



# Higher education and international mobility in post-Soviet Eurasia: trends, actors, rationales, and implications

The Eurasia Programme Mid-term Conference

Maia Chankseliani

24 April 2019

student mobility - the most visible form of higher education  
internationalisation

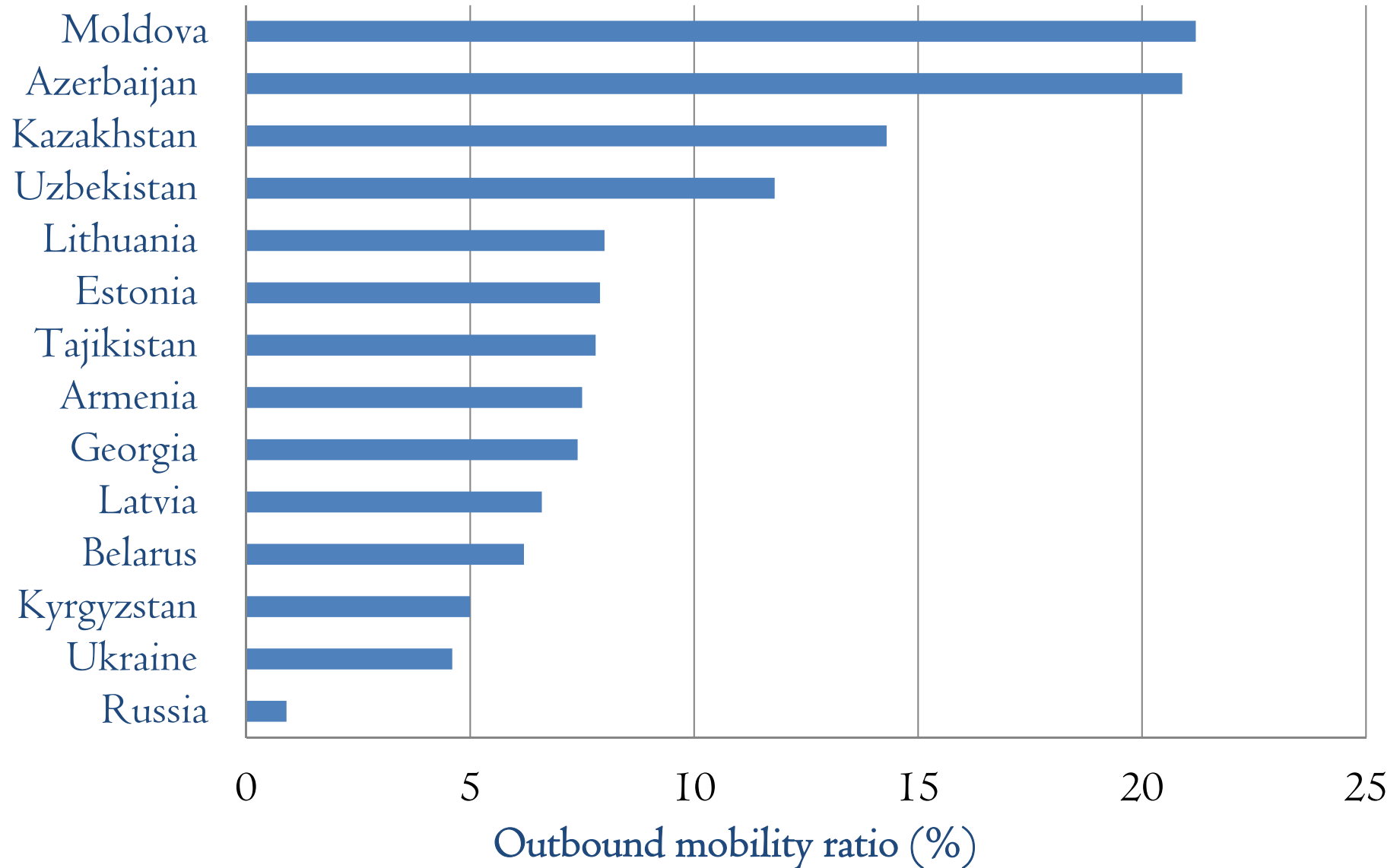
actors, drivers, momentum, rationales and implications of student  
mobility - economic vs non-economic



Mobilities of

- people (students/academics/scholars)
- programmes/courses (twinning, franchise, virtual/MOOCs)
- providers (branch campus, transnational education/franchises)
- education hubs
- languages (e.g. EMI)
- research (international collaborations)

