



POLICY NOTE OF THE WORKING PAPER 5.4

ARE INDIVIDUAL VALUE ORIENTATIONS RELATED TO SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL CAPITAL? A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS DATA FROM THREE ETHNIC GROUPS IN RUSSIA

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Social capital impacts the level of economic development, promotes formation of political openness, democracy, human rights and freedoms in society.

OBJECTIVE

The current study aimed studying the impact of value orientations on social capital.

SCIENTIFIC/ RESEARCH METHODS

Structural Equation Modeling of the influence of value orientations in three ethnic groups (Russian, Chechens, Ingush) on their social and psychological capital (relationships that are the basis for the formation of social capital). The data from a socio-psychological survey of 317 respondents in Russia constituted the empirical basis of the research.

POLICY VALUE - ADDED

The mathematical modeling (on the data from a socio-psychological survey of 3 different cultural and ethnic groups in Russia) highlighted that value orientations exercise similar influence on social and psychological capital (the relationships that serve as basis for the formation of social capital) in representatives of different ethnic groups. At this stage, three facts have been discovered:

- a) Value orientations are related to social and psychological capital;
- b) There are clear trends in the impact of value orientations on social and psychological capital;
- c) There are cross-cultural differences in the impact of individual values on social and psychological capital;

d) The variance proportion in social and psychological capital is explained by value orientations and ranges from 8 to 32% on different indicators in different ethnic groups.

Hence, it can be assumed that the formation of social capital may be possible by means of value orientations of citizens. Political authorities, by forming in citizens certain value orientations that contribute to the development of social capital or by reducing the popularity of values that hinder the development of social capital, can attain partial increase of social capital. Social capital, in its turn, will stimulate economic and political development.