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**THE WELFARE STATE, BETWEEN THE CHRISTIAN MERCY  
AND THE ORGANIZATIONAL PRAGMATISM OF BEES**

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**Abstract:** The social policies effectiveness as a component of government revenue redistribution policies is an essential element of modern capitalist society. In history, social assistance has sometimes been exerted by the church, being a derivative of a profound human feeling - Christian mercy. The evolution of society and the integration of social assistance as a public policy presupposes a high dose of pragmatism, derived also from the managerial internal control standards. The study aims to analyze the relationship that might exist between Christian mercy and the effectiveness of social assistance programs. The research is based on a descriptive analysis that consists of a comparison of the bee behavior and a quantitative evaluation that uses correlation analysis, artificial intelligence techniques and fuzzy logic. The results of the paper confirm the reverse dependency of the social assistance effectiveness policies on income inequality and on the poverty degree. The conclusions of the study reveal that, in the short term, Christian mercy is reversing the effectiveness of social programs by confirming Nietzsche's criticisms of Christianity. In the long run, the return to the faith values prevails over the efficiency targets that seem to have a more and more ephemeral character in the contemporary world. This reaction of approaching religion is considered by the authors as the need for emotional support that people feel in the early stages of the development of capitalist societies. Later, in the second stage described by Kuznets' U-curve, people become aware of the capital's capacity to be altruistic and of the increased role of social responsibility. Therefore the need for support decreases.

**Key words:** income redistribution, social assistance, behavioral finance, social responsibility, income inequality, religion, social policy, redistribution, welfare state.

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## 1. Introduction

The Church has played an important role in serving both the spiritual and the physical needs of the poor. Since ancient times, the churches have set up hospitals, schools, houses for unmarried mothers and charitable societies. The social government programs has led the church to move away from many of its crucial roles in poverty alleviation. This phenomenon may be a component of what some economists call the deterrent effect of private spending on government spending ("the exclusion effect"), which is the subject of the state aid issues. The views are different on the desirability of granting poverty aid as part of the public revenues redistribution. We can mention that many electoral campaigns make this topic a nodal point.

We also have to note that states and communities are addressing differently the social welfare management policies. For example, some countries grant them in kind, others in cash (Sen 1976, 219-231).

A similar system of transfers also exists in the bee communities, methodically organized in hives, where it can be observed a similar honey redistribution process between productive bees and male bees. At the same time, the bees organization is exemplary, as well as the prompt information analysis. Therefore, in developing a qualitative analysis, the authors considered their behavior as a guide in addressing the effectiveness of the social policies on Christian mercy.

The hypothesis from which the present study starts is that the bee's reaction only considers efficiency (there is no divine spirit of the bees). This starting point is especially important because if bees can achieve organizational efficiency in fulfilling goals, for humans, in addition, there is an essential feeling - mercy - given by the existence of religion.

A primary feature of religion is Christian mercy. However there are some criticisms (Nietzsche 1976) about mercy and its role in the effective development of a society. Faith teaches us that the deeds of mercy are both fleshy (to satisfy the hungry one, to give drink to the thirsty, to dress the naked, to welcome a guest in your house, to cure the sick, to search the one in the prison, to bury the dead), but also for the soul (to direct the sinners, to teach the uninformed, to advise the doubtful, to comfort those who are sorrowful, to patiently endure injustice, to forgive those who have wronged you, to pray for the living and for the dead).

When we practice the facts of body and soul mercy, we do nothing but fulfill the words of the Holy Apostle Paul, who says, "Do your duties one to another, and so you will accomplish the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2), and in another verse: "... serve one another by love. For all the law is contained in one word: love your neighbor as yourself " (Galatians 5:13-14).

Religious critics, like Nietzsche, say that mercy acts depressively. Man is losing power when he is compassionate. The philosopher believes that mercy opposes the very law of evolution itself, which is that of natural selection (also based on efficiency). Natural selection in the case of human communities can mean, in practice, the choice of the future road on the basis of what proved to be best in the past in terms of maintaining a good standard of living for the population (see the welfare state). As outlined above, states build social welfare programs to help disadvantaged classes. At the same time states need to consider increasing the operational efficiency and effectiveness (Alkire and Foster 2008).

Regarding the sustainable economic growth or maintaining the efficiency over a long period of time, the economic cycle theories confirm that this can not be continued. Poplars do not grow up to the sky. Economists like Nikolai Kondratiev (Korotayev and Tsirel 2010, 3-57) pointed out that the economic cycles are inherent in the development of a capitalist economy. Marx (Wayne, Michael 2012), Piketty (2014), or Roubini (2010) have exposed, in general, a cause that stimulates crises and why capitalism regularly fails - human greed. The trend of the economic growth, improvement or even performance maintenance and the assurance of a welfare state are not, at all times, two convergent notions.

Recently, King Willem-Alexander sent a message to the Dutch people from the government that "the welfare state of the twentieth century has disappeared" (Independent Newspaper, 2013). Instead, the monarch believes there "will be a participatory society in which people have to take responsibility for their own future and create their own social and financial safety net, with less help from the national government" (Independent Newspaper, 2013). We can assume that this statement also leads to the need for a secular and pragmatic approach.

Many social welfare specialists, such as Arup Banerji (2012), Regional Director for the European Union at the World Bank, considers that the social protection system must be appropriate and specific. Specifically, it means the development regime, both economic and, above all, social.

If we return to the work of a beehive, we can assume that in this case there is a honey transfer process (redistribution) between productive bees and male bees similar to some social assistance policies. The male bees are practically maintained by bees (those who really work) for a while and provide them with nectar and pollen. When the summer is over and the honey is less and less in the hives, the working bees stop feeding the male bees and isolate them in the hive's corners or drive them out of the hive.

In the bee families there are also exceptions to the rule, which make the redistribution policy of the hive to have a specific character. For example, if the colony has an old mat (specific aspect), the working bees accept hibernating with the male bees. Obviously, the particular aspects do not refer to bees mercy.

At the same time, it has been noticed that the total absence of the

male bees makes the working bees become more anxious and less productive. When the working bees destroy the honeycomb cells to create honeycomb cells for the male bees, it means that the colony faces an important imbalance that affects its development, productivity, vitality and immunity. Manifestations of concern for income redistribution are also found in the bee families in the sense that the strong ones take care of the weak ones to ensure their own happiness, thus developing the income redistribution processes.

In the economy, there are optimal revenue redistribution models derived from optimal taxation models: Akerlof (1987), Mirrlees (Diamond and Mirrlees 1971), Ramsey (1927), which use utility functions. The design of a social security system corresponds to an optimal redistribution policy and it is based on the increase of the global utility function at the entire society's level.