## Outbound mobility from post-Soviet Eurasia



## Outbound student mobility from post-Soviet countries

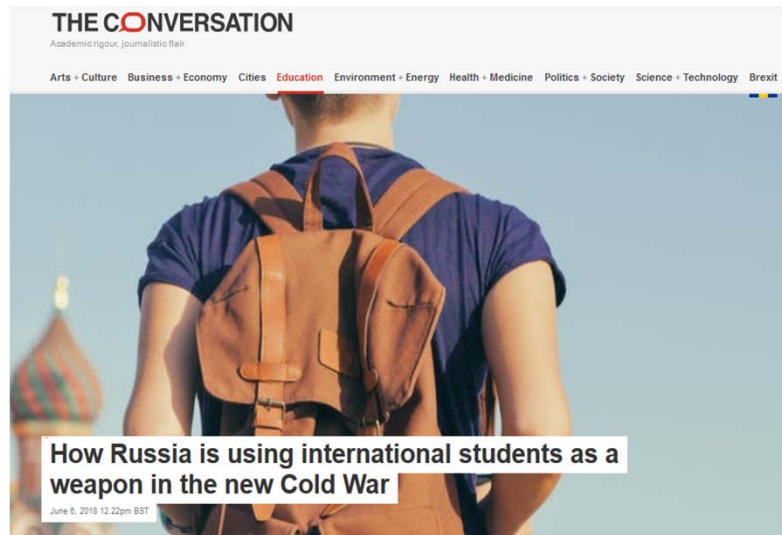
Predictors	Model A	Model B
Gross tertiary enrolment ratio, total (%)	-.491*	-.547*
Labour force participation rate, total (%)	-.645**	-.596**
Population total		-.391*
GDP per capita (\$)		.280
Constant	21.449 (3.109)	20.481 (3.243)
N	14	14
R <sup>2</sup>	59	77
F	7.96	7.66
(df)	(2)	(4)
P	.007	.006
RMSE	2.46	2.02

\*p<.05, \*\* p<0.01

Chankseliani, M. (2015). Escaping homelands with limited employment and tertiary education opportunities: Outbound student mobility from post-Soviet countries. *Population, Space and Place*, 22(3), 301–316.

Country of origin	OMR	Destination I	Destination II	Destination III	Destination IV	Destination V	Destination VI
Moldova	21.2	Romania	Russia	Italy	France	Germany	Ukraine
Azerbaijan	20.9	Russia	Turkey	Ukraine	Georgia	UK	Germany
Kazakhstan	14.3	Russia	Kyrgyzstan	Turkey	USA	UK	Czechia
Uzbekistan	11.8	Russia	Kazakhstan	Ukraine	Germany	Korea	Latvia
Lithuania	8.0	UK	Denmark	Poland	Germany	USA	Russia
Estonia	7.9	UK	Finland	Denmark	Germany	Russia	USA
Tajikistan	7.8	Russia	Kyrgyzstan	Turkey	Kazakhstan	Belarus	Saudi A
Armenia	7.5	Russia	France	Germany	USA	UK	Greece
Georgia	7.4	Germany	Ukraine	Russia	Armenia	Turkey	USA
Latvia	6.6	UK	Denmark	Germany	Russia	USA	France
Belarus	6.2	Russia	Poland	Germany	Lithuania	Czechia	Italy
Ukraine	4.6	Poland	Russia	Germany	Czechia	Italy	USA
Kyrgyzstan	5.0	Russia	Turkey	Kazakhstan	Germany	Saudi A	USA
Russia	0.9	Czechia	USA	UK	France	Finland	Italy

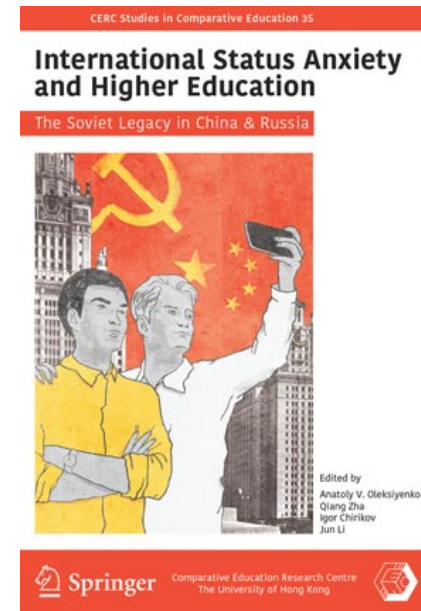
# Political rationale: Russian case



The education of international students in Russia is seen as a process of “formation of the pro-Russian national elites”. And it is believed these “national elites” will help “promote Russian interests, including long-term ones” in their home countries.

