Social context of employment of young people in the region

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Introduction

- The SEE countries are former socialist countries: more or less full and universal employment in the socialist period, tight institutional links between education and employment, certainty of getting a job

- The centrality of employment in (welfare) capitalism, the (western) norm of participation in productive, formal (male…) employment as precondition for (social) citizenship in most of the western countries: employment as a key access point to social benefits including social security and health care

- Employment and family still at the core of societal/social integration also subjectively

- Change from a socialist to a capitalist regime in the SEE countries implies the loss of the advantages regarding employment

Youth and (un)employment

- Youth labour market disadvantages: 'rapid rise of unemployment from zero to double-digit rates', precarious, uncertain jobs (flexibilised and increasingly discontinuous employment relationships, underemployment)

- Unemployment and a decreasing standardisation of transitions are recognised as primary sources of uncertainty

- Individualisation of risks and responsibilities: risks have to be dealt with as an integral element of individual (and family biographies): 'biographical uncertainty', 'ontological insecurity'

- Citizenship dimension of work as providing social integration and establishing a life-long exchange between the individual and society is of limited relevance

Youth transitions to work

- Young people hold a particularly delicate position in the process of renewal of societal standards and knowledge, as it is largely up to them to renegotiate 'old' and 'new' meanings
- Different typologies of transitions to work (Walther, 2006; Reiter, 2008)
  - Smooth transitions
  - Liberation transitions
  - Stagnant transitions
  - Downward transitions
  - Alternative transitions
- The general vulnerability of young people with regard to labour market makes youth as such a potentially dangerous social category – they make use of the other options of survival, e.g. informal labour and other, possibly more 'profitable', forms of making a living acceptable, widespread, and necessary

Methodology

- Official statistical sources (Unicef, ILO, Coe)

- European Values Survey 1999-2000: Slovenia, Croatia (both 1999)
- World Values Survey 1999-2000: Bosnia and Herzegovina (2001), Serbia (2001), Montenegro (2001), Macedonia (2001)

  - Age group: 18-34
  - Samples: Slovenia (352), Croatia (369), Bosnia and Herzegovina (410), Serbia (304), Montenegro (291), Macedonia (356)

Between education and the market – some figures
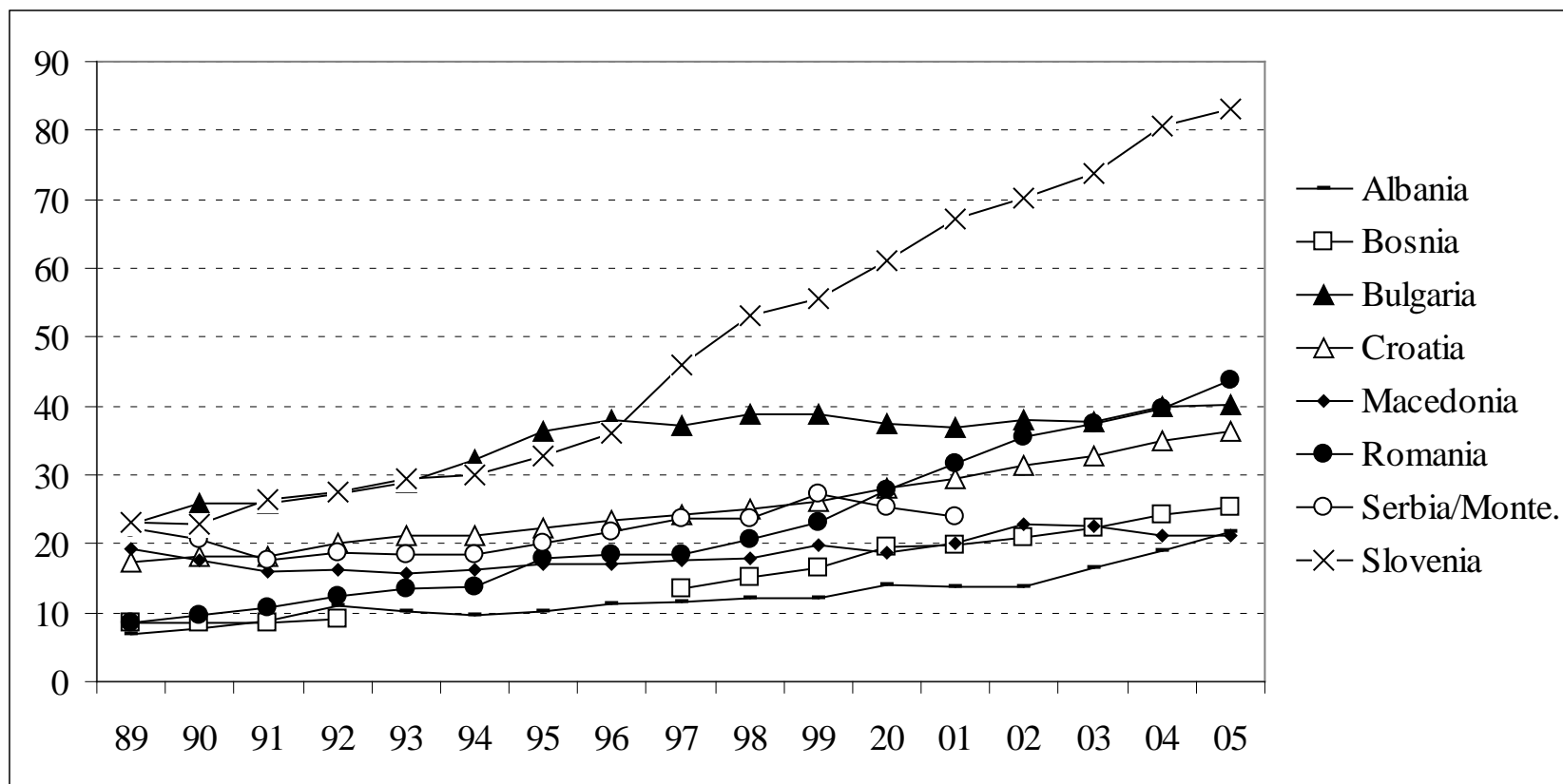
Upper secondary education enrolment

