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**Civic Participation Across Rural Europe. East-West Comparison**

**(Abstract )**

The objective of proposed paper is to make an attempt at answering three main problem questions:

* What is the general level of civic participation of Rural Europe's society in the end of the first and beginning of second decade of the 21st century and what is the scale of differentiation of the participation in different European countries?
* 2/ What patterns of civic participation dominate in Rural Europe? and
* 3/ Which of the below listed models explaining the differentiation of civic participation (Socio Economic Status Model; Social Capital Model or Attachment Model) is best fitted to explain the changeability of Rural European population's participation?
* Three hypotheses have been formulated respectively to the problem questions
* **H1/**In the first hypothesis it has been assumed that the level of civic participation in Rural Europe will be close to the median position on the designed scale.
* It is expected that the highest levels of participation will be noted in the countries of the longest democratic traditions while the lowest levels will be noted in the countries of the shortest democratic tradition.
* **H2/** In accordance with the results from previous studies (Verba, Scholzman, Brady 1995; Pattie, Sayed, Whiteley 2003), we think that the dominating patterns of participation will be voting and campaign participation.
* **H3/** We think that from among the three models taken under consideration (the SES, SC and AT Models), the SES model is best fitted to explain the changeability of civic participation of the studied inhabitants of Europe from the statistical point of view.
* Verification of hypotheses has been based on a database containing information from the European Social Survey conducted in European Countries in 2002, 2004,2006,2008,2010.2012,2014