

Workpackage 4	Individual responses to crises
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Objectives

The aim of this workpackage is to study individual perceptions, evaluations and responses to crises by private citizens. In particular, it examines how citizens perceive and react to crises, for example, to what extent individuals feel that different types of crises impact on their lives, how citizens rate their living standards in relation to the past, and how hopeful they are that these will improve in the future. Moreover, this workpackage will collect evidence to analyze how the crisis has impacted on individuals' political attitudes and behaviors, their social relations and networks, lifestyle patterns and use of leisure time, their feelings of well-being and relative social status, etc. as well as collect classic socio-economic indicators such as gender, age, occupation, etc. in order to analyze whether there are key differences between different types of social groups (for example, the resource-rich and the resource-poor) in terms of both how they subjectively perceive and also how they objectively modify their behaviors as a result of economic hardship and the social and political ramifications of crisis.

What do ordinary citizens consider as a situation of economic crisis? How do they perceive it? How do they react to crises? Who is most affected by crises? To what extent are social and political attitudes related to crises? To what extent are social and political behaviors related to crises? To what extent are the family and social life of people affected by crises? Additionally, a particular focus of this workpackage will be to collect data that will enable us to evaluate citizens' views about the role of the EU in relation to crisis. Do European citizens feel that EU reactions to the crisis have been adequate? Do they see the EU as competent in its policy responses to the crisis? What are the areas where citizens feel the EU could do more to assist citizens in their resilience to crisis? Are there important differences across social groups and countries on these and other important dimensions of subjective and objective reactions to crisis?

Description of work

We will conduct a survey on national representative samples of the general population in each of the countries included in the project. A specialized polling institute will be subcontracted to conduct the survey in each country through the CAWI method (Computer Assisted Web Interviewing) with online accessible questionnaires and data storage (using PHPSurveyor). Random samples will be generated through screening procedures.

Task 4.1: Preparation of questionnaire for the population survey

This task consists in preparing the questionnaire for the population survey. The questionnaire for this part of the study will include questions measuring the material/economic dimension, the psychological/attitudinal dimension, and the behavioral dimension, as well as their personal background and individual characteristics (including their embeddedness in organizational networks). Particular emphasis will be put on how citizens frame economic crises and policy responses to such crises, on blame attribution, and on the potential mismatch between their views and policy responses. The questionnaire will be translated in the national languages of the countries included in the project. Translation protocols will be applied to ensure equivalent translations in all the languages.

Task 4.2: Sampling, pretest, and data retrieval

Random samples will be generated through screening procedures. In order to be suitable for statistically representative analyses, each national sample will contain a minimum of 2000 respondents. This sample size is within the efficient zone in terms of confidence interval (sampling error). The questionnaire will be pretested before starting the coding. Data retrieval will be done through the CAWI method (Computer Assisted Web Interviewing). Robust methodological standards, such as similar probability sampling techniques and target response rates, will be applied to ensure comparability of data across countries.

Task 4.3: Analysis of survey data

The survey data will be analyzed through traditional statistical methods (for example, cross-tabulations and regressions) and multilevel analysis. It will be of two kinds. Firstly, descriptive analyses on key variables of interest will provide a picture of how citizens perceive and react to crises and how this varies across countries. Secondly, explanatory analyses will study how these variables influence each other.

Task 4.4: Drafting of integrated report on individual responses to crises

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

Deliverables

4.1: Questionnaire for the analysis of individual responses to crises

4.2: Integrated report on individual responses to crises, summarizing the main findings of WP4, consisting of a comparative assessment of individual responses to crises based on national reports provided by beneficiaries.