(gross ratios, per cent of population aged 15-18)
(UNICEF 2007)
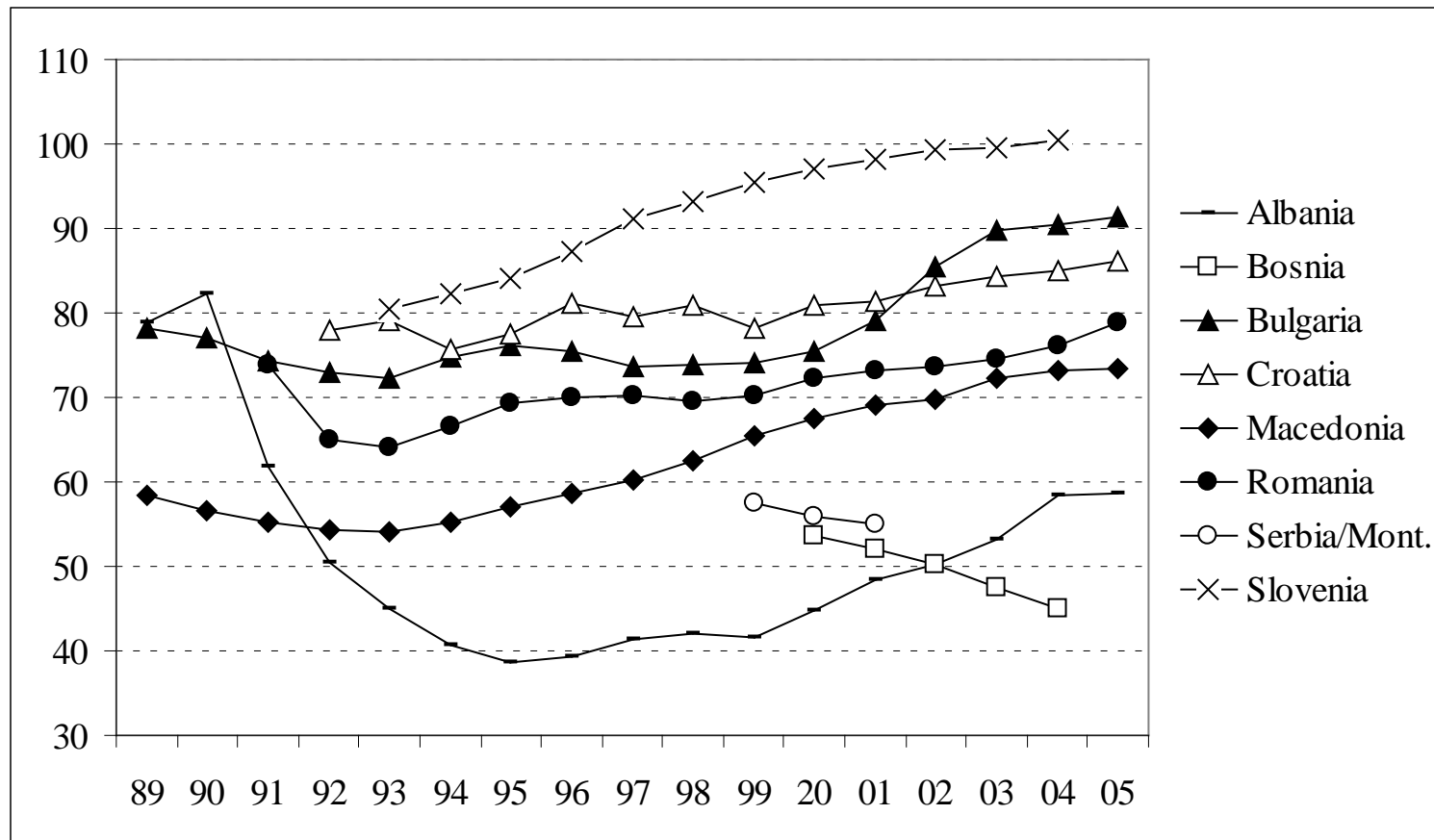
Higher education enrolments

