

**Perceived Government Capacity to Manage Migration: A New Concept and The Role of
News Media Consumption in the Czech Republic**

Anna Kohoutová

597163

Master Thesis

Public Governance, Management and Policy

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Dr. Vincent Homburg & Dr. Rebecca Moody

June 29th, 2025

Word Count: 11034

Preface

This thesis is the final piece to finishing my Master's degree in Public Administration at Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands. It represents my academic and personal journey over the past academic year. Conducting this research, although challenging and sometimes frustrating, has been overwhelmingly rewarding and uplifting. I am proud that I brought this paper to the finish line and developed a completely new measurement tool and conceptualization of perceived government capacity to manage migration. This process, along with my supervisor, has taught me to think more critically, be creative, and not fear bringing up a new concept. With that, I would like to express my gratitude to my professor and supervisor, Dr. Vincent Homburg, for their valuable guidance, honest and helpful feedback, and encouragement throughout the whole process. Additionally, I would like to thank Isa Schuit for helpful feedback and valuable friendship throughout the process. I would also like to thank everyone who participated in my survey and made this thesis possible. Finally, I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the public administration literature and the academic discussion on media, migration, and legitimacy, and for being able to do so at an institution such as Erasmus University.

Anna Kohoutova

June, 2025

Abstract

After the 2015 migration crisis and the 2022 immigration of Ukrainian refugees, the response from the public in the Czech Republic shifted from whether to host migrants to whether the government is capable of handling the wave of immigrants while serving its citizens. However, not all citizens have direct experience with the government's actions regarding migration, and many only receive information about the issues from the media. Therefore, this thesis, conducted in May and June 2025, examined how various types of media consumption influence Czech citizens' perceptions of their government's capacity to manage migration. Specifically, how the frequency of news consumption on public, commercial, and social media influenced said perceptions. Moreover, one of the key aspects of this study was the conceptual and empirical innovation of the concept of perceived government capacity to manage migration.

Drawing on Agenda-setting and Framing theory, this study conceptualized media consumption as a multidimensional factor, differentiating between public, commercial, and social media. It was hypothesized that public media consumption, due to its commitment to objective and truthful reporting, would be positively associated with perceived government capacity. In contrast, profit-driven commercial media and unfiltered social media, both prone to sensationalism and echo chambers, were expected to be negatively associated with perceived government capacity. Furthermore, the study tested the moderating role of cosmopolitanism, broadly defined as openness to other cultures. It was hypothesized that cosmopolitanism would strengthen the positive relationship between public media consumption and perceived government capacity and weaken the negative relationship between commercial and social media consumption and perceived government capacity. These hypotheses were formed based on the assumption that individuals with different levels of cosmopolitanism may interpret migration-related information differently.

A quantitative cross-sectional survey was conducted among Czech citizens residing in either Prague or the Central Bohemian Region, which is located around Prague. Through snowball and convenience sampling strategies, 314 responses were collected. The data was then analyzed through the statistical tool SPSS 30, and correlation and multiple linear regression tests were performed. The results showed a positive and significant relationship between public media consumption and perceived government capacity. However, there were no significant results supporting a negative relationship between commercial media consumption and perceived government capacity, nor social media consumption and perceived government capacity. Regarding the moderator cosmopolitanism, only one test was performed, as only the model with public media consumption was significant. However, the effects of cosmopolitanism as a moderator were also insignificant. The variable cosmopolitanism, by itself, had a positive and significant relationship with perceived government capacity. The results underscore the importance of public media and their obligation to provide truthful and objectively framed information. Overall, this research contributes to the public administration literature on media effects and migration governance by introducing a new conceptualization and measurement of perceived government capacity.

Keywords: media consumption, perceived government capacity, migration, cosmopolitanism

Table of Contents

Preface.....	2
Abstract.....	3
List of Tables.....	7
List of Figures	8
Introduction.....	9
A by B	11
Societal Relevance	11
Scientific Relevance.....	12
Reading Guide	12
Theoretical Framework and Literature Review	13
Media Consumption.....	13
Perceived Government Capacity to Manage Migration.....	16
Cosmopolitanism	18
The Role of Demographics	18
Conceptualization and Hypotheses	19
Research Design.....	22
Data Collection	22
Operationalization.....	23
Media Consumption.....	23
Perceived Government Capacity to Manage Migration.....	25
Cosmopolitanism	25
Control Variables – Demographics	26
Ethical Considerations	26
Data Analysis	27
Findings and Analysis	29
Data Preparation.....	29

Descriptive Statistics.....	30
Correlation Analysis.....	33
Regression analysis.....	36
Model 1 – Control Variables	37
Model 2 – Public Media Consumption	38
Model 3 – Public Media Consumption and Cosmopolitanism	38
Model 4 – Commercial Media Consumption.....	41
Model 5 – Social Media Consumption	41
Conclusion and Discussion.....	43
Contributions to Existing Literature	45
Policy Recommendations.....	46
Limitations	47
Research Recommendations	49
Final Review - Conceptual Reflection.....	50
References.....	51
Appendix A Questionnaire – Czech (original) Version.....	58
Appendix B Questionnaire – English Version	62
Appendix C Distributions of Variables	67
Appendix D Model 1 – Assumption Check Figures	72
Appendix E Model 2 – Assumption Check Figures.....	74
Appendix F Model 3 – Assumption Check Figures.....	76
Appendix G Model 4 – Assumption Check Figures	78
Appendix H Model 5 – Assumption Check Figures	80
Appendix I VIF per Variable per Model	82

List of Tables

Table 1 <i>Reliability analysis</i>	28
Table 2 <i>Frequencies of Control Variables</i>	31
Table 3 <i>Descriptive Statistics of Age and the Independent and Dependent Variables</i>	33
Table 4 <i>Pearson's Correlations – coefficients</i>	35
Table 5 <i>Regression Analysis Results of All Five Models (dependent variable – standardized perceived government capacity)</i>	39
Table 6 <i>VIF Coefficients of Variables per Model</i>	82

List of Figures

Figure 1 <i>Conceptual Model</i>	21
Figure 2 <i>Distribution of Age</i>	67
Figure 3 <i>Distribution of Age (ln)</i>	67
Figure 4 <i>Distribution of Perceived Government Capacity</i>	68
Figure 5 <i>Distribution of Public Media Consumption</i>	68
Figure 6 <i>Distribution of Commercial Media Consumption</i>	69
Figure 7 <i>Distribution of Commercial Media Consumption (ln)</i>	69
Figure 8 <i>Distribution of Social Media Consumption</i>	70
Figure 9 <i>Distribution of Social Media Consumption (ln)</i>	70
Figure 10 <i>Distribution of Cosmopolitanism</i>	71
Figure 11 <i>Distribution of Cosmopolitanism (ln)</i>	71
Figure 12 <i>Model 1 - Histogram</i>	72
Figure 13 <i>Model 1 – P-P Plot</i>	72
Figure 14 <i>Model 1 - Scatterplot</i>	73
Figure 15 <i>Model 2 - Histogram</i>	74
Figure 16 <i>Model 2 – P-P Plot</i>	74
Figure 17 <i>Model 2 - Scatterplot</i>	75
Figure 18 <i>Model 3 - Histogram</i>	76
Figure 19 <i>Model 3 – P-P Plot</i>	76
Figure 20 <i>Model 3 - Scatterplot</i>	77
Figure 21 <i>Model 4 - Histogram</i>	78
Figure 22 <i>Model 4 – P-P Plot</i>	78
Figure 23 <i>Model 4 - Scatterplot</i>	79
Figure 24 <i>Model 5 - Histogram</i>	80
Figure 25 <i>Model 5 – P-P Plot</i>	80
Figure 26 <i>Model 5 - Scatterplot</i>	81

Introduction

Migration has historically shaped Europe, but the 2015 “migration crisis” marked a critical shift in how European governments were expected to respond to and manage large-scale migration flows (Wagner, 2015). The influx of 1.3 million asylum seekers, the most significant post-1945 migration emergency, led to very heated debates and division between the East and West parts of Europe in terms of policy responses, government responsibilities, and public perceptions (Connor, 2016; Traynor, 2015; Wagner, 2015). While some Western European countries, including Germany, France, the United Kingdom, and Sweden, had the highest acceptance of asylum applications in the European Union, the Eastern countries were very against accepting refugees (Eurostat, 2025; Traynor, 2015). In the Czech case, political leaders explicitly rejected multiculturalism and emphasized the need for strict national control over immigration.

Public scrutiny of the government’s capacity to manage migration intensified again in 2022, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which displaced over four million Ukrainians. In contrast to its 2015 stance, the Czech Republic responded rapidly and comprehensively, granting over 400,000 Ukrainian refugees temporary protection with access to employment, healthcare, education, and housing (European Council, 2024; Statista, 2025b; Úřad práce ČR, 2025). This shift in governmental action was met with a different public attention, not on whether the country should host migrants, but on whether the government could effectively administer support, coordinate services, and maintain societal stability during a crisis.

While most studies examine political trust or governments’ capacities through objective and/or country-wide statistics, there is a minimal focus on citizens' evaluations of the government's capacity, especially in specific policy areas, such as migration. To address this gap, this paper introduces the concept of perceived government capacity to manage

migration. This novel concept is described as citizens' beliefs about how well the government can plan, coordinate, and execute migration-related policies, including border control, integration, and crisis response. This perception is essential in terms of legitimacy, as citizens are more likely to accept policies they believe their government can implement effectively (Citrin & Stoker, 2018; Dann, 2022). Low perceived capacity, by contrast, can undermine democratic legitimacy and fuel political disengagement (OECD, n.d.). Nevertheless, research on how to measure this perception is severely limited. Thus, one of the key aspects of this research is innovation, with the goal of developing and testing new measures of this concept.

Furthermore, most citizens do not form opinions on the government's ability to manage migration through their personal experiences, as they often do not come in contact with the policy effects. One of the most powerful factors influencing the public's perceptions and trust in government is media consumption (De Coninck et al., 2023; Strömbäck et al., 2015). Moreover, migration continues to be a politically sensitive issue often debated in the media, and perceptions of how well the state handles these challenges may significantly shape public attitudes toward government institutions and policies (Dodevska, 2021; Zachová & Mandilara, 2024). However, it is unclear if and how the media impacts citizens' perceptions of the government. Therefore, this research paper aims to answer the following research question: *How does media consumption affect perceived government capacity to manage migration in the Czech Republic?* Specifically, this study draws on Agenda-setting theory (McCombs & Shaw, 1972) and Framing theory (Entman, 1993) to conceptualize media consumption as a multidimensional factor.

Furthermore, this study examines whether the relationship between media consumption and perceived government capacity is moderated by cosmopolitanism. Cosmopolitanism is broadly defined as an openness to other cultures, global awareness, and a willingness to learn and engage with other groups (Saran & Kalliny, 2012). In this paper, it is

expected that individuals with high cosmopolitanism may evaluate government migration efforts through a different lens than those with more nationally bounded worldviews.

A by B

Overall, the objective of this study is to examine the effects of media consumption on citizens' perceptions of the Czech government's capacity to manage migration by confronting hypotheses grounded in Agenda-setting and Framing theories. This study contributes to the literature on media effects, migration governance, and performance legitimacy, while addressing a methodological gap concerning how perceived government capacity is conceptualized and assessed in public opinion research. Moreover, this study specifically distinguishes and analyzes media consumption as the frequency of news consumption on public, commercial, and social media channels. A quantitative survey was conducted among a sample of Czech citizens to test the hypothesized relationships. The resulting data was analyzed using correlation tests and multiple regression models.

Societal Relevance

Understanding how citizens perceive the government's capacity to manage migration is crucial for maintaining democratic legitimacy, especially in times of crisis and political polarization. Migration remains a politically sensitive topic in the Czech Republic; therefore, the public's perceptions and confidence in the government's ability to effectively plan and implement migration policies may influence social cohesion and possibly broader trust in public institutions. Understanding the various factors that may influence public trust is crucial, as trust in government is one of the key pillars of democracy (OECD, n.d.). Moreover, as media consumption plays an important role in shaping public opinion (Strömbäck et al., 2015), this study provides necessary insights into how different types of

media may influence citizens' evaluations of the government's performance. The findings of this study can be highly relevant for policymakers in terms of communication with the public, as the findings can help understand how different media types influence the perceptions of the government.

Scientific Relevance

This paper contributes to the public administration literature by innovating and testing a new concept, perceived government capacity, specifically to manage migration. Most importantly, the research offers a new methodological possibility for measuring this new concept. Moreover, the research adds to the existing research on the effects of media on public attitudes and perceptions by analyzing how different types of media consumption affect citizens' perceptions. Lastly, the study tests the moderating effects of cosmopolitanism, offering insights on how individuals' cultural openness affects the relationship between media consumption and perception of the government's capacity.

Reading Guide

This research paper is divided into five parts. Following the introduction is the theoretical framework with a literature review that summarizes relevant theories and academic articles that serve as a basis for this study. Afterward, the research design is described, including operationalization, ethical considerations, and data collection. After the research design, the results of the surveys are presented and analyzed. Based on the processes of the study and the results, the conclusion and discussion are formulated. Lastly, the conclusion section also includes policy recommendations and recommendations for future research, based on the study's results and limitations.

Theoretical Framework and Literature Review

This section provides a theoretical foundation and literature review to explain the connection between media consumption and perceived government capacity to manage migration. Firstly, the effects of media consumption are explained through the Agenda-setting and Framing theories (Entman, 1993; McCombs & Shaw, 1972). Then, the concept of perceived government capacity is discussed. Moreover, information on cosmopolitanism is presented as a basis for using cosmopolitanism as a moderator in the study. Additionally, existing research on the demographic factors age, gender, and education is showcased. This section ends with the presentation of the hypotheses and the conceptual model, which are then tested in the analysis.

Media Consumption

The media have always served as a central source of information for citizens, especially to learn about political events. However, now more than ever, the amount of information and the goals with which they are shared have become more fragmented, fast-paced, and often driven by ideological or commercial incentives (Abdelzaher et al., 2020). How issues are communicated nowadays is just as important as what is being communicated. This highlights the importance of the key concepts of this study: media framing and agenda setting. Media framing refers to how information is presented and changed to influence how individuals perceive that specific information (Entman, 1993). Media framing is based on the Framing theory, which specifically suggests that the way something is framed to an audience influences how they view what is presented to them (Arowolo, 2017). Moreover, the basis of this theory is that media, most often news, create frames that enhance or change how the news is understood and can change people's opinions on certain issues (Arowolo, 2017).

A key concept to understanding this process is the frame. Frames are conceptual tools used to organize, categorize, and assign meaning to complex social and political phenomena (Armoudian, 2016, p. 170). They reduce the disorganized mass of information into a simpler form and convey specific ideas, values, or selectively include or exclude facts. Therefore, while necessary for communication, they are inherently biased (Armoudian, 2016, p. 171). According to Armoudian (2016), actors use frames to influence and convince their target audiences by enhancing certain opinions or attitudes. Furthermore, frames influence political outcomes by activating psychological and emotional responses (Armoudian, 2016, p.176). For example, blame frames are used to frame a specific group as accountable for certain societal problems in order to provoke anger and influence political behavior. Overall, framing is a central process by which media can shape public perception, emotion, and behavior.

While framing is more about influencing how people should think, agenda-setting is about what people should think about. The Agenda-setting theory, developed by McCombs and Shaw (1972), suggests that by emphasizing and repeating certain topics, the media increase how individuals view the problem in terms of importance and seriousness. In detail, individuals receive and process certain information and then create a trace in memory, which later influences how future information is processed (Scheufele, 2000). Therefore, the more a topic is highlighted in the media, the more important and relevant people deem it.

Moreover, in this study, media consumption is defined as the frequency of news consumption, with a specific focus on the difference in consumption on public, commercial, and social media channels. These three types of media not only differ in ownership and funding, but also in their standards, rules, framing strategies, and the type of information they prioritize. Public (service) media, such as Česká Televize (Czech Television) in the Czech Republic, are publicly funded and operate under obligations to provide objective, factual, and balanced information (European Broadcasting Union, 2024). Public media are expected to

share information “free from political interference and pressure from commercial forces” (Public Media Alliance, 2024), meaning information should be free of sensationalism and deceiving framing and should aim to provide as factual information as possible. Specifically, Česká Televize has its own codex, standards, statute, council, and ethical panel to ensure the legal and societal obligations of being a public media for the public are met (Česká televize, n.d.). The codex, for example, states that Česká Televize provides impartial and independent news, creates a pluralistic program, reflects diversity, and contributes to better knowledge. Overall, because of their relatively high credibility and commitment to informational accuracy, public media, especially news, are likely to foster more nuanced understandings of government activity and situations in the country.

On the other hand, commercially owned media operate under profit-driven models; therefore, they are in need of interesting framing, sensationalism, and click-worthy headlines to attract readers and create more profit. According to Esser and Strömbäck (2014), commercial pressures incentivize media outlets to produce content that is cost-effective and that is attractive to the largest possible audience. Therefore, it is logical to assume that commercial media channels frame the information in a way that makes it the most interesting and appealing to read, while not always presenting the actual or objective truth. TV Prima, one of the most popular TV channels in the Czech Republic, was judged for such practices during the “migration crisis” in 2016, when it was apparently framing migration and refugees in a negative light (Kostlán, 2016). This is striking, as the Framing theory suggests that media can influence the way that people think and process certain topics, influencing their opinions and attitudes.