The social security systems ensure income redistribution through different payment channels and use distinct identification methodologies for groups of people in need (provided in normative acts). For example, social aid when helping the poor or the needy or state allowance when helping the children, which are specific to the social administration processes.

Regarding the inclusion of persons in need of social assistance in the modern states in aid classes, tagging is used by defining eligibility criteria in order to strictly quantify certain facts (Bourguignon and Chakravarty 2003, 25-49).

Taking the example of quantifying poverty policies, the World Bank studies state that it is difficult to find certain patterns and labels and that poverty is a complex phenomenon. This is very eloquently highlighted by the claim of a Kenyan man in a high-poverty state: "Do not ask me what poverty means because you have met it outside my house. Look at the house and count the holes. Look at my utensils and the clothes I wear. Look at everything and write what you see. What you see is poverty" (The World Bank 2001, 16).

Besides the fact that the policy of labeling people in disadvantaged groups is difficult to achieve, it is noticed that determining the efficiency of a transfer policy is even more complicated if we consider other social, emotional or psychological factors. When it comes to determining the efficiency of a specific aggregate transfer for different social groups (e.g for the disabled, the elderly etc.), it is much harder to quantify what a good social policy is (Bossert et al. 2009).

In any case, an important element that intervenes in the set of factors influencing social policies is Christian mercy. This is the reason why the religion and the effectiveness of social protection in the welfare state are the subject of this paper. Similar research studies are found in the scientific work of some authors such as Barker (1984), Manow (2004, 2006), Tawney (1922), Weber (1950), who have performed exceptional qualitative analyzes on this subject.

## 2. Data sources and the model

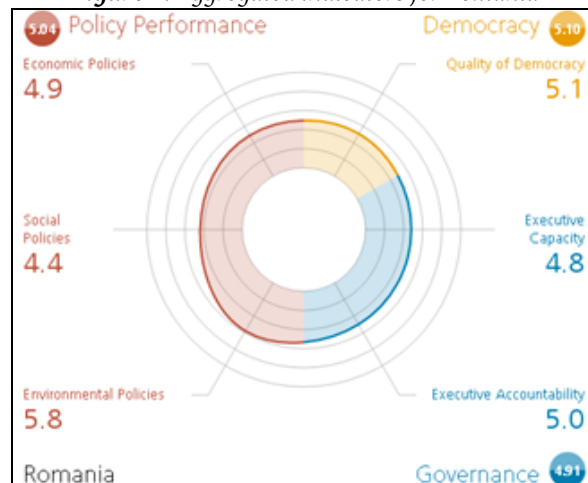
From the multitude of measurement systems (Antony and Rao 2007, 578-587) in order to achieve the objective of observing the influence of Christian mercy on the efficiency of social assistance programs, the authors considered a compact large volume database, the Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI), which can reveal multiple comparison possibilities, including social and economic policy.

SGI is in itself a comparative transnational study aimed at identifying and promoting successful factors in developing an effective policy and analyzing how governments are targeting sustainable development. SGI helps a variety of OECD and EU stakeholders to analyze governments in terms of specific indicators. SGI examines how well the policies have been designed to achieve the objectives, analyzing the results in 16 public policies areas and over 200 indicators as outlined in Annex 1.

In order to conduct the study, the authors first took the data from the SGI website, respectively the annual indicators for the period 2014-2017 for the 41 states (Annex 2). From these indicators, the authors chose as an output variable an aggregate indicator that quantifies the social assistance, e.g the social policy indicator. In fact, according to the site authors, the indicator answers the question: Does social policy facilitate a fair and just society? The indicator is aggregated and represents an average of several indicators.

For a global presentation of the indicators system used, we mention that Romania is at the international level on the 39th position regarding the social policies with a 4.4 social policy score.

**Figure 1.** Aggregated indicators for Romania



Source: SGI Network.

The website's authors motivate Romania's social policy score, among other things, that the education system suffers from low public spending, high dropout rates, low tertiary performance, poor labor market relevance, and the fact that poverty rates are very high, especially among Roma.

Analyzing only the data collected from SGI, it was not possible to examine the relationship between the efficiency of social assistance in relation to Christian mercy and it is necessary to aggregate another dataset to cover this issue. For this reason, the authors identified another data source reflecting certain characteristics related to religion and contained in the 2010 Eurobarometer on Spirituality in the EU. The publication presents a comparative study of various states that characterize the population's faith either in a spirit or in a religious entity.

The results are presented graphically below:

**Figure 2. Eurobarometer on spirituality within the EU - 2010**

| Country        | Atheist | A spirit /<br>A force | God |
|----------------|---------|-----------------------|-----|
| Bulgaria       | 15      | 43                    | 36  |
| Croatia        | 7       | 22                    | 69  |
| Cyprus         | 3       | 8                     | 88  |
| Czech Republic | 37      | 44                    | 16  |
| Denmark        | 24      | 47                    | 28  |
| Estonia        | 29      | 50                    | 18  |
| Finland        | 22      | 42                    | 33  |
| France         | 40      | 27                    | 27  |
| Germany        | 27      | 25                    | 44  |
| Greece         | 4       | 16                    | 79  |
| Hungary        | 20      | 34                    | 45  |
| Iceland        | 18      | 49                    | 31  |
| Ireland        | 7       | 20                    | 70  |
| Italy          | 6       | 20                    | 74  |
| Latvia         | 11      | 48                    | 38  |
| Lithuania      | 12      | 37                    | 47  |
| Luxembourg     | 24      | 22                    | 46  |
| Malta          | 2       | 4                     | 94  |
| Netherlands    | 30      | 39                    | 28  |
| Norway         | 29      | 44                    | 22  |
| Poland         | 5       | 14                    | 79  |
| Portugal       | 12      | 15                    | 70  |
| Romania        | 1       | 7                     | 92  |
| Slovakia       | 13      | 23                    | 63  |
| Sweden         | 34      | 45                    | 18  |
| Switzerland    | 11      | 39                    | 44  |
| Turkey         | 1       | 1                     | 94  |
| Austria        | 12      | 38                    | 44  |
| Belgium        | 27      | 31                    | 37  |

Source: Q Magazine.

The authors combined both sets of data into a single table that includes the existing indicators in the SGI database for 2014 and the ones in the Figure 2 above. Concatenation of the data was possible only for the countries that were in the two databases. Another limitation of the study is the observation that the oldest database of SGI is from 2014 and the database of religion is from 2010.

Therefore, the authors had to carry out the research under the assumption that the data did not have a high dynamics. Obviously, an extensive analysis for panel data allows for other specific developments that will be subject to future studies (spatial data mining, pool time series etc.).

