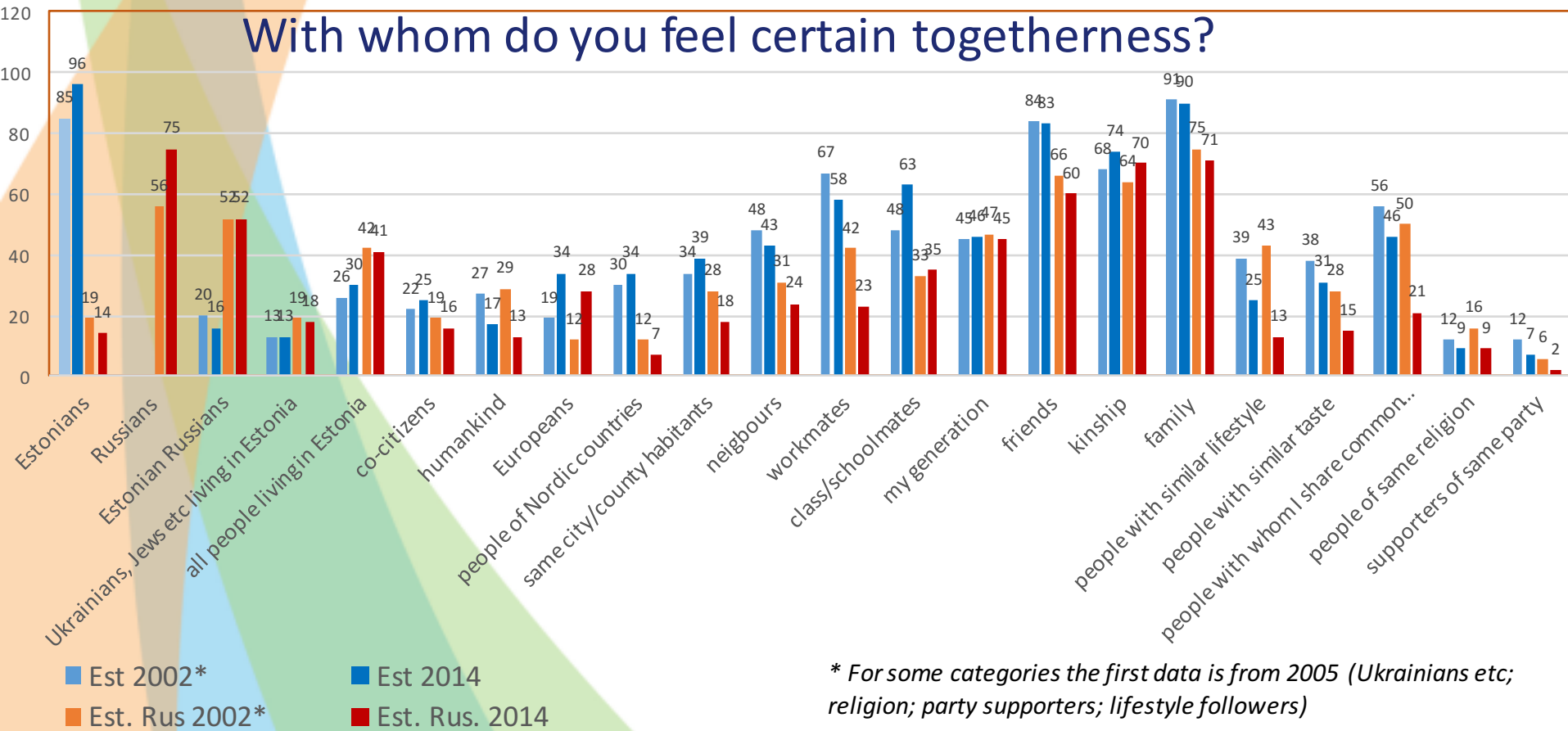


TALLINN UNIVERSITY



# Intro: Solidarity grounds in Estonian society

## With whom do you feel certain togetherness?



\* For some categories the first data is from 2005 (Ukrainians etc; religion; party supporters; lifestyle followers)