Lastly, social media and news shared on them raise a similar concern. Social media platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok, present a different type of media environment compared to the public and commercial media previously mentioned. Rather

than curated and edited content, the information shared on social media is primarily non-filtered, and its spread is mainly influenced by the algorithm (Abdelzaher et al., 2020). Moreover, users are frequently exposed to content that aligns with their existing beliefs, preferences, or biases, leading to the creation of echo chambers (Suciu, 2025). While consuming news on social media is nowadays very popular (Watson, 2023), the issue of fake news and non-factual framing rises, being the least trusted news source worldwide (Dixon, 2024). Further, it may possibly affect the attitudes and opinions of the consumers.

Perceived Government Capacity to Manage Migration

This study introduces the concept of perceived government capacity to manage migration, a new concept defined as citizens' subjective evaluation of how their government can perform and how well it can address and respond to migration-related issues. While literature exists on similar concepts, such as political trust, government capacity, or institutional legitimacy, there is very limited research on the perception of government capacity.

In existing literature, government capacity is viewed as an objective feature of state institutions. Painter and Pierre (2005) divide the concept of government capacity into three types: policy capacity, administrative capacity, and state capacity. Policy capacity is the ability of a government to strategically allocate resources and make informed decisions to achieve public goals (Painter & Pierre, 2005, p. 2). Administrative capacity focuses on efficiently managing human and physical resources to deliver government services. And lastly, state capacity is a measure of a state's ability to secure social and economic support for public objectives (Painter & Pierre, 2005, p. 2). However, these three concepts focus on the actual government capacity and conceptualize it from within by looking at what the government does and how it functions. While these are valuable, they do not account for how

ordinary citizens perceive and assess these capabilities. This study diverges from the government capacity by focusing on how citizens perceive the capacity from the outside, filling an important theoretical and empirical gap.

While this study does not adopt an institutional measurement of government capacity, it draws conceptual inspiration from Painter and Pierre's (2005) typology, described in the previous paragraph. The three types of capacities, policy, administrative, and state, are reinterpreted to focus on a singular policy domain: migration. Rather than focusing on broad institutional performance, it specifically focuses on how citizens perceive the government's ability to plan (for future migration crises), implement (border protection, integration), and legitimize (be fair and transparent) migration policies. The concept of perceived government capacity is distinct but related to concepts such as political trust. However, unlike political trust, which is usually a broad assessment of institutions or politicians (Marien & Hooghe, 2010), perceived government capacity is a focused assessment of competence in a specific policy area.

Perceived government capacity is particularly important in the context of migration, which represents a wicked problem, as it is highly complex and politicized, without a clear and ultimate solution, and accompanied by conflicting values (Rittel & Webber, 1973). In such policy areas, citizens may not have direct engagement with policy implementation or detailed information about what is being done, but their perceptions are shaped by the media and how they frame the information. However, perceptions of government effectiveness, administrative competence, and procedural justice are crucial for a government to attain legitimacy and encourage voluntary compliance from citizens (Levi & Sacks, 2009). Therefore, the framing of media is crucial for the government in order to keep its legitimacy.

Cosmopolitanism

Cosmopolitanism is primarily defined as an inclination for people to learn about groups other than their own, and it refers to a “world citizen”, a consumer whose orientations transcend any particular culture or setting (Saran & Kalliny, 2013). Moreover, cosmopolitanism is closely related to multicultural values, cultural exchange, and inclusive policies (Lee, 2025). According to Saran and Kaliliny (2013), cosmopolitan people are open to other people’s cultures and believe that learning about them and being in their presence can be beneficial and bring knowledge. Additionally, previous research found that individuals with more cosmopolitan orientations were more tolerant of refugees (Ozdamar et al., 2024), while another study found that cosmopolitanism has a strong positive association with immigration attitudes (Seitova & Kovacs, 2025). The core idea of incorporating cosmopolitanism into this study is that individuals may interpret media messages differently depending on their level of cosmopolitanism. Specifically, that personal values, such as those described by cosmopolitanism, and one’s worldview may affect how they interpret migration-related information. For example, exposure to negative narratives may be less impactful and opinion-altering for more cosmopolitan individuals. In contrast, individuals with low cosmopolitanism may be more susceptible to threat-based and sensationalist framing.

The Role of Demographics

Demographic factors are another relevant part of this study, as they can significantly influence media consumption patterns, migration attitudes, and possibly the perception of government capacity. Four factors are presented and later used in this study as control variables: age, education, gender, and employment, which are also commonly used control factors in research. Firstly, age shapes media consumption, with younger individuals consuming news more through digital and social media, while older individuals rely more on

traditional media, such as television (Pew Research Center, 2024). Moreover, research found that restrictive attitudes towards migration increase with age (Schahbasi et al., 2020).

Regarding education, research shows that educational level affects media consumption, with those with lower education being more likely to consume social media and streaming services, and engage less in news consumption or information searching (Ucar et al., 2021), possibly making them more vulnerable to sensationalism and media frames. Moreover, research shows that higher education is consistently associated with less restrictive migration views, as well as higher trust in government (Christensen & Lægreid, 2014; Hainmueller & Hopkins, 2014).

When it comes to gender, research shows that there is not much difference in media consumption (Pew Research Center, 2024). However, research also shows a lack of consensus regarding gender and concerns about immigration (Kobayashi & Tanaka, 2024), which may be context-dependent; therefore, it is essential to control for gender in this analysis, as it may be relevant in the case of the Czech Republic. Lastly, while there is limited information on the effects of employment on media consumption and attitudes towards migration, some research shows that unemployment is associated with more anti-immigrant attitudes and with lower levels of political trust (Dražanová et al., 2023; Giustozzi & Gangl, 2021).

Conceptualization and Hypotheses

Based on the theories and existing research, the hypotheses of this paper are formulated, and the conceptual model is presented as a visualization of hypothesized relationships. Three hypotheses are formulated based on the Framing and Agenda-setting theories. Hypothesis 1 predicts that higher consumption of news on public media channels (further talked about as public media consumption) is associated with higher perceived

government capacity to manage migration, due to the expectation that it provides truthful and more objective news. In contrast, Hypotheses 2 and 3 predict that higher consumption of news on commercial and social media channels (further talked about as commercial media consumption and social media consumption) is associated with more negative perceptions, due to sensationalism, negative framing, and no legal obligations to provide objective truth. Hypotheses 4 to 6 predict relevant moderating effects of cosmopolitanism on the previously hypothesized relationships. With higher cosmopolitanism strengthening the relationship in Hypothesis 1, and weakening the relationships in Hypotheses 2 and 3, due to cosmopolitanism influencing openness to other cultures and interpretations of information.

Hypotheses:

H1: *Higher frequency of news consumption on public media channels is associated with higher perceived government capacity to manage migration.*

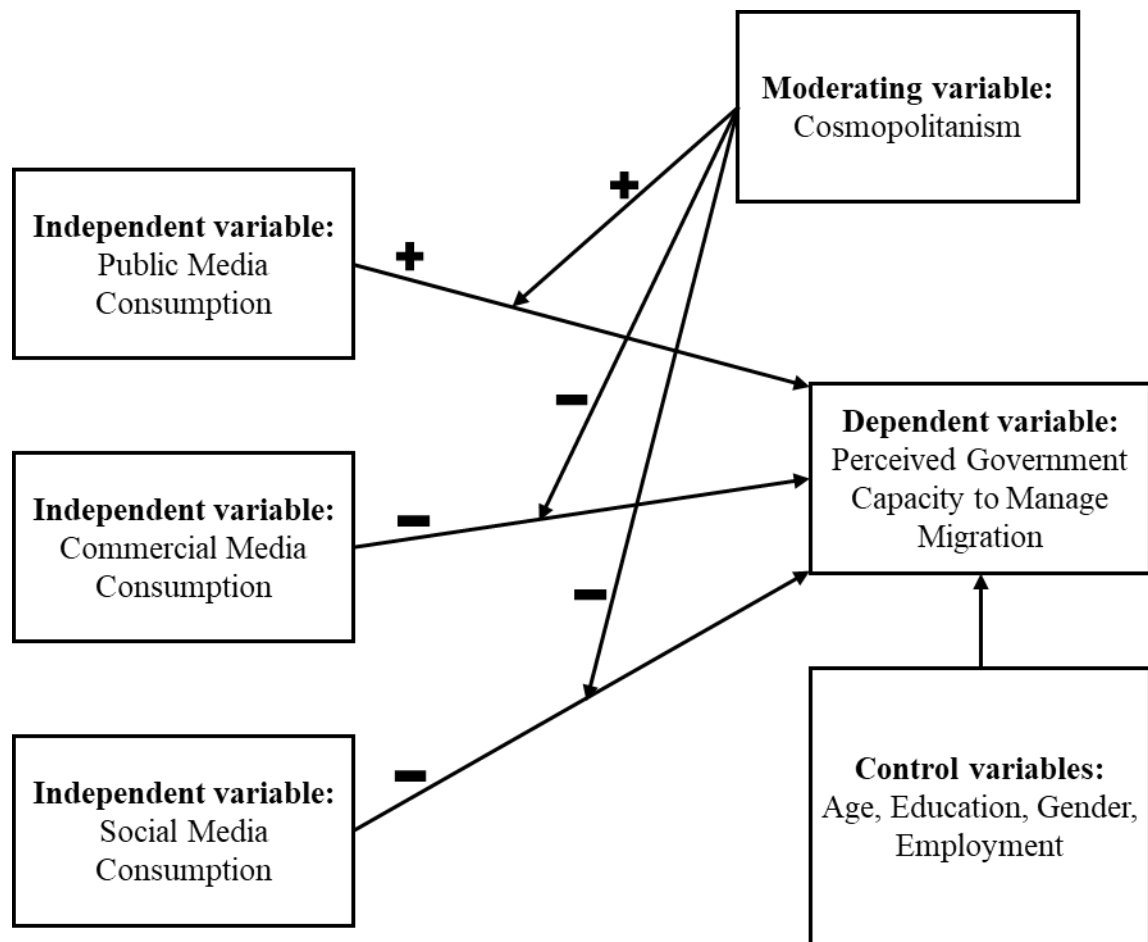
H2: *Higher frequency of news consumption on commercial media channels is associated with lower perceived government capacity to manage migration.*

H3: *Higher frequency of social media consumption is associated with lower perceived government capacity to manage migration.*

H4: *Cosmopolitanism moderates the relationship between public media consumption and perceived government capacity to manage migration, strengthening the positive effect.*

H5: *Cosmopolitanism moderates the relationship between commercial media consumption and perceived government capacity to manage migration, weakening the negative effect.*

H6: *Cosmopolitanism moderates the relationship between social media consumption and perceived government capacity to manage migration, weakening the negative effect.*

Figure 1*Conceptual Model*

Research Design

This study employed a quantitative cross-sectional design to examine how different types of media consumption (public, commercial, and social) influence the public's perception of the Czech government's capacity to manage migration, as well as the moderating effect of cosmopolitanism. Specifically, an online survey was conducted to collect the necessary data, as survey research is a great method for collecting data to describe a large population and for measuring attitudes (Babbie, 2020, p. 250). In this section, the data collection approach and operationalization are described, along with the ethical considerations, data analysis, and reliability.

Data Collection

Data was collected using a self-administered survey, which was distributed through online and in-person channels in May 2025. The target population consisted of Czech-born individuals aged 18 and above. The age limit was chosen to ensure that respondents can consent to participate in the study. Moreover, participants had to live in Prague or a town or city in the Central Bohemian region, as this study primarily reflects urban perspectives. To collect data, a convenience sampling strategy was employed, as it allows for easy and fast data collection (Neuman, 2014), which was necessary due to the time constraints and limitations as an individual researcher. Participants were recruited through several social media channels, including Facebook, Instagram, and Threads. As Facebook remains highly popular among all age groups in the Czech Republic (Statista, 2025), it was used as the primary online tool to recruit respondents. Specifically, more than 30 different private and public groups on Facebook were joined, and the questionnaire was shared there. These groups mainly consisted of groups created for specific cities/towns (in the Central Bohemian

region) and different parts of Prague. This method allowed for the inclusion of participants from the entire region, which was not possible during in-person data collection.

Moreover, to reach and exceed the minimum target of respondents (180), snowball sampling was employed by asking respondents to further share the survey with others. Nevertheless, employing both convenience and snowball sampling strategies includes several limitations, including issues with generalizability and representativeness (Neuman, 2014), which are further described in the Limitations section. Lastly, data collection was also conducted in person. This was done in Prague and three smaller towns in the region. Specifically, individuals were approached in front of supermarkets and on town squares. However, this approach was primarily met with rejections, which is also discussed in the Limitations section.

Operationalization

This study used multiple sets of variables to capture the main concepts: perceived government capacity to manage migration, media consumption (public, commercial, and social), cosmopolitanism, and basic sociodemographic information. In this section, the exact operationalization is described that led to the creation of the survey.

Media Consumption

In this study, media consumption is defined and measured as the frequency of news consumption on various media. As mentioned in the Theoretical Framework, three types of independent variables related to media consumption are part of this study. Specifically, these are public media, commercial media, and social media channels. For public media, only two channels exist in the Czech Republic: public television channel Česká Televize (specifically ČT24, a news channel) and an online news website (čt24.cz). Therefore, public media

consumption has only two items. As public media consumption included television and online news, the choice was made that commercial media also includes only television channels and online news websites, and not, for example, radio or newspaper. The most widely used and famous TV channels and online news sources in the Czech Republic were selected (three for television and three for online news). These were TV Nova, TV Prima, TV Barrandov, Seznam.cz, iDNES.cz, and Blesk.cz. Similarly, for social media consumption, the most common social media channels were selected: Instagram, Facebook, X (Twitter), Threads, YouTube, and TikTok.

As it was planned that linear regression was going to be the main test of the study, the aim was to measure the frequency of news consumption on the various media channels as a scale variable. Therefore, at first, the variables were measured as an open question: “How many minutes per day do you consume news on (x) channel?” However, during the pretest, respondents reported that they found it very difficult to estimate the number of minutes they spend consuming news on each channel, especially with social media, as there, news is often mixed with other types of content. Therefore, based on other academic literature that measured frequency of media consumption (Gauthier & Graziano, 2018; Kondor et al., 2022; Lancaster et al., 2012; Ray & Kort-Butler, 2019), the survey question was changed to “How often in the past month have you consumed news on (x) channel/site?” The variables were then measured on a 5-point Likert scale with 1 = never, 2 = minimally (a few times a month), 3 = occasionally (about once a week), 4 = often (several times a week), 5 = very often (every day). The complete questions can be found in Appendix A (in Czech) or Appendix B (in English).

Perceived Government Capacity to Manage Migration

A central contribution of this study is to develop and empirically test a new measurement for perceived government capacity to manage migration, a construct that is not yet established in academic literature. Recognizing this gap, a 9-item scale was developed based on the concept of government capacity, but focusing on main themes related to migration, such as border control, crisis preparedness, integration, fairness, transparency, and long-term planning. The items were formulated to reflect these observable aspects of government performance and were presented as one-sentence statements. The respondents had to evaluate each statement using a 5-point Likert scale, with 1 indicating "strongly disagree" and 5 indicating "strongly agree" for all items. One of the items was, for example, *"The Czech government can manage the future arrival of migrants and refugees"*. The complete list of items can be found in the survey (see Appendix B).

Cosmopolitanism

Cosmopolitanism was measured using a 6-item scale taken from Saran and Kaliny (2013), who, as mentioned in the Theoretical Framework, define cosmopolitanism as an individual's openness to other cultures, global awareness, and cultural diversity. Their article offers two sets of items to measure this variable, the first including 14 items and the second 6 items. For the length of the survey and the time required for filling it out, the 6-item set was used in this study. These 6 items are statements that were evaluated by the respondents on a 5-point Likert scale (1 being strongly disagree and 5 being strongly agree). One example of a statement is *"I think if people have a positive attitude toward other communities, there would be less conflict in the world."* The rest of the statements can be found in Appendix B. The 6 items were then averaged into one variable.

Control Variables – Demographics

Four demographic variables serve as control variables in this study. These variables include age, gender, education, and employment. First, age was measured as an open question, meaning respondents simply had to put in their age. Second, gender was operationalized as man, woman, or other, in order to be inclusive but simple. Third, the variable education was operationalized as an ordinal variable based on the Czech schooling system (Do školy společně, 2025). The respondents were asked what their highest achieved educational level was. It was measured on a 7-point ordinal scale, ranging from primary school to a doctorate degree. See Appendix B for all levels. For analysis, a binary dummy variable was created, with 0 representing non-higher education and 1 representing higher education. This is further discussed in the results section. Lastly, employment was operationalized as a “current employment situation,” and respondents had to choose one option that best described their current situation. Seven options were created, such as full-time employed, student, and unemployed. The complete list can be found in Appendix B. Moreover, there was an option “other” with an open question field where respondents could write their situation if it were different from the available options. This variable was also coded as a dummy for the sake of analysis, with 0 representing non-permanent employment situations and 1 representing permanent employment situations. This is also further discussed in the results section.