Russia places a particular focus on recruiting students from former Soviet countries. Russia’s ambition going forward is to expand the boundaries of international student recruitment to Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hope this will help to “improve the efficiency of Russia’s soft power”.

<https://theconversation.com/how-russia-is-using-international-students-as-a-weapon-in-the-new-cold-war-95450>



Malinovskiy, S., & Chankseliani, M. (2018). International Student Recruitment in Russia: Heavy-handed Approach and Soft-Power Comeback. In A. Oleksiyenko, Q. Zha, I. Chirikov, & J. Li (Eds.), *International Status Anxiety and HE: The Soviet Legacy in China and Russia*. Hong Kong: CERC-Springer. <http://cerc.edu.hku.hk/product/international-status-anxiety-and-higher-education-the-soviet-legacy-in-china-russia/>

Russian HEIs in Russia – Educating international students in Russia  
Russian HEIs abroad – Educating international students at home



## Top 10 senders to Russia, globally

Kazakhstan	69,895
Ukraine	22,440
Uzbekistan	19,893
Turkmenistan	16,521
Belarus	15,488
Tajikistan	15,126
Azerbaijan	14,121
China	10,693
Republic of Moldova	5,749
Kyrgyzstan	5,700

## Foreign university branches in post-Soviet Eurasia

Country	N of branches	Home institution located
Armenia	6	Russia (ALL)
Azerbaijan	2	Russia (ALL)
Belarus	2	Russia (ALL)
Georgia	1	USA
Estonia	0	
Kazakhstan	7	Russia (ALL)
Kyrgyzstan	6	Russia (ALL)
Latvia	2	Russia (1), Vatican City (1)
Lithuania	1	Poland
Moldova	4	Russia (ALL)
Tajikistan	3	Russia (ALL)
Turkmenistan	0	
Ukraine	3	Russia (ALL)
Uzbekistan	8	Russia (4), Singapore, UK, Italy, South Korea



## Inbound vs outbound mobility

Country	Ratio	Hosting (number of students)	Sending (number of students)
Russia	0.23	243,752	56,837
Kyrgyzstan	0.78	14,796	11,608
Latvia	0.91	6,130	5,559
Estonia	1.16	3,476	4,027
Georgia	1.33	8,012	10,632
Ukraine	1.46	52,768	77,219
Belarus	1.47	17,570	25,836
Armenia	1.75	4,512	7,913
Lithuania	1.96	5,499	10,793
Moldova	5.14	3,964	20,380
Kazakhstan	6.25	14,332	89,505
Tajikistan	9.27	2,238	20,754
Azerbaijan	10.09	4,274	43,127
Uzbekistan	54.99	603	33,159

## Student mobility may aid 'democratic development' in home nations

Greater democratic development in post-Soviet nations when students head for EU rather than Russia, study finds

September 27, 2017

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/student-mobility-may-aid-democratic-development-home-nations>

### THE CONVERSATION

Academic rigour, journalistic flair

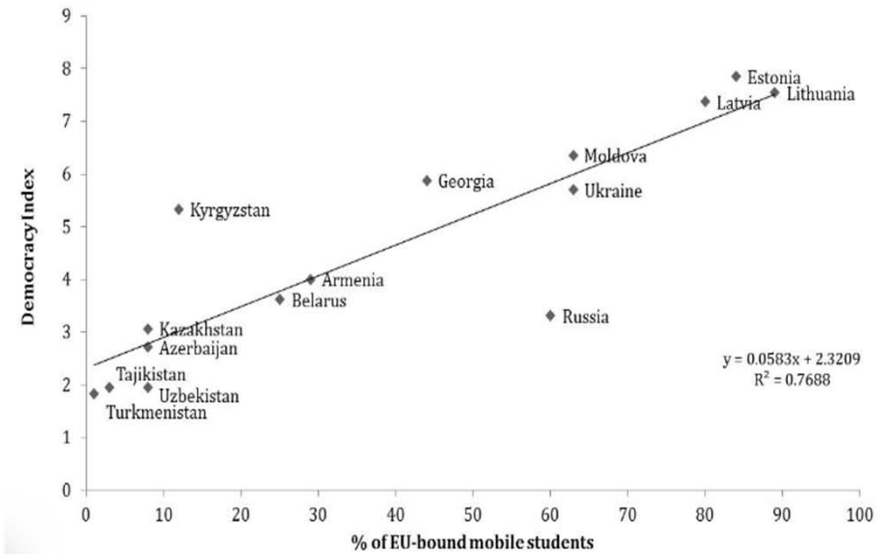
Arts + Culture Business + Economy Cities Education Environment + Energy Health + Medicine Politics + Society Science + Technology Brexit