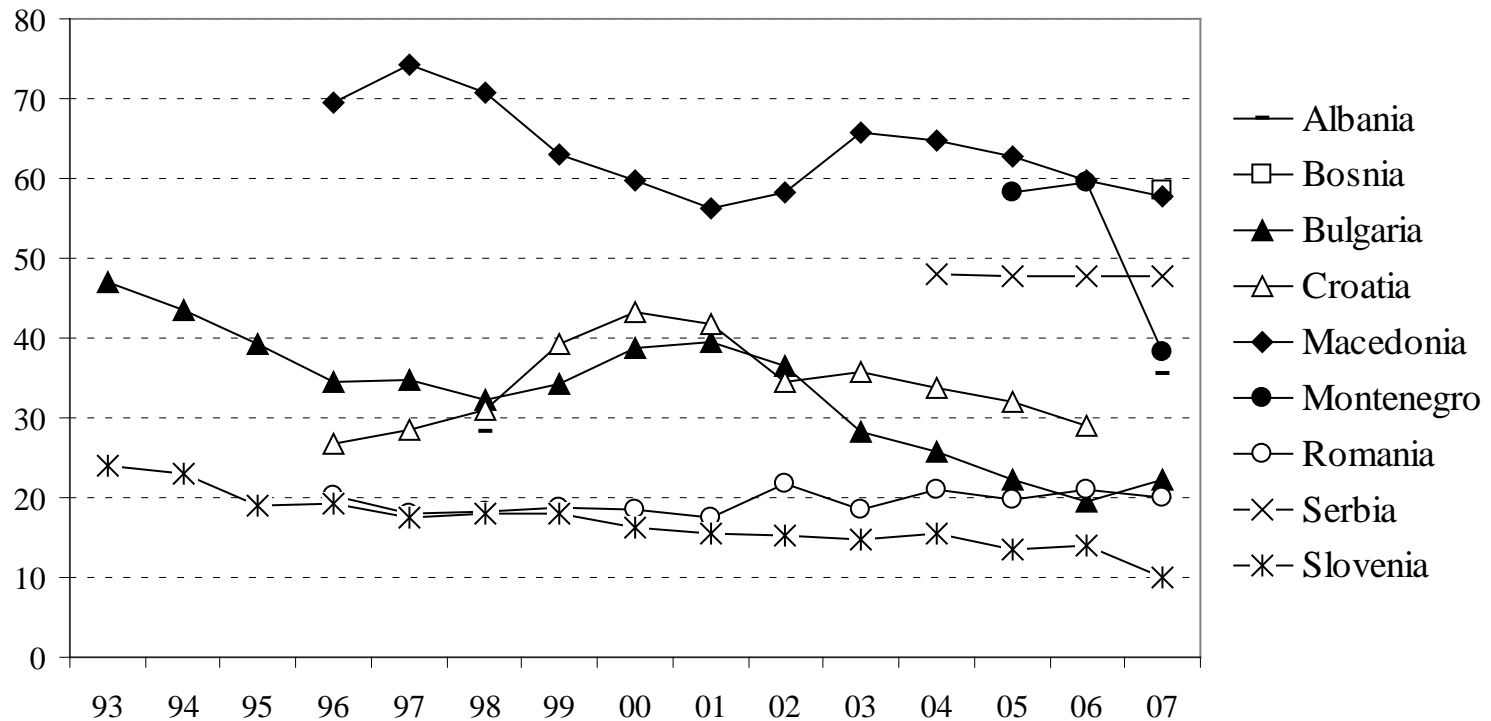(gross ratios, per cent of population aged 19-23/24)
(UNICEF 2007)

Youth unemployment rates, LFS, 15-24
(UNICEF 2008)

Unemployment rates

(ILO 2008, Eurostat 2007, UNICEF 2008, National reports)

	Year	Unemployment rate, all (%)	Youth unemployment rate (%)	Long-term unemployment rate (%)
Albania	2006/2001	13,8	35,5	
Bosnia	2007	29,6	58,4	
Bulgaria	2007	6,9	22,3	4,0
Croatia	2006	11,1	28,9	6,7
Macedonia	2007	34,9	57,7	
Montenegro	2007	19,4	38,3	
Romania	2007	6,4	20,1	3,2
Serbia	2007	18,8	47,8	
Slovenia	2007	4,8	10,1	2,2
EU 15	2007	7,0	14,7	2,8

Unemployment by education, %
(ILO 2008)

	Year	Primary or less	Secondary	Tertiary
Albania	2002	58,2	38,4	3,4
Bulgaria	2007	41,8	49,7	8,6
Croatia	2007	20,4	67,8	11,8
Montenegro	2005	90,6	3,2	6,2
Romania	2007	27,7	66,3	6,1
Slovenia	2007	25,0	60,4	12,5

Youth (15-24) inactivity rate (%), male
(ILO 2008)

