Support for radical populism grew in many countries, having an impact on individuals' political choices and on political decision making. The literature points out to two dimensions as basic ingredients of populism: anti-establishment attitudes and out-group exclusionism. The first dimension refers to the preference for technocrats, rejection of corrupt political elites and support for direct democracy, while the second opposes the in-group to the out-group, the opposition “us” against “them” being built on various boundaries (e.g. ethnic, religious, attitudes toward corruption). Existing research shows that anti-establishment attitudes prevail in South America, whereas in Western Europe and North America the populist discourse is built around anti-immigration attitudes. In post-communist countries exclusionism is the main ingredient of populism and in Romania the main inter-group boundary is drawn by religion.

Using data from European Values Study (2018) and World Values Survey (2013), we built a measurement model of populism in Romania. We checked the measurement equivalence of the model in both 2013 and 2018, using structural equation models. Our preliminary results indicate that the measurement equivalence over time is only partially met, the loadings of anti-immigrant and anti-establishment attitudes growing under the impact of political and social changes. At the same time, the loading of religious exclusionism and intolerance towards out-group remain high and stable over time. Results are further discussed in comparison with other post-communist societies, depending on the data availability in the second pre-release of EVS 2017.