

# **Attributions for Poverty in European Post Socialist Countries**

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## **Abstract**

Citizens' attitudes towards the poor can be seen as reflecting the dominant ideology of country as well as the moral economy of the welfare state. Prior research has also shown that attributions for poverty have implications for the legitimacy of welfare system and especially for the viability of and support for anti-poverty policies. Findings of the comparative studies have emphasised clear differences between Western European and Post Socialist European countries. Citizens of Post Socialist countries are more inclined to blame either the individual behaviour or the flaws of the economic system of country than their Western counterparts. However, there is a shortage of comparative studies on attributions for poverty in particular focusing on the European Post Socialist countries. Utilising The Life in Transition Survey (LiTS) conducted jointly by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the World Bank in 2006, the purpose of the paper is to provide a more up-to-date picture on the public perceptions of the causes of poverty in European Post Socialist countries. Paper examines cross-country differences in attributions for poverty and explores whether different lay explanations of poverty can be attributed to specific socio-demographic characteristics, ethnicity, economic circumstances and wider values and attitudes, such as generalised trust as well as attitudes towards the role of government and democracy.