An example of the happiness changes in Russia 1990-2011

Since I had to review a manuscript on happiness changes in Russia, I decided to do my own analysis as well. This is better than made by the author. The author has found that Happiness was at bottom in 1990 but I cannot be sure since this survey is much different than those of the World Value Survey, that can be downloaded from the website. The first figure however well shows that the happiness was declined very clearly during the first years after The Sovjet Union collapse. This decline however did not concern the youngest birth cohort B1974 = born 1970-1974 as the second graph shows. On the other hand, happiness increased after that.
The next two graphs tell the same for Poland, but the results are not similar.

We do not see any substantial changes after the collapse of the political system in 1990’s. But after that, the happiness seems to be increased in the first decade of the 2000’s. It is not easy to say the reasons. It is possible that the country found a way to go forward also so that it joined the European Union. As the second graph shows, there are much differences by age cohorts while the happiness seems to be increasing by cohorts (and age). The similar changes were found in Russia where the differences by age groups are fairly minor in 1990. It should be noted that the happiness of youngest age groups was even in 2011 essentially higher than for older groups. This can be seen in the last graph for 2011 rather well.
Happiness in Poland by birth cohorts B1929 to B1974, 1989-2011, World Value Survey
Happiness averages in 2011 by age cohorts in Poland, World Value Survey