

*Labour Mobility and Transnationalism  
in the Nordic-Baltic Region*  
7 March 2014, Tallinn



# **Transnationalism in the Nordic-Baltic Region**

## **Hargmaisus Põhjala-Balti piirkonnas**

Tiit Tammaru

Professor of Population and Urban Geography

Centre for Migration and Urban Studies  
Department of Geography  
University of Tartu  
[www.cmus.ut.ee](http://www.cmus.ut.ee)

# The world connected: global population networks



<http://news.utoronto.ca/diaspora-nation-economic-potential-networks#!>

*Author:* Kamran Khan

# Diasporas and transnational ties: Challenges

- ❖ Global security threat
- ❖ The new order of social inequalities
- ❖ Family members left behind

# Diasporas and transnational ties: Opportunities

- ❖ Alleviating social problems in the sending country
- ❖ Betterment of ones life chances
- ❖ Increased tolerance towards diversity
- ❖ Innovation diffusion: knowledge and skill transfer
- ❖ **Opportunities can be better harnessed and challenges are easier to overcome within a regional context**

# Outline of the talk

- ❖ Transnationalism: The concept
- ❖ Transnational institutional arrangements in the EU and in the Nordic-Baltic region
- ❖ Migration, cross-border commuting and return migration in the Nordic-Baltic region
- ❖ Policy challenges: A sending country perspective

**Transnationalism: The concept  
(as related to spatial mobility of people)**

# Transnationalism

(Glick Schiller et al. 1992; 2006; Vertovec 2005; Faist 2006; King et al. 2013)

- ❖ Transnationalism is most often defined as the outcome of the process by which immigrants link together their country of origin and their country of destination
- ❖ To be transnational means to belong to two or more societies at the same time
- ❖ Transnationalism is also as much about the people who stay behind—e.g., family members of migrants left behind—as it is about those who move

# Three founding mechanisms for the transnational mobility to emerge

- ❖ Immigration: Change of residence to another country with strong social ties remaining to the sending country
- ❖ Temporary forms of migration
- ❖ Work related commuting: Change of workplace to another country without changing residence



# Three types of transnational networks

- ❖ People-based networks
- ❖ Organisation-based networks
- ❖ Issue/project-based networks

# **Transnational institutional arrangements in the EU and in the Nordic-Baltic region**

# Pan-European view

- ❖ Market integration has always been one of the key objectives of the European Union since the Treaty of Rome (1957)
- ❖ Labour mobility is an integral part of the discourse on market integration and global competitiveness in an aging Europe

