Lead and Lag Times of European Countries in a Gentler World

Are we moving towards a gentler Europe, and if so, how fast are we moving? Using data for 13 European countries from 1991 to 2018, a positive trend is observed in four indicators—Welzel’s Emancipative Values Index and Gender Equality sub-index, Locus of Control and Nahkur’s Societal Index of Interpersonal Destructiveness (SIID). Applying the simple logistic growth pattern over time, from a floor of 0 to a ceiling of 1, it is apparent that gender equality scores and locus of control are past their fastest growth phase (middle part of the stretched-out S-curve). Emancipative Values Index is in its fastest growth phase, but as its S curve is much more stretched out, so its increase is slow. Normalized SIID is already in its late growth phase, close to the ceiling at 1; thus its further increase is bound to be quite slow. We also looked at the lead and lag times of individual countries compared to European average. This is more informative than saying “Country A is below the European average by x units”. The average lag time was the largest for Russia and Ukraine. The average lead time was the largest for Sweden and Norway. Central East Europe was the only region where index values rose rather steadily.