Ethical Considerations

Ethics played a key role in this study, and several steps were taken to ensure the ethical conduct of research. Prior to participation in the survey, respondents were presented with a clear and comprehensive informed consent statement. This statement outlined the purpose of the research, respondents’ rights, the approximate duration of the questionnaire,

and the intended use of the data. Most importantly, respondents were explicitly informed that their participation is entirely voluntary and that they have the right to withdraw at any point. Moreover, to protect the participants' privacy, no personally identifiable information was collected, such as names, email addresses, or IP addresses. Respondents were informed that the survey was conducted anonymously and that the data could not be traced to them. The data is safely stored for a period of 10 years in accordance with Erasmus University's guidelines (Erasmus University Rotterdam, n.d.). The informed consent can be found in Appendix B. Before respondents could start with the survey, they had to select that they understood the informed consent and they were willingly participating in the research.

Data Analysis

Following the data collection, the data were analyzed using SPSS version 30. While the exact steps and analysis are described at the beginning of the results section, the reliability of variables is described here. As half of the variables of the survey consisted of multiple items, Cronbach's alpha test was performed to ensure internal consistency (Taber, 2017). Firstly, perceived government capacity to deal with migration had nine items and scored a Cronbach's alpha of .940. Therefore, this scale demonstrated excellent reliability (Taber, 2017), meaning the items were highly interrelated and consistently measured the same underlying construct. The result supports the newly proposed operationalization and provides an empirical foundation for its potential use in future research. Similarly, cosmopolitanism also scored a considerably high Cronbach's alpha (.880), suggesting that the items formed a consistent measure of cosmopolitan orientation.

On the other hand, the results for media consumption were not as successful. Public media consumption scored a Cronbach's alpha of only .578, which, based on common interpretation, is poor. However, as public media consumption was only measured by two

items (because there are no other public media channels), the variable was still used as is. Additionally, commercial media consumption was measured using six items, as described in the operationalization section. The six items together received a Cronbach's alpha of .577 (not included in Table 1). Thus, items were removed to improve the Cronbach's alpha. In the end, three items were removed to reach a somewhat acceptable level of .643. No possible combination received an alpha value higher than .7. While an alpha value between .6 and .7 is usually interpreted as questionable, according to Taber (2017), some articles consider it as sufficient or acceptable. Therefore, the alpha is accepted and used in the analysis, and for the final analysis, commercial media consumption is limited to the following channels: TV Nova, TV Prima, and Blesk.cz. Lastly, social media consumption scored a Cronbach's alpha of .661. While also questionable, no deletion of items would lead to alpha being higher than .7. Therefore, this variable was kept as an average of the six original items.

Table 1

Reliability analysis

Variable	n	Cronbach's Alpha	Interpretation
Perceived government capacity	9	.940	Excellent
Public media consumption	2	.578	Poor
Commercial media consumption	3	.643	Questionable
Social media consumption	6	.661	Questionable
Cosmopolitanism	6	.880	Good

Findings and Analysis

In this section, the data and analysis are presented to answer the research question of this study: *How does media consumption affect perceived government capacity to manage migration in the Czech Republic?* As mentioned, the data was tested through the statistical software SPSS version 30. The various steps are described and justified in this section, together with the results. First, the descriptives and frequencies are presented, then Pearson's correlations, and lastly, five linear regression models.

Data Preparation

Before running the analysis, the dataset had to be prepared. Initially, the responses of all participants (314 responses) were scanned to check for any suspicious inconsistencies, such as the time it took to respond. However, all responses except one were acceptable. The one respondent was deleted as they selected age as 100, and answered "somewhat disagree"/"minimally" to every question, and in the open question by 'employment' left a comment irrelevant to the study. Therefore, for all the following tests, the number of participants is 313.

Next, two of the control variables were recoded into dummy variables. Education was recoded into two groups: higher education (1) and non-higher education (0), with bachelor, master, and doctorate degrees falling under higher education and the rest under non-higher education. Employment was also recoded into two groups: permanent (1) and non-permanent (0), and 'Others' were recoded into missing values. Under the non-permanent fall employment situations that are expected to change in the near future, this includes individuals who are unemployed, students, and those on maternity/paternity/parental leave. Additionally, age was also divided into relevant groups to simplify its overview in the Frequencies section, but this grouping was not used in the further tests.

Moreover, based on Cronbach's alpha (mentioned in the Research Design section), the independent and the dependent variables were computed. Next, the normality distribution was checked for age, the independent variables, and the dependent variable. Public media consumption and perceived government capacity had an acceptable distribution; however, age, social media consumption, and cosmopolitanism were skewed (see Appendix C). Therefore, they were recoded through a logarithm to attempt to improve the distribution. However, only in the case of age and social media consumption did the distribution improve; therefore, the normalized version was kept. For commercial media consumption and cosmopolitanism, the logarithm did not improve the distribution (see Appendix C). Therefore, the original variables were kept, and this is one of the limitations of this study. Lastly, the independent variables and the dependent variables were also standardized, and the standardized versions were then used in the Pearson's correlation and the regression models.

Descriptive Statistics

As mentioned, the total number of relevant respondents was 313, with all meeting the criteria set for being eligible for filling out the survey: at least 18 years old, born and living in the Czech Republic, and living in Prague or a town/city in the Central Bohemian region. Out of the 313 respondents, 228 (72.8%) were women, showing a skewed sample. This limitation and the possible cause are described later on in the Limitations section. No one chose 'Other' as a response for gender. Regarding education, the biggest group was those with a high school graduation diploma, as they made up 42.2% of the sample. When it comes to higher education, 17.6% received bachelor's degrees, 24.3% received master's degrees, and only 1.6% received a doctorate degree. In total, 43.5% of the sample had higher education, suggesting an almost equal split between higher education and non-higher education.

Table 2*Frequencies of Control Variables*

Variable	N	Possible answers	n	%
Gender	313	Man	85	27.2
		Woman	228	72.8
		Other	0	0
Education	313	Primary/secondary school	5	1.6
		High school (vocational diploma)	24	7.7
		High school (graduation diploma)	132	42.2
		Higher vocational school	16	5.1
		Bachelor's degree	55	17.6
		Master's degree	76	24.3
		Doctorate	5	1.6
Age	313	18-24	78	24.9
		25-29	39	12.5
		30-39	69	22
		40-49	65	20.8
		50-59	37	11.8
		60-69	19	6.1
		70-79	6	1.9
		80+	0	0
Job	313	Employed full time	141	45
		Employed part-time	24	7.7
		Self-employed	43	13.7
		Unemployed	5	1.6
		Student	58	18.5
		Maternity/paternity/parental leave	16	5.1
		Retired	15	4.8
		Other - please write	11	3.5

Moreover, it was described earlier that age was collected on a scale and then recoded into groups for a better overview. When it comes to age, the sample is skewed, as 24.9% of respondents fall into the 18-24 category. However, categories 30-39 and 40-49 also represented a considerable portion of the sample, with both accounting for around 21%. The least represented group is those aged 60-69, and only six people in their 70s filled out the survey. The maximum age was 77; therefore, there were no respondents representing the group 80 or older. As described in the Research Design section, employment was measured by choosing one situation that best describes your current situation. So while several categories applied to them, they had to choose only the primary one. The results show that 66.4% of respondents were employed, either full-time, part-time, or self-employed. Moreover, 18.5% of respondents were students, and around 10% were on leave or retired. Eleven respondents chose 'Other', and most of the responses showed a combination of the options above, except one who was a mother taking care of her disabled son full-time.

Additionally, Table 3 shows the descriptive statistics of age and the dependent and independent variables. Interestingly, the minimum and maximum responses for perceived government capacity and cosmopolitanism were one and five. Meaning that some people responded that they see the government's capacity to manage migration completely negatively, and some completely positively. Additionally, some rated their cosmopolitanism as very low, and some very high. However, with the mean for perceived government capacity of around 2.5, the overall perception of the government was very central. On the other hand, cosmopolitanism had an average of around 4, indicating that most respondents scored moderately to highly on cosmopolitanism and that the variable is skewed.

Table 3*Descriptive Statistics of Age and the Independent and Dependent Variables*

Variable	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Age	313	18	77	37.21	13.593
Perceived government capacity	313	1.00	5.00	2.5375	.98659
Public media consumption	313	1.00	5.00	2.4409	1.09289
Commercial media consumption	313	1.00	4.67	1.6337	.75247
Social media consumption	313	1.00	4.83	1.9808	.74451
Cosmopolitanism	313	1.00	5.00	3.9585	.91970

Moreover, media consumption, of all types, also had a minimum of 1; however, only public media consumption had a maximum of 5, meaning that some of the respondents consume both public media channels daily. Additionally, commercial and social media consumption had an average of 1.6 and 2, respectively. Suggesting that, on average, the sample does not consume news often on these two types of platforms. Overall, these two variables are also skewed. As previously mentioned, age and social media consumption were normalized through a logarithm to improve the distribution, while commercial media and cosmopolitanism were not.

Correlation Analysis

Following the descriptive statistics, the independent and dependent variables were standardized, and the Pearson's correlation test was performed. The results (see Table 4) show significant correlations among several of the variables. Firstly, there is a positive, small to moderate, and significant correlation between public media consumption and perceived government capacity (.254, $p < .001$). This suggests that those who consume more public

media tend to perceive the government as more capable of managing migration, aligning with Hypothesis 1. Moreover, there is a negative, small, and significant correlation between commercial media consumption and perceived government capacity ($-.189, p < .001$), meaning those who consume more commercial media tend to perceive the government as less capable of dealing with migration, which aligns with Hypothesis 2. However, there is no significant correlation between social media consumption and perceived government capacity.

Therefore, the result for social media consumption does not support Hypothesis 3.

Additionally, there is a positive, moderate, and significant correlation between cosmopolitanism and perceived government capacity ($.401, p < .001$), meaning that individuals who are more cosmopolitan also tend to trust the government's abilities more. When it comes to the control variables and their correlations with perceived government capacity, there are negative, small, and significant correlations with employment and gender, meaning women and those with a permanent employment situation tend to perceive government capacity as lower. Education had a positive and significant correlation with perceived government capacity, suggesting that those with higher education perceive the government as more capable.

Regarding the independent variables, public media consumption had positive and significant correlations with commercial media consumption, cosmopolitanism, and age, and no significant correlations with the other control variables (see Table 4). This suggests that individuals who consume more public media also tend to consume more commercial media and are more cosmopolitan. Commercial media consumption had significant correlations with cosmopolitanism, age, education, and employment. The correlations with age and employment were positive, showing that older individuals and those with a permanent employment situation consume more commercial media. In contrast, the correlations with

Table 4*Pearson's Correlations – coefficients*

Variables	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
(1) Perceived government capacity	1								
(2) Public media consumption	.254***	1							
(3) Commercial media consumption	-.189***	.223***	1						
(4) Social media consumption (log)	.097	.030	.023	1					
(5) Cosmopolitanism	.401***	.153**	-.157**	.083	1				
(6) Age (log)	-.105	.111*	.270***	-.426***	-.243***	1			
(7) Gender (1 = woman)	-.135*	-.066	.066	-.226***	.068	.195***	1		
(8) Education (dummy, 1 = higher education)	.247***	.033	-.270***	-.020	.161**	-.002	.086	1	
(9) Employment (dummy, 1 = permanent situation)	-.168**	-.025	.173**	-.135*	-.318***	.552***	.017	-.003	1

Note. N = 313, the standardized versions of the first five variables were used.

***. Correlation is significant at the 0.001 level (2-tailed).

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

cosmopolitanism and education were negative. Therefore, in this sample, individuals who consume more commercial media tend to be less cosmopolitan and less educated, and vice versa. Lastly, three out of the four control variables had significant correlations with social media consumption (see Table 4). The results showed that younger individuals, women, and those with a permanent employment situation tend to consume more social media.

Regression analysis

Several linear regression analyses were performed to further explore the relationships between the media consumption variables and perceived government capacity, as well as the moderator cosmopolitanism and control variables. The analyses were performed to test the hypotheses of this study:

H1: *Higher frequency of news consumption on public media channels is associated with higher perceived government capacity to manage migration.*

H2: *Higher frequency of news consumption on commercial media channels is associated with lower perceived government capacity to manage migration.*

H3: *Higher frequency of social media consumption is associated with lower perceived government capacity to manage migration.*

H4: *Cosmopolitanism moderates the relationship between public media consumption and perceived government capacity, strengthening the positive effect.*

H5: *Cosmopolitanism moderates the relationship between commercial media consumption and perceived government capacity, weakening the negative effect.*

H6: *Cosmopolitanism moderates the relationship between social media consumption and perceived government capacity, weakening the negative effect.*

The results of the models are described individually, however, all relevant results can be found in Table 5. Moreover, assumption checks for each model are discussed, for which the data can be found in the appendices. These include linearity, normality of residuals, homoscedasticity, and multicollinearity.

Model 1 – Control Variables

The first regression model tested the effects of the control variables on perceived government capacity and their significance. Firstly, the scatter plot of standardized residuals is somewhat clustered due to three out of four variables being coded 0 and 1 (see Appendix D). While not great, the linearity and homoscedasticity assumptions are still met and accepted. Second, the normality of residuals assumption is also satisfied, as the residuals are approximately normally distributed. Third, the VIF values (see Appendix I) are all below 5, therefore showing no multicollinearity problems. Moreover, the R-squared value of the model is .123, indicating that the model explains 12.3% of the variance in perceived government capacity. The F-statistic of 10.366 with the p-value of <.001 shows that the model is overall statistically significant. When it comes to the predictors, the results are similar to the Pearson's correlation results. Out of the four control variables, three are significant, and age is again the only one that is insignificant (see Table 5). Similarly to the correlations, education had a positive coefficient while gender and employment had negative coefficients, meaning that women and those with a permanent employment situation have a lower perception of the government's capacity to manage migration. On the other hand, those who have completed higher education perceive higher government capacity.

Model 2 – Public Media Consumption

In the second model, the public media consumption was tested together with the control variables. After analyzing the three graphs, the model also meets all assumptions, as there is no multicollinearity, and the residuals are evenly spread and normally distributed (see Appendix E). The R^2 of the model is .178, indicating that the model explains 17.8% of the variance in perceived government capacity. Additionally, the model is again significant with the F-value of 12.797 and p-value of $<.001$. All variables are significant except age. Similar to the previous model, employment and gender have negative unstandardized coefficients, while education has a positive coefficient. Public media consumption has an unstandardized beta of .238 and a p-value of $<.001$. This shows that higher public media consumption is associated with higher perceived government capacity when controlling for the other variables. This result supports Hypothesis 1.

Model 3 – Public Media Consumption and Cosmopolitanism

As the last model with public media consumption was significant, the next model measured the effects of the moderator cosmopolitanism on the relationship between public media consumption and perceived government capacity. Therefore, testing Hypothesis 4. To examine the effect of the moderator, an interaction term between cosmopolitanism and public media consumption was created as a new variable. All four assumptions are met, as can be seen in Appendix F. The model's R^2 value is .267, indicating the model explains 26.7% of the variance in perceived government capacity. This is approximately 10 percentage points more than the previous model, suggesting that cosmopolitanism is a somewhat relevant variable in explaining the variance in perceived government capacity. The F-value of 15.332 with the p-value of $<.001$ shows that the model is overall significant. Similar to the previous model, age is insignificant, while gender and education are significant (see Table 5). In contrast,

Table 5

Regression Analysis Results of All Five Models (dependent variable – standardized perceived government capacity)

Model	1	2	3	4	5
Age (log)	.024	-.108	.059	.093	.120
Gender (1 = woman)	-.380**	-.319**	-.384***	-.374**	-.359**
Education (dummy, 1 = higher education)	.546***	.519***	.431***	.497***	.545***
Employment (dummy, 1 = permanent situation)	-.384**	-.312*	-.154	-.381*	-.406**
Public media consumption		.238***	.178***		
Commercial media consumption				-.089	
Social media consumption (log)					.071

Model	1	2	3	4	5
Cosmopolitanism			.320***		
Interaction term (public media consumption X cosmopolitanism)			-.037		
R ²	.123		.267	.129	.126
F	10.366***		15.332***	8.782***	8.571***

Note. In cells: Unstandardized coefficient b.

Standardized versions of Public media consumption, Commercial media consumption, Social media consumption, and Cosmopolitanism were used.

***. Regression is significant at the 0.001 level (2-tailed).

**. Regression is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

*. Regression is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

employment is not significant in this model as it was in the previous models. In addition, public media consumption and cosmopolitanism are both significant and positive, suggesting that higher public media use and greater cosmopolitanism are associated with a higher perception of government capacity. However, the interaction term was not significant, with a p-value of .431. Therefore, there is no evidence that cosmopolitanism moderates the effects of public media, which does not align with Hypothesis 4.

Model 4 – Commercial Media Consumption

The fourth regression model tested the effects of commercial media consumption together with the control variables. All core regression assumptions are met (see Appendix G). The R^2 of the model is .129, meaning the model explains 12.9% of the variance in perceived government capacity. Moreover, this model has an R^2 value of only 0.3 percentage points higher than the first model, which included only the control variable, suggesting that commercial media consumption explains minimal additional variance. While the model and the gender, education, and employment variables are overall significant (see Table 5), commercial media consumption is not significant. Therefore, according to this model, commercial media consumption does not predict perception of government capacity. Thus, Hypothesis 2 cannot be accepted. Due to the insignificance of the relationship between commercial media consumption and perceived government capacity, the effects of the moderator on this relationship were not further tested.

