



LEGITIMULT

WP 7 – Shaping the Future – from Project to Practice

Lead beneficiary: Eurac

Participants: UiB; ULEI; IES; UAnt; UNED; FUBe; FPZG; IDEA; UNIFR; ForFed; TalTech

Start month: M12; **End month:** M36

Goal: Establishing information flows and dialogue on legitimate crisis governance among science, politics, administration, civil society and stakeholders building on the results of LEGITIMULT.

WP 7 aims to translate the findings of LEGITIMULT into practice and strengthen exchange between academia, citizens and public policy-making through four activities. The first one is an interactive e-learning course for executive leaders, policy-makers and civil servants. This course trains and empowers the participants in coping with future crisis situations. Second, four citizens' juries of randomly selected citizens develop policy recommendations on legitimate crisis governance. This activity aims at intensifying and strengthening the dialogue between citizens and policy-makers. Third, in a one-day workshop, journalists, media and institutional communication experts gain information and exchange on the results of LEGITIMULT with regard to the role of media in crisis governance. Fourth, a two weeks full-time in-person practitioners' seminar brings together research practitioners and policy-makers. Through these four activities, WP 7 collects participants' feedback on the LEGITIMULT project's results to refine the final outputs of the other work packages.

Objectives

Objective 1: Establish strong information flows between science, politics, administration and civil society

Objective 2: Foster continuous information, dialogue and education in order to empower all actors involved in the better management of crises

Objective 3: Engage with a range of relevant stakeholders and actors to enable them to properly cope with the implication of crises in multilevel systems

Objective 4: Provide opportunities for networking, exchange, meeting of different stakeholders involved in crisis governance with civil society at subnational, national and international level

Objective 5: Raise awareness about the importance of "legitimate governance" of future crises and on how to concretely apply this concept

Objective 6: Guarantee that the results of LEGITIMULT will be integrated in a broader context so that



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the outputs will be available with the maximum standards of transparency and openness throughout and beyond the course of the project

Description of work and methodology

Through the four abovementioned activities (e-learning course; citizens' jury; one-day workshop; practitioners' seminar), academic outputs are brought to real-life contexts, generating a more concrete picture of what legitimate crisis governance is and should be. This outcome will be guaranteed through the involvement of stakeholders throughout the project: from inception to methodological discussions, case selection, discussion of initial findings and co-elaboration of the final reports (see Section 2). This bridge between academia and practice will contribute to filling the gap among science, decision-makers, media and citizens in crisis governance and will produce a toolbox reflecting all their views and perspectives.

Through the adaptation of the outcomes of the WPs 2-6, and the data collected in WP 1, targeted instruments are tested and further developed: the first three activities will be implemented in four preselected pilot areas whereas the last one will take place in Fribourg.

- a) An interactive e-learning course for executive leaders, policy-makers, civil servants (especially high-level civil servants of public authorities) at the subnational level, developed in six different languages (English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Croatian). As most decision-makers were not prepared to deal with a complex crisis such as Covid-19, this activity aims at training and empowering the participants in tackling similar challenges in the future. The course contains the main lessons drawn from the preceding WPs (2-6). The multilingual course is offered through [edX](#), one of the worldwide leading and open-source e-learning providers. By bringing together institutions such as International IDEA and the Forum of Federations with academic institutions in the consortium, more and more involved in e-learning (UNED, for instance, is a distance university with extensive experience in e-learning), it is guaranteed that this interactive course on the one hand features pedagogic excellency, while on the other ensures broad participation and long-term sustainability.
- b) Four citizens' juries (<https://participedia.net/method/155>) of randomly selected citizens will be organized in order to include them in deliberations regarding the development of policy recommendations on the legitimate management of crises. Citizens were mostly excluded from complex decision-making processes and the fast trade-offs arrived under substantial time pressure during the Covid-19 crisis. This may have resulted in a lack of trust in policy-making and a potential increase in corona-sceptics and vaccination hesitancy in most European countries (see also WP 5). This activity aims at intensifying and strengthening the dialogue between citizens and policy-makers, as the latter are invited to take part in the participatory process. The approximately 15 participants per session are briefed and informed about the outcomes of the preceding WPs; then, they are asked to discuss and to come up with crowd-sourced inputs in the form of a position paper. Each of the four citizens' juries lasts two days (presumably a weekend), are implemented in the languages of the respective pilot areas and moderated by local project partners and/or external experts in the field of participatory democracy.



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- c) A one-day workshop in four pilot areas with journalists, media and institutional communication experts: media and communication experts are important channels of information and discussion in the triangle of science, policy and the broader public. Hence, we engage with them to ensure they are informed about the results of our different WPs and the overall project. In addition, we discuss during this workshop on the relevance of our findings to media actors, such as the challenges to free media and access to information (see also WP 4), as well as enhanced institutional barriers for media access through emergency provisions (WP 3). This activity benefits from exchanges and synergies with the project financed under the call “HORIZON-CL3-2021-FACT-01-03 Disinformation and fake news are combated and trust in the digital world is raised”, e.g. by involving communication experts participating in these workshops.
- d) A two-week full time in-person practitioners’ seminar in English language to bring together research practitioners and policy-makers from different nationalities to debate and improve the intermediary findings and the final outcomes of the project. UNIFR has a long tradition of offering a 2-week practitioners' event, and the project will use the existing format and conceptualise one edition around the theme of legitimate crisis governance. Participants are practitioners from different countries, especially from the Global South not part of the partner consortium. Four participants (one per pilot area) who have attended the e-learning course are invited to attend the LEGITIMULT edition of the practitioners’ seminar, and their costs will be covered. By connecting LEGITIMULT with the existing practitioners’ seminar, synergies can be created, and well-established networks can be used and further extended. This activity allows the partners also to get feedback on the results and disseminate accumulated know-how to other continents. The practitioners’ seminar produces a short video in which participants discuss the meaning of legitimate crisis governance, how their experience links to the research project and how it is relevant for their practice. Furthermore, this practitioners’ seminar format continues after the end of the project.

The output of each of the four activities is included in a final report with four thematic sections: one on the feedback and benchmarking of the policy-makers after taking part in the interactive e-learning course, one on the recommendations of the citizens’ juries, one on the outcomes of the media workshops, and one on the opinions of the practitioners taking part in the seminar. On the basis of the final report, a multilingual toolbox is created which allows all potentially interested actors to replicate the abovementioned activities in various European contexts.

The e-learning course, the citizens’ juries and the workshops with media and communication experts will be carried out in four local entities, representing the four European regions as defined by the UN Geo-scheme for Europe (respectively Central, Northern, Southern and Eastern Europe) for a total of four full sets of activities (i.e. 12 single activities). The local entities are going to be chosen according to similarities of population, government level and wealth and according to differences in the ways the Covid-19 crisis was managed.

WP 7 applies the participatory action-research approach (PAR) to involve the four target groups in a double way: as recipients of the teaching and learning activities, but also as proactive creators of the



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toolbox and of the final policy recommendations. In this sense, the project strives to enforce and implement on-site citizen science and engagement, as encouraged in the Open Science plan of the European Commission. This methodology emphasises collective inquiry and experimentation grounded in experience and social history already present in the respective pilot areas.

Deliverables of WP 7

D7.1 E-learning course

D7.2 Concept of Citizens' jury and 4 position papers (from the 4 pilot areas)

D7.3 Workshop for media and communication experts

D7.4 Practitioners' Seminar

D7.5 Policy Recommendations tailored to different recipients at all government levels

D7.6 Final toolbox and final report



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