# Pan-European initiatives

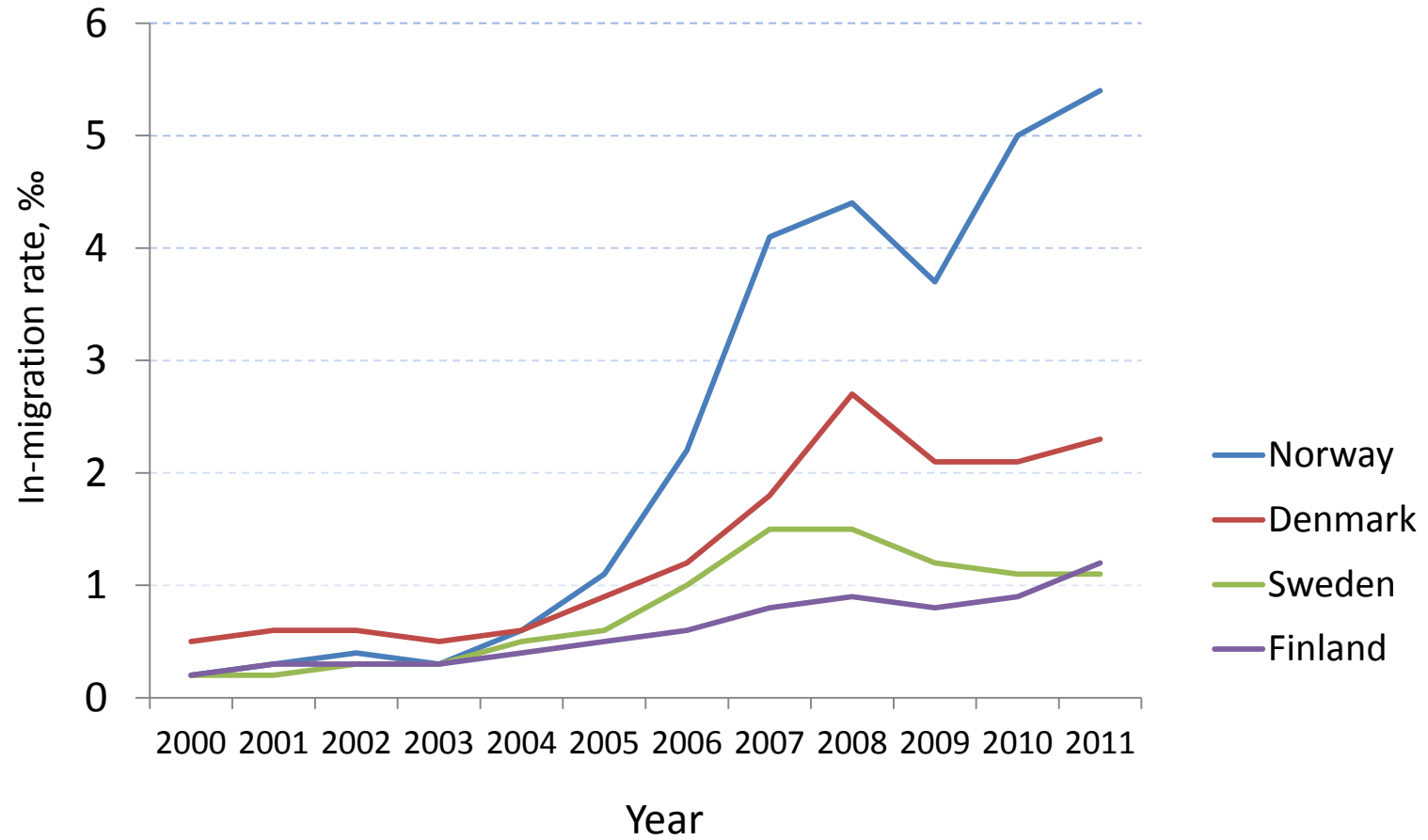
- ❖ The Europe 2020 Strategy calls for the promotion of labour mobility across Europe through various initiatives such as “Youth on the move”
  - ❖ Move to achieve degree, new job, training, own business
  - ❖ Every year the European Union supports more than 400,000 young people to work, train and study abroad
- ❖ European Employment Strategy (EES) aims to create more jobs throughout the EU
  - ❖ Annually, the Member States and the European institutions agree on “employment packages”
  - ❖ EURES – The European Job Mobility Portal

# Examples of Nordic-Baltic transnational labour initiatives

- ❖ The Baltic Sea Labour Forum — promotes continuous transnational cooperation between labour market actors in the region, such as “Balticlab”
- ❖ EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EU-SBSR) — includes horizontal actions such as “Spatial Planning” and “Neighbours”. The latter prioritizes
  - (1) Fostering labour market related activities in the cross-border context
  - (2) Promoting youth and student exchanges and co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region
- ❖ The Central Baltic programme 2014–2020 for Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Sweden, including a Southern Finland-Estonia sub-programme