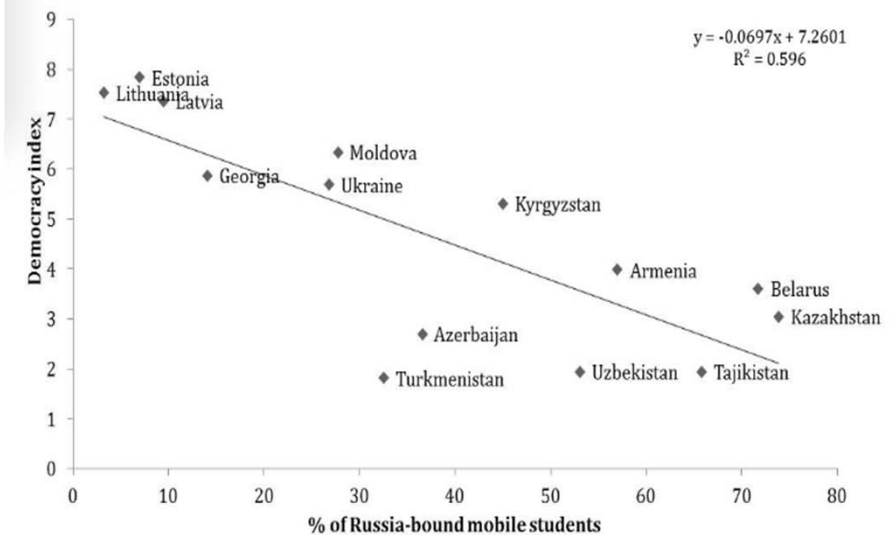
**Students studying overseas could be helping to make former Soviet countries more liberal**

September 27, 2018 10:27am BST

<https://theconversation.com/students-studying-overseas-could-be-helping-to-make-former-soviet-countries-more-liberal-100688>