On the basis of the data used it was performed a correlation analysis between all the data characterizing the economic condition, included in the SGI indicators and data on religious beliefs. The correlation analysis is fully presented in Annex 3 for the indicators concerning the religion. Correlation coefficients closer to 1 or to -1 indicate higher correlations (direct or inverse).

The table below shows the data for pairs of indicators (religion-specific and other SGI indicators) for which a correlation coefficient is recorded in the mode close to 1. The data is displayed on a scale from red (highest) to green (the smallest value) for each indicator.

**Table 1. The database**

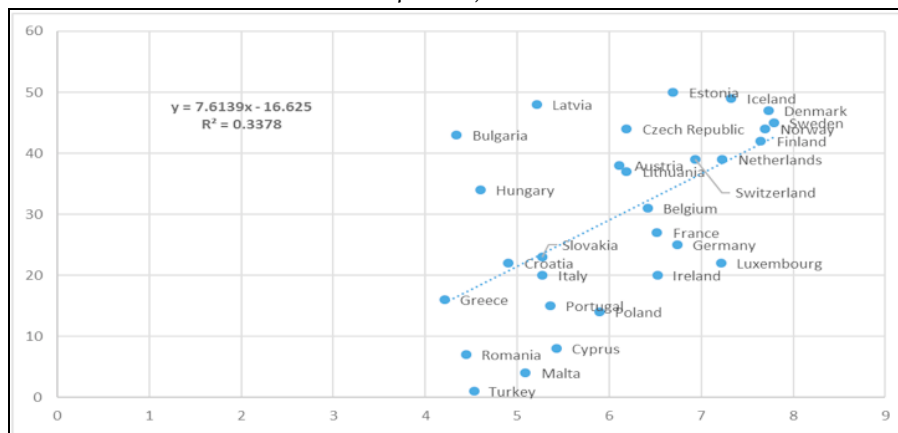
| Country        | Atheist | A spirit | God | Social Policies | Social Inclusion | Poverty Rate | Gini Coeff. | Child Poverty | Global Inequalities |
|----------------|---------|----------|-----|-----------------|------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Bulgaria       | 15      | 43       | 36  | 4.34            | 3.82             | 3.72         | 4.18        | 2.93          | 2.54                |
| Croatia        | 7       | 22       | 69  | 4.91            | 4.22             | 4.14         | 5.07        | 4.82          | 2.43                |
| Cyprus         | 3       | 8        | 88  | 5.43            | 5.63             | 6.67         | 5.04        | 7.61          | 3.04                |
| Czech Republic | 37      | 44       | 16  | 6.19            | 6.18             | 7.88         | 7.06        | 7.52          | 4.59                |
| Denmark        | 24      | 47       | 28  | 7.73            | 7.69             | 7.26         | 6.53        | 8.02          | 9.50                |
| Estonia        | 29      | 50       | 18  | 6.70            | 5.44             | 5.47         | 4.54        | 6.58          | 5.70                |
| Finland        | 22      | 42       | 33  | 7.65            | 7.66             | 7.51         | 6.72        | 8.59          | 7.41                |
| France         | 40      | 27       | 27  | 6.52            | 6.50             | 7.13         | 5.20        | 7.24          | 6.21                |
| Germany        | 27      | 25       | 44  | 6.74            | 6.84             | 6.01         | 5.93        | 7.55          | 6.05                |
| Greece         | 4       | 16       | 79  | 4.21            | 3.19             | 3.35         | 3.94        | 3.53          | 2.54                |
| Hungary        | 20      | 34       | 45  | 4.60            | 4.76             | 6.51         | 6.29        | 5.51          | 2.54                |
| Iceland        | 18      | 49       | 31  | 7.33            | 7.38             | 8.00         | 7.35        | 8.12          | 4.74                |
| Ireland        | 7       | 20       | 70  | 6.52            | 6.05             | 5.97         | 5.20        | 6.76          | 6.98                |
| Italy          | 6       | 20       | 74  | 5.27            | 4.28             | 4.85         | 4.57        | 4.41          | 3.42                |
| Latvia         | 11      | 48       | 38  | 5.21            | 4.67             | 4.39         | 3.48        | 4.19          | 2.43                |
| Lithuania      | 12      | 37       | 47  | 6.19            | 5.49             | 5.30         | 4.71        | 5.45          | 4.59                |
| Luxembourg     | 24      | 22       | 46  | 7.22            | 7.79             | 7.05         | 6.03        | 6.80          | 9.50                |
| Malta          | 2       | 4        | 94  | 5.09            | 5.97             | 6.92         | 6.33        | 6.83          | 3.08                |
| Netherlands    | 30      | 39       | 28  | 7.23            | 7.75             | 7.84         | 6.89        | 8.05          | 7.11                |
| Norway         | 29      | 44       | 22  | 7.70            | 8.40             | 7.71         | 7.85        | 8.77          | 9.00                |
| Poland         | 5       | 14       | 79  | 5.89            | 6.03             | 5.64         | 5.07        | 5.92          | 4.04                |
| Portugal       | 12      | 15       | 70  | 5.36            | 4.86             | 5.26         | 3.88        | 4.91          | 4.24                |
| Romania        | 1       | 7        | 92  | 4.44            | 3.81             | 3.14         | 4.04        | 1.93          | 2.88                |
| Slovakia       | 13      | 23       | 63  | 5.27            | 5.25             | 6.76         | 6.92        | 5.73          | 3.99                |
| Sweden         | 34      | 45       | 18  | 7.79            | 8.23             | 6.76         | 7.09        | 7.11          | 9.50                |
| Switzerland    | 11      | 39       | 44  | 6.93            | 7.33             | 6.01         | 5.76        | 6.86          | 5.98                |
| Turkey         | 1       | 1        | 94  | 4.53            | 3.70             | 2.89         | 1.13        | 2.12          | 5.16                |
| Austria        | 12      | 38       | 44  | 6.11            | 6.94             | 6.51         | 6.16        | 7.33          | 4.46                |
| Belgium        | 27      | 31       | 37  | 6.42            | 6.79             | 6.55         | 6.53        | 6.86          | 5.43                |

Source: authors own research results.

The analysis of the data in the above table was first performed on the basis of a scatter chart containing unified regression analysis elements between each of the religion-specific indicators and the social policy indicator. This type of analysis aims, in fact, to address the objective of the study, namely the answer to the question: What type of link is established between the effectiveness of social policies towards Christian mercy?

The first graph expresses the direct dependence between the social policy indicator and the percentage in which a country's population finds it inclined to believe in a divine spirit or force. The regression is not very significant from the model's point of view, the coefficient of determination being low (0.3378).

