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Transitions in Regional Context: Macrostructural Conditions and Young Adults' Intergenerational Ties

An Analysis based on the Swiss TREE-Data

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Outline

1. State of the Art and Research Questions
2. Theoretical Background: Region as a Category and Context
3. Data and Methods
4. Empirical Findings
5. Conclusion



State of the Art & Research Questions



Intergenerational Relationships of Young Adults

Young Adulthood

- Important biographical decisions and developments (Arnett 2000)
- Education / Labour Market → Prolonged dependence from parents
- Family as „safety net“ (Swartz et al. 2011), not only financially

Intergenerational Relationships

- „Intergenerational Stake“: Children and parents have different view (Bengtson & Kuypers 1971)
- Intergenerational solidarity: Closeness, contact, money, space, help
- Emotional closeness: Indicator for cohesion, predictor for help
- Life course changes: (Re-)negotiation of family ties



Region as a Framework

„Special Case“ of Switzerland

- 4 languages
- 26 cantonal welfare regimes (Armingeon et al. 2004)
- Regional labour markets
- Region as framework for biographical development (transition to adulthood)
- Culture as framework for negotiating family ties (e.g. strong family norm in Italy, see Reher 1998; Cuzzocrea 2012)

But....

- What is a region? What „scale“ shall we use?
- How can we measure regional characteristics?



Research Questions

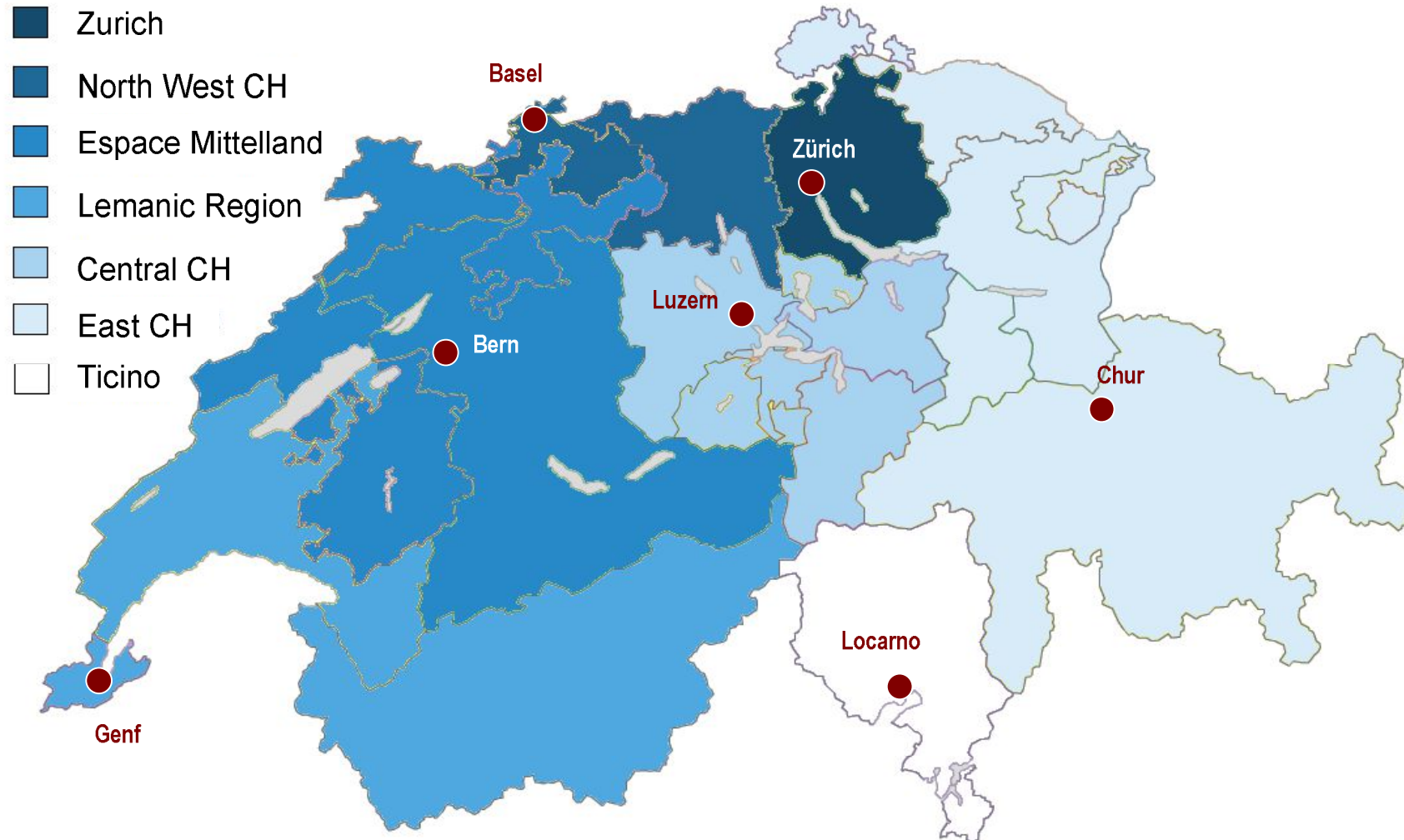
- Are there regional differences in the transition to adulthood?
- Can one find regional disparities in intergenerational closeness?
- Which regional characteristics account for differences in closeness?