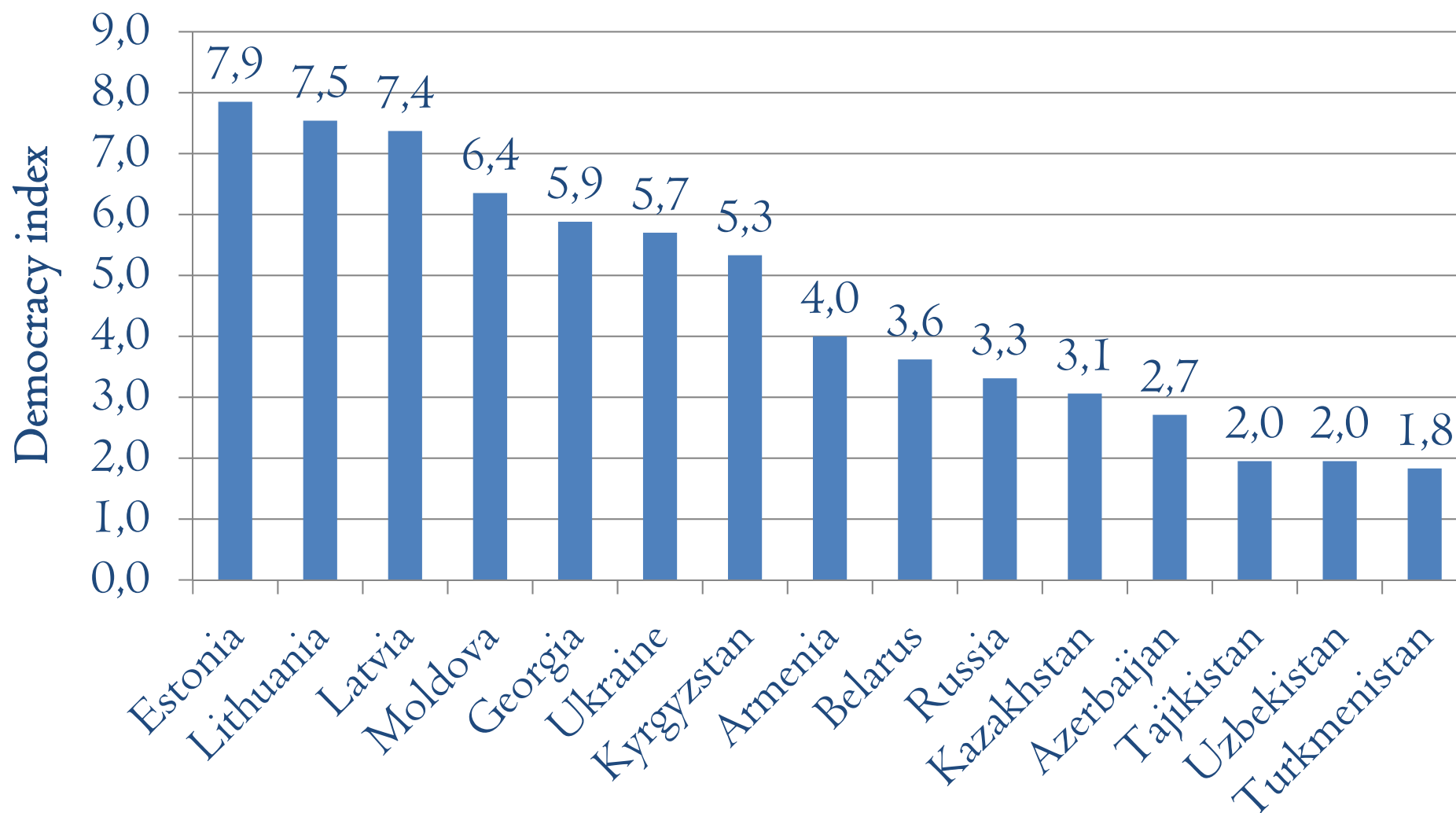


Source: Maia Chankseliani



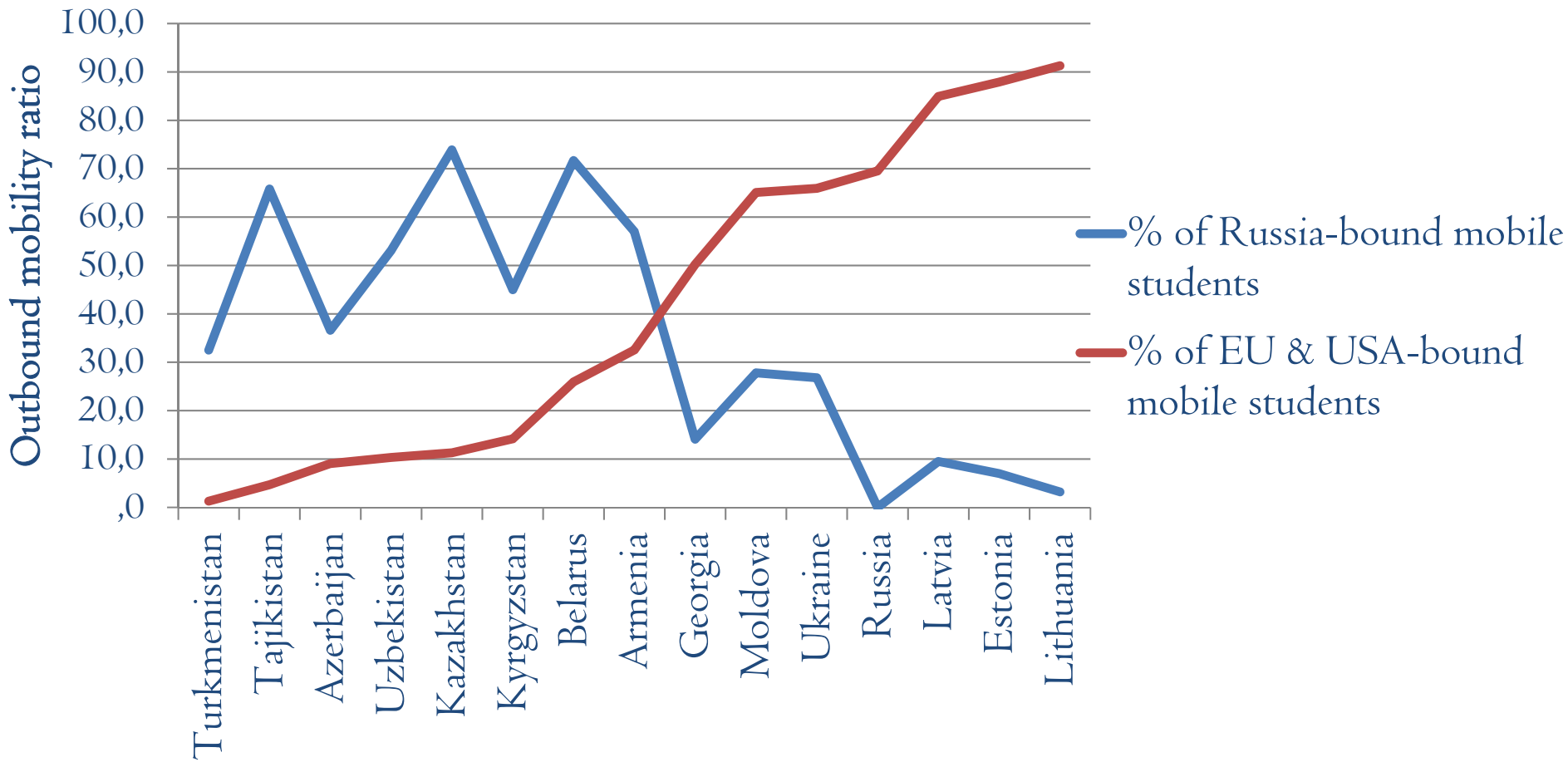
Chankseliani (2018)