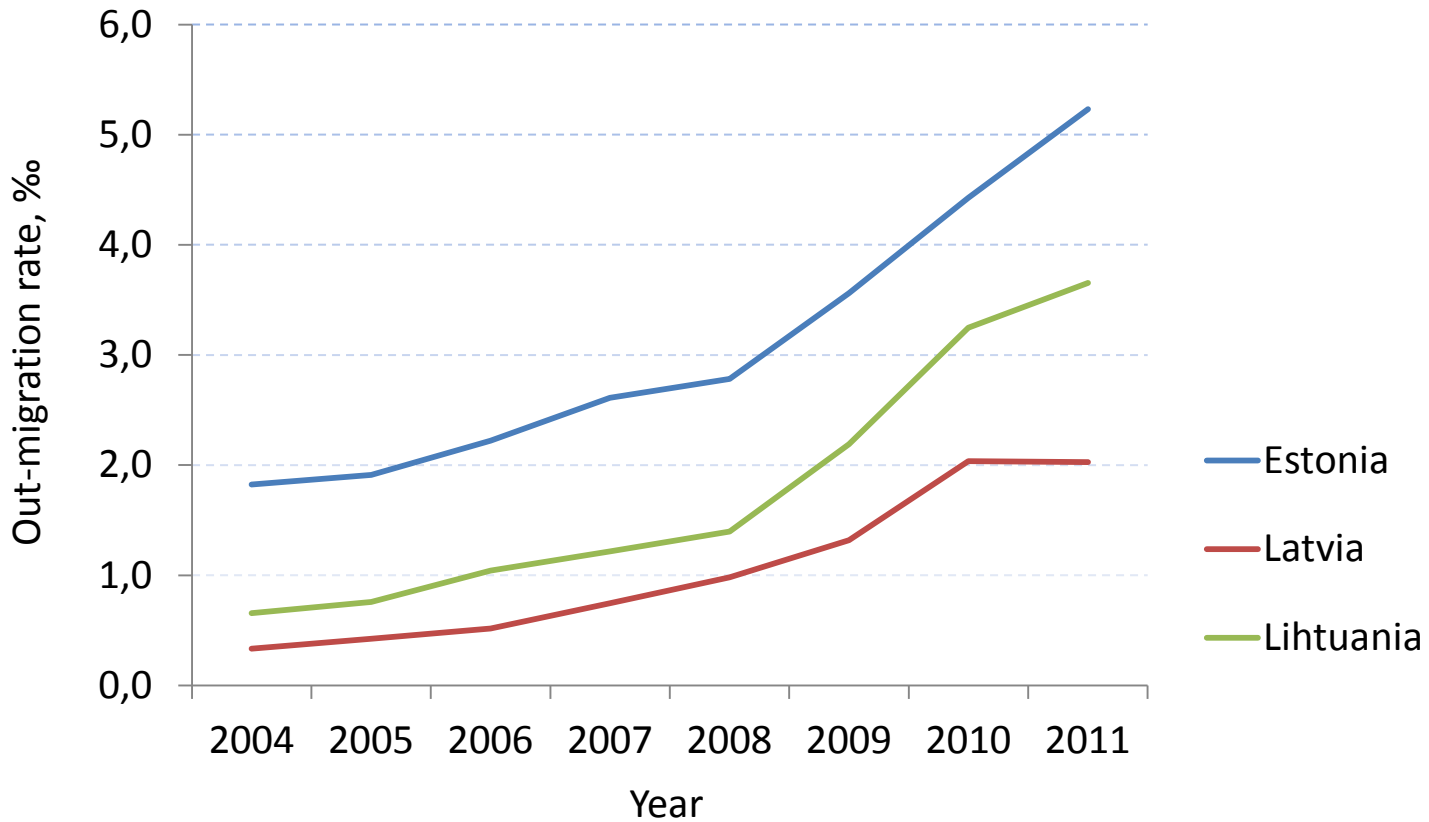
# **Migration, cross-border commuting and return migration in the Nordic-Baltic region**