Model 5 – Social Media Consumption

The fifth model tested the last independent variable, social media consumption. The results of this model are very similar to Model 4. Again, all four assumptions for regression are met. The R^2 value of the model is .126, which equals the R^2 value of Model 1, suggesting

that social media consumption does not add to the explanation of perceived government capacity. Similar to the previous model, the model itself and gender, education, and employment are significant. However, the independent variable is again insignificant with a p-value of .248, meaning that social media use does not predict perceived government capacity. Therefore, Hypothesis 3 must be rejected, and the moderator's effect on the relationship was not tested.

Conclusion and Discussion

This study investigated how different types of news media consumption (public, commercial, and social) influence citizens' perceptions of the Czech government's capacity to manage migration. More importantly, a new conceptual and methodological framework was introduced for understanding and measuring perceived government capacity to manage migration, a previously underexplored but vital concept. A cross-sectional survey was employed, resulting in 313 respondents. Through Pearson's correlation test and a series of linear regression models, the study tested six hypotheses grounded in Agenda-setting theory, Framing theory (Entman, 1993; McCombs & Shaw, 1972), and the concept of cosmopolitanism (Saran & Kalliny, 2013).

The results of the regression analyses show that public media consumption was positively and significantly associated with higher perceived government capacity to manage migration. Therefore, the findings confirm Hypothesis 1 and suggest that consumption of news from public broadcasters (in this case, Česká Televize) is linked with stronger perceptions of the government's competence. The results of this model underscore the importance of independent, publicly funded media in democratic countries, where perceptions and attitudes are shaped by the quality and framing of information available to the public. Unlike commercial or social media, which often rely on sensationalism, public service broadcasters are legally mandated to provide accurate and objective information (Česká televize, n.d.). Therefore, the public media channels contribute to more informed and constructive evaluations of complex and politically sensitive issues, such as migration.

In contrast, the results of Models 4 and 5 showed no significant effects of commercial or social media consumption on perceived government capacity to manage migration. Hypotheses 2 and 3 predicted negative associations of commercial and social media (news) consumption with perceived government capacity, meaning that the more people consumed

news on these types of media, the worse perception of the government they had. Therefore, due to the results of the two models, these two hypotheses were rejected. Possible explanations are that news on commercial media platforms in the Czech Republic is more heterogeneous than expected, possibly showcasing a more neutral framing than just sensationalism and clickbait. Similarly, social media consumption may not show a significant effect because platforms like Facebook or Instagram may also provide news published by public broadcasters, possibly having the opposite effect than was predicted. The insignificance of the effects does not imply their irrelevance, but rather highlights the complexity of media consumption, suggesting that credibility, framing, and the type of information shared may matter more than the simple frequency of exposure.

Moreover, the study also examined whether and how cosmopolitanism, aka openness to other cultures and global awareness, moderated the relationships between the three types of media consumption and perceived government capacity to manage migration. However, due to the insignificance of Models 4 and 5, with commercial and social media, the effects of cosmopolitanism were not tested with these two independent variables. Therefore, only one test (Model 3) was performed, in which cosmopolitanism was tested as a moderator. While the results of the moderation in Model 3 were insignificant, cosmopolitanism itself was a positive and significant predictor of perceived government capacity. These findings suggest that individuals with a more global outlook and openness to other cultures are more likely to view the government as a capable actor to manage migration in the country, regardless of what media they consume.

In addition, Model 1, which included only the control variables, also showcased some relevant patterns. Education was positively associated with perceived government capacity, implying that individuals with completed higher education tend to be more optimistic about the government's abilities to manage migration. In contrast, women and people with a

permanent employment situation were found to be more critical of the government's capacity. These results also largely align with the other four models. These results may reflect different expectations and values in the society, meaning that women and those with permanent employment might be more affected by perceived fairness and possible threats. Lastly, the insignificance of age in all models suggests that generational divides may be less relevant than was assumed at first.

To summarize, in direct response to the research question "*How does media consumption affect perceived government capacity to manage migration in the Czech Republic?*", this study finds that higher levels of news consumption on public media channels are associated with more favorable perceptions of the government's capacity. In contrast, commercial and social media consumption show no significant effects. These results suggest that not all forms of media influence public opinion equally, and provide possibilities and suggestions for future research, which is discussed later on.

Contributions to Existing Literature

This study contributes to existing literature in several ways. Firstly, by introducing the new concept of perceived government capacity, this study makes a significant contribution to the public administration literature. While the concepts of government capacity and legitimacy have long been part of the public administration field, they are traditionally assessed through institutional performance metrics, such as policy delivery or administrative and state capacity (Painter & Pierre, 2005). The study adds to the public administration and public sector performance literature by providing a new evaluation lens and a more citizen-centric assessment of governance quality, especially in wicked policy areas, such as migration. Moreover, there is a significant methodological contribution, as the study developed a 9-item scale to measure perceived government capacity to manage migration,

with an excellent internal reliability (Cronbach's Alpha of .94, see Research Design), which can provide an empirical basis for future researchers. In addition, the study contributes to the established literature on media effects (Armoudian, 2016; Arowolo, 2017; Entman, 1993; McCombs & Shaw, 1972) by not solely focusing on the media channels such as television, radio, or newspaper, but focusing mainly on the differences between publicly and privately owned media. Finally, by focusing on the Czech Republic, this study fills the existing literature gap in the country, specifically regarding media consumption, attitudes towards migration, and perceptions of the Czech government.

Policy Recommendations

Several policy recommendations can be made based on the results of this study. Firstly, one of the most important findings was the positive relationship between public media consumption and perceived government capacity to manage migration. This underscores the relevance and need for independent public media broadcasters. Moreover, it was mentioned earlier that public media is one of the key pillars of democracy in modern countries. Therefore, policymakers and the general public must ensure that public media institutions and their future are protected. Specifically, it should be ensured that the public media channels, in this case Česká Televize, are adequately funded, and independent journalism is protected from possible corruption or political and commercial influences. While it does not seem like a serious threat, the case of Slovakia, a country that used to be united with the Czech Republic and that is systematically and culturally very similar, serves as a real example. In 2024, the populist government of Slovakia shut down the Slovak public media channel RTSV and replaced it with a new broadcaster that is controlled by the executives (De La Feld, 2024). Therefore, the Czech government should take a lesson from Slovakia's case, as the

decision to shut down the public media channel is in contradiction with European law on media freedom.

Moreover, while the effects of commercial and social media were found to be insignificant in this study, their influence should not be underestimated. As was mentioned in the Theoretical Framework section, these sources remain primary sources of information. Therefore, one of the recommendations is that there should be media literacy programs in schools, as well as for the general public, that help citizens assess the credibility, framing, and sources of the information they receive. This step could help in battling misinformation and disinformation and provide citizens with tools to create more educated perceptions and make informed choices.

Limitations

While the study provides several relevant and meaningful contributions, there are also several limitations of the research process that should be discussed. The first limitation is regarding the sampling and data collection method. Sampling was done through the convenience and snowball sampling strategies, which limit the representativeness and generalizability of the results. While the sampling aimed to be representative, the demographics of the respondents were skewed, with an overrepresentation of women (72.8%) and those under 40 years old. One of the possible explanations and an issue that was discovered during the data collection was that several respondents had a problem with the possible answer choice “other” to the question “What is your gender?”. As the questionnaire was shared on various social media channels, respondents had the opportunity to write a comment on the post containing the link to the questionnaire. Several individuals, all presenting as male, shared their opinions on this and said that because of the possible answer “other”, they will not finish responding to the survey, stating that there are no other genders

than “woman” and “man”. Overall, the choice of sampling methods and limited time and abilities to collect respondents may have influenced the strength or direction of the findings.

Regarding sampling, all data were also collected through self-reported surveys, which could have led to a recall error, especially when it comes to the frequency of media consumption. While the surveys were anonymous, the social desirability bias could have played a role, as the topic of government and migration is quite polarized, and people may have wanted to present themselves as more cosmopolitan and open than they are in reality. Additionally, the study was limited to the Central Bohemian region and the city of Prague. Therefore, it also does not reflect opinions at the national level and in rural areas. Moreover, given that the study is cross-sectional, the results may reflect opinions at a specific point in time and in relation to a particular situation in the country’s politics and migration.

Another limitation was the method used to measure news media consumption. It was measured as a frequency over the last month with categorical answers. However, due to the time and ability constraints, the content, perceived framing, or type and tone of information shared on the various media channels were not measured. This limits the depth of examining the effects of media consumption on the perceived government capacity to manage migration, as media consumption is very complex and complicated to measure. Moreover, there was also an issue with the internal consistency of the independent variables (public media consumption, commercial media consumption, and social media consumption) as their Cronbach’s alphas were below .7, which could have weakened the explanatory power of the variables. Lastly, the distributions of commercial media consumption and cosmopolitanism were considerably skewed and could not be improved by logarithms, which also possibly influenced the results of the regression analyses.

Research Recommendations

Several recommendations can be made for future research based on the nature of the study, its limitations, and results. Firstly, to improve the generalizability of the results, future research should choose other sampling strategies. Specifically, a probability or stratified sampling strategy should be employed to ensure a normally distributed sample of respondents that better represents the society (Neuman, 2014). As mentioned, there was an overrepresentation of women and those under 40 years old; therefore, future research would benefit from representing men and women equally, as well as those older than 40. Additionally, this study focused only on urban areas, specifically Prague and cities in the Central Bohemian Region. Thus, future research should expand beyond these two regions and include all regions of the Czech Republic, as well as focus on rural areas, where the government's actions and the effects of immigration may be experienced and interpreted differently. This would also provide some insights on how the geographic and local context influences people's perceptions or level of cosmopolitanism. Furthermore, a comparative case study could be done by conducting research in other European countries. For example, in countries with either similar or opposite media and migration situations, to test whether the concept is bound to a specific concept of the Czech Republic or not.

Another recommendation is to do a longitudinal study instead of a cross-sectional study, which could help measure how media consumption influences perceptions over time. This could reveal how different migration-related events or actions taken by the government influence the public's perceptions of the government's performance. Moreover, future research should create a more comprehensive measurement of news media consumption. Specifically, framing, the types of posts, and what respondents follow the most should also be measured to reveal more comprehensively and in detail how media consumption affects

perceived government capacity to manage migration. This could, for example, be done by a tracking program, such as was employed by Štětka et al. (2020).

Another option for future research is to employ qualitative, exploratory, or mixed methods to further test the concepts. For example, researchers could conduct experiments on framing, meaning they provide different respondents with different media frames about the government and migration policies, and test how the different frames influence perceived government capacity (Neuman, 2014). Lastly, researchers could conduct in-depth interviews about perceived government capacity, to learn about how respondents actually interpret the concept and how they evaluate the government and the way it deals with migration. Overall, these recommendations, based on the limitations of this study, may help yield more comprehensive and representative results and further contribute to the issue of media's effects on perceived government capacity.

Final Review - Conceptual Reflection

This study should be seen as a personal innovation and a trial of a new concept of perceived government capacity to manage migration. On one hand, the concept is closely related to government capacity, legitimacy, and political trust, and raises the question about its distinctiveness. On the other hand, it introduces a new policy-specific and citizen-centric way to evaluate governmental actions, and the findings show that the concept is measurable and significantly associated with several predictors, such as public media consumption, cosmopolitanism, and certain demographic factors. It may not provide a new theory or version of legitimacy or political trust, but it can function as a context-specific operationalization. Overall, the concept has the potential to be a valuable tool in public administration research; however, future studies need to refine the operationalization and test it through several different methods to assess its actual utility.

References

- Abdelzaher, T., Ji, H., Li, J., Yang, C., Dellaverson, J., Zhang, L., Xu, C., & Szymanski, B. K. (2020). The paradox of information access: Growing isolation in the age of sharing. arXiv Cornell University. <https://doi.org/10.48550/arxiv.2004.01967>
- Armoudian, M. (2016). The political impact of media framing. In G. Kemp, B. Bahador, K. McMillan, & C. Rudd (Eds.), *Politics and the media* (2nd ed, pp. 170–182). Auckland University Press.
- Arowolo, O. (2017). An Exposition on Framing Theory. Unpublished paper. Lagos State University. Retrieved from: https://s3.amazonaws.com/academia.edu/Documents/53315173/Expository_Essay_on_Framing_Theory.pdf
- Babbie, E. (2020). *The Practice of Social Research* (15th ed.). Cengage Learning.
- Česká televize. (n.d.). *Zákony a pravidla*. Česká Televize. <https://www.ceskatelevize.cz/vse-o-ct/zakony-a-pravidla/>
- Christensen, T., & Lægreid, P. (2014). Trust in Government: The Relative Importance of Service Satisfaction, Political Factors, and Demography. *Public Performance & Management Review*, 28(4), 487–511. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15309576.2005.11051848>
- Citrin, J., & Stoker, L. (2018). Political trust in a cynical age. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 21(1), 49–70. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-polisci-050316-092550>
- Connor, P. (2016). *Number of refugees to Europe surges to record 1.3 million in 2015*. Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/global-migration-and-demography/2016/08/02/number-of-refugees-to-europe-surges-to-record-1-3-million-in-2015/>

- Dann, C. (2022). *Does public trust in government matter for effective policy-making?* - *Economics Observatory*. Economics Observatory.
<https://www.economicsobservatory.com/does-public-trust-in-government-matter-for-effective-policy-making>
- De Coninck, D., Boomgaarden, H. G., Kronschnabl, H., & D’Haenens, L. (2023). *The trust factor: Investigating the triple role of news media trust on perceived migrant threat*. De Coninck | International Journal of Communication.
<https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/21238/4339>
- De La Feld, S. (2024). Slovakia's Parliament shuts down public television. In its place, a new pro-government broadcaster. *Eunews*.
<https://www.eunews.it/en/2024/06/21/slovakias-parliament-shuts-down-public-television-in-its-place-a-new-pro-government-broadcaster/>
- Dixon, S. J. (2024). *Misinformation on social media - statistics & facts*. Statista.
<https://www.statista.com/topics/9713/misinformation-on-social-media/#topicOverview>
- Do školy společně. (2025). *Vzdělávací systém v ČR - Do školy společně*. Do Školy Společně.
<https://doskolyspolecne.cz/vzdelavaci-system-v-cr/>
- Dodevska, I. (2021). *MigrationOnline.cz*. <https://migrationonline.cz/en/e-library/what-kind-of-society-is-the-czech-republic-for-immigrants>
- Dražanová, L., Gonnot, J., Heidland, T., & Krüger, F. (2023). Which individual-level factors explain public attitudes toward immigration? a meta-analysis. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 50(2), 317–340. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183x.2023.2265576>
- Entman, R. M. (1993). Framing: toward clarification of a fractured paradigm. *Journal of Communication*, 43(4), 51–58. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1460-2466.1993.tb01304.x>

Erasmus University Rotterdam. (n.d.). *Data archiving*.

<https://www.eur.nl/en/research/research-services/research-data-management/surf-yoda/data-archiving>

Esser, F., & Strömbäck, J. (2014). *Mediatization of Politics: Understanding the Transformation of Western Democracies*. Palgrave Macmillan.

European Broadcasting Union (EBU). (2024). *Public service media*. EBU.

<https://www.ebu.ch/about/public-service-media>

European Council. (2024). *Refugees from Ukraine in the EU*.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/infographics/ukraine-refugees-eu/>

Eurostat. (2025). *Decisions on asylum applications by citizenship, age, and sex—annual aggregated data (migr_asydcfina)* [Data set]. European Commission. Retrieved from https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/migr_asydcfst/default/table?lang=en&category=migr.migr_asy.migr_asydec

Gauthier, J. F., & Graziano, L. M. (2018). News media consumption and attitudes about police: in search of theoretical orientation and advancement. *Journal of Crime and Justice*, 41(5), 504–520. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0735648x.2018.1472625>

Giustozzi, C., & Gangl, M. (2021). Unemployment and political trust across 24 Western democracies: Evidence on a welfare state paradox. *Acta Sociologica*, 64(3), 255–273. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00016993211008501>

Hainmueller, J., & Hopkins, D. J. (2014). Public attitudes toward immigration. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 17(1), 225–249. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-polisci-102512-194818>

Kobayashi, Y., & Tanaka, S. (2024). How gender shapes attitudes and concerns about immigration. *Politics Groups and Identities*, 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21565503.2024.2378023>

- Kondor, K., Mihelj, S., Štětka, V., & Tóth, F. (2022). News consumption and immigration attitudes: a mixed methods approach. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 48(17), 4129–4148. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183x.2022.2054786>
- Kostlán, F. (2016). Czech broadcast regulator says TV Prima must explain its manipulation of news reporting about refugees. *Romea.cz - Everything About Roma in One Place*. <https://romea.cz/en/czech-republic/czech-broadcast-regulator-says-tv-prima-must-explain-its-manipulation-of-news-reporting-about-refugees>
- Lancaster, K., Hughes, C. E., & Spicer, B. (2012). News Media Consumption among Young Australians: Patterns of Use and Attitudes towards Media Reporting. *Media International Australia*, 143(1), 16–27. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1329878x1214300104>
- Lee, S. (2025). Cosmopolitanism in ethics and policy. <https://www.numberanalytics.com/blog/cosmopolitanism-ethics-public-policy>
- Levi, M. (2018). The Who, What, and Why of Performance-based Legitimacy. *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*, 12(4), 603–610. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17502977.2018.1520955>
- Levi, M., & Sacks, A. (2009). Legitimizing beliefs: Sources and indicators. *Regulation & Governance*, 3(4), 311–333. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1748-5991.2009.01066.x>
- Marien, S., & Hooghe, M. (2010). Does political trust matter? An empirical investigation into the relation between political trust and support for law compliance. *European Journal of Political Research*, 50(2), 267–291. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1475-6765.2010.01930.x>
- McCombs, M. E., & Shaw, D. L. (1972). The Agenda-Setting Function of Mass Media. *The Public Opinion Quarterly*, 36(2), 176–187. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2747787>
- Neuman, W. L. (2014). *Social research methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*. (7th ed.). Pearson Education Limited.