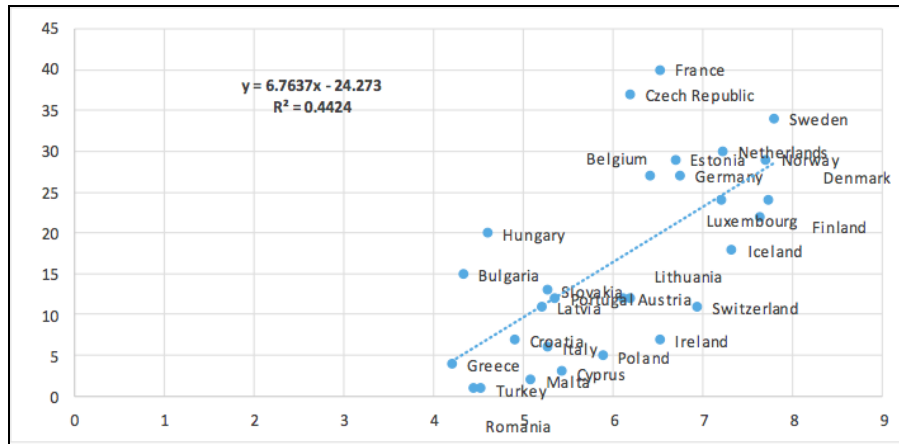
**Figure 3.** *Dependence between the effectiveness of social policies and belief in a divine spirit or force*



Source: authors own research results.

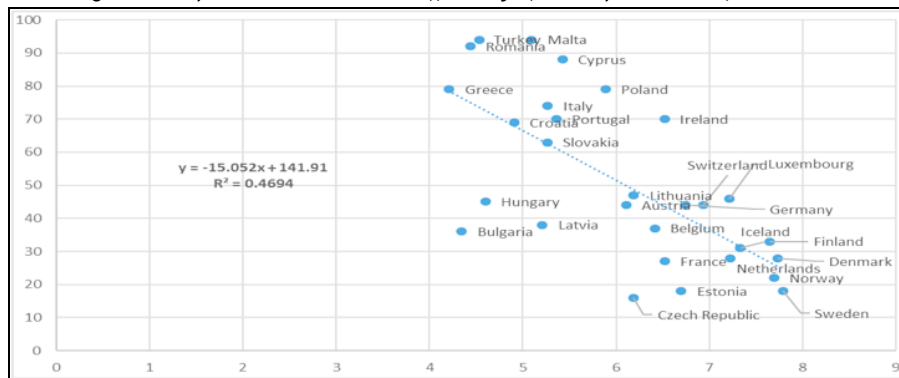
Based on the data from the graph we can notice that the Nordic countries, the Czech Republic, Estonia, have a high efficiency of social policies, as they have a high faith in a divine spirit or force.

From the analysis of the chart below, another conclusion is drawn, namely that the effectiveness of social policies is rather achieved among the countries where the percentage of atheism is higher. The conclusion of the quantitative analysis also presents a high degree of error due to the low regression determination coefficient (0.3378).

**Figure 4.** Dependence between social policy effectiveness and atheistic proportion

Source: authors own research results.

The graph below outlines a straight line of regression between the efficiency of the social policies and the belief in God, which is characterized by a higher determinant (0.4694), but still reduced, to give accurate quantitative conclusions. Thus, we can rather state, with a very large margin of error, that faith in God characterizes the states that do not have well-rated social policies such as Greece, Turkey, Romania, Malta.

**Figure 5.** Dependence between the efficiency of social policies and faith in God

Source: authors own research results.

In the desire to use other analysis tools to formulate an opinion, the authors used the fuzzy rules technique which is a key tool for expressing knowledge elements in "fuzzy logic" (Han et al. 2012). The bees have an exceptional ability to analyze the sounds of other bees. People are also on the verge of a new industrial revolution based on artificial intelligence techniques to recognize and analyze certain patterns (data mining).

The Generic Rules Generation (GRI) node as a data mining procedure is part of the techniques involving fuzzy logic, revealing the rules of data association (Dubois and Prade 1992). In order to create GRI association rules are required one or more input and output fields. The output fields must be symbolic (yes, no, or 1, 2) (Marghny and Shakour 2005). The motivation to use the association rules is that they are usually fairly easy to interpret, unlike other methods, such as neural networks (Olson and Delen 2008). Rules in a dataset may overlap so that some records can trigger more than one rule (Zadeh 1992, 23-27).

The database in Table 1 was analyzed by processing the existing records by choosing only the full part of the records plus one unit. The processing resulted in a new database containing notes from 1 to 10. In order to obtain a dummy variable for the social policies efficiency, the authors considered that up to 7 will be assigned a value of 1 to the output variable and above 7 the value 2 will be assigned.

Records were later filtered by the value of the indicator that determines the public policies effectiveness, with a red color for lower and greener color for higher efficiency listings.

**Table 2.** Effectiveness of social policies towards different factors

| Country        | Social policies efficiency Output variable | Social policies | Atheist | A spirit | God | Poverty rate | Gini coefficient | Poverty among children | Global inequalities |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------|----------|-----|--------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Turkey         | 1                                          | 5               | 1       | 1        | 9   | 3            | 2                | 3                      | 6                   |
| Latvia         | 1                                          | 6               | 2       | 5        | 4   | 5            | 4                | 5                      | 3                   |
| Portugal       | 1                                          | 6               | 2       | 2        | 8   | 6            | 4                | 5                      | 5                   |
| Greece         | 1                                          | 5               | 1       | 2        | 8   | 4            | 4                | 4                      | 3                   |
| Romania        | 1                                          | 5               | 1       | 1        | 9   | 4            | 5                | 2                      | 3                   |
| Bulgaria       | 1                                          | 5               | 2       | 5        | 4   | 4            | 5                | 3                      | 3                   |
| Italy          | 1                                          | 6               | 1       | 3        | 8   | 5            | 5                | 5                      | 4                   |
| Cyprus         | 1                                          | 6               | 1       | 1        | 9   | 7            | 6                | 8                      | 4                   |
| Croatia        | 1                                          | 5               | 1       | 3        | 7   | 5            | 6                | 5                      | 3                   |
| Poland         | 1                                          | 6               | 1       | 2        | 8   | 6            | 6                | 6                      | 5                   |
| Hungary        | 1                                          | 5               | 3       | 4        | 5   | 7            | 7                | 6                      | 3                   |
| Malta          | 1                                          | 6               | 1       | 1        | 9   | 7            | 7                | 7                      | 4                   |
| Slovakia       | 1                                          | 6               | 2       | 3        | 7   | 7            | 7                | 6                      | 4                   |
| Estonia        | 2                                          | 7               | 3       | 6        | 2   | 6            | 5                | 7                      | 6                   |
| Lithuania      | 2                                          | 7               | 2       | 4        | 5   | 6            | 5                | 6                      | 5                   |
| Ireland        | 2                                          | 7               | 1       | 3        | 8   | 6            | 6                | 7                      | 7                   |
| France         | 2                                          | 7               | 3       | 3        | 3   | 8            | 6                | 8                      | 7                   |
| Germany        | 2                                          | 7               | 3       | 3        | 5   | 7            | 6                | 8                      | 7                   |
| Luxembourg     | 2                                          | 8               | 3       | 3        | 5   | 8            | 7                | 7                      | 10                  |
| Austria        | 2                                          | 7               | 2       | 4        | 5   | 7            | 7                | 8                      | 5                   |
| Belgium        | 2                                          | 7               | 3       | 4        | 4   | 7            | 7                | 7                      | 6                   |
| Denmark        | 2                                          | 8               | 3       | 5        | 3   | 8            | 7                | 9                      | 10                  |
| Finland        | 2                                          | 8               | 3       | 5        | 4   | 8            | 7                | 9                      | 8                   |
| Netherlands    | 2                                          | 8               | 3       | 4        | 3   | 8            | 7                | 9                      | 8                   |
| Czech Republic | 2                                          | 7               | 3       | 5        | 2   | 8            | 8                | 8                      | 5                   |
| Sweden         | 2                                          | 8               | 3       | 5        | 2   | 7            | 8                | 8                      | 10                  |
| Iceland        | 2                                          | 8               | 2       | 5        | 4   | 9            | 8                | 9                      | 5                   |
| Norway         | 2                                          | 8               | 3       | 5        | 3   | 8            | 8                | 9                      | 10                  |