# In-migration rate from Baltic to Nordic countries , ‰



Source: Friberg and Eldring 2013

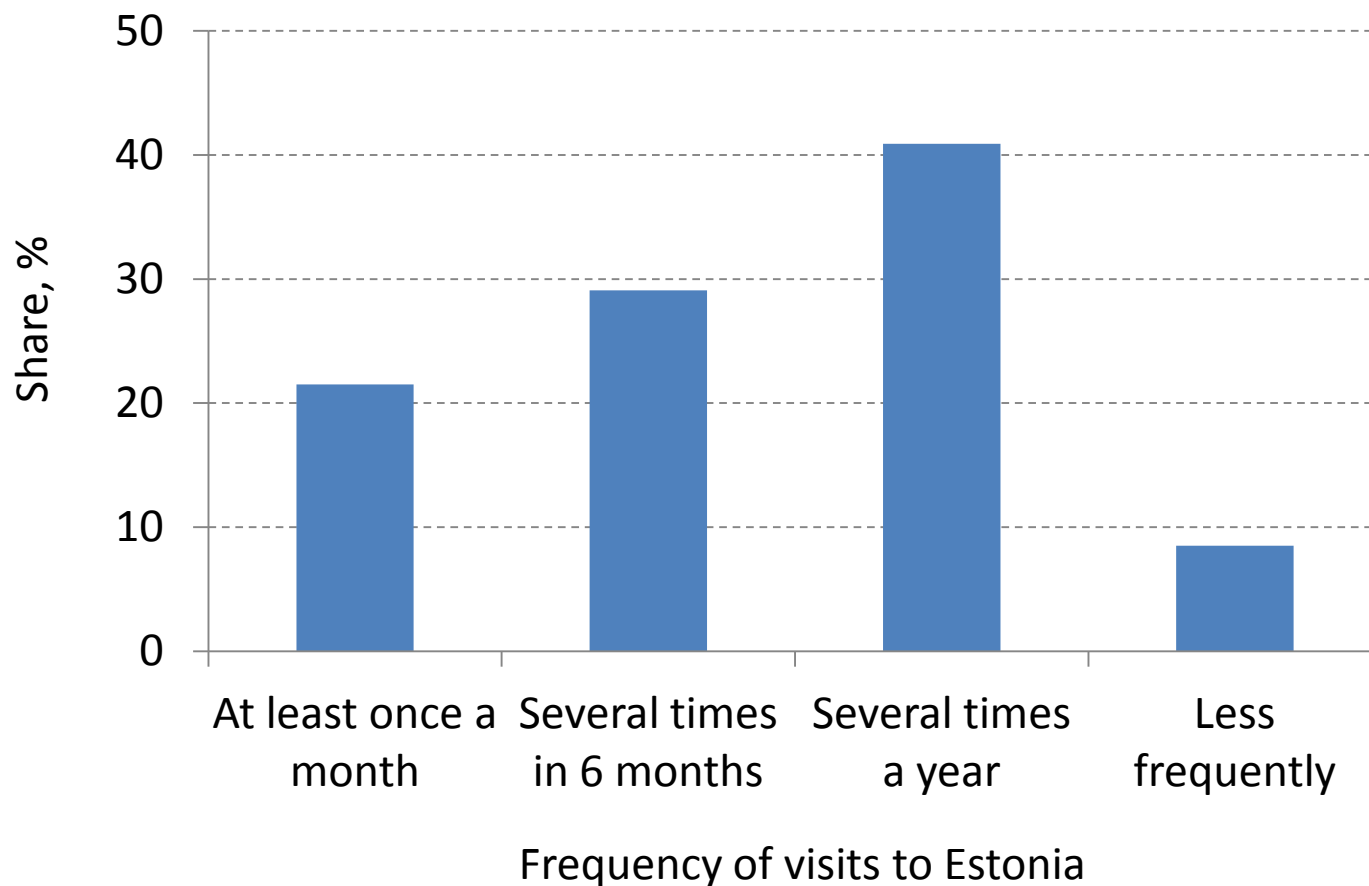
# Out-migration rate from Baltic to Nordic countries, ‰