# Democracy indices of former Soviet countries

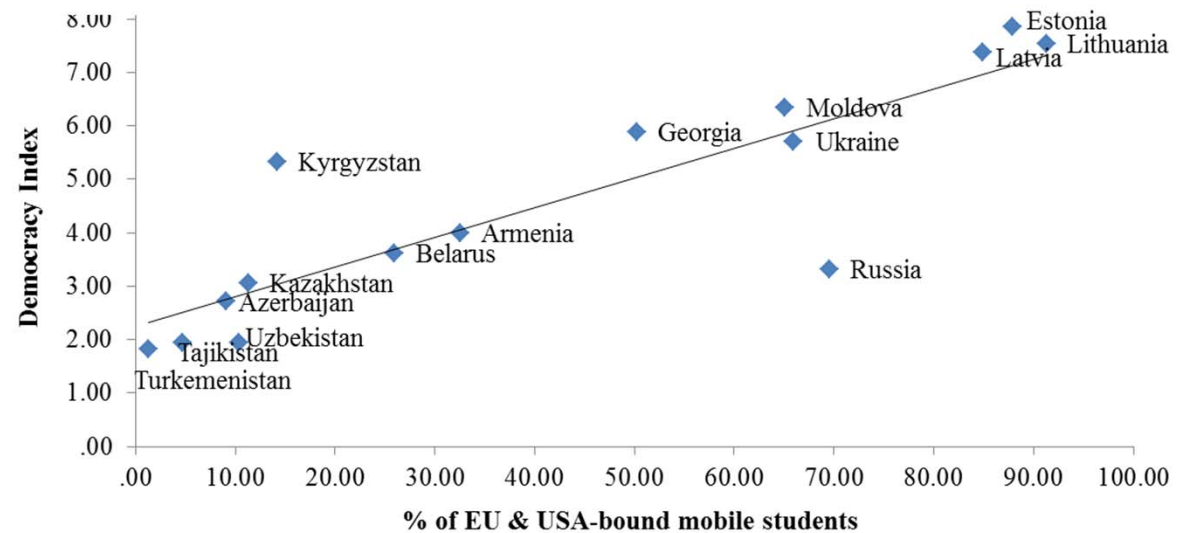
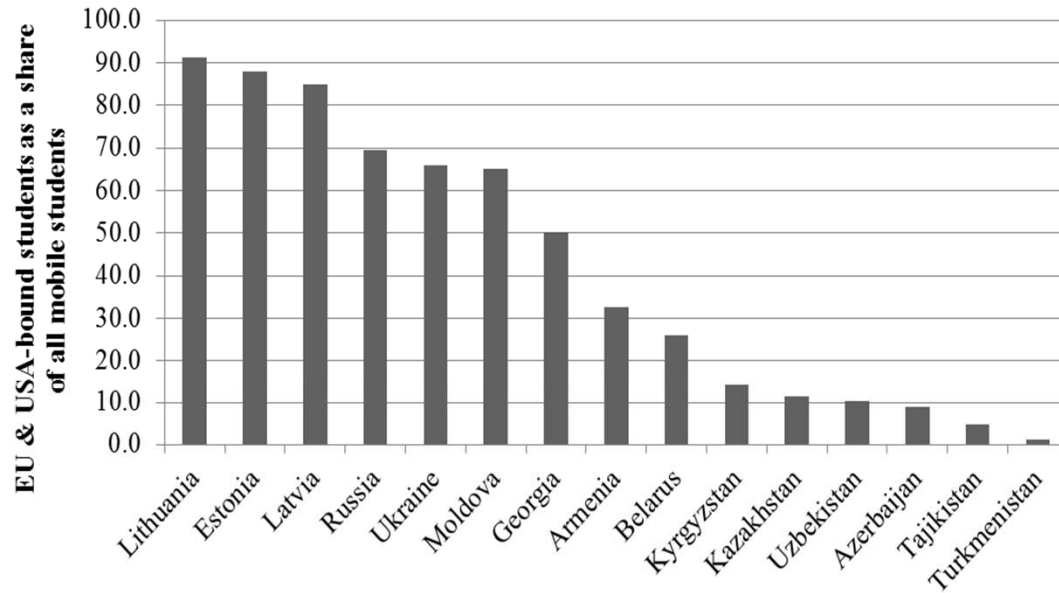