Region as a Category & Context



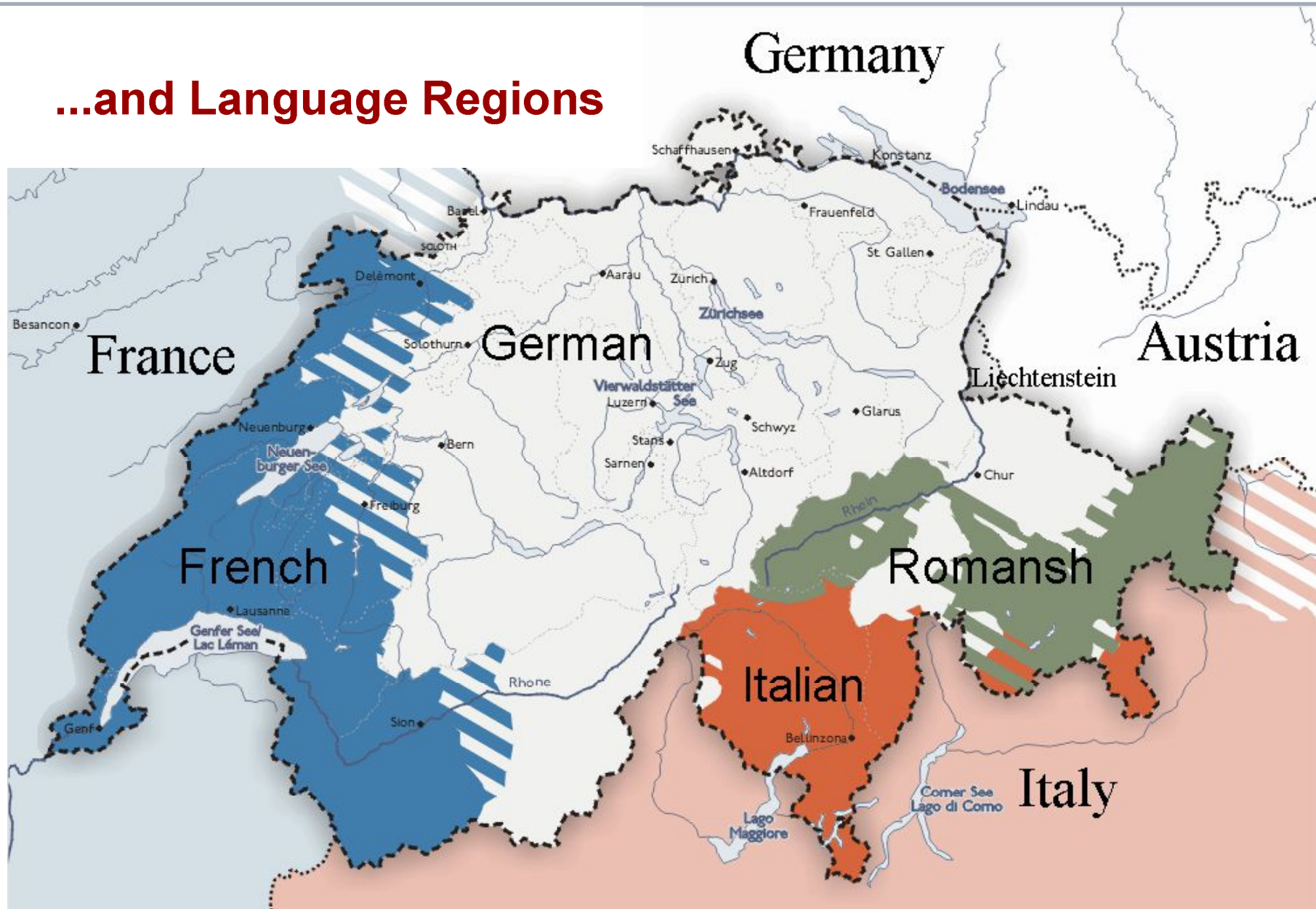
Cantons, Greater Regions (NUTS 2 und 3)...