Source: Friberg and Eldring 2013

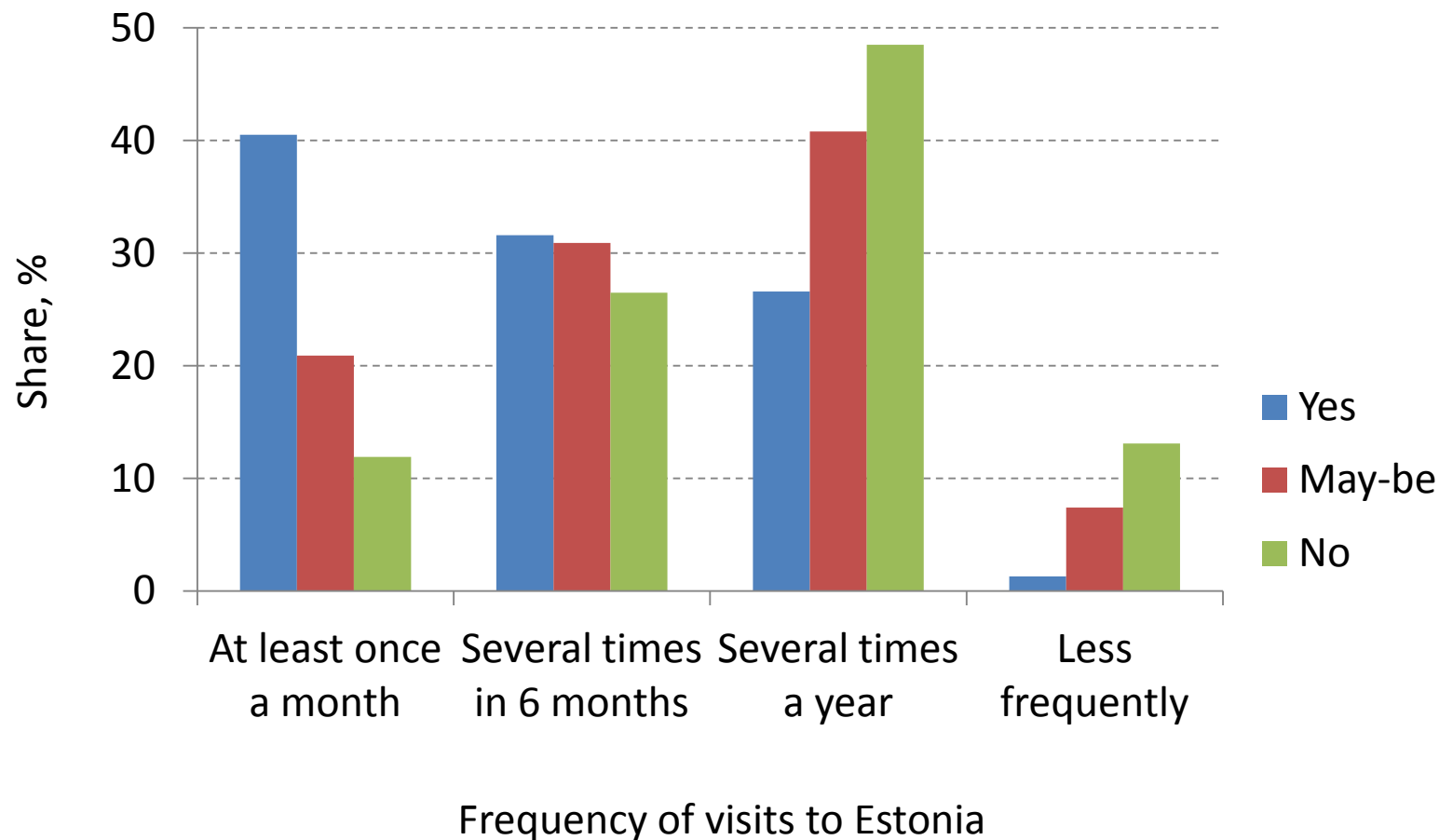


# Frequency of visits of Estonian migrants