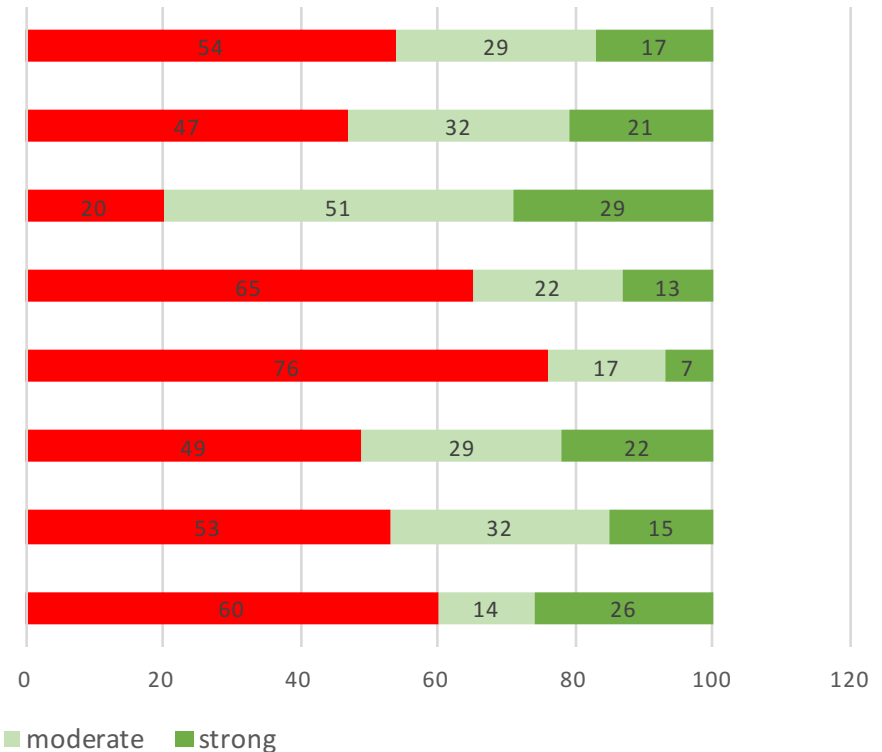


## Questions for discussion

- What are the patterns of social involvement among Estonian Russian population?
  - Patterns – combinations of several features
- How transnational are the members of clusters of social involvement?
- What are the prospects for further development of solidarity, common values and civic thinking among the groups of involvement?