Young men

Young women

Legend:
- Albania
- Bosnia
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
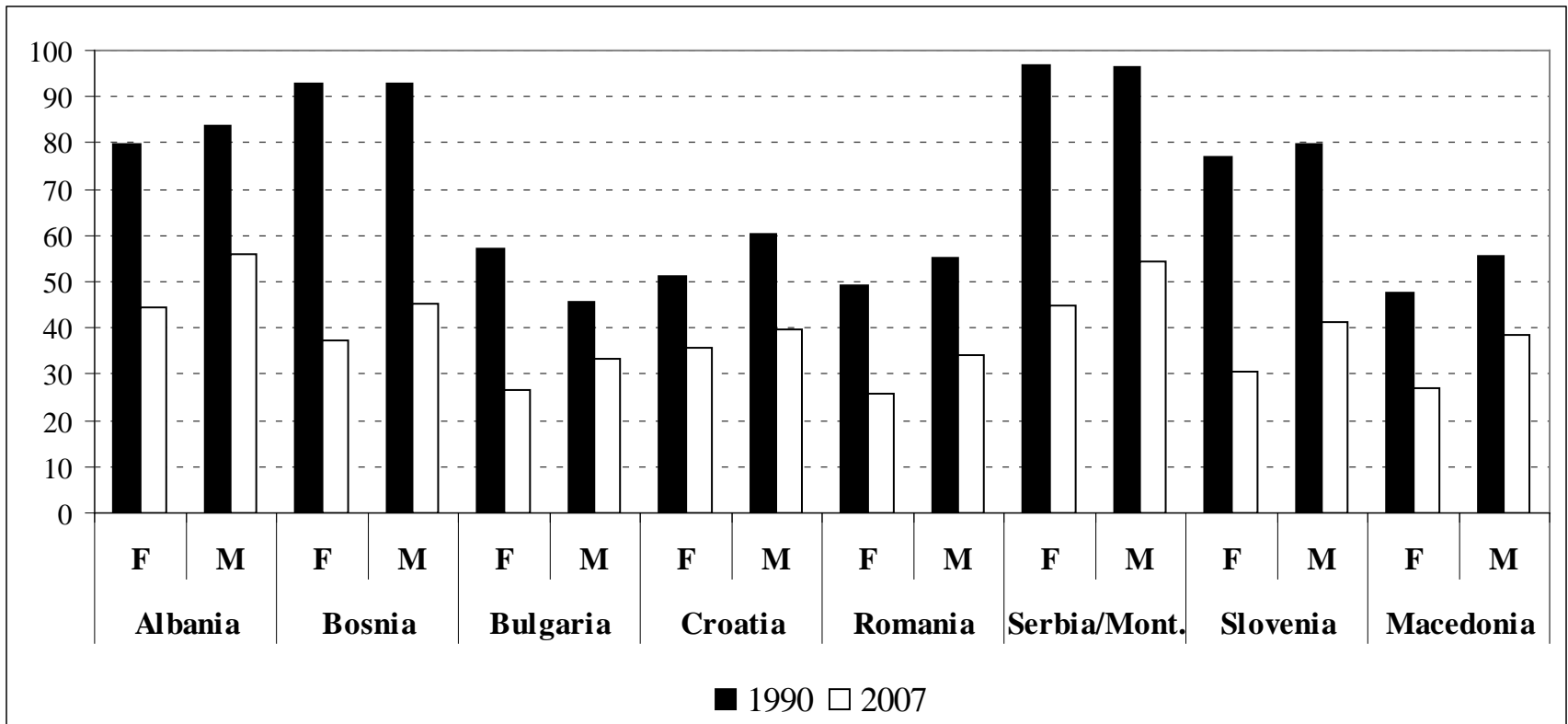- Macedonia
- Romania
- Serbia/Monte.
- Slovenia