in Finland to Estonia, %



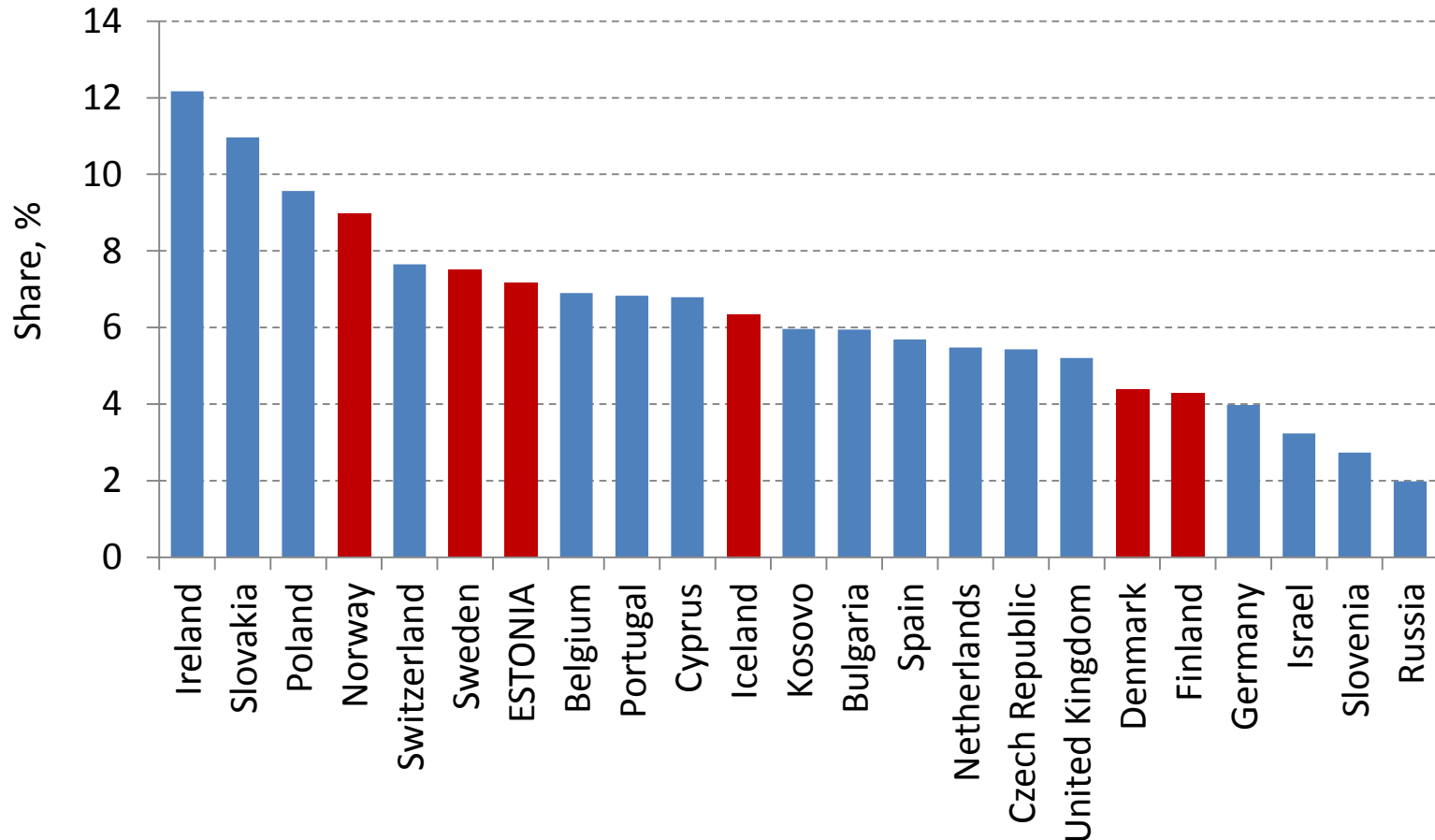
*Source: Survey among Estonian migrants in Finland*