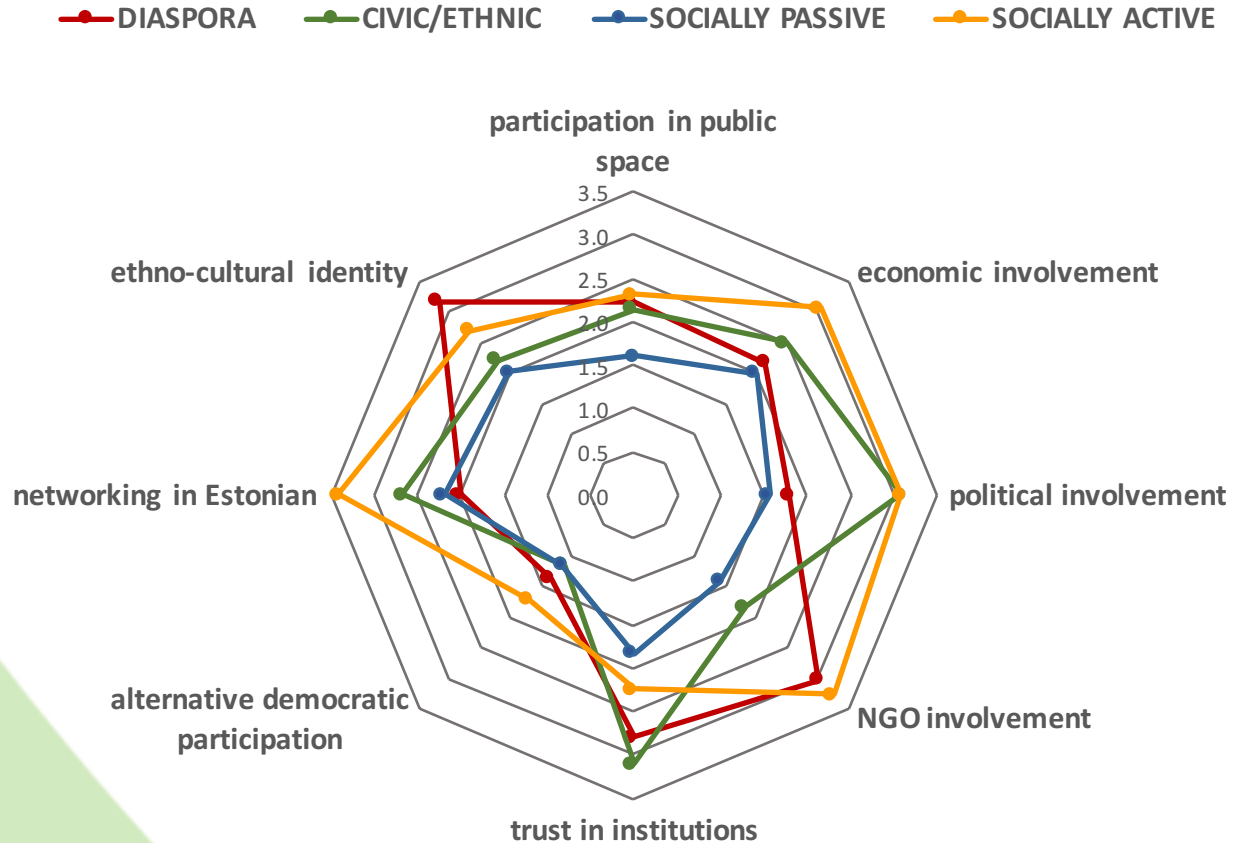
# Dimensions of social involvement

ETHNO-CULTURAL IDENTITY (folk holidays; ethno-cultural associations; religiosity; feeling of belonging)  
 USE OF ESTONIAN (multifunctional Est. language use (incl.media); solidarity with Estonians)  
 PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC SPACE (following of local news; public (mass) sports and culture activities, commemorations etc)  
 ECONOMIC INVOLVEMENT (entrepreneur; business/EU projects, lifelong learning; real estate; sufficiency of money)  
 ALTERNATIVE DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION (meetings; demonstrations; protests; petitions; political "wearables").  
 TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS (parliament, president, government, mass media, churches, courts, the police, the educational...  
 NGO INVOLVEMENT (NGO member; trust in NGOs; elected to a representative body, voluntary work)  
 POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT (citizenship, elections, solidarity with co-citizens)





# Patterns of social involvement



# Patterns of social involvement

Integratsiooni ja  
Migratsiooni Sihtasutus  
Meie Inimesed



## **SOCIALLY ACTIVE 19%**

- 83% citizens; Est knowledge
- active (foreign) media use
- mobile
- multifarious solidarities
- 67% females
- 48% higher education

## **CIVIC/ETHNIC 35%**

- 78% citizens; moderate Est knowledge
- active (foreign) media use
- (pan)regional solidarities
- immobile
- 34% higher education

## **DIASPORA 26%**

- Russian/undetermined cc
- 90% do not speak Est
- 80% in NGOs
- 49% are religious
- 20% basic education
- oldest cluster

## **SOCIALLY PASSIVE 21%**

- undetermined /Russian cc
- voluntary & structurally prescribed non-participation
- few resources: educational, financial and social network
- older cluster

# Current status, further prospects

Integratsiooni ja  
Migratsiooni Sihtasutus  
Meie Inimesed



## **SOCIALLY ACTIVE**

- high individual mobility plus social capitals
- flexible practical and discursive consciousness, prone for new ideologies and lifestyle changes
- high expectations, „voice“
- negotiating reception of legitimizing narratives

## **CIVIC/ETHNIC**

- stability as norm
- acceptance of major legitimizing narratives
- silence as communication
- high mediating potential (employment in service sector, counseling jobs)

## **DIASPORA**

- low agency as employee and national electorate member, limited possibilities to respond to lifestyle changes
- oppositional reception of legitimizing narratives
- good civic competences to influence politics via NGOs and activism
- clear value set, value-driven rationality