The table above reveals that the states which have a greater proportion of the atheist population or people who believe in a spirit or a divine force are more effective than the states where the belief in God has a greater weight. Another conclusion is that, along with the rising poverty levels, including children, and the rising income inequality, social policies efficiency generally declines.

In the next stages of the study it was used the GRI fuzzy logic tool which also highlights the rules resulting the following conclusions:

**Table 3.** Association rules determined by the GRI method

| Consequent                          | Antecedent                     |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Efficiency of social policies = 2.0 | Poverty rate = 8.0             |
| Efficiency of social policies = 2.0 | Atheist = 3.0                  |
| Efficiency of social policies = 2.0 | Atheist = 2.0 and God = 4 or 5 |

**Source:** authors own research results.

The interpretation of the first rule is given by the fact that the social policies effectiveness is high if the poverty rate is low. The second and third rule confirms that social policies are more effective in the countries where it is a high proportion of the atheistic population or where the faith in God is not very high.

The quantitative study reveals that, in the short term, the relationship between faith in God and the efficiency of social assistance programs is reversed, while a developed pragmatism will lead to higher efficiency of social assistance programs. If we look at things in dynamics, the economic cycles theory, capital greed, and even the beehive comparison reveals that the trend of increasing efficiency through pragmatism is very difficult to maintain in the long run.

Just as working bees sometimes destroy honeycomb cells to feed the male bees, otherwise they face an imbalance that affects their development, productivity, vitality and immunity, likewise mankind must find other levers to ensure well-being. Identifying new levers to secure other safety nets is necessary, as the theory of economic cycles shows that nature and society need to re-establish common values after some time.

If we analyze the economic theory of the relation between economic growth and inequality, (from Marx to Kuznets or from apocalypse to fairy tales) we mention that if Marx apologizes for self-destruction of capitalism due to the increase of inequalities, Kuznets (1971) notices the two stages of the development of capitalism (the development phase and the consolidation phase).

If in the first phase of the development the growth is very important, which is similar to the flow that alters all the boats and the rest matters less (inequalities increase, social policies may be inefficient). In the second phase the responsibility of capital enters its natural role (the increased efficiency of the social policies).

In other words, if in the first phase the people need the support offered by the faith in order to achieve that balance, in the second stage, the role of the capital's social responsibility becomes more and more altruistic (thus the need for external support decreases accordingly).

### 3. Conclusions

Based on a qualitative comparative analysis and a quantitative assessment that uses correlation analysis, artificial intelligence techniques and fuzzy logic, the paper confirms the inverse dependence, in the short term, between the social assistance policies effectiveness compared to income inequality and poverty.

In the short run, the Christian mercy is reversing the effectiveness of social programs by confirming Nietzsche's criticisms of Christianity. In the long run, invisible spirits make the return to the faith values to prevail over the efficiency that is, however, ephemeral.

This increased efficiency of social policies in the phase of the consolidation of capitalism is reflected in the study by the decrease of the need for support, which may be the consequence of the awareness of the effective capacity of the capital to be altruistic.

The conclusion of the paper is that if pragmatism can make a policy effective, it does not happen indefinitely. Therefore, periodically, the society, as well as nature, has to return to universal values. The limitations of the study stem from the dataset used, which made it impossible to dynamically analyze the data, but also from the statistical analysis methods used. The authors will continue the research on the examination of relevant indicators in search of coherent solutions for designing safety nets appropriate to the current situation.

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**Annex 1. The set of indicators used**