# Frequency of visits to Estonia and intentions of return migration, %



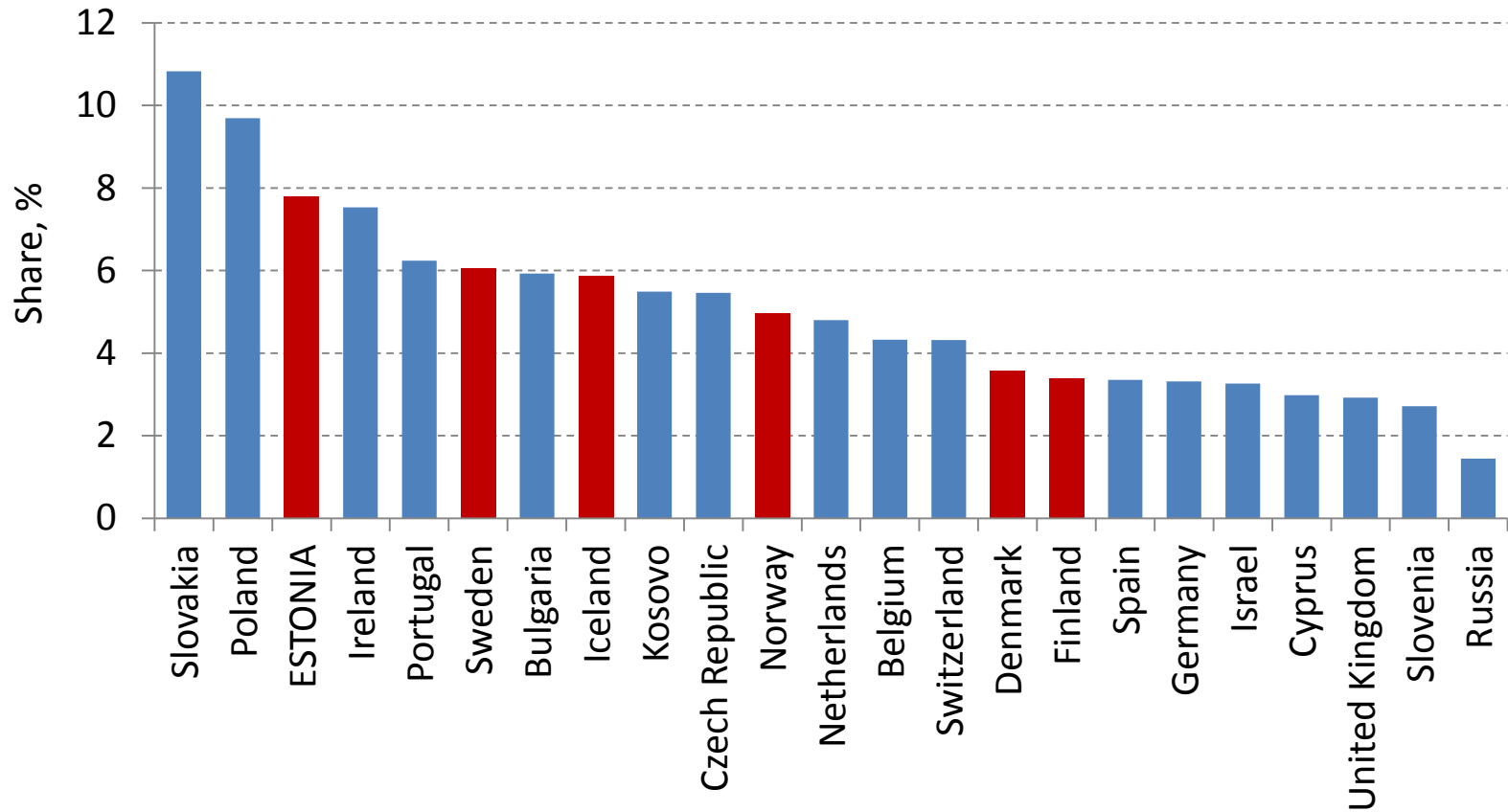
Source: Survey among Estonian migrants in Finland