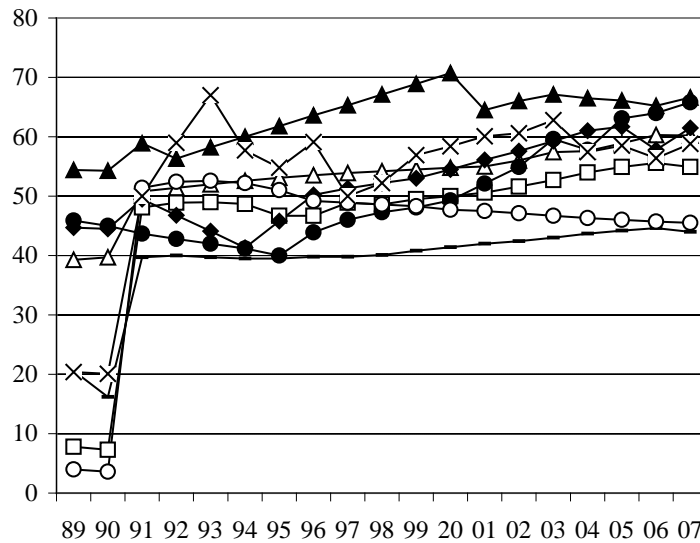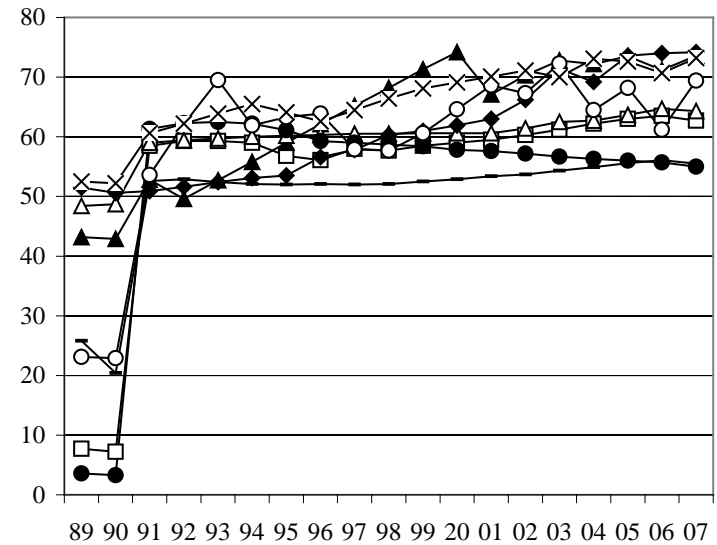
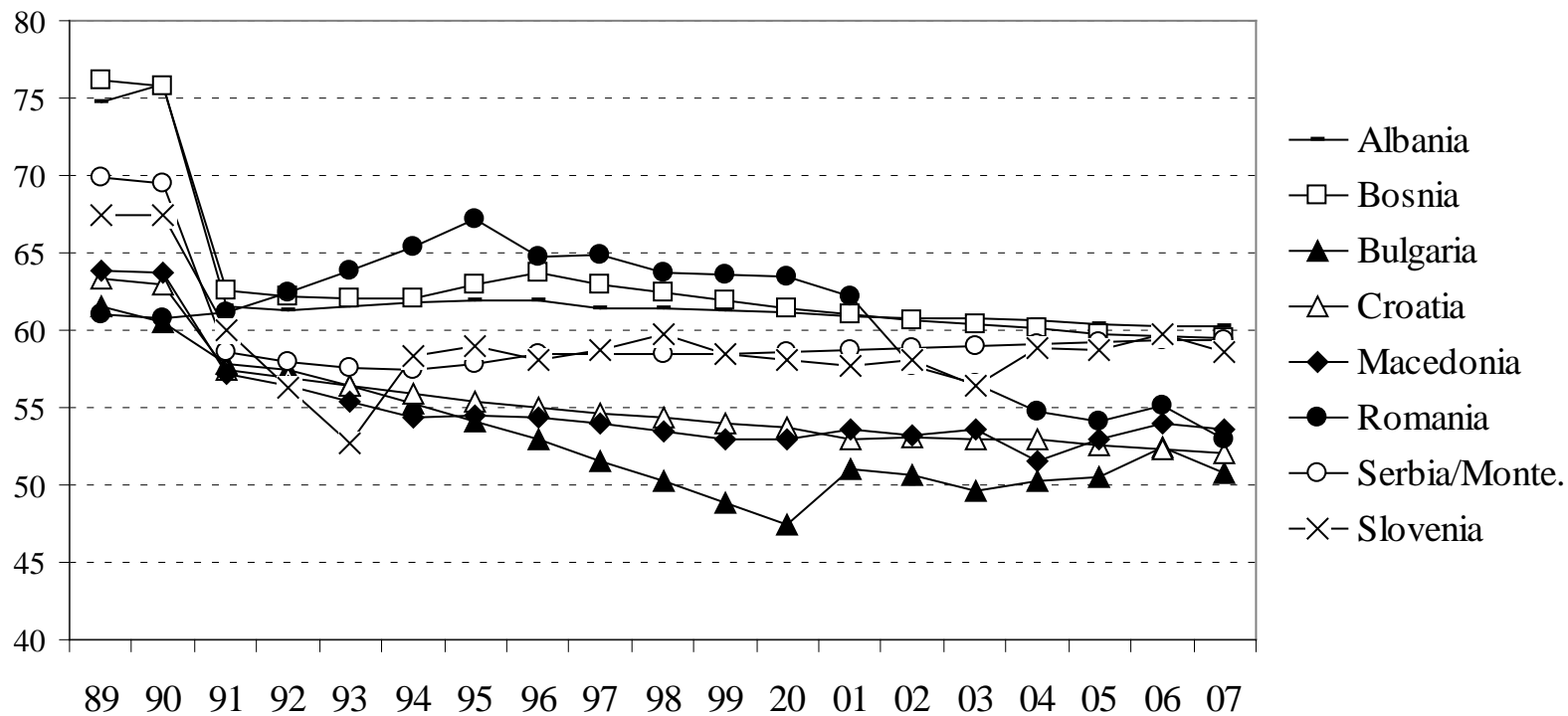# Youth labour force participation rates, 1990 and 2007, (15-24)
(ILO 2008)