- OECD. (n.d.). *Trust in government*. <https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/sub-issues/trust-in-government.html>
- Ozdamar, O., Giovanis, E., & Akdede, S. H. (2024). Attitudes towards Syrian refugees in Türkiye: Does cosmopolitanism matter? *Journal of International Migration and Integration / Revue De L Integration Et De La Migration Internationale*, 25(2), 1073–1095. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12134-024-01114-3>
- Painter, M., & Pierre, J. (2005). Challenges to state policy capacity. In *Palgrave Macmillan UK eBooks*. <https://doi.org/10.1057/9780230524194>
- Pew Research Center. (2024). News platform fact sheet. Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/journalism/fact-sheet/news-platform-fact-sheet/>
- Public Media Alliance. (2024). *What is PSM? - Public Media Alliance*. <https://www.publicmediaalliance.org/about-us/what-is-psm/>
- Ray, C. M., & Kort-Butler, L. A. (2019). What you See Is What you Get? Investigating how Survey Context Shapes the Association between Media Consumption and Attitudes about Crime. *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 45(5), 914–932. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12103-019-09502-7>
- Rittel, H. W. J., & Webber, M. M. (1973). Dilemmas in a general theory of planning. *Policy Sciences*, 4(2), 155–169. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4531523>
- Saran, A., & Kalliny, M. (2012). Cosmopolitanism: concept and measurement. *Journal of Global Marketing*, 25(5), 282–291. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08911762.2012.779196>
- Schahbasi, A., Huber, S., & Fieder, M. (2020). Factors affecting attitudes toward migrants—An evolutionary approach. *American Journal of Human Biology*, 33(1). <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajhb.23435>

- Scheufele, D. A. (2000). Agenda-Setting, Priming, and Framing Revisited: Another Look at Cognitive Effects of Political Communication. *Mass Communication and Society*, 3(2–3), 297–316. https://doi.org/10.1207/S15327825MCS0323_07
- Seitova, D., & Kovacs, M. (2025). Cosmopolitanism, trust, and democratic support shaping immigrant attitudes: A multilevel analysis across 36 European countries. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, 106, 102178. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijintrel.2025.102178>
- Statista. (2025a). *Facebook users in Czechia 2018-2025*. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1029731/facebook-users-czechia/>
- Statista. (2025b). *Number of Ukrainian refugees 2025, by country*. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1312584/ukrainian-refugees-by-country/>
- Štětka, V., Mihelj, S., & Tóth, F. (2020). The Impact of News Consumption on Anti-Immigration Attitudes and Populist Party Support in a Changing Media Ecology *Political Communication*, 38(5), 539–560. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10584609.2020.1820647>
- Strömbäck, J., Djerf-Pierre, M., & Shehata, A. (2015). A Question of Time? A Longitudinal Analysis of the Relationship between News Media Consumption and Political Trust. *The International Journal of Press/Politics*, 21(1), 88–110. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1940161215613059>
- Suciu, P. (2025). Social media remains a political echo chamber for the like-minded. *Forbes*. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/petersuciu/2025/01/31/social-media-remains-a-political-echo-chamber-for-the-likeminded/>
- Taber, K. S. (2017). The use of Cronbach's Alpha when developing and reporting research instruments in science education. *Research in Science Education*, 48(6), 1273–1296. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11165-016-9602-2>

- Traynor, I. (2015). Refugee crisis: East and West split as leaders resent Germany for waiving rules. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/05/migration-crisis-europe-leaders-blame-brussels-hungary-germany>
- Ucar, I., Gramaglia, M., Fiore, M., Smoreda, Z., & Moro, E. (2021). News or social media? Socio-economic divide of mobile service consumption. *Journal of the Royal Society Interface*, 18(185). <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsif.2021.0350>
- Úřad práce ČR. (2025). *Pomoc pro občany Ukrajiny a jejich zaměstnavatele* | ÚP. <https://www.uradprace.cz/pomoc-pro-obcany-ukrajiny-a-jejich-zamestnavatele>
- Wagner, M. (2015). 2015 in review: how Europe reacted to the refugee crisis - ICMPD. International Centre for Migration Policy Development. <https://www.icmpd.org/blog/2015/2015-in-review-how-europe-reacted-to-the-refugee-crisis>
- Watson, A. (2023). *Social media news worldwide - statistics & facts*. Statista. <https://www.statista.com/topics/9002/social-media-news-consumption-worldwide/#topicOverview>
- Zachová, A., & Mandilara, S. (2024). Czech lawmakers' debate on EU migration gets heated, draws attention of Commissioner. *Euractiv*. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/czech-lawmakers-debate-on-eu-migration-gets-heated-draws-attention-of-commissioner/>

Appendix A

Questionnaire – Czech (original) Version

Vítejte a děkuji, že jste si udělali čas na vyplnění tohoto dotazníku.

Jsem studentka magisterského studia na Erasmus University Rotterdam v Nizozemsku a v rámci své diplomové práce zkoumám mediální návyky a veřejné mínění o schopnosti vlády zvládat migraci v České republice. Tento dotazník slouží jako základ pro mou diplomovou práci, proto si vaší účasti velmi vážím. Vyplnění dotazníku zabere přibližně **5 minut**.

Co se týče ochrany osobních údajů, tento průzkum je v souladu s Obecným nařízením o ochraně osobních údajů (GDPR) EU a pravidly univerzity. **Dotazník je anonymní**, což znamená, že osobní otázky, jako je jméno, adresa, e-mail, telefonní číslo apod., NEJSOU součástí dotazníku a IP adresy NEJSOU zaznamenávány. Ostatní shromážděná data budou bezpečně uložena po dobu deseti let a nebudou sdílena se třetími stranami, s výjimkou mých vedoucích práce (Dr. Vincent Homburg a Dr. Rebecca Moody). Údaje získané z tohoto průzkumu budou také v mé závěrečné práci uvedeny anonymně a žádná data nebudou prezentována po jednotlivcích. Všechny informace budou prezentovány skrz souhrné skupiny. Z průzkumu můžete kdykoli odstoupit. Pokud máte jakékoli otázky týkající se mého výzkumu, neváhejte mě kontaktovat e-mailem: 597163ak@eur.nl

Podmínky pro vyplnění tohoto dotazníku: Narodil(a) jste se a žijete v České republice, je vám alespoň 18 let a bydlíte v Praze nebo ve městě ve Středočeském kraji.

Tímto souhlasím, že se tohoto výzkumu účastním dobrovolně a že jsem si plně vědom/a své účasti a účelu tohoto výzkumu. Tímto také souhlasím s tím, že mé odpovědi budou použity a zpracovány anonymně pro účely akademického výzkumu.

Splňujete podmínky k vyplnění dotazníku? Prosím zaškrtněte všechny odpovědi

- ☐ Je mi 18+
- ☐ Žiji v Praze nebo ve městě ve Středočeském kraji
- ☐ Narodil/a jsem se a žiji v Česku

Demografické údaje

1. Kolik je vám let?
2. Jaké je vaše nejvyšší dosažené vzdělání?
 - a) Základní škola
 - b) Střední škola s výučním listem
 - c) Střední škola s maturitou
 - d) Vyšší odborná škola
 - e) Bakalář
 - f) Magistr/inženýr
 - g) Doktorát
3. Jaké je vaše pohlaví?
 - a) Žena
 - b) Muž
 - c) Jiné
4. Jaká je vaše aktuální situace? Můžete zvolit pouze jednu odpověď, zvolte tedy prosím tu, která nejlépe vystihuje vaši situaci.
 - a) Zaměstnaná/ý na plný úvazek

- b) Zaměstnaná/ý na částečný úvazek
- c) OSVČ
- d) Nezaměstnaná/ý
- e) Student/ka
- f) Na mateřské/otcovské/rodičovské dovolené
- g) V důchodu
- h) Jiné – prosím napište

Veřejné mínění o schopnosti vlády zvládat migraci

5. Jak moc souhlasíte s následujícím tvrzením? 1 = Naprosto nesouhlasím 5 = Naprosto souhlasím
- a) Česká vláda je schopná efektivně řídit migraci.
 - b) Česká vláda jedná při řízení migrace v nejlepším zájmu veřejnosti.
 - c) Česká vláda dokáže zvládnout budoucí příchod migrantů a uprchlíků.
 - d) Česká vláda je schopná zajistit ochranu hranic.
 - e) Česká vláda je schopná pomoci migrantům s integrací do české společnosti.
 - f) Česká vláda spravedlivě řídí migraci v Česku.
 - g) Česká vláda je transparentní ohledně svých kroků při řešení migrace.
 - h) Mám důvěru ve schopnost české vlády reagovat na budoucí migrační krize.
 - i) Česká vláda má jasnou dlouhodobou strategii pro řízení migrace.

Média

6.-19. – 1 = Nikdy 2 = Minimálně (párkrát za měsíc) 3 = Příležitostně (přibližně jednou týdně) 4 = Často (několikrát za týden) 5 = Velmi často (každý den)

- 6. V uplynulém měsíci, jak často jste sledoval/a **zprávy** na TV ČT24?
- 7. V uplynulém měsíci, jak často jste sledoval/a **zprávy** na online stránkách ČT24?
- 8. V uplynulém měsíci, jak často jste sledoval/a **zprávy** na TV Nova?

9. V uplynulém měsíci, jak často jste sledoval/a **zprávy** na TV Prima?
10. V uplynulém měsíci, jak často jste sledoval/a **zprávy** na TV Barrandov?
11. V uplynulém měsíci, jak často jste sledoval/a **zprávy** na iDNES.cz?
12. V uplynulém měsíci, jak často jste sledoval/a **zprávy** na Seznam.cz?
13. V uplynulém měsíci, jak často jste sledoval/a **zprávy** na Blesk.cz?
14. V uplynulém měsíci, jak často jste sledoval/a **zprávy** na Instagramu?
15. V uplynulém měsíci, jak často jste sledoval/a **zprávy** na Facebooku?
16. V uplynulém měsíci, jak často jste sledoval/a **zprávy** na X (Twitter)?
17. V uplynulém měsíci, jak často jste sledoval/a **zprávy** na TikToku?
18. V uplynulém měsíci, jak často jste sledoval/a **zprávy** na Threads?
19. V uplynulém měsíci, jak často jste sledoval/a **zprávy** na Youtube?

Kosmopolitismus

1. Jak moc souhlasíte s následujícím tvrzením? 1 = Naprosto nesouhlasím 5 = Naprosto souhlasím
 - a) Myslím si, že je dobré trávit čas s lidmi, kteří jsou ochotni mluvit o jiných kulturách a učit se o nich.
 - b) Myslím si, že respektuji kultury ostatních stejně jako svou vlastní.
 - c) Myslím si, že pokud by lidé měli pozitivní přístup k jiným komunitám, bylo by na světě méně konfliktů.
 - d) Myslím si, že k dosažení úspěchu je potřeba umět využívat materiály, informace, znalosti apod. z jiných kultur.
 - e) Jsem připraven(a) učit se o jiných kulturách prostřednictvím naslouchání, pozorování, přemýšlení a reflexe.
 - f) Myslím si, že číst o světovém dění má smysl.

Appendix B

Questionnaire – English Version

Welcome and thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire.

I am a master's student at Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands, and as part of my master's thesis, I am researching media habits and public opinion on the government's ability to manage migration in the Czech Republic. This questionnaire serves as a basis for my thesis, so I greatly appreciate your participation. The questionnaire will take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

Regarding data protection, this survey complies with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the University's policy. The survey is anonymous, which means that personal questions such as name, address, email, phone number, etc., are NOT part of the survey, and IP addresses are NOT recorded. The other data collected will be stored securely for ten years and will not be shared with third parties, with the exception of my thesis supervisors (Dr. Vincent Homburg and Dr. Rebecca Moody). The data collected from this survey will also be presented anonymously in my thesis, and no data will be presented individually. All information will be presented through aggregate groups. You may withdraw from the survey at any time. If you have any questions about my research, please feel free to contact me by email: 597163ak@eur.nl

Terms and conditions for completing this survey: You were born and live in the Czech Republic, you are at least 18 years old, and you live in Prague or in a city in the Central Bohemian Region.

I hereby agree that I am participating in this research voluntarily and that I am fully aware of my participation and the purpose of this research. I also hereby agree that my answers will be used and processed anonymously for academic research purposes.

Do you meet the requirements to complete the questionnaire? Please tick all answers

- ☐ I am 18+
- ☐ I live in Prague or a city in the Central Bohemian Region
- ☐ I was born and live in the Czech Republic

Demographic data

1. How old are you?
2. What is your highest level of education?
 - a) Primary school
 - b) Secondary school with a teaching certificate
 - c) High school with a secondary school diploma
 - d) Higher vocational school
 - e) Bachelor
 - f) Master
 - g) Doctorate
3. What is your gender?
 - a) Female
 - b) Male
 - c) Other
4. What is your current situation? You can only choose one answer, so please choose the one that best describes your situation.

- a) Employed full time
- b) Employed part-time
- c) Self-employed
- d) Unemployed
- e) Student
- f) On maternity/paternity/parental leave
- g) Retired
- h) Other - please write

Public opinion on the government's ability to manage migration

5. How much do you agree with the following statement? 1 = Strongly disagree 5 = Strongly agree

- a) The Czech government is able to manage migration effectively.
- b) The Czech government acts in the best interests of the public when managing migration.
- c) The Czech government can manage the future arrival of migrants and refugees.
- d) The Czech government is able to ensure border protection.
- e) The Czech government is able to help migrants integrate into Czech society.
- f) The Czech government manages migration in the Czech Republic fairly.
- g) The Czech government is transparent about its actions in dealing with migration.
- h) I have confidence in the Czech government's ability to respond to future migration crises.
- i) The Czech government has a clear long-term strategy for managing migration.

Media consumption

6-19. - 1 = Never 2 = Minimally (a few times a month) 3 = Occasionally (about once a week)

4 = Often (several times a week) 5 = Very often (every day)

6. In the past month, how often did you watch the news on CT24 TV?
7. In the past month, how often did you consume the news on the online CT24 website?
8. In the past month, how often did you watch the news on TV Nova?
9. In the past month, how often did you watch the news on TV Prima?
10. In the past month, how often did you watch the news on TV Barrandov?
11. In the past month, how often did you consume the news on iDNES.cz?
12. In the past month, how often did you consume the news on Seznam.cz?
13. In the past month, how often did you consume the news on Blesk.cz?
14. In the past month, how often did you consume news on Instagram?
15. In the past month, how often did you consume news on Facebook?
16. In the past month, how often did you consume news on X (Twitter)?
17. In the past month, how often did you consume news on TikTok?
18. In the past month, how often did you consume news on Threads?
19. In the past month, how often did you consume news on YouTube?

Cosmopolitanism

20. How much do you agree with the following statement? 1 = Strongly disagree 5 =

Strongly agree

- a) I think it's good to spend time with people who are willing to talk and learn about other cultures.
- b) I think I respect others' culture the way I respect mine.

- c) I think if people have a positive attitude toward other communities, there would be less conflict in the world.
- d) I think to be successful, one needs to be able to use materials, information, knowledge, etc. from other cultures.
- e) I am ready to learn about other cultures through listening, observation, thinking, and reflecting.
- f) I think reading about world events is worthwhile.