# Share of workers with experience of working abroad (%), all workers



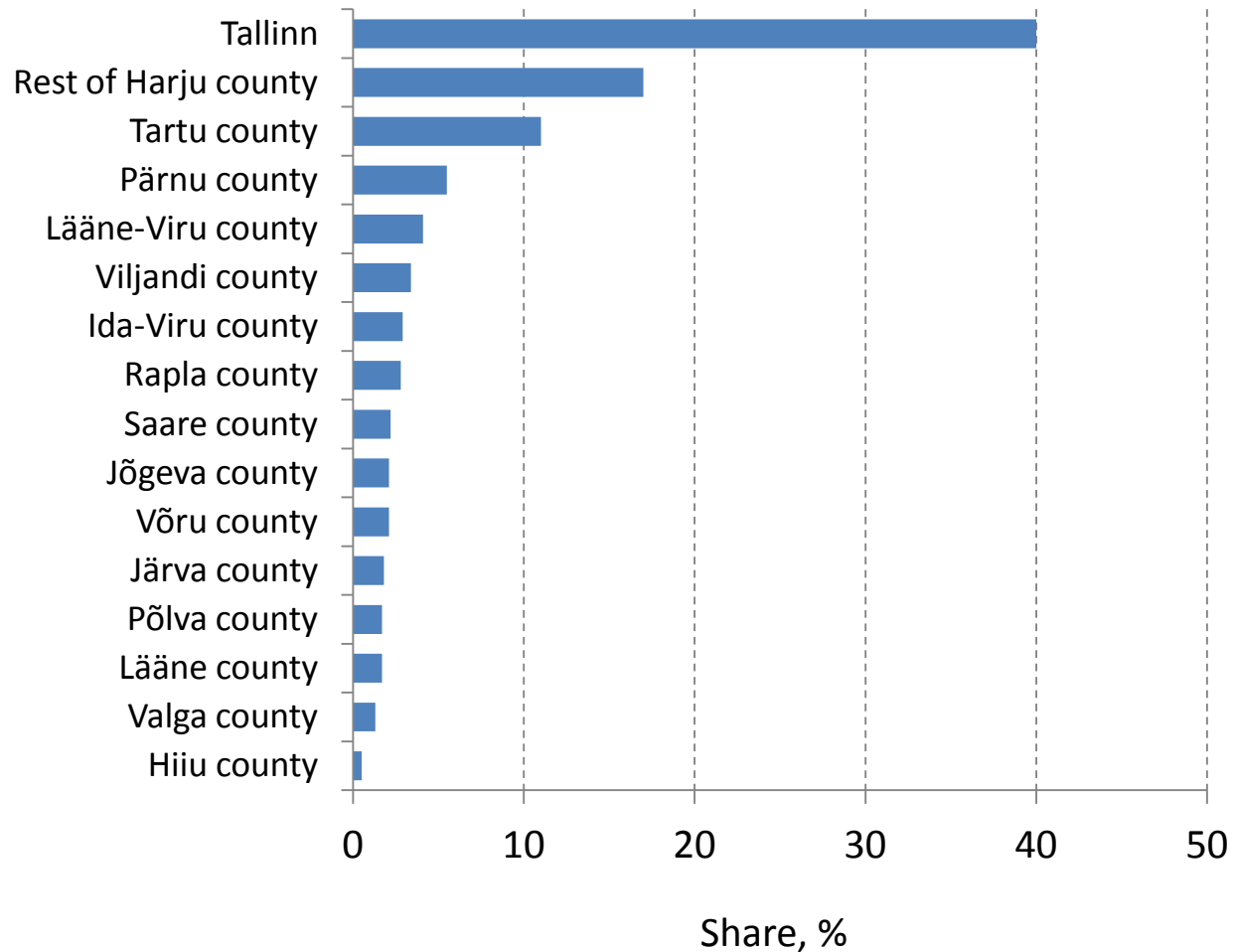
Source: European Social Survey 2012

# Share of workers with experience of working abroad (%), native born workers



Source: European Social Survey 2012

# Share of people visiting Finland (%), 2011



Source: Silm et al. 2012

# **Policy options: A sending country perspective**

# Examples of diaspora policies with an eye on return migration (Gamlen 2006)

- ❖ Symbolic policies
- ❖ Language and education abroad
- ❖ Citizenship
- ❖ Knowledge transfer policies
- ❖ Remittances and investments

**Wrapping up**



# Conclusions

- ❖ The pan-European view: transnational mobility is one of the key factors that makes European labour markets more dynamic and competitive
- ❖ Regional Nordic-Baltic transnational policies aim to confine transnational mobility within the region
- ❖ A range of policy options could be found for sending countries to maintain ties with diaspora communities

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**Thank you!**

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