Country	Proportion of political leaders educated in EU/USA	Proportion of political leaders educated in Russia	Proportion of political leaders educated elsewhere (abroad)	Proportion of political leaders educated only in their home country	Overall number of Presidents and Prime Ministers since 1991
Georgia	40%	20%	15%	25%	20
Kazakhstan	20%	40%	10%	30%	10
Lithuania	17%	22%	0%	61%	18
Estonia	15%	0%	8%	77%	13
Latvia	11%	6%	6%	78%	18
Moldova	11%	22%	11%	56%	18
Armenia	6%	24%	6%	65%	17
Kyrgyzstan	4%	63%	0%	33%	24
Azerbaijan	0%	36%	0%	64%	11
Belarus	0%	63%	0%	38%	8
Russia	0%	n/a	0%	100%	12
Tajikistan	0%	73%	18%	9%	11
Turkmenistan	0%	67%	0%	33%	3
Ukraine	0%	16%	0%	84%	19
Uzbekistan	0%	33%	0%	67%	6

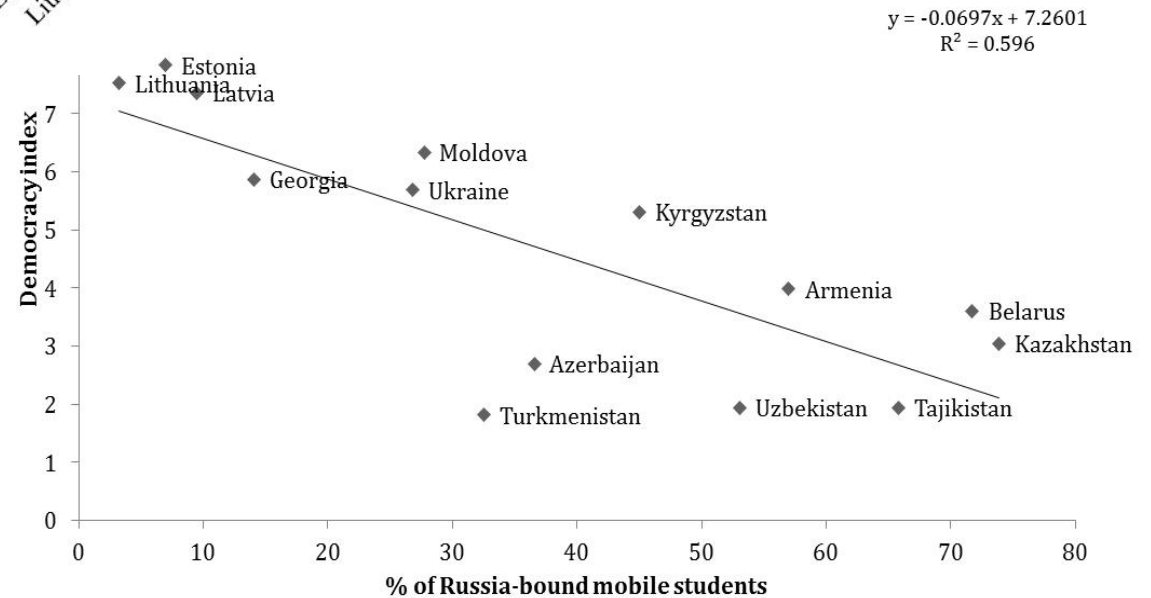
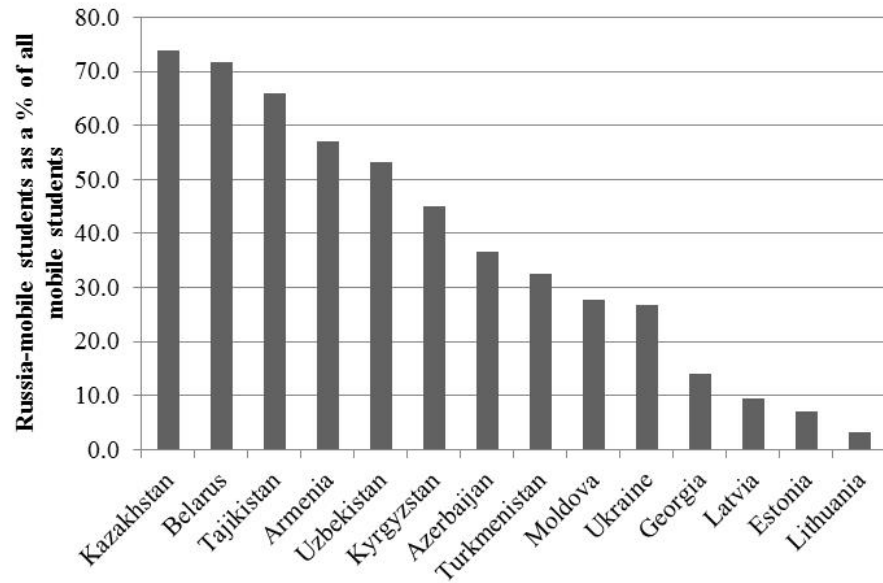
# EU&USA-bound vs Russia-bound degree mobile students as a share of all mobile students, by country or origin