Border map/numbers: Schweizerisches Bundesamt für Statistik (BfS). Else: own illustration.
NUTS: Nomenclatur of Territorial Units for Statistics, Eurostat

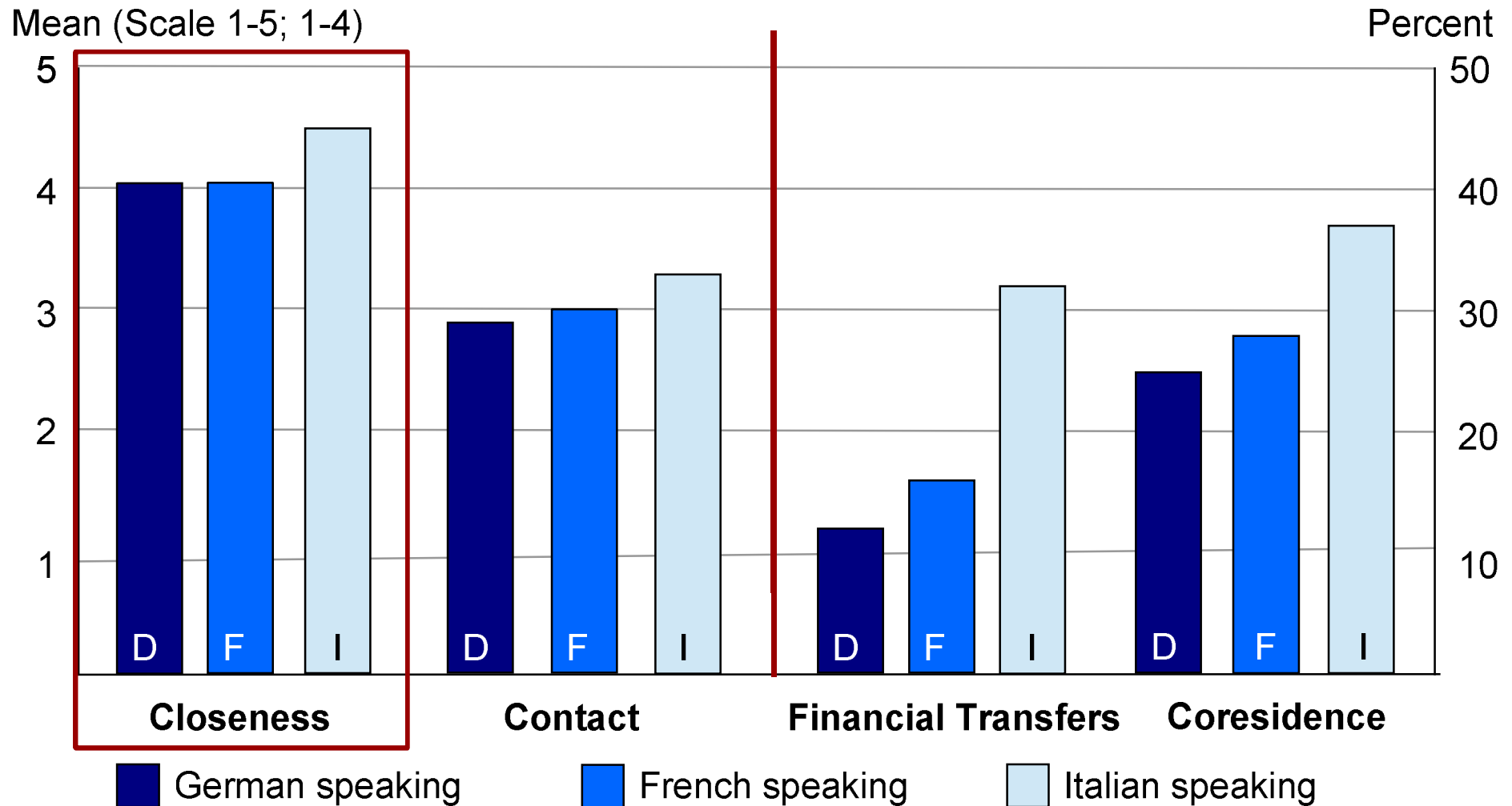


...and Language Regions





Intergenerational Relations in Three Language Regions



Source: TREE 2013. Own calculations, weighted results. n=5510 child-parent dyads



Region as a Context

Welfare State

Social Expenditures: Relieve families and buffer life course risks.
Measure: Share in Cantonal Budget 2010 (EFV 2014)

H1: The higher social spending, the closer the ties

Labour Market

Labour market entrants especially vulnerable. Measure: **Youth Unemployment Rate** at school departure (SECO 2000)

H2: The lower they youth unemployment, the closer the ties



(continued)

Culture

Strong Family Norm: Expectance to give / receive support.

Measure: Agreement to statement „Parent should support their children financially“ (EFG 2013, scale 1 „not at all“ - 6 „totally“, weighted cantonal means)

H3: The stronger the family norm, the closer the ties



Data and Methods

- TREE (Transitions from Education to Employment)
- PISA (2000) sample Switzerland: Cantons → Schools → Individuals
- Cohort Study (school leavers), Age: 26 years

- Wave 8, 2010: Featuring items pertaining to intergenerational relations
Emotional Closeness, Contact, Coresidence, Transfers
- Separate answers for mother and father → Child-parent-dyads
- Only children surveyed!