Labour force participation rates
1989-2007, (15+)
(ILO 2008)

# Society: contexts of employment-uncertainties
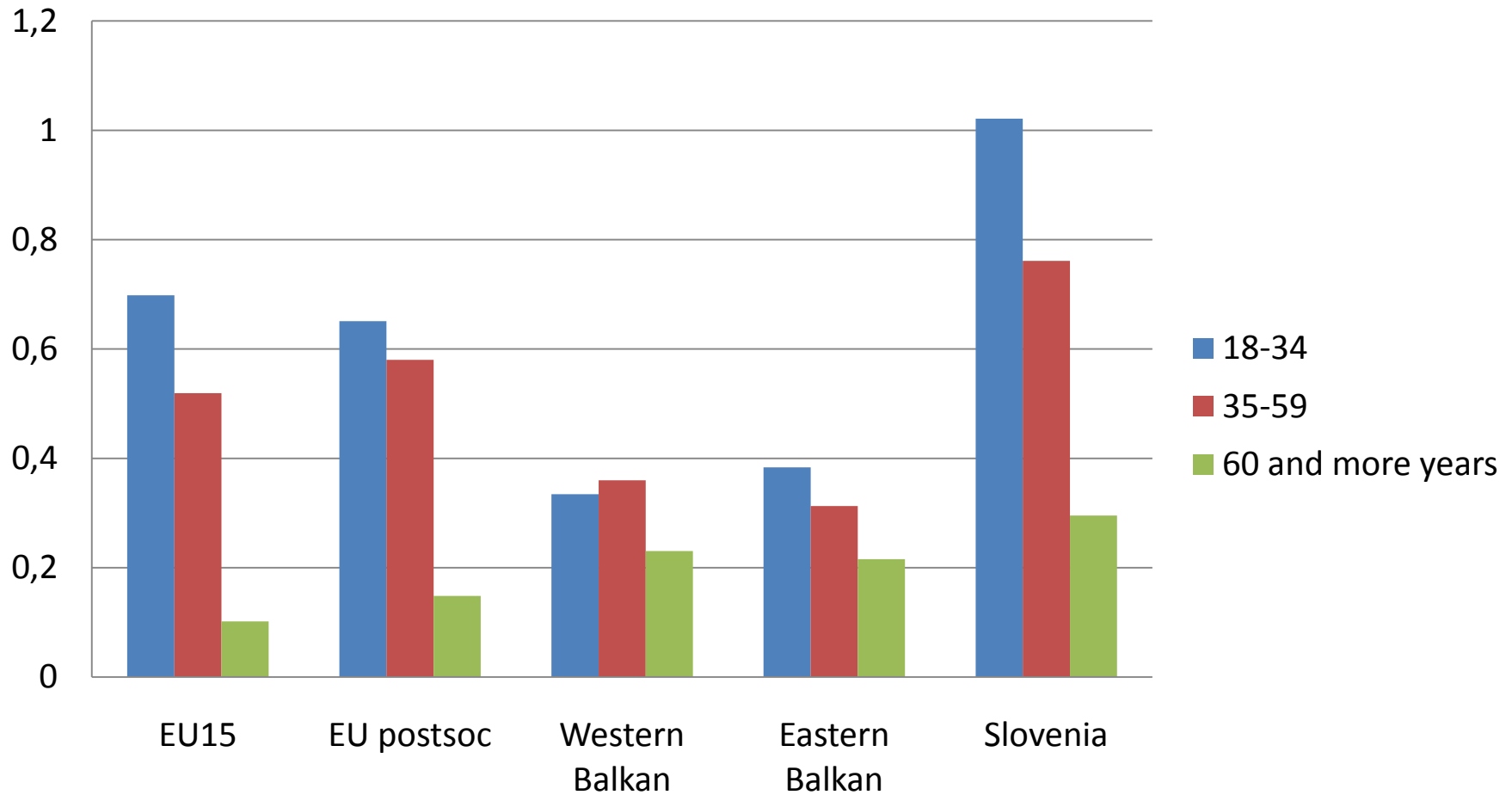
Emigration
(World Bank 2008)

	Stock of emigrants (2005)		Emigration rate of tertiary educated (2000)
	total	% of pop.	%
Albania	860.485	27,5	20
Bosnia	1.471.594	37,7	28,6
Bulgaria	937.341	12,1	5,8
Croatia	726.031	16	29,4
Macedonia	370.826	18,2	20,9
Romania	1.244.052	5,7	14,1
Serbia/Mont.	2.298.352	21,9	17,4
Slovenia	133.965	6,8	11