|                                      |                                |                                       |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Policy Performance                   | Education                      | Environmental Policies                | Governance                         |
| Rank among 41 countries              | Education Policy               | Environment                           | Executive Capacity                 |
| Economic Policies                    | Upper Secondary Attainment     | Environmental Policy                  | Strategic Capacity                 |
| Economy                              | Tertiary Attainment            | Energy Productivity                   | Strategic Planning                 |
| Economic Policy                      | PISA Results                   | Greenhouse Gas Emissions              | Scholarly Advice                   |
| GDP per Capita                       | PISA, Socioeconomic Background | Particulate Matter                    | Interministerial Coordination      |
| Inflation                            | Pre-primary Expenditure        | Water Usage                           | GO Expertise                       |
| Gross Fixed Capital Formation        | Social Inclusion               | Waste Generation                      | GO Gatekeeping                     |
| Real Interest Rates                  | Social Inclusion Policy        | Material Recycling                    | Line Ministries                    |
| Potential Output, Growth Rate        | Poverty Rate                   | Biodiversity                          | Cabinet Committees                 |
| Labor Markets                        | NEET Rate                      | Renewable Energy                      | Ministerial Bureaucracy            |
| Labor Market Policy                  | Gini Coefficient               | Global Environmental Protection       | Informal Coordination              |
| Unemployment                         | Gender Equality in Parliaments | Global Environmental Policy           | Evidence-based Instruments         |
| Long-term Unemployment               | Life Satisfaction              | Multilateral Environmental Agreements | RIA Application                    |
| Youth Unemployment                   | Health                         | Kyoto Participation and Achievement   | Quality of RIA Process             |
| Low-skilled Unemployment             | Health Policy                  | Quality of Democracy                  | Sustainability Check               |
| Employment Rate                      | Spending on Health Programs    | Electoral Processes                   | Societal Consultation              |
| Low Pay Incidence                    | Life Expectancy                | Candidacy Procedures                  | Negotiating Public Support         |
| Taxes                                | Infant Mortality               | Media Access                          | Policy Communication               |
| Tax Policy                           | Perceived Health Status        | Voting and Registration Rights        | Coherent Communication             |
| Tax System Complexity                | Families                       | Party Financing                       | Implementation                     |
| Structural Balance                   | Family Policy                  | Popular Decision-Making               | Government Efficiency              |
| Marginal Tax Burden for Businesses   | Child Care Density, Age 0-2    | Access to Information                 | Ministerial Compliance             |
| Redistribution Effect                | Child Care Density, Age 3-5    | Media Freedom                         | Monitoring Ministries              |
| Budgets                              | Fertility Rate                 | Media Pluralism                       | Monitoring Agencies, Bureaucracies |
| Budgetary Policy                     | Child Poverty                  | Access to Government Information      | Task Funding                       |
| Debt to GDP                          | Pensions                       | Civil Rights and Political Liberties  | Constitutional Discretion          |
| Primary Balance                      | Pension Policy                 | Civil Rights                          | National Standards                 |
| Debt Interest Ratio                  | Older Employment               | Political Liberties                   | Adaptability                       |
| Budget Consolidation                 | Old Age Dependency Ratio       | Non-discrimination                    | Domestic Adaptability              |
| Research and Innovation              | Senior Citizen Poverty         | Rule of Law                           | International Coordination         |
| R&I Policy                           | Integration                    | Legal Certainty                       | Organizational Reform              |
| Public R&D Spending                  | Integration Policy             | Judicial Review                       | Self-monitoring                    |
| Non-public R&D Spending              | FB-NUpper Secondary Attainment | Appointment of Justices               | Institutional Reform               |
| Total Researchers                    | FB-NTertiary Attainment        | Corruption Prevention                 | Executive Accountability           |
| Intellectual Property Licenses       | FB-NUemployment                |                                       | Citizens' Participatory Competence |
| PCT Patent Applications              | FB-NEmployment                 |                                       | Policy Knowledge                   |
| Global Financial System              | Safe Living                    |                                       | Voicing Opinion to Officials       |
| Stabilizing Global Financial Markets | Safe Living Conditions         |                                       | Voter Turnout                      |
| Tier I Capital Ratio                 | Homicides                      |                                       | Legislative Actors' Resources      |
| Banks' Nonperforming Loans           | Thefts                         |                                       | Parliamentary Resources            |
| Social Policies                      | Confidence in Police           |                                       | Obtaining Documents                |
|                                      | Global Inequalities            |                                       | Summoning Ministers                |
|                                      | Global Social Policy           |                                       | Summoning Experts                  |
|                                      | ODA                            |                                       | Task Area Congruence               |
|                                      |                                |                                       | Audit Office                       |
|                                      |                                |                                       | Ombuds Office                      |
|                                      |                                |                                       | Media                              |
|                                      |                                |                                       | Media Reporting                    |
|                                      |                                |                                       | Newspaper Circulation              |
|                                      |                                |                                       | Quality Newspapers                 |
|                                      |                                |                                       | Parties and Interest Associations  |
|                                      |                                |                                       | Intra-party Democracy              |
|                                      |                                |                                       | Association Competence (Business)  |
|                                      |                                |                                       | Association Competence (Others)    |

Source: SGI indicators.

*Annex 2. Countries for which the data was analyzed*

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Great Britain, United States of America.

**Source:** SGI indicators.

*Annex 3. Correlation analysis*

|                               | Atheist     | A spirit / A force | God          |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Atheist                       | 1           |                    |              |
| A spirit / force              | 0.650576971 | 1                  |              |
| God                           | 0.886431459 | -0.923498343       | 1            |
| Policy Performance            | 0.65404247  | 0.686380171        | -0.747678248 |
| Rank among 41countries        | 0.690653711 | -0.703729162       | 0.779913453  |
| Economic Policies             | 0.552839793 | 0.585239131        | -0.64222547  |
| Economy                       | 0.47051527  | 0.528837999        | -0.567218057 |
| Economic Policy               | 0.347096623 | 0.514082245        | -0.493330064 |
| GDP per Capita                | 0.441683303 | 0.287684849        | -0.417490887 |
| Inflation                     | 0.443522899 | 0.334321187        | -0.412660734 |
| Gross Fixed Capital Formation | 0.283350229 | 0.270166895        | -0.320244455 |
| Real Interest Rates           | 0.540247942 | 0.449388617        | -0.550737718 |
| Potential Output Growth Rate  | 0.036218645 | -0.126666511       | 0.082708348  |
| Labor Markets                 | 0.436497816 | 0.409665745        | -0.47575743  |
| Labor Market Policy           | 0.38171238  | 0.412641121        | -0.449211846 |
| Unemployment                  | 0.463946579 | 0.387500755        | -0.474510953 |
| Long-term Unemployment        | 0.434664692 | 0.352155593        | -0.438763154 |
| Youth Unemployment            | 0.416987234 | 0.43655003         | -0.488280798 |
| Low-skilled Unemployment      | 0.147159243 | -0.00793936        | -0.076382399 |
| Employment Rate               | 0.57024048  | 0.685429028        | -0.699370879 |
| Low Pay Incidence             | 0.331574476 | 0.092948549        | -0.229899833 |
| Taxes                         | 0.373661279 | 0.526976793        | -0.50914419  |
| Tax Policy                    | 0.364067136 | 0.544088458        | -0.517266804 |
| Tax System Complexity         | 0.124074106 | 0.091305846        | -0.12685422  |
| Structural Balance            | 0.170376505 | 0.207380549        | -0.209456576 |