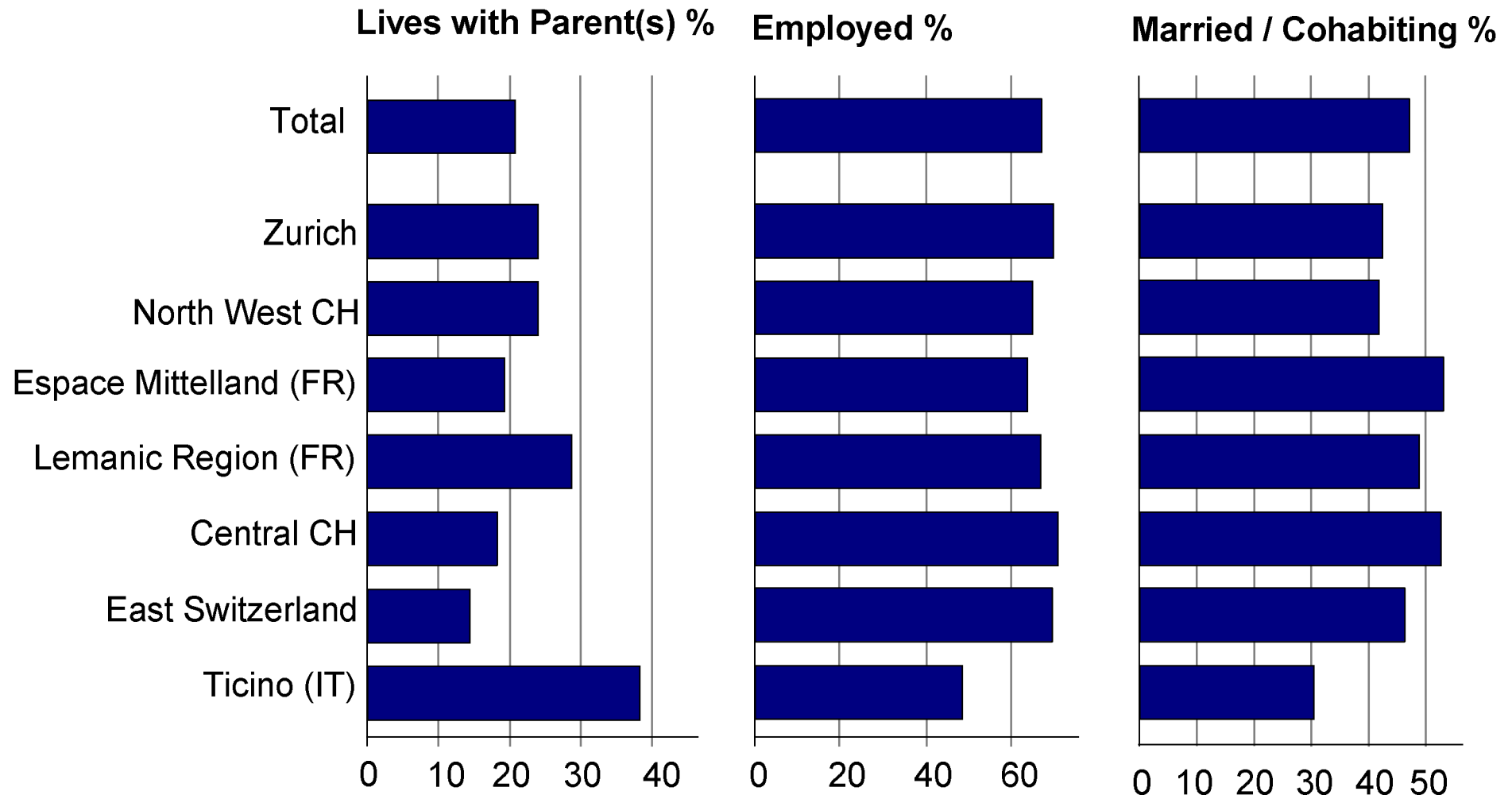
- Nested data structure
- n=4306 Dyads in n=2221 Individuals in n=24 Cantons
- Ordered Logit Multilevel Models with cantonal macro-indicators