Appendix C

Distributions of Variables

Figure 2

Distribution of Age

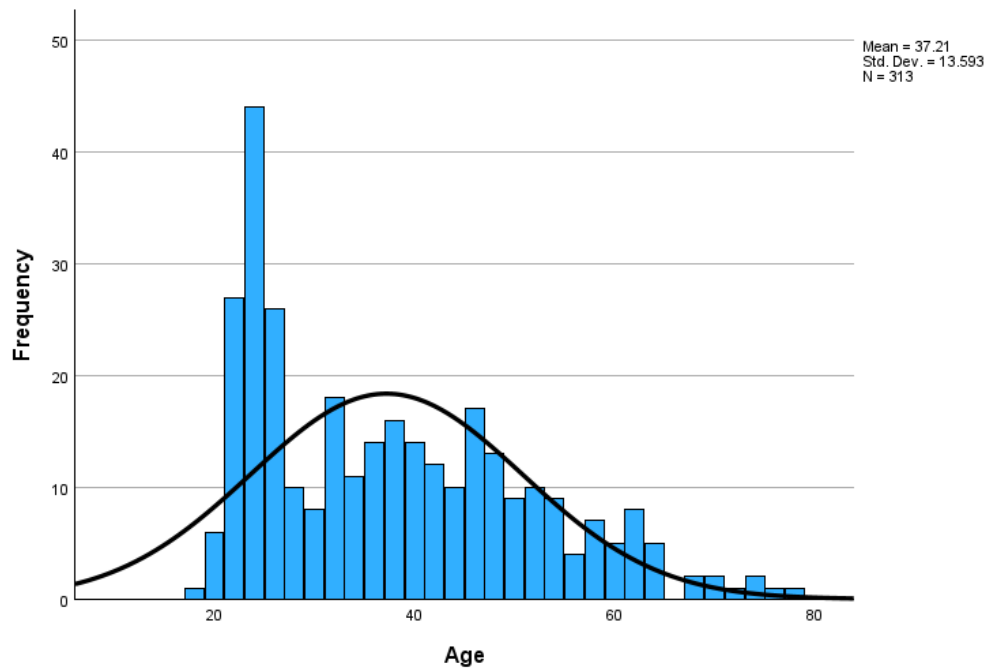


Figure 3

Distribution of Age (ln)

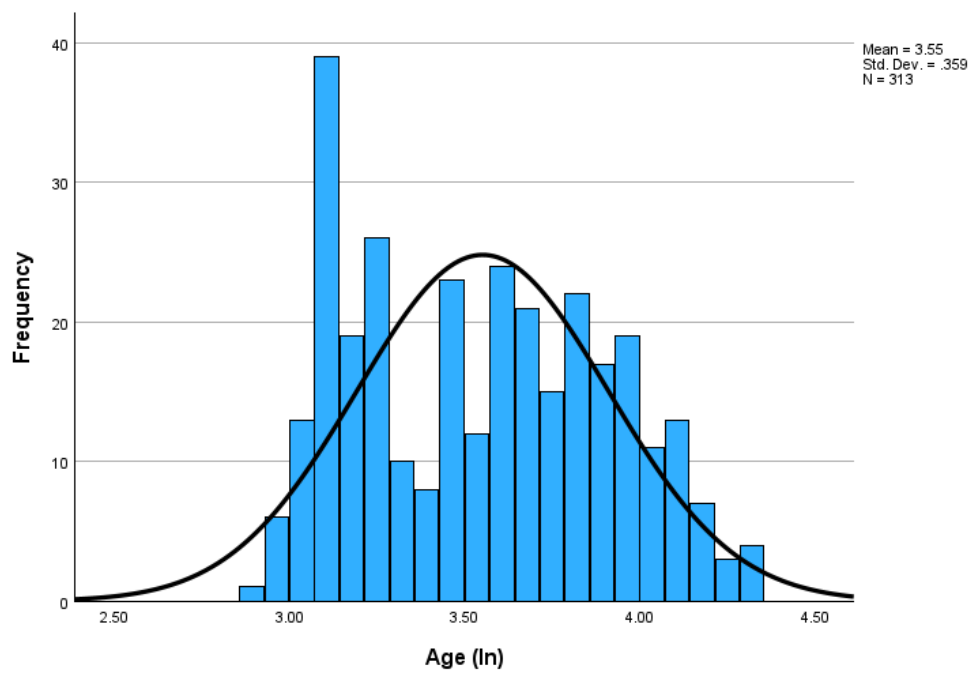


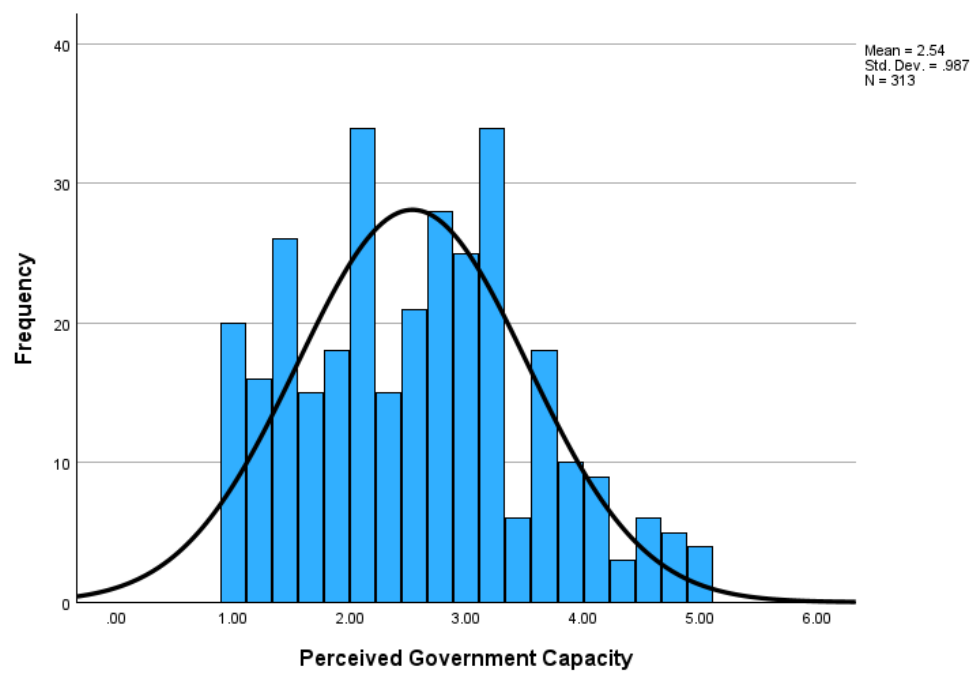
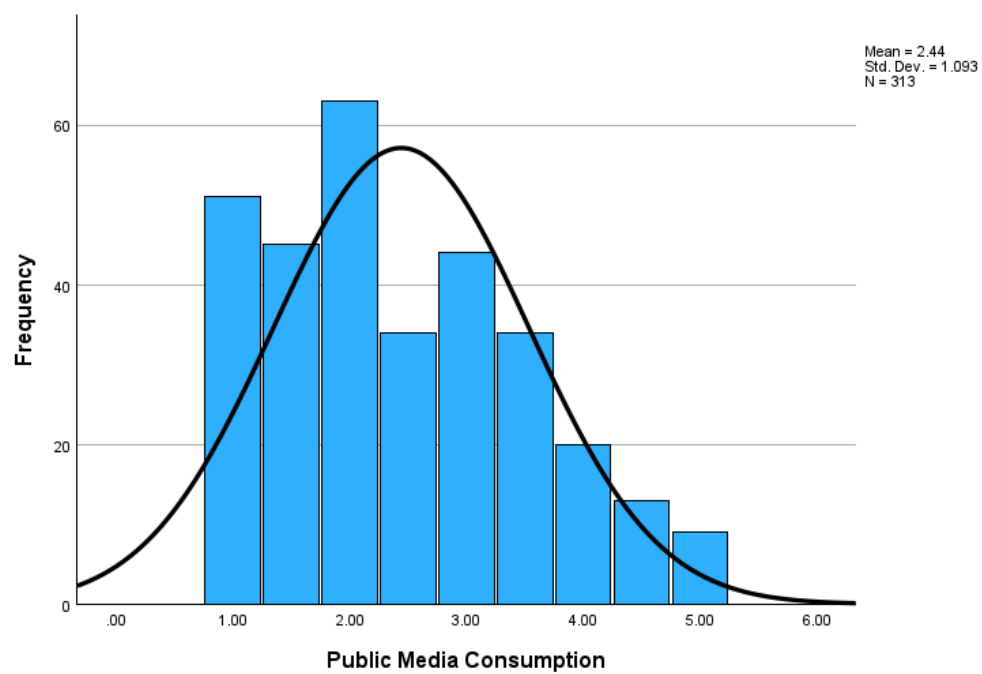
Figure 4*Distribution of Perceived Government Capacity***Figure 5***Distribution of Public Media Consumption*

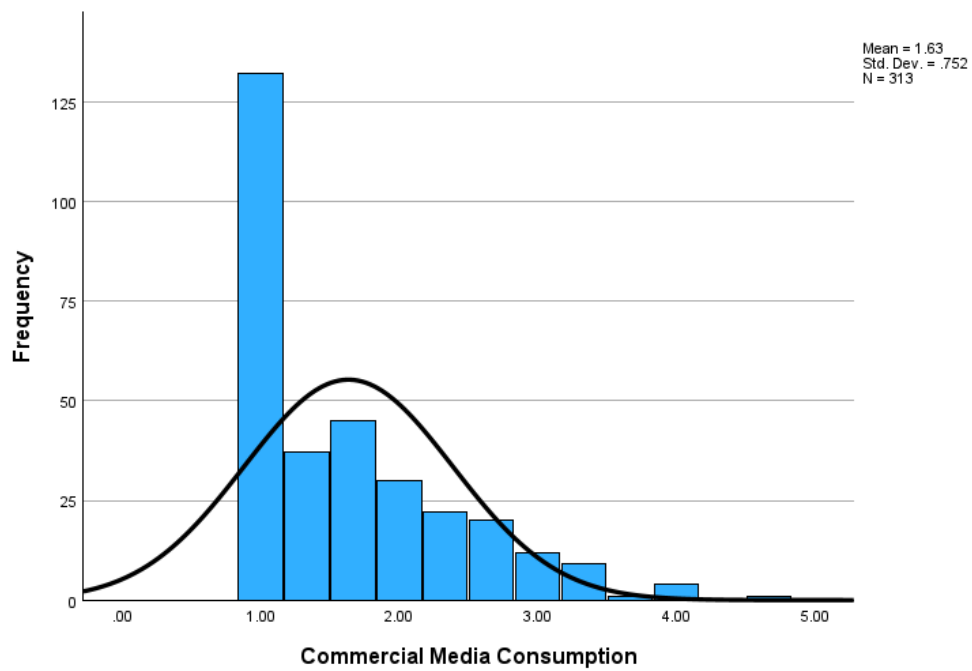
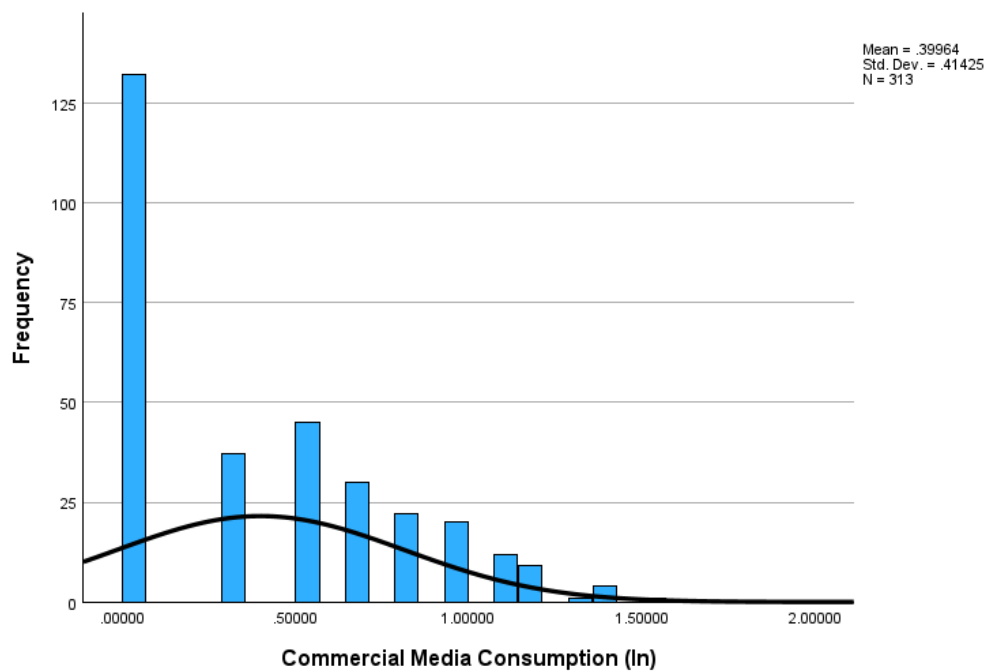
Figure 6*Distribution of Commercial Media Consumption***Figure 7***Distribution of Commercial Media Consumption (ln)*

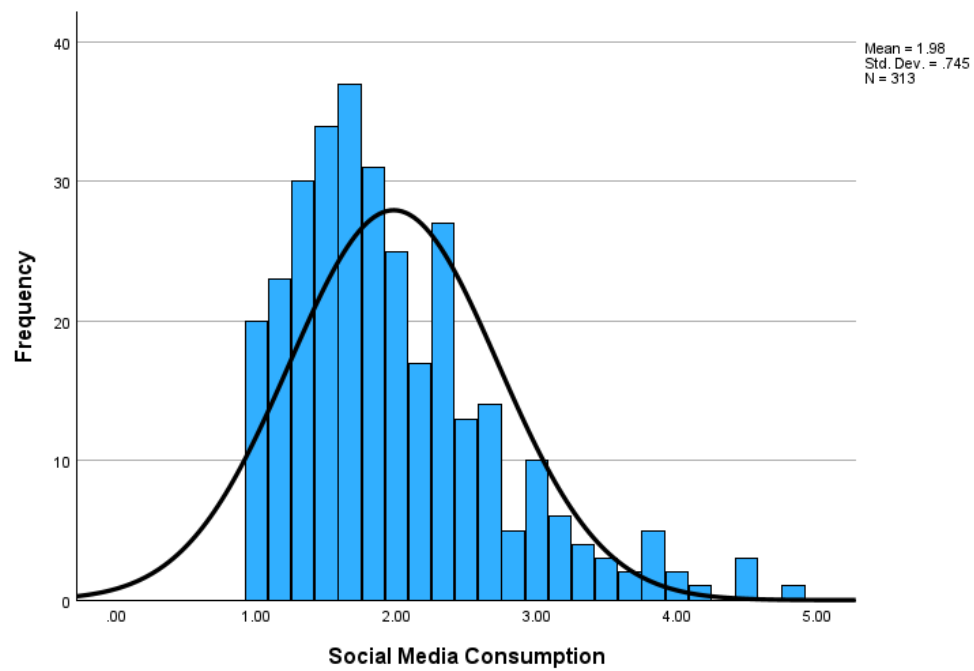
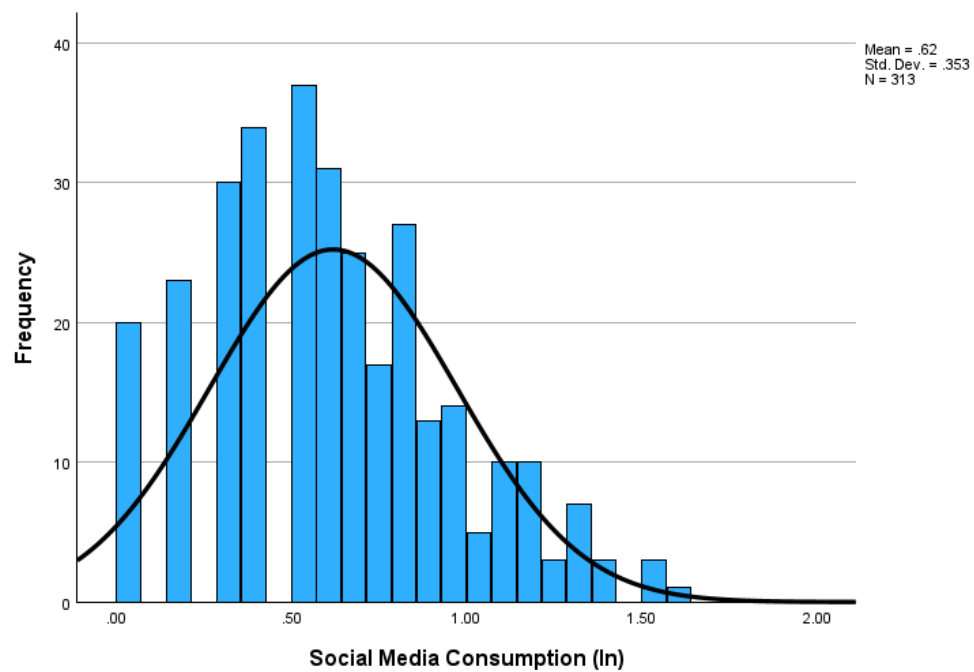
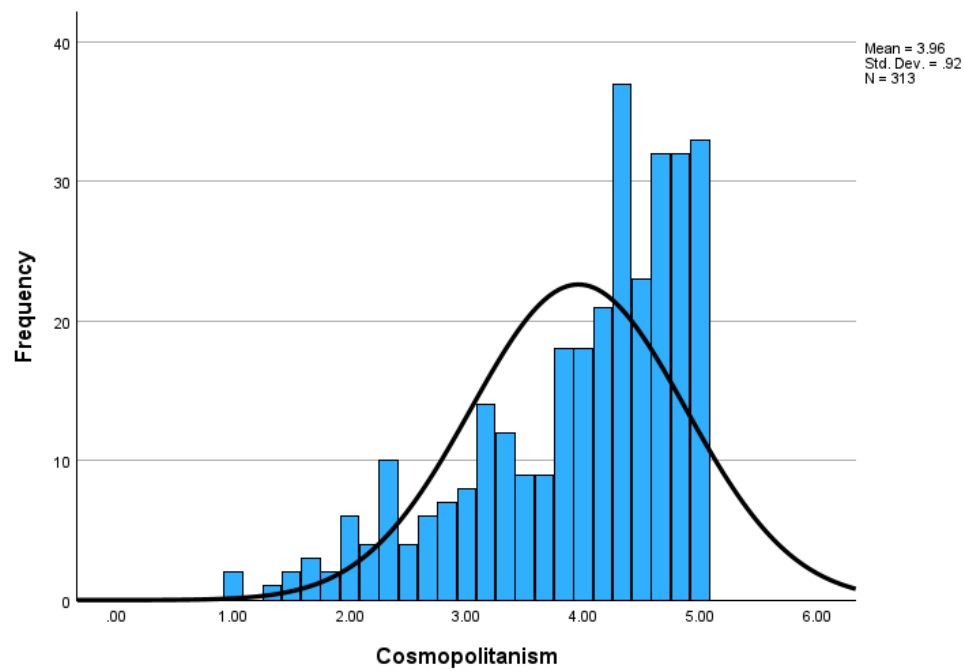
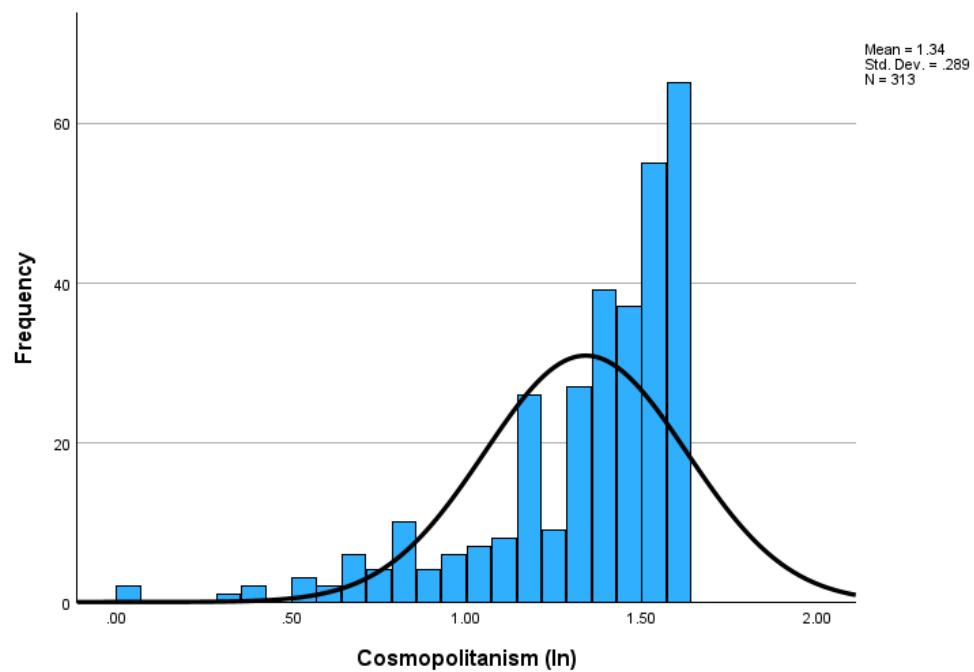
Figure 8*Distribution of Social Media Consumption***Figure 9***Distribution of Social Media Consumption (ln)*