# EU&USA-bound degree-mobile students as a share of all mobile students (%), by country of origin



# Russia-bound degree-mobile students as a share of all mobile students (%), by country of origin





## Political culture change – how does it happen?

- Social structures
- Actor driven



## What are the purposes of [international higher] education?

- Qualification, socialisation, subjectification

## Further reading

- Chankseliani, M., & Wells, A. (2019). A big business in a small state: rationales of HE internationalisation in Latvia. *European Educational Research Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1474904119830507>
- Chankseliani, M. (2018). The politics of student mobility: Links between outbound student flows and the democratic development of post-Soviet Eurasia. *International Journal of Educational Development*, 62, 281–288. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijedudev.2018.07.006>
- Malinovskiy, S., & Chankseliani, M. (2018). International Student Recruitment in Russia: Heavy-handed Approach and Soft-Power Comeback. In A. Oleksiyenko, Q. Zha, I. Chirikov, & J. Li (Eds.), *International Status Anxiety and HE: The Soviet Legacy in China and Russia*. Hong Kong: CERC-Springer. <http://cerc.edu.hku.hk/product/international-status-anxiety-and-higher-education-the-soviet-legacy-in-china-russia/>
- Chankseliani, M. 27 September, 2018. Students studying overseas could be helping to make former Soviet countries more liberal. *The Conversation*. <http://theconversation.com/students-studying-overseas-could-be-helping-to-make-former-soviet-countries-more-liberal-100688>
- Chankseliani, M. 6 June, 2018. 'How Russia Is Using International Students as a Weapon in the New Cold War'. *The Conversation*. <http://theconversation.com/how-russia-is-using-international-students-as-a-weapon-in-the-new-cold-war-95450>
- Chankseliani, M. (2017). Four rationales of HE internationalisation: perspectives of UK universities on attracting students from former Soviet countries. *Journal of Studies in International Education*, 22(1), 53–70. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1028315317725806>
- Chankseliani, M., & Hessel, G. (2016a). *Case studies of the most popular European destinations for mobile students from Russia, Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia* (Research report). Oxford, UK: The Centre for Comparative and International Education, University of Oxford. Retrieved from <https://ora.ox.ac.uk/objects/uuid:307e125e-6def-4b5e-8c3e-a984a6ddd2d1>
- Chankseliani, M., & Hessel, G. (2016b). *International student mobility from Russia, Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia to the UK: trends, institutional rationales and strategies for student recruitment* (Research report). Oxford, UK: The Centre for Comparative and International Education, University of Oxford. Retrieved from <https://ora.ox.ac.uk/objects/uuid%3Afd4023-16fe-4542-9b2b-1b47993acf68>
- Chankseliani, M. (2015). Escaping homelands with limited employment and tertiary education opportunities: Outbound student mobility from post-Soviet countries. *Population, Space and Place*, 22(3), 301–316. <https://doi.org/10.1002/psp.1932>

Follow us on Twitter: [@MChankseliani](#), [@CIEatOxord](#)

Publications:

[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Maia\\_Chankseliani](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Maia_Chankseliani)

Email: [maia.chankseliani@education.ox.ac.uk](mailto:maia.chankseliani@education.ox.ac.uk)

Different parts of this work were supported by:

- The University of Oxford John Fell Oxford University Press Research Fund grant
  - Oxford University Department of Education seed corn grant
  - Newton - Al-Farabi / British Council Grant under the Researcher Links