|                                      |              |              |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Marginal Tax Burden for Businesses   | -0.419312071 | -0.259783736 | 0.36027671   |
| Redistribution Effect                | 0.57236937   | 0.514293801  | -0.576010378 |
| Budgets                              | 0.365187977  | 0.594066632  | -0.561585136 |
| Budgetary Policy                     | 0.380911139  | 0.623875221  | -0.589105663 |
| Debt to GDP                          | 0.243715259  | 0.391523136  | -0.372276304 |
| Primary Balance                      | 0.110175679  | 0.154247283  | -0.153594921 |
| Debt Interest Ratio                  | 0.489245495  | 0.522887638  | -0.578365444 |
| Budget Consolidation                 | 0.079575616  | 0.033168684  | 0.02165287   |
| Research and Innovation              | 0.623585689  | 0.538873687  | -0.637944617 |
| R&I Policy                           | 0.578139539  | 0.493015461  | -0.588600666 |
| Public R&D Spending                  | 0.619986824  | 0.556137949  | -0.644765119 |
| Non-public R&D Spending              | 0.579804645  | 0.546363923  | -0.620386871 |
| Total Researchers                    | 0.600462527  | 0.534169768  | -0.622802037 |
| Intellectual Property Licenses       | 0.456298262  | 0.289145657  | -0.391015755 |
| PCT Patent Applications              | 0.496576209  | 0.465140637  | -0.535981943 |
| Global Financial System              | 0.562137985  | 0.464396317  | -0.577488376 |
| Stabilizing Global Financial Markets | 0.443137463  | 0.343290636  | -0.436358036 |
| Tier1Capital Ratio                   | 0.149172337  | 0.343964983  | -0.297960942 |
| Banks Nonperforming Loans            | 0.575188088  | 0.422532395  | -0.560682655 |
| Social Policies                      | 0.665126957  | 0.581169911  | -0.685123345 |
| Education                            | 0.475909695  | 0.649768396  | -0.622077011 |
| Education Policy                     | 0.3926596    | 0.524006922  | -0.504401776 |
| Upper Secondary Attainment           | 0.392386565  | 0.602451845  | -0.558186915 |
| Tertiary Attainment                  | 0.423427869  | 0.488553198  | -0.519867011 |
| PISA results                         | 0.442647561  | 0.389169961  | -0.456532697 |
| PISA, Socioeconomic Background       | -0.12132394  | 0.078038708  | 0.02606264   |
| Pre-primary Expenditure              | 0.370556828  | 0.512044045  | -0.481677515 |
| Social Inclusion                     | 0.625778601  | 0.48767841   | -0.613133507 |
| Social Inclusion Policy              | 0.549456695  | 0.374613715  | -0.515700803 |
| Poverty Rate                         | 0.633393679  | 0.432218047  | -0.562951279 |
| NEET Rate                            | 0.585624373  | 0.545506408  | -0.626427055 |
| Gini Coefficient                     | 0.571039547  | 0.485903552  | -0.557816446 |
| Gender Equality in Parliaments       | 0.529337805  | 0.573299668  | -0.611291152 |
| Life Satisfaction                    | 0.504621724  | 0.39483571   | -0.494472045 |
| Health                               | 0.54565205   | 0.366055381  | -0.49675953  |
| Health Policy                        | 0.500903241  | 0.342729607  | -0.468926393 |

|                                 |             |              |              |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Spending on Health Programs     | 0.355292978 | 0.409769944  | -0.410131956 |
| Life Expectancy                 | 0.300684942 | 0.076186692  | -0.198643736 |
| Infant Mortality                | 0.468954203 | 0.344716768  | -0.433059225 |
| Perceived Health Status         | -           | 0.211960623  | -0.23570302  |
| Families                        | 0.747033997 | 0.597823313  | -0.733867051 |
| Family Policy                   | 0.725571643 | 0.590562189  | -0.722989462 |
| Child Care Density, Age 0-2     | 0.486134467 | 0.332835036  | -0.440612997 |
| Child Care Density, Age 3-5     | 0.53667838  | 0.491456482  | -0.554374048 |
| Fertility Rate                  | 0.324830662 | 0.199281164  | -0.292908926 |
| Child Poverty                   | 0.60181434  | 0.459306168  | -0.569252861 |
| Pensions                        | 0.577675546 | 0.63726599   | -0.671493395 |
| Pension Policy                  | 0.523358179 | 0.637881006  | -0.655078172 |
| OlderEmployment                 | 0.492657022 | 0.713040063  | -0.66591975  |
| Old Age Dependency Ratio        | -           | 0.279302368  | -0.344839916 |
| Senior Citizen Poverty          | 0.549538438 | 0.346705605  | -0.449902439 |
| Integration                     | 0.399437627 | 0.532433523  | -0.509895819 |
| Integration Policy              | 0.548958078 | 0.420387624  | -0.536031147 |
| FB-N Upper Secondary Attainment | 0.223473252 | 0.408532958  | -0.338720967 |
| FB-N Tertiary Attainment        | 0.341887058 | 0.508665292  | -0.468963835 |
| FB-N Unemployment               | -           | 0.472791519  | -0.37771185  |
| FB-N Employment                 | -           | 0.495584863  | -0.215197596 |
| Safe Living                     | 0.27875333  | 0.307076568  | -0.327532055 |
| Safe Living Conditions          | 0.209780878 | 0.335376089  | -0.319540718 |
| Homicides                       | 0.309659633 | 0.154820025  | -0.244175294 |
| Thefts                          | -           | 0.241659987  | -0.153080613 |
| Confidence in Police            | 0.33612827  | 0.303580509  | -0.353848163 |
| Global Inequalities             | 0.607398825 | 0.365278485  | -0.534884955 |
| Global Social Policy            | 0.619028376 | 0.41320958   | -0.562836019 |
| ODA                             | 0.514598285 | 0.279643697  | -0.440260196 |
| Environmental Policies          | 0.553036405 | 0.698086586  | -0.698957911 |
| Environment                     | 0.427238516 | 0.677374766  | -0.630403737 |
| Environmental Policy            | 0.495517202 | 0.745571537  | -0.706239889 |
| Energy Productivity             | -           | 0.376185957  | -0.456451008 |
| Greenhouse Gas Emissions        | -0.36779752 | -0.205370224 | 0.322538493  |
| Particulate Matter              | 0.218541168 | 0.305033052  | -0.300295639 |