Figure 10*Distribution of Cosmopolitanism***Figure 11***Distribution of Cosmopolitanism (ln)*

Appendix D

Model 1 – Assumption Check Figures

Figure 12

Model 1 - Histogram

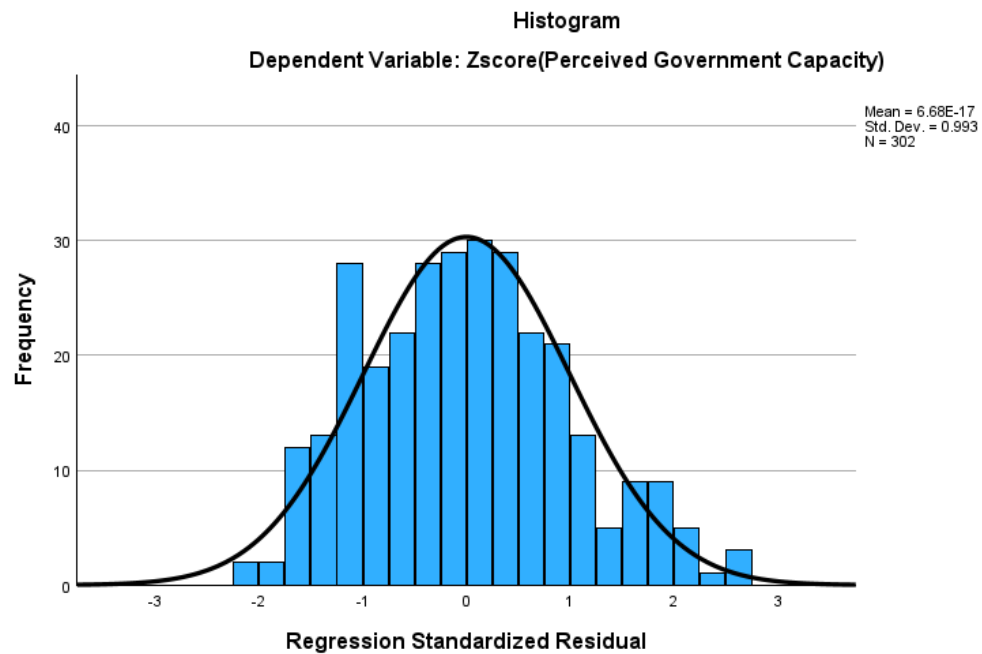


Figure 13

Model 1 – P-P Plot

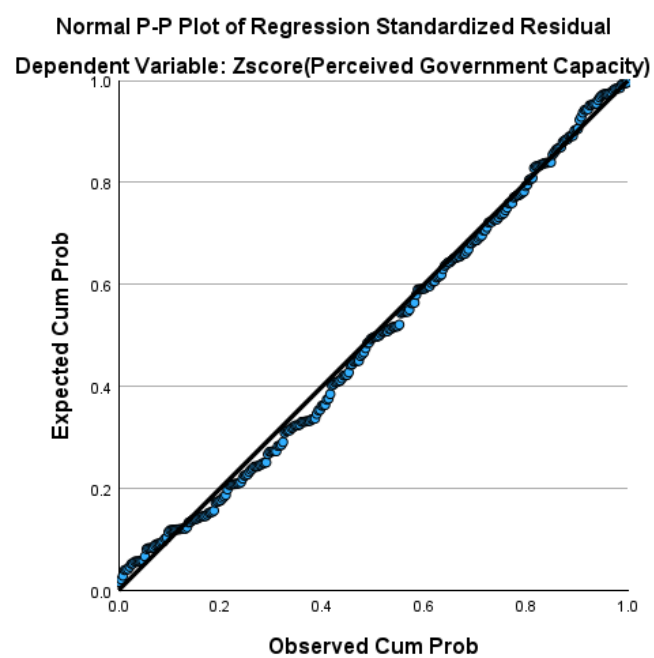
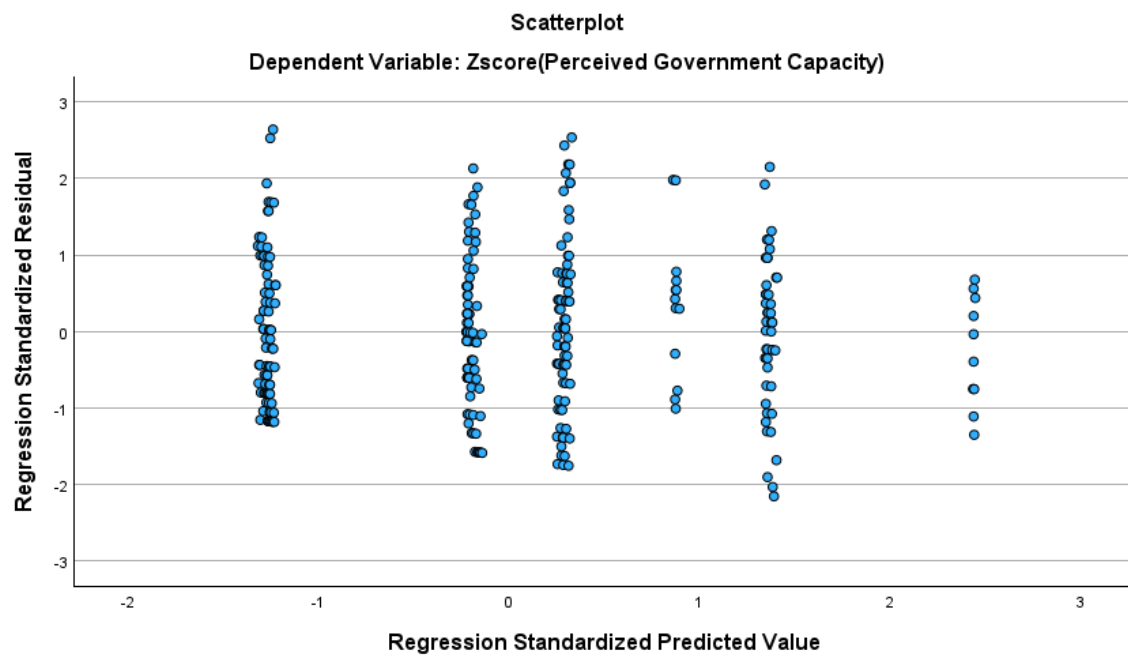


Figure 14*Model 1 - Scatterplot*

Appendix E

Model 2 – Assumption Check Figures

Figure 15

Model 2 - Histogram

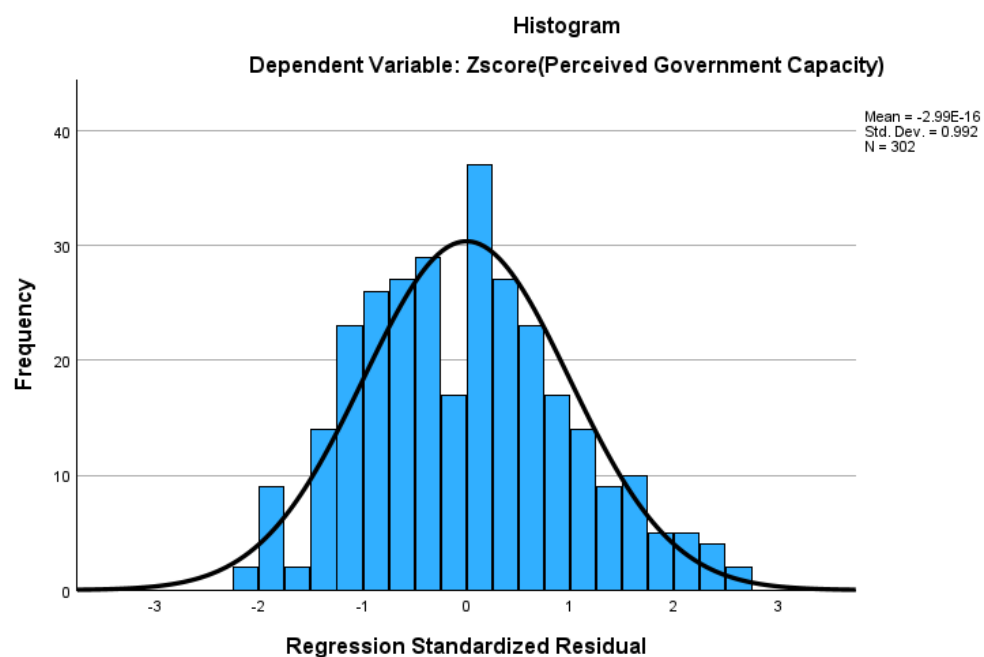


Figure 16

Model 2 – P-P Plot

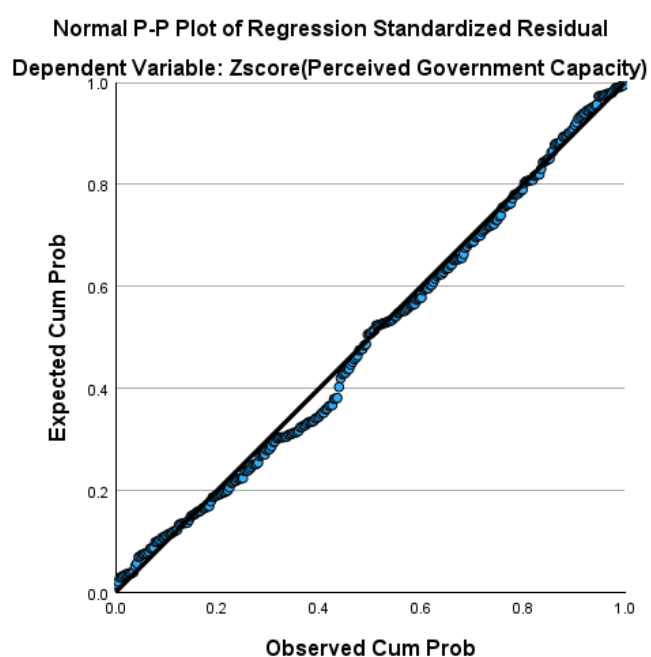
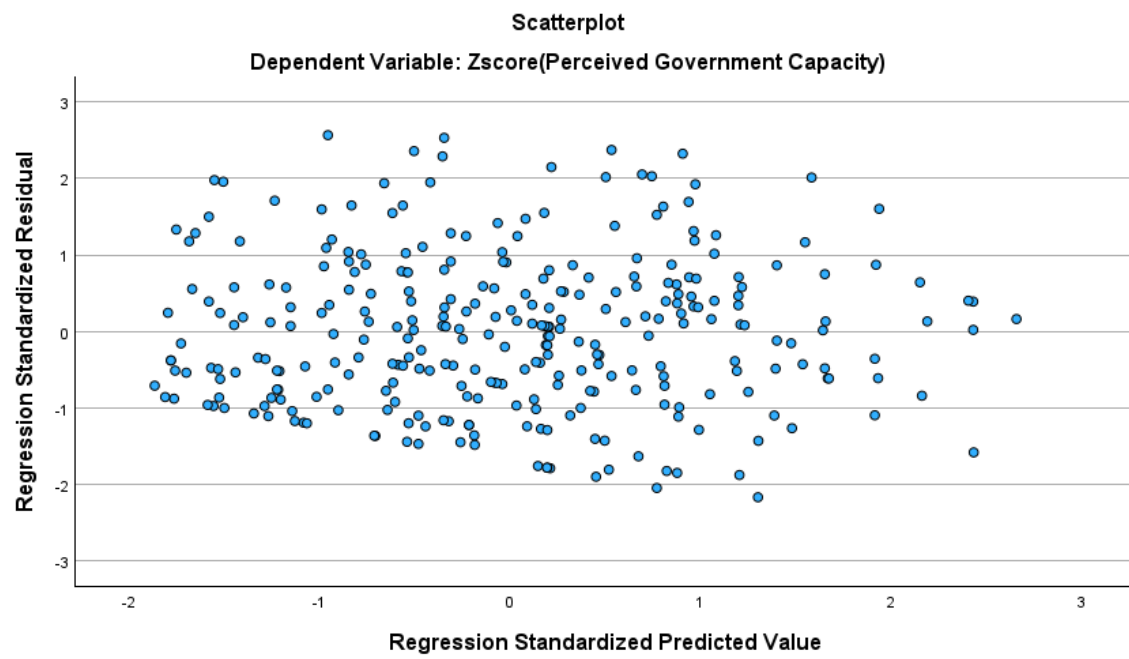


