

Workpackage 2	Policy responses to crises
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Objectives

The aim of this workpackage is to study policy responses. It examines the policies enacted by policy-makers to respond to crises and avoid or limit its negative consequences. The ways in which policy-makers deal with economic crises in the policy domain (WP2) can then be confronted, on one hand, with how the latter are dealt with in the public domain (WP3) and, on the other hand, with the ways in which private citizens deal with them (WP4).

How do policy-makers in the executive, legislative, and administrative arenas respond to a situation of economic crisis? What solutions do they envisage and why? In which policy areas do they intervene? Which kinds of citizens' rights are more at risk of depletion? Which groups of people are most affected by it?

Description of work

Policy responses to crises will be addressed by gathering a systematic set of cross-national indicators using secondary sources such as policy documents and jurisprudence. Interviews with key informants both at the national and EU level will also be used so as to fill in information from the documentary analysis. Although we look for responses in a variety of policy areas and for the implementation of austerity measures more generally, the focus will be on legal-institutional changes in social policy that translate crises into certain regulations such as for example cuts of welfare benefits, higher conditionality, and private contributions. In addition, we will examine changes in the regulation of labor markets such as for example the increase in flexibility.

Task 2.1: Preparation of guidelines for the analysis of policy documents

This task consists in preparing the collection and analysis of policy documents. The guidelines define the kinds of documents to be consulted and how they will be analyzed.

Task 2.2: Analysis of policy documents

The selected policy documents will be the object of a qualitative content analysis aimed at identifying the ways in which policy-makers respond to economic crises and how this varies across countries and across policy area.

Task 2.3: Preparation of guidelines for the interviews with key informants

This task consists in preparing the interviews with key informants. The guidelines define the key informants to be interviewed, the number of interviews, and the content of the interviews. Key informants will be selected amongst public officials and main stakeholders at different levels of government that are responsible for the formulation and/or implementation of measures addressing economic crises. We plan to conduct 10-15 interviews in each country and about 5 interviews at the EU level.

Task 2.4: Interviews with key informants

The interviews with key informants will be done according to the guidelines defined in the previous

task. Each beneficiary will conduct the interviews in the own country.

Task 2.5: Analysis of interview data

The interviews with key informants will be the object of a qualitative content analysis aimed at identifying the ways in which policy-makers respond to economic crises and how this varies across countries and across policy area.

Task 2.6: Legal analysis of rights depletion

Special attention will be devoted to jurisprudence and the legal consequences of economic crises, in particular the issue of rights depletion. This will be done through a legal analysis aimed at assessing which rights are more at risk of depletion and which social groups are at risk of rights depletion. The analysis will focus on categories of rights and follow a comparative law framework allowing to taking into account cross-national differences in the legal systems.

Task 2.7: Drafting of report on legal analysis of rights depletion

Beneficiary 3 (UU) will draft a specific report on the legal dimension of economic crises summarizing the main findings of the legal analysis of rights depletion.

Task 2.8: Drafting of integrated report on policy responses to crises

The report will consist of a comparative assessment of policy responses to crises based on national reports provided by the other beneficiaries.

Deliverables

2.1: Guidelines for the analysis of policy documents, defining the kinds of documents to be consulted and how they will be analyzed.

2.2: Guidelines for the interviews with key informants, defining the key informants to be interviewed, the number of interviews, and the content of the interviews.

2.3: Report on legal analysis of rights depletion, summarizing the main findings of the legal analysis of rights depletion.

2.4: Integrated report on policy responses to crises, summarizing the main findings of WP2, consisting of a comparative assessment of policy responses to crises based on national reports provided by beneficiaries.