



# Central Europe's Post-Accession Blues

Challenges to Democratic Governance in the New Member States of the EU



# Nations in Transit Quick-Check

- First published in 1995
- Comparative survey of democratization focusing the countries of the former „communist block“
- „Transition Paradigm“ implicitly at the heart of the methodology



# Nations in Transit Methodology

- **Qualitative** country surveys with uniform scoring to allow for comparison between countries and over time
- Assessment of **seven** key areas: national democratic governance; local democratic governance; electoral process; judicial framework; independent media; civil society; and corruption
- **Numerical rating** of each area; scale of 1-7, with 1 the highest and 7 the lowest level of democratic progress
- **„Democracy Score“** – straight average of the scores for each sub-category



## Regime type by „Democracy Score“ Range

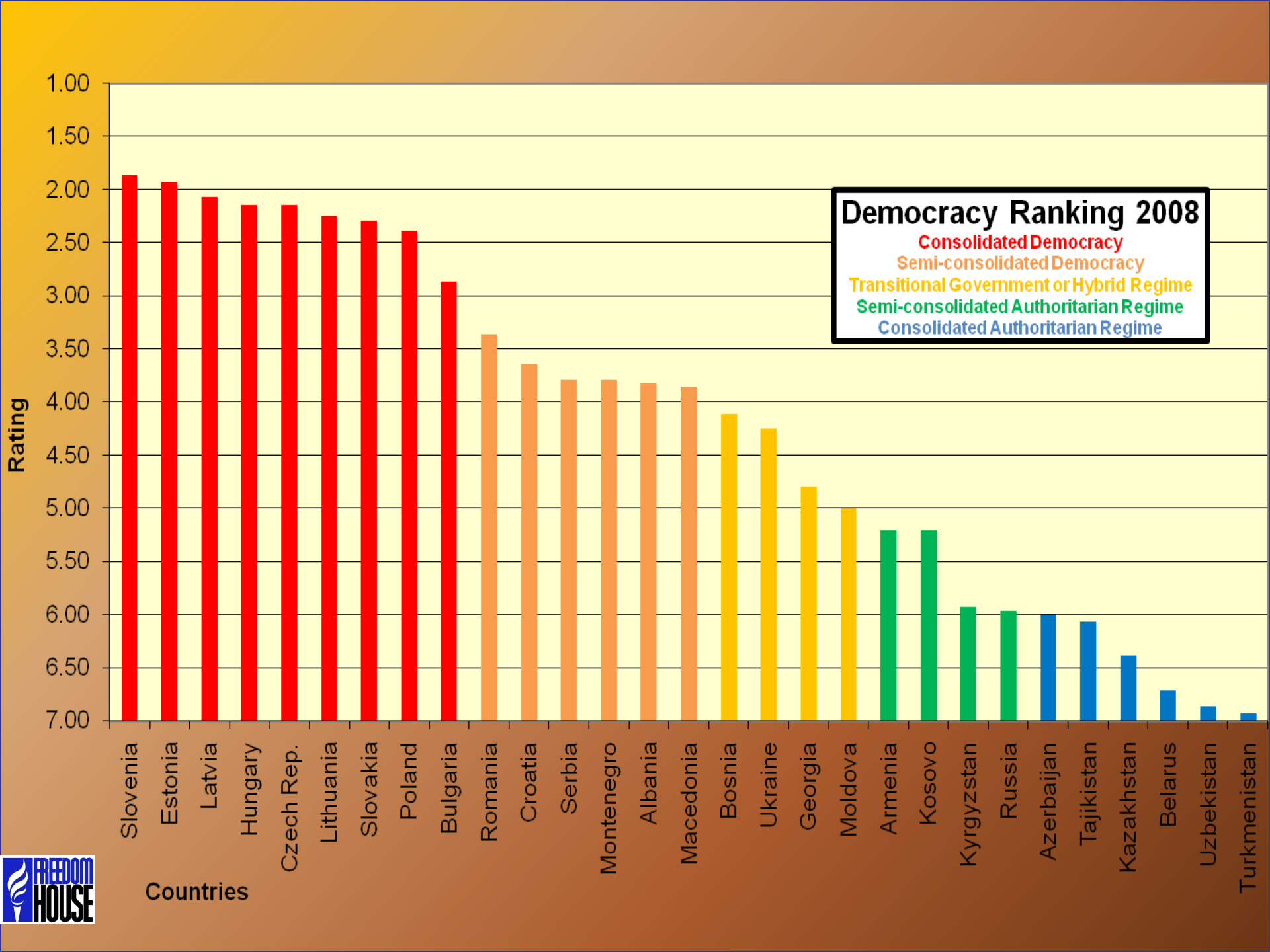
1 – 2.99 : Consolidated Democracy

3 – 3.99 : Semi-Consolidated Democracy

4 – 4.99 : Transitional or Hybrid Regimes

5 – 5.99 : Semi-Consolidated Autocracy

6 – 7 : Consolidated Autocracy



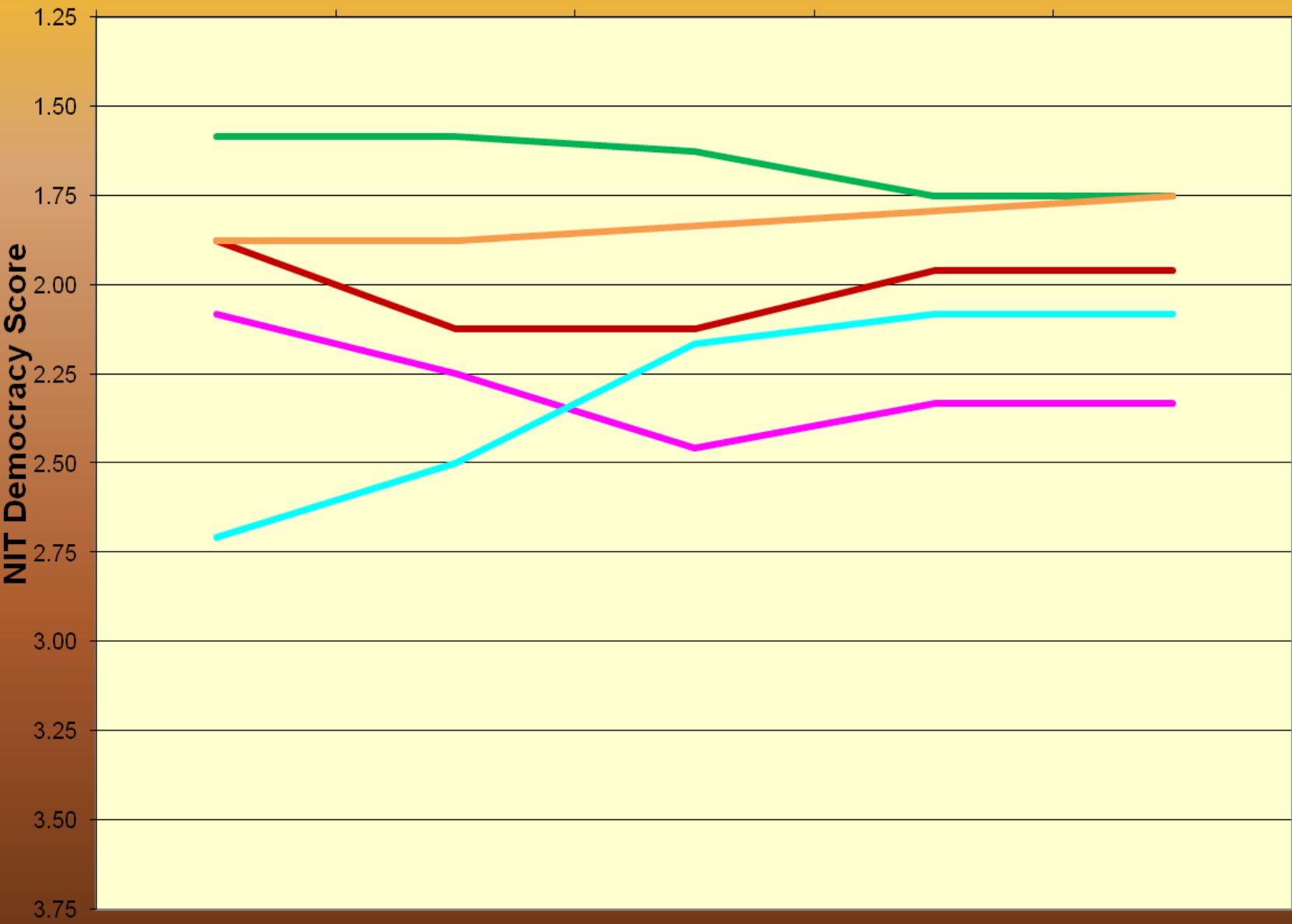


# **„Democracy Score“ Trends in Central & Eastern Europe 1999 – 2008**

# CEE Before EU Accession 1999-2004



1999-2000      2001      2002      2003      2004



- Czech Rep.
- Hungary
- Poland
- Slovakia
- Slovenia

# CEE After EU Accession





# Drivers of the Downward Trend

Corruption

Civil Society

Independent Media



# Corruption Score Changes 2004-2008

Hungary: -0.25