## **SOCIALLY PASSIVE**

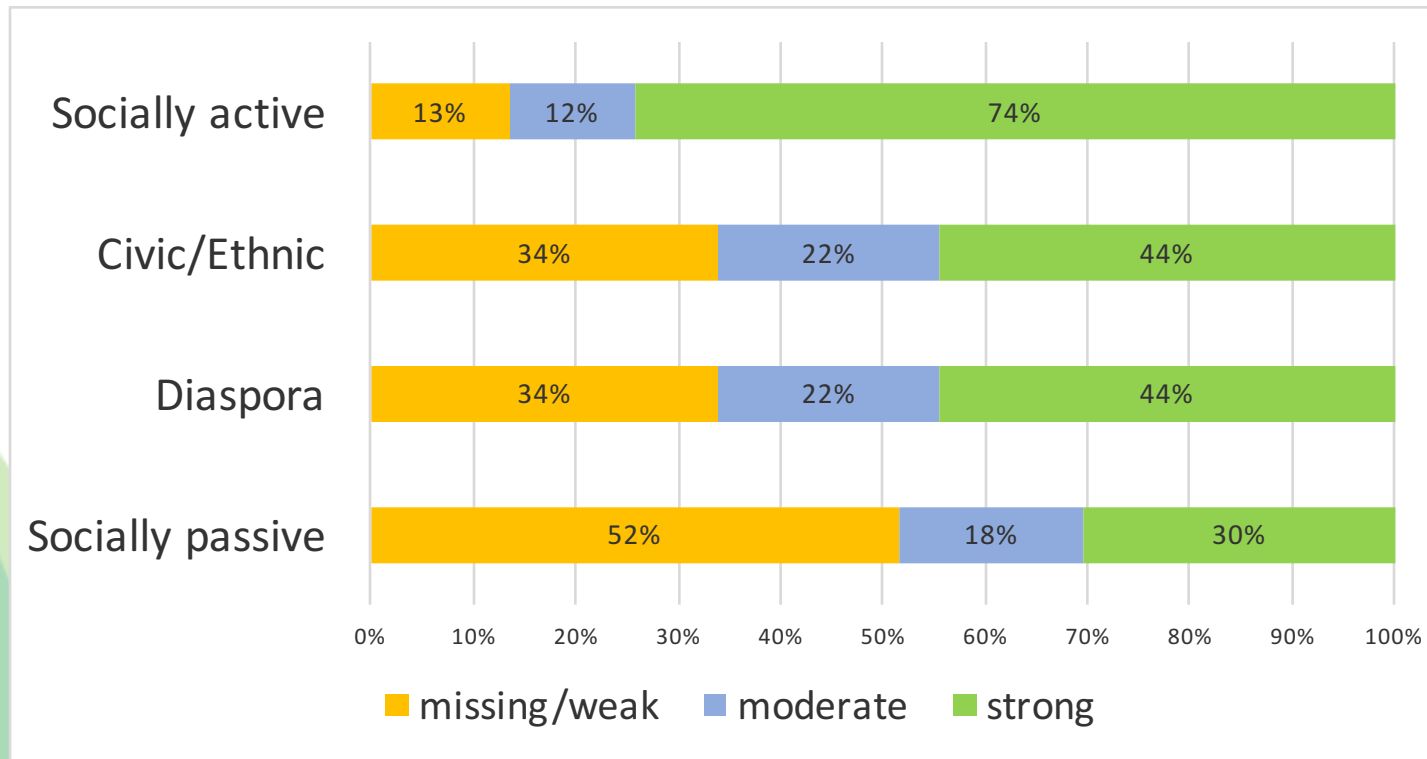
- the institutional channels and forms to communicate are practically missing
- passivity as a protecting buffer against larger mobilization; „sleeping“ anxieties?



# Transnationalism

Aggregated index variable:

- following foreign media channels;
- social media contacts abroad;
- visits abroad;
- acquaintances abroad





**Thank you!**

**[triin.vihalemm@ut.ee](mailto:triin.vihalemm@ut.ee)**



# Presentation given at International conference **Integration Challenges in a Radicalising World**

*29 – 30 November 2016 in Tallinn, Estonia*

For more conference materials and presentations  
please visit [www.misakonverents.ee](http://www.misakonverents.ee)



KULTUURIMINISTEERIUM



NORWEGIAN EMBASSY



BRITISH  
COUNCIL



TALLINN UNIVERSITY

