

<b>Workpackage 6</b>	Alternative forms of resilience in times of crisis
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### **Objectives**

The aim of this workpackage is to analyze alternative forms of resilience in times of crisis, such as citizens' initiatives and networks of cooperation amongst civil society actors (NGOs, church, or local government actors), in order to recommend innovative and related policy tools. Alternative forms of resilience are created at the intersection of the private and public spaces so as to respond to citizen-rights needs threatened by the crisis. These alternative forms of resilience include barter networks, food banks, free medical services, soup kitchens, new cooperatives, as well as free legal advice. They are especially visible in the past few years owing to the strong impact of the economic crisis on the middle class and vulnerable groups following the drastic cuts in terms of social services and heavy losses in income and jobs.

The workpackage will thus identify a wide range of alternative forms of resilience across Europe and, from a multicultural perspective, it will consider transformations that impact on citizen rights, lifestyles, consumption patterns, artistic expressions, and community practices. The study will focus especially on what these initiatives tell about the impacts of crises on families, women, children, minorities, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups and communities.

### **Description of work**

The work will proceed in two phases. The first phase will involve locating and coding alternative practices through the creation and application of a coding instrument based on action case analysis. This will offer a portrayal of the major socio-economic and cultural characteristics of the involved groups, their actions and practices, citizens' rights and needs, the forms of resilience promoted, and their resources. The second phase contains an online survey for all the identified action cases and qualitative personal interviews with initiators and beneficiaries involved in such alternative practices.

#### **Task 6.1: Preparation of codebook for the analysis of alternative action cases**

This task consists in preparing the codebook for the analysis of alternative action cases. The first part will offer instructions concerning defining, locating, and coding of alternative action cases. The second part will analytically present the variables and categories to be used in the coding. The main variables refer to socio-economic and cultural characteristics of the initiating groups, their networks, resources, supporters, actions and practices, the forms of resilience promoted, and the types of citizens' rights and needs covered.

#### **Task 6.2: Source selection and pretest**

We will select five major national newspapers and/or online source (e.g. facebook pages, blogs, and relevant websites) in each country, aiming at the best possible coverage of alternative practices to be located through related keyword searches for the 2008-2014 period. All of the resulting mentions (estimated to be less than 1000) will be used. The codebook will be pretested on a small sample of alternative action cases before coding begins.

#### Task 6.3: Coding of alternative action cases

Information on claims drawn from the media sources will be standardized in numerical form through a variety of categories related to the variables in the codebook. An alternative action case is a unit of alternative action practices in the public sphere by a specific group of initiators. It consists of alternative practices framed as cases of solidarity-based exchanges and cooperative structures such as barter clubs and networks, credit unions, ethical banks, time banks, alternative social currency, cooperatives, citizen's self-help groups, solidarity networks covering urgent/basic needs, and social enterprises.

#### Task 6.4: Analysis of alternative action cases

The alternative action case data will be analyzed using conventional statistical tools. Descriptive analyses will first be done on major variables such as the initiating groups, their networks, resources, supporters, actions and practices, the forms of resilience promoted, and the types of citizens' rights and needs covered. Explanatory analyses will then be done to show the ways in which these variables impact on each other.

#### Task 6.5: Preparation of questionnaire for the online survey

This task consists in preparing the questionnaire for the online survey. The questionnaire will offer detailed information concerning the mechanisms, tactics, and links of the involved actors, the ways in which they are addressing citizens' rights through the promotion of alternative forms of resilience for citizens confronting crises, and the different types of resources required to sustain them in order to address citizens' rights.

#### Task 6.6: Online survey

We will conduct an online survey targeting all the groups and networks identified through the alternative action case analysis. The questionnaire will first be pretested and constructed as an online survey instrument. Invitations will then be sent to all the alternative action groups and networks located in each of the countries included in the project.

#### Task 6.7: Analysis of online survey data

The online survey data will be analyzed through traditional statistical methods (for example, cross-tabulations and regressions). It will be of two kinds. Firstly, descriptive analyses on key variables of interest will provide a picture of alternative forms of resilience in times of crisis and how this varies across countries. Secondly, explanatory analyses will study how these variables influence each other.

#### Task 6.8. Preparation of guidelines for the qualitative interviews

The guidelines will define the key interviewees, the number of interviews for each alternative structure, and the content of the interviews. Approximately 30 qualitative personal interviews will be carried out in each country with representatives/initiators and participants/beneficiaries in alternative practices using a targeted purposive sample of alternative survival oriented and defensive structures covering urgent needs for food, shelter, health, mental health, childcare, education, and social enterprises. The purposive sample will consist of representatives/initiators and participants/beneficiaries from selected community settings, especially those involving families, women, children, minorities, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups.

#### Task 6.9 Qualitative interviews

The interviews with representatives/initiators and participants/beneficiaries in alternative practices will be done according to the guidelines defined in the previous task. Each beneficiary will conduct the interviews in the own country.

**Task 6.10 Analysis of qualitative interview data**

Qualitative content analysis will be carried out on the interviews. The analysis will especially highlight the effects of crises on families, women, children, minorities, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups

**Task 6.11: Drafting of integrated report on alternative forms of resilience in times of crisis**

The report will consist of a comparative assessment of alternative forms of resilience in times of crisis based on national reports provided by the other beneficiaries.

**Deliverables**

6.1: Codebook for coding of alternative action cases including instructions on defining, locating, and coding alternative action cases and the variables and categories to be used in the coding.

6.2: Questionnaire for the analysis of alternative action groups and networks (online survey).

6.3: Guidelines for the qualitative interviews, defining the key interviewees, the number of interviews for each alternative structure, and the content of the interviews.

6.4: Integrated report on alternative forms of resilience in times of crisis, summarizing the main findings of WP6, consisting of a comparative assessment of alternative forms of resilience in times of crisis based on national reports provided by beneficiaries.