Prolongation of living in the parental household
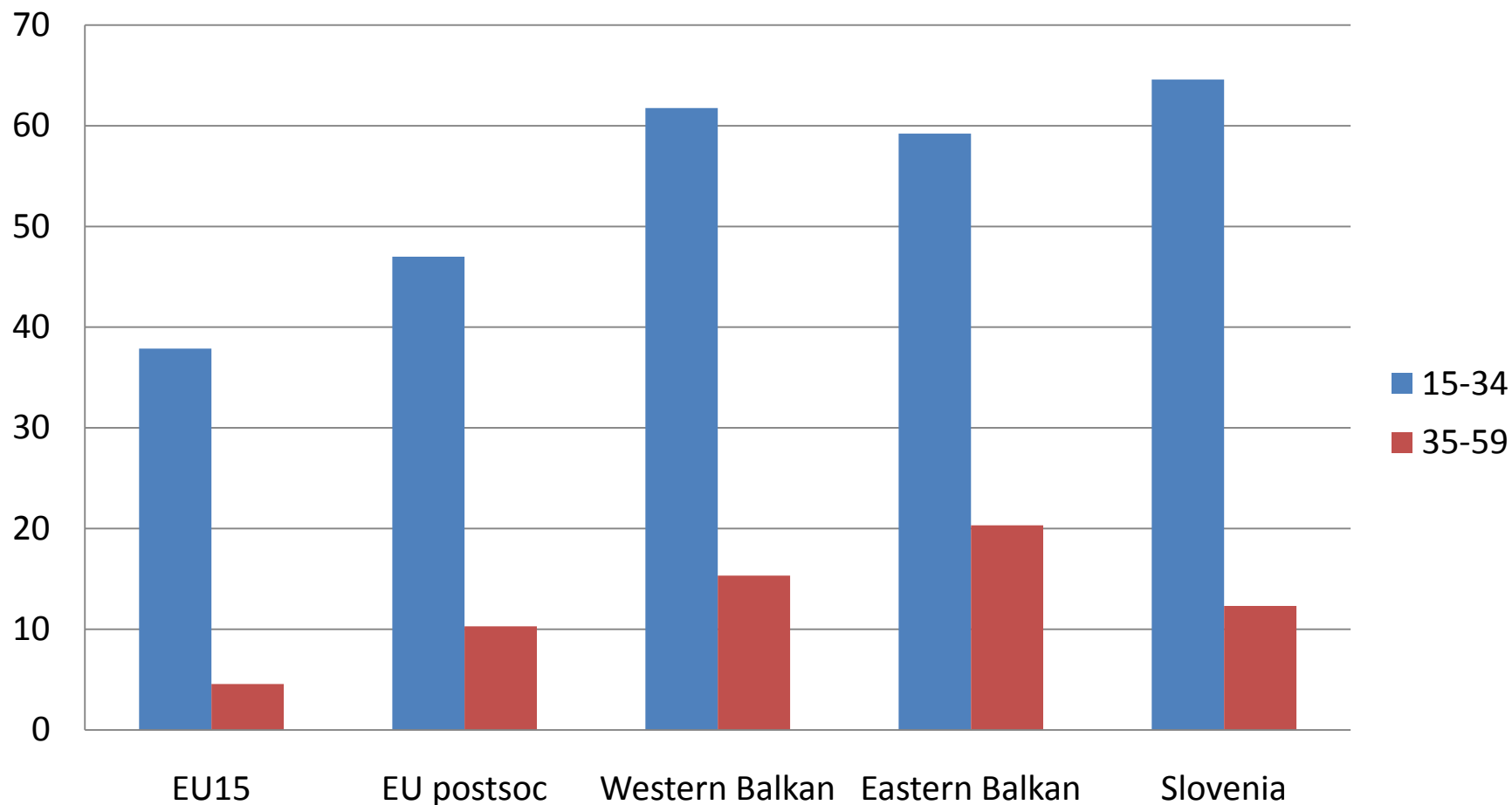
# VALUE ORIENTATIONS - two dimensions of cultural variation: traditional/secular-rational values

Legend:
- 18-34
- 35-59
- 60 and more years

Categories: EU15, EU postsoc, Western Balkan, Eastern Balkan, Slovenia

Inglehart and Baker, 2000
WVS/EVS 1999/2000

VALUE ORIENTATIONS - two dimensions of cultural variation: survival/self-expression values