Empirical Results

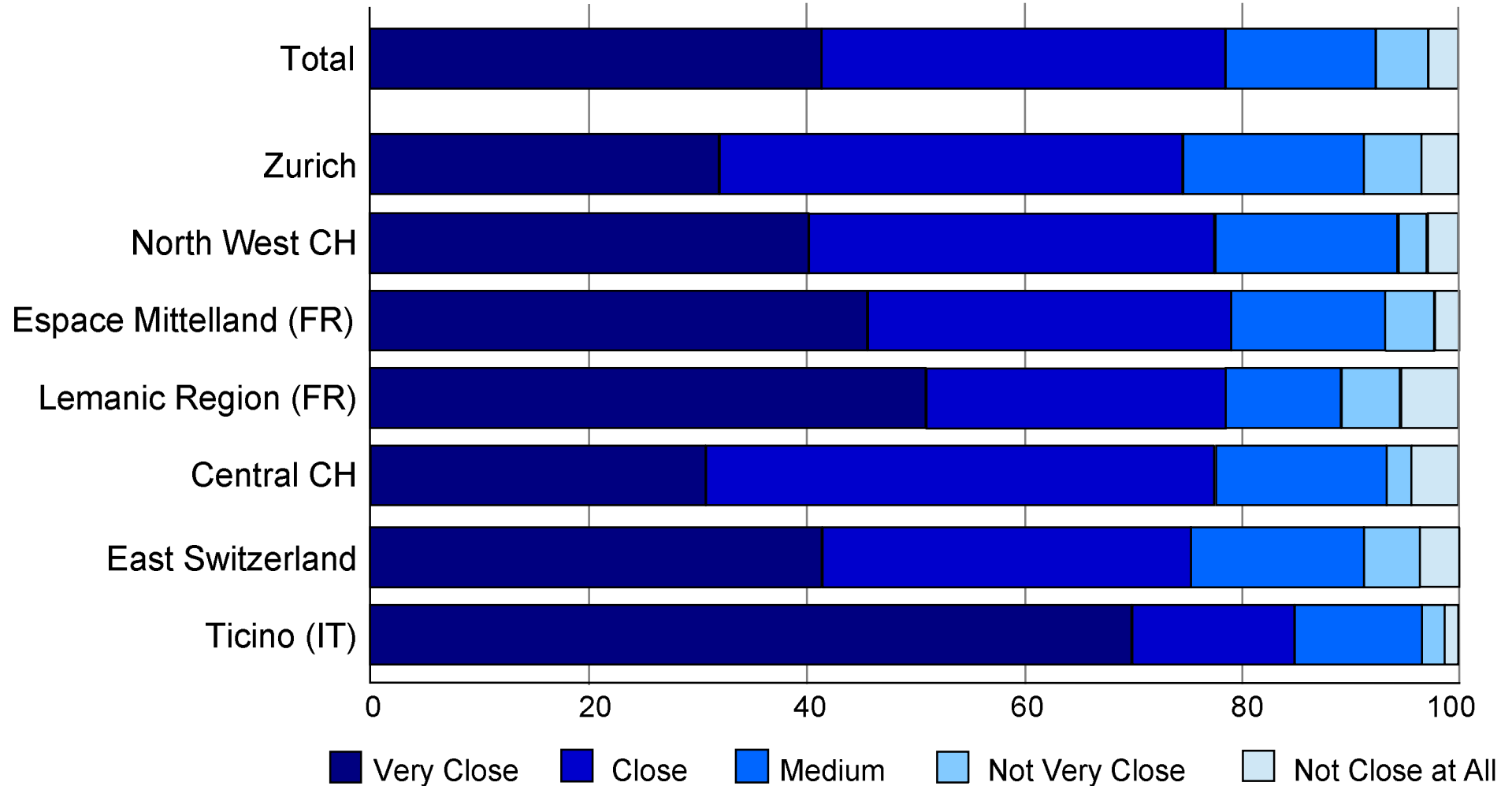


Regional Transition Patterns?





„How Close Do You Feel to Your Mother / Father Today?“



Source: TREE 2013, own calculations, weighted results. n=4306 child-parent dyads.



Which Factors Account for Differences?

	Null	Full	Social Expenditures	Youth Unemployment	Family Norm
Social Expenditures			0.07 **		
Youth Unemployment				0.20 **	
Family Norm					2.68 ***
Var(Ind)	5.54	6.12	6.65	6.53	6.53
Var(Canton)	0.12	0.24	0.15	0.16	0.13
Likelihood Ratio Test			**	**	***

Source: TREE 2013; EFV 2014; SECO 2000; EFG 2016. Own calculations, unweighted results. Multilevel Ordered Logit Models, unstandardised coefficients. Null: Empty model. Full: Model with only individual predictors. Separate models controlling for individual determinants each. ***p<0.01, **p<0.05, *p<0.1.



Conclusion

- Regional Differences in both Transition to Adulthood and Intergenerational Ties
- Italian-speaking part: More Exchange and more Interaction between generations
- Regional framework: Welfare State, Labour Market and Culture matter. But: theoretical foundation needs to be deepened



Thank you for your attention!