|                                       |              |              |              |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Water Usage                           | -0.116530208 | -0.280546719 | 0.219419993  |
| Waste Generation                      | -0.048269229 | -0.004721742 | 0.044589859  |
| Material Recycling                    | 0.543450465  | 0.486284917  | -0.579454671 |
| Biodiversity                          | 0.134260598  | 0.11647941   | -0.123367351 |
| Renewable Energy                      | 0.183491087  | 0.562918921  | -0.429414367 |
| Global Environmental Protection       | 0.594951055  | 0.635357837  | -0.676195286 |
| Global Environmental Policy           | 0.47443048   | 0.489472264  | -0.533773503 |
| Multilateral Environmental Agreements | 0.482587721  | 0.383989544  | -0.473504632 |
| Kyoto Participation and Achievements  | 0.248004185  | 0.440662667  | -0.37410459  |
| Quality of Democracy                  | 0.486713294  | 0.586653188  | -0.599636857 |
| Electoral Processes                   | 0.483339869  | 0.550304462  | -0.577884512 |
| Candidacy Procedures                  | 0.451139644  | 0.47578791   | -0.511931868 |
| Media Access                          | 0.414099659  | 0.347987881  | -0.416586904 |
| Voting and Registration Rights        | 0.439162225  | 0.379495625  | -0.443096083 |
| Party Financing                       | 0.471623121  | 0.368392201  | -0.466081083 |
| Popular Decision-Making               | 0.046247851  | 0.304699769  | -0.166385165 |
| Access to Information                 | 0.433523854  | 0.585002797  | -0.568152609 |
| Media Freedom                         | 0.479644529  | 0.533768957  | -0.559746393 |
| Media Pluralism                       | 0.282437255  | 0.33560886   | -0.342156731 |
| Access to Government Information      | 0.327435386  | 0.630387709  | -0.543903824 |
| Civil Rights and Political Liberties  | 0.4946693    | 0.561083828  | -0.583080544 |
| Civil Rights                          | 0.459321727  | 0.50370942   | -0.528507489 |
| Political Liberties                   | 0.499650824  | 0.62370679   | -0.618312666 |
| Non-discrimination                    | 0.382449432  | 0.407817956  | -0.441722937 |
| Rule of Law                           | 0.417616351  | 0.491633258  | -0.51409492  |
| Legal Certainty                       | 0.42320718   | 0.578801199  | -0.557029369 |
| Judicial Review                       | 0.465119119  | 0.413762769  | -0.48807275  |
| Appointment of Justices               | 0.122850232  | 0.114032844  | -0.142681725 |
| Corruption Prevention                 | 0.377072776  | 0.515867491  | -0.512195017 |
| Governance                            | 0.539065336  | 0.579124791  | -0.626088686 |
| Executive Capacity                    | 0.455159222  | 0.543927337  | -0.564705424 |
| Strategic Capacity                    | 0.262558645  | 0.470050177  | -0.416906858 |
| Strategic Planning                    | 0.240894862  | 0.4821305    | -0.410779543 |
| Scholarly Advice                      | 0.219522526  | 0.325602939  | -0.31110806  |
| Interministerial Coordination         | 0.36000103   | 0.276717935  | -0.346153156 |

|                                       |             |              |              |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| GO Expertise                          | 0.33416928  | 0.294755361  | -0.335123545 |
| GO Gatekeeping                        | 0.071489251 | -0.129492525 | 0.057068577  |
| Line Ministries                       | 0.400254219 | 0.304146031  | -0.384663724 |
| Cabinet Committees                    | 0.068896284 | -0.028013609 | -0.012569298 |
| Ministerial Bureaucracy               | 0.261417567 | 0.381896288  | -0.374189702 |
| Informal Coordination                 | 0.442395489 | 0.397487587  | -0.472202898 |
| Evidence-based Instruments            | 0.306301318 | 0.393073208  | -0.379779869 |
| RIA Application                       | 0.213933061 | 0.35331551   | -0.309370251 |
| Quality of RIA Process                | 0.319704349 | 0.407644333  | -0.391482271 |
| Sustainability Check                  | 0.336939649 | 0.355249314  | -0.378418676 |
| Societal Consultation                 | 0.469187216 | 0.559094917  | -0.590698783 |
| Negotiating Public Support            | 0.469187216 | 0.559094917  | -0.590698783 |
| Policy Communication                  | 0.387773681 | 0.374077847  | -0.424544917 |
| Coherent Communication                | 0.387773681 | 0.374077847  | -0.424544917 |
| Implementation                        | 0.457268726 | 0.555377276  | -0.580407858 |
| Government Efficiency                 | 0.194655533 | 0.433899224  | -0.374627268 |
| Ministerial Compliance                | 0.442666236 | 0.521692718  | -0.534477361 |
| Monitoring Ministries                 | 0.179134601 | 0.408917452  | -0.338301233 |
| Monitoring Agencies,<br>Bureaucracies | 0.338771868 | 0.250059175  | -0.332418749 |
| Task Funding                          | 0.315075393 | 0.445750911  | -0.446607319 |
| Constitutional Discretion             | 0.407533411 | 0.487447558  | -0.515703161 |
| National Standards                    | 0.445693099 | 0.318406086  | -0.433204353 |
| Adaptability                          | 0.354098291 | 0.303237009  | -0.369235111 |
| Domestic Adaptability                 | 0.180256694 | 0.282913474  | -0.263558234 |
| International Coordination            | 0.44484933  | 0.257885503  | -0.39149259  |
| Organizational Reform                 | 0.228073734 | 0.40703776   | -0.357941748 |
| Self-monitoring                       | 0.211926402 | 0.395843874  | -0.33918103  |
| Institutional Reform                  | 0.164210737 | 0.271656711  | -0.249720836 |
| Executive Accountability              | 0.548735304 | 0.529107346  | -0.597665996 |
| Citizens' Participatory<br>Competence | 0.378325084 | 0.311050688  | -0.375047173 |
| Policy Knowledge                      | 0.394363566 | 0.482063949  | -0.490214374 |
| Voicing Opinion to Officials          | 0.327996721 | 0.272103417  | -0.32361826  |
| Voter Turnout                         | 0.165888036 | -0.022215734 | -0.067739225 |
| Legislative Actors' Resources         | 0.476837745 | 0.441602608  | -0.510710937 |
| Parliamentary Resources               | 0.495611331 | 0.158371666  | -0.341311532 |
| Obtaining Documents                   | 0.419790275 | 0.445216969  | -0.493326021 |
| Summoning Ministers                   | 0.408007303 | 0.46378266   | -0.483415437 |

|                                   |             |             |              |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Summoning Experts                 | 0.316183486 | 0.236969035 | -0.317183056 |
| Task Area Congruence              | 0.257384962 | 0.298253434 | -0.317749461 |
| Audit Office                      | 0.196004628 | 0.252042065 | -0.262067228 |
| Ombuds Office                     | 0.259765602 | 0.295205565 | -0.300048933 |
| Media                             | 0.536767128 | 0.618480259 | -0.652000242 |
| Media Reporting                   | 0.51163676  | 0.522114848 | -0.570330103 |
| Newspaper Circulation             | 0.438906365 | 0.477060652 | -0.522907836 |
| Quality Newspapers                | 0.403881192 | 0.532325556 | -0.532911099 |
| Parties and Interest Associations | 0.476488306 | 0.479046938 | -0.527840368 |
| Intra-party Democracy             | 0.355840664 | 0.435547557 | -0.4387225   |
| Association Competence (Business) | 0.345676128 | 0.42343933  | -0.438428947 |
| Association Competence (Others)   | 0.508201049 | 0.337637165 | -0.449904375 |

Source: authors own research results.