Survival/Self-expression values

Inglehart and Baker, 2000
WVS/EVS 1999/2000
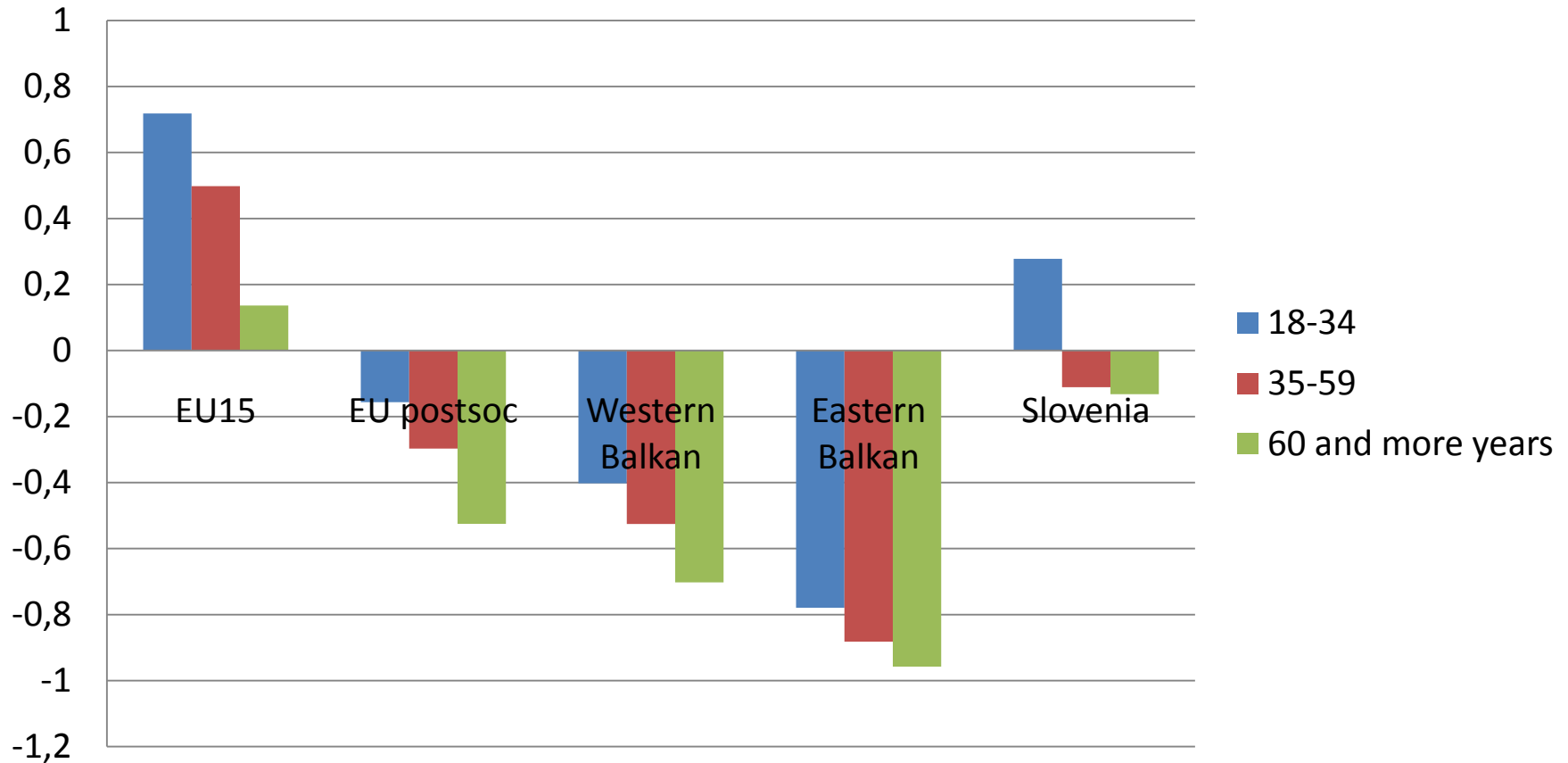
VALUE ORIENTATIONS – Index consisting of:
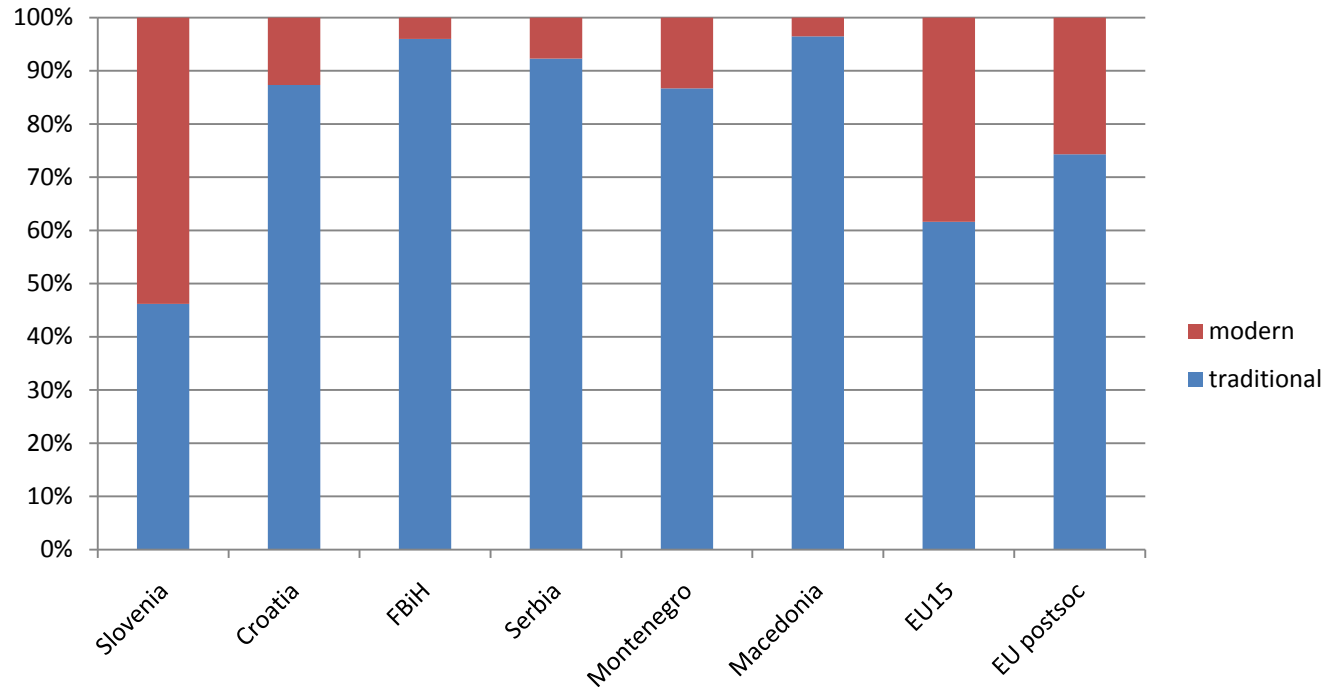
- the agreement with the following statements: homosexuality / euthanasia / prostitution / suicide is justifiable (1-10-point scale)
- the agreement with the following statement :greater respect for authority is a good thing (1-4-scale)
- how often do you attend religious services (1-8-scale).

WVS/EVS 1999/2000

Conclusions

- Data are missing, research is needed
- Research as crucial basis for youth policies
- The subjective meaning of prolonged education and of prolongation of transition to work/parenthood - establishment of individual life courses beyond collective patterns OR just a constraint (diversification of paths on the basis of individual (structured) opportunities but (traditionalistic?) striving for stability, 'normality')?
- A desire for 'normal biography', i.e. standardized, linear biography – but impossible in practice because of lack of (stable) jobs
- Employer's position: lack of competent, motivated, responsible workers (their ideology in times of under-payment?)
- Any possibility for a re-evaluation of criteria for full membership in society? And for a renegotiation of (welfare) systems?
    - Universal basic income; universalist provisions
    - Inclusion of 'care' work