Czech Republic: +0.25

Slovakia: 0

Slovenia: -0.25

Poland: -0.5

Cumulative score change: -0.15



## Civil Society Score Changes 2004-2008

Hungary: -0.25

Czech Republic: +0.25

Slovakia: - 0.25

Slovenia: -0.5

Poland: 0

Cumulative score change: -0.15



## Independent Media Score Changes 2004-2008

Hungary: -0.25

Czech Republic: 0

Slovakia: -0.25

Slovenia: -0.5

Poland: -0.5

Cumulative score change: - 0.3



# What is eating away at the heart of democracy in CEE?

Lack of Trust

Norm Confusion

Sense of Injustice

Paternalism



# Lack of Trust

- Low levels of trust and tolerance
- Limited capacity for cooperation, low levels of societal participation
- Low-level of trust in and utilization of democratic institutions
- Less value attached to political rights and civil liberties
- Stunningly low levels of trust in politicians, entrepreneurs and journalists



# „Norm Confusion“

- 2/3 of Hungarians think they are decent and honest but others are not
- Generally tolerant towards norm-breaking behavior
- Self-reported level of corruption is lower than what is assumed of others (i.e. weak ability to self-assess)



# Sense of Injustice

- Income inequality perception is much higher than what real data would suggest
- High prevalence of „zero-sum“ thinking in both the economic and political context



# Paternalism

- Preference for strong state involvement
- Cognitive dissonance: low trust in the state vs strong expectations for state provisions on an excessive scale in key areas (health care, pensions, education, social provisions)