Figure 17*Model 2 - Scatterplot*

Appendix F

Model 3 – Assumption Check Figures

Figure 18

Model 3 - Histogram

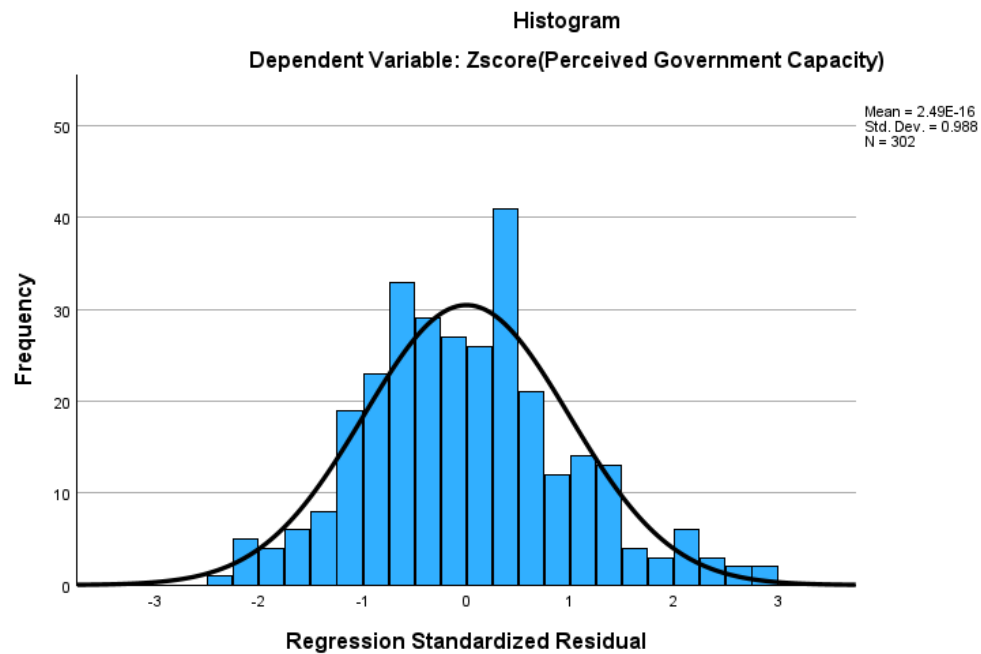


Figure 19

Model 3 – P-P Plot

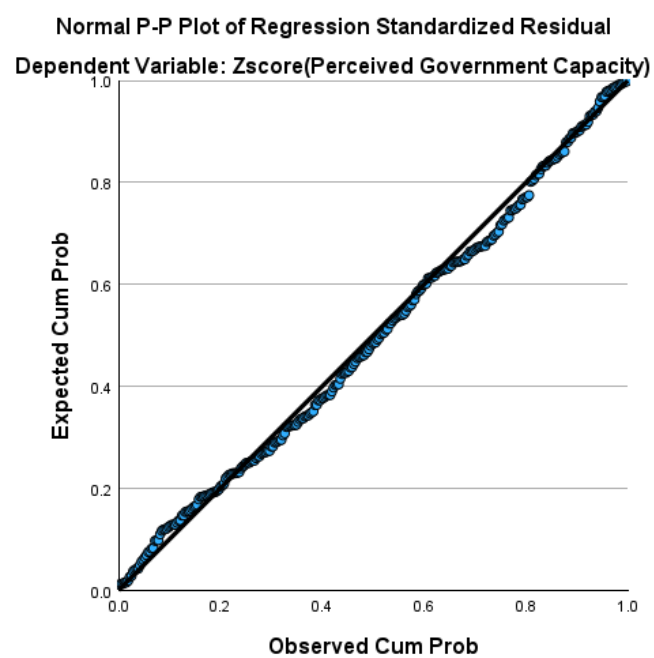
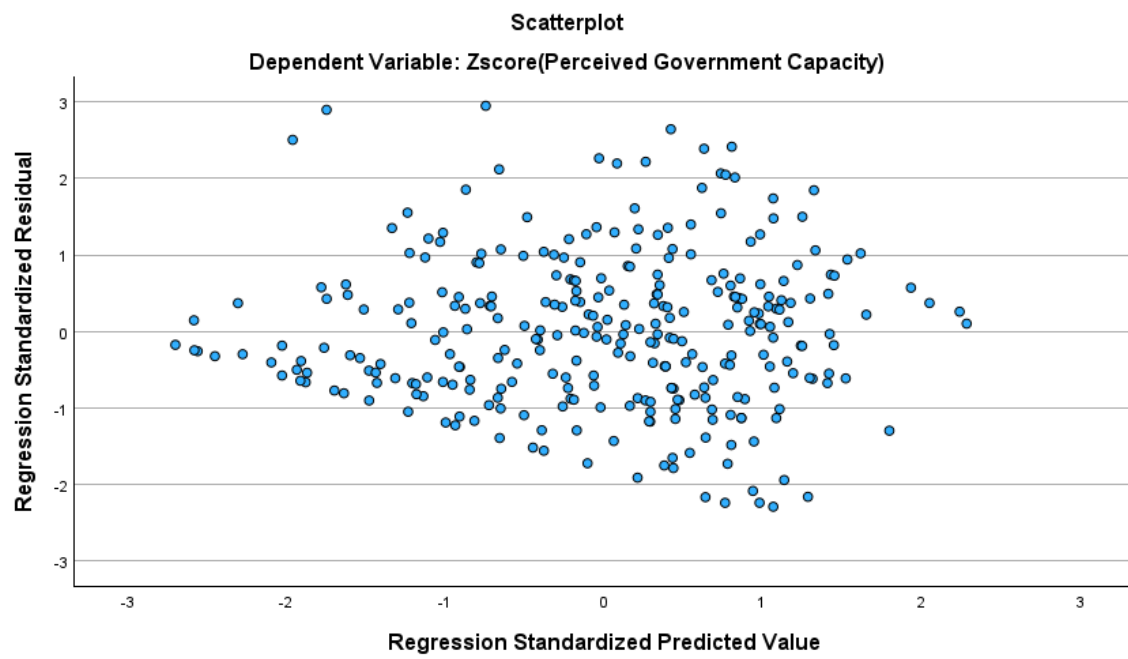


Figure 20*Model 3 - Scatterplot*

Appendix G

Model 4 – Assumption Check Figures

Figure 21

Model 4 - Histogram

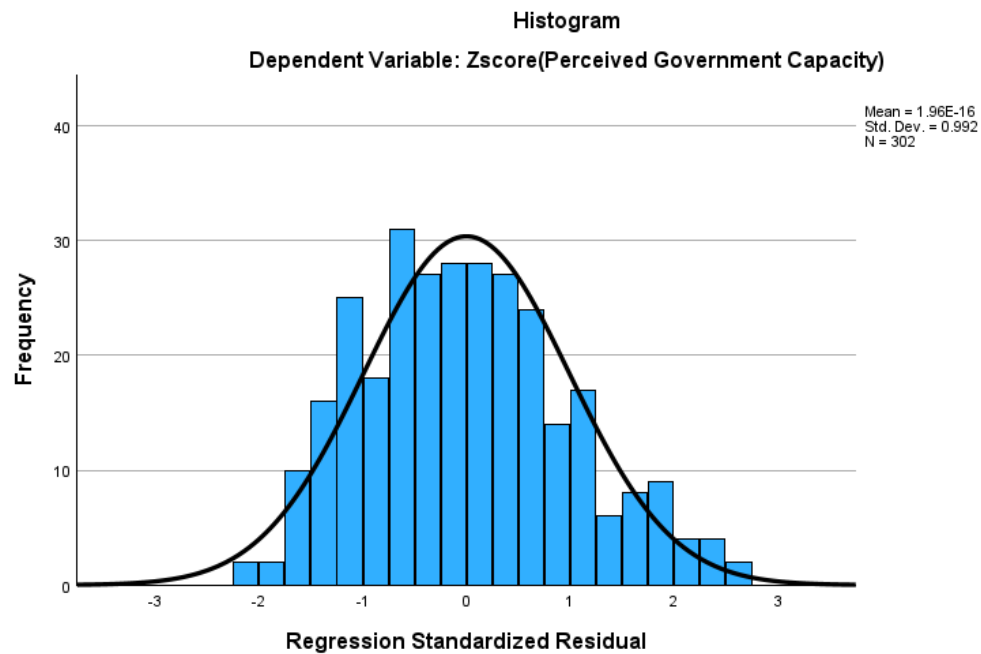


Figure 22

Model 4 – P-P Plot

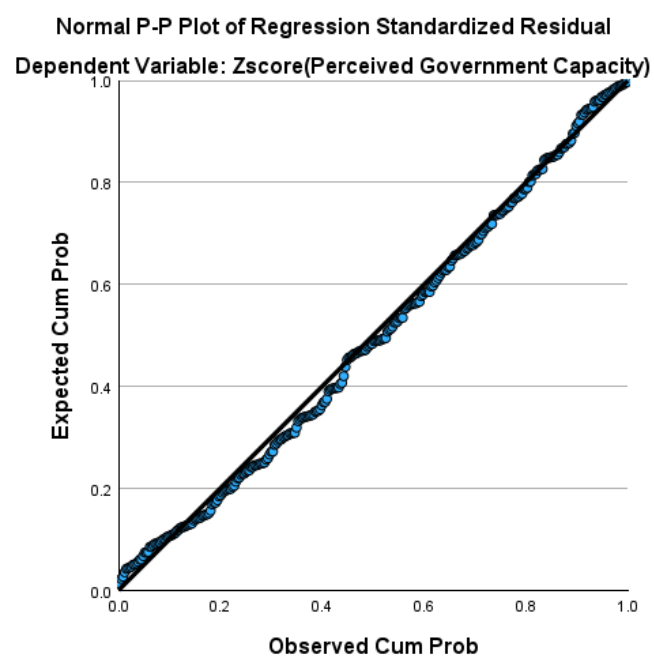
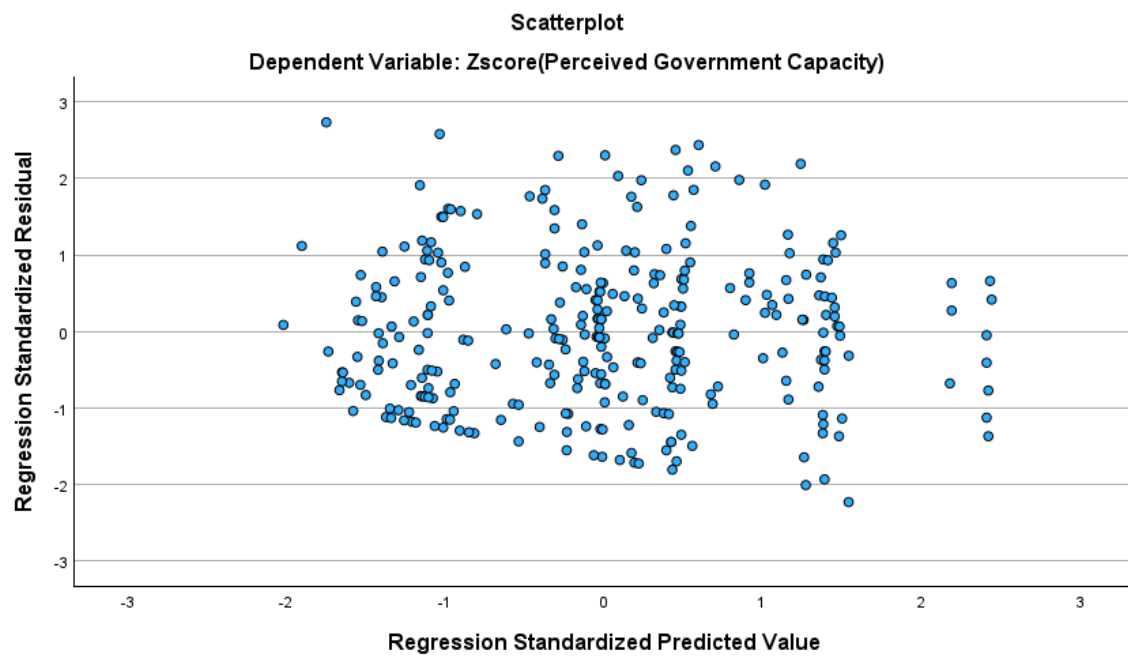


Figure 23*Model 4 - Scatterplot*

Appendix H

Model 5 – Assumption Check Figures

Figure 24

Model 5 - Histogram

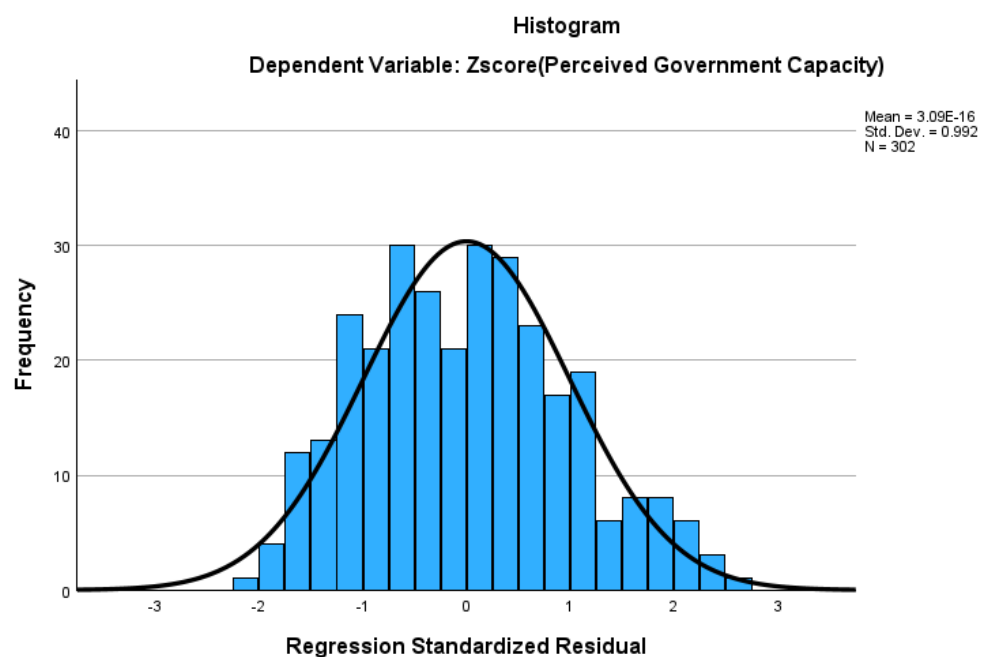


Figure 25

Model 5 – P-P Plot

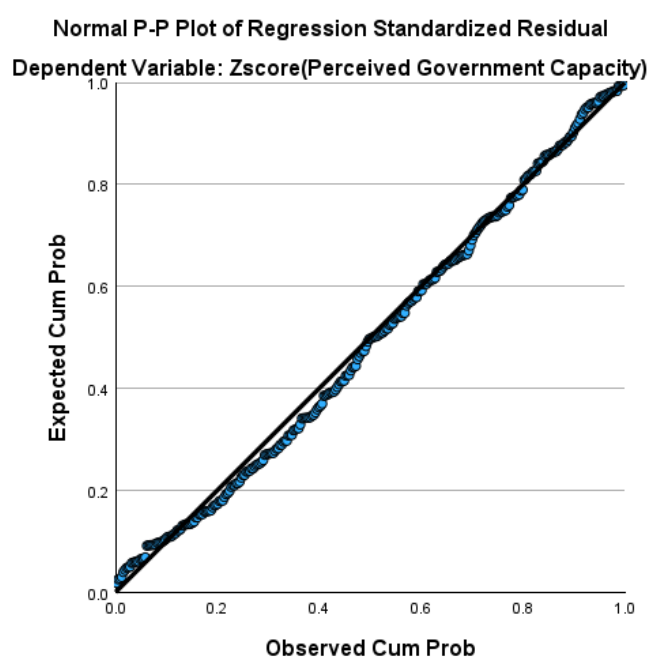
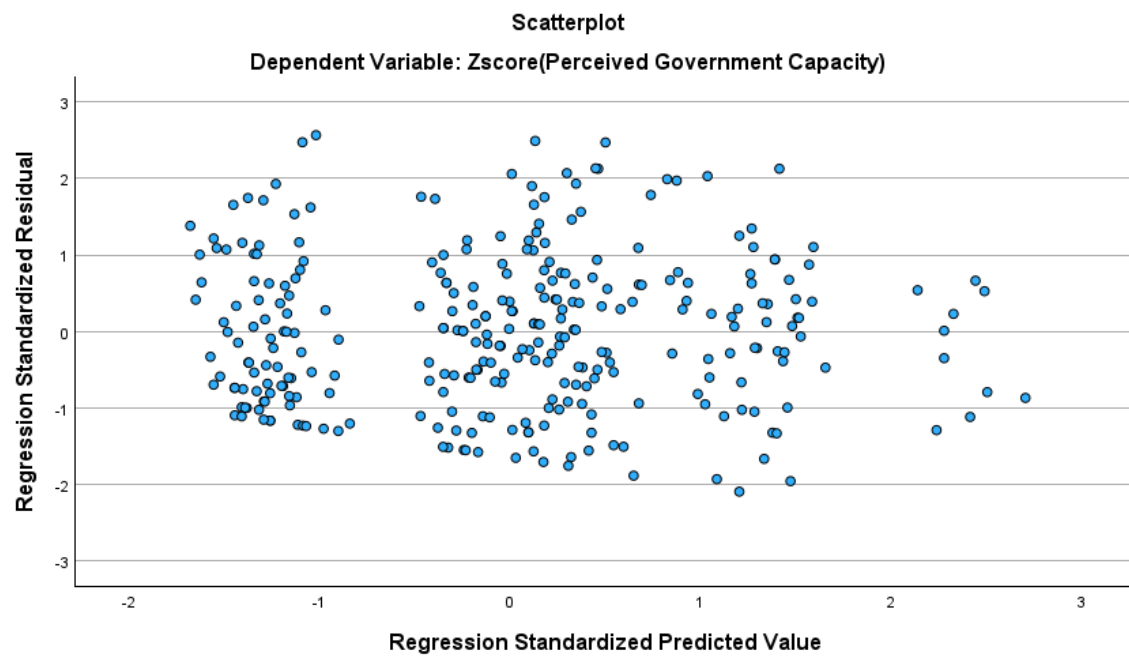


Figure 26*Model 5 - Scatterplot*

Appendix I

VIF per Variable per Model

Table 6

VIF Coefficients of Variables per Model

Model	1	2	3	4	5
Age (log)	1.513	1.554	1.604	1.606	1.813
Gender	1.060	1.074	1.083	1.061	1.084
Education (dummy)	1.008	1.011	1.038	1.096	1.008
Employment (dummy)	1.457	1.475	1.537	1.457	1.480
Public media consumption		1.036	1.085		1.286
Commercial media consumption				1.190	
Social media consumption (log)					1.286
Cosmopolitanism			1.208		
Interaction term (public media consumption X cosmopolitanism)			1.035		