

LJUBLJANA MID TERM CONFERENCE



VENUE: CITY HOTEL LJUBLJANA, DALMATINOVA 15,
1000 LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

LEGITI  MULT

**Wednesday 17
April 2024**

Arrival of Participants

**Thursday, 18 April
2024**

- 9.30** **Welcome from the Organizers**
Mitja Zagar and Team
- 09.15** **Welcome and Introduction (current overview of progress of LEGITIMULT project, update on timeline, scientific and administrative issues)**
Lucia Radici and Soeren Keil
- 09.45-11.45** **Panel I – Presentation of Papers**
Chair: Martina Trettel
Discussant: Jelena Juvan (University of Ljubljana)
- WP3**
Legislative oversight of Covid-19 crisis governance in the context of multi-level governance
Edina Szöcsik
- WP4**
Legitimate crisis management, human rights, rights, protection and position of minorities, and non-discrimination: Work so far, problems, concepts, methodology and initial findings
Mitja Zagar et.al.
- WP6/1**
Effective Crisis Management Behind Closed Doors? Intergovernmental Coordination and The Political Legitimacy of Crisis Management in Multilevel Systems
Marius Guderjan, Mario Kölling and Johanna Schnabel
- WP6/2**
Does decentralization affect the size of public intervention? Evidence from anti-Covid public policies
Ana Herrero-Alcalde, and Javier Martín-Román
-
- 11.15** **COFFEE BREAK**
-
- 11.45** **Panel I – Presentation of Papers continues**
- 12.30** **LUNCH**

14.00

Panel II – Presentation of Papers

Chair: Soeren Keil

Discussant: Nathalie Behnke (University of Darmstadt)

WP1

Mapping Multilevel Government During Crises: A coding scheme to trace the role of subnational governments in Covid-19 governmental responses

Bilal Hassan and Arjan H. Schakel

WP2

Legitimate Crisis Governance in Unitary and Federal States During the Early Stages of the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Multi-Level Governance Perspective

Lars Brummel, Brendan Carroll, Dimiter Toshkov & Kutsal Yesilkagit

WP5

What determines political trust in different levels of government in times of crisis? Findings from a survey analysis and a qualitative comparative analysis

Jakob Frateur, Susana Coroado, Patricia Popelier, and Peter Bursens

15.30

COFFEE BREAK

Panel II – Presentation of Papers continues

16.45

Work Package 1

Discussion of data collection and next steps

Day 2 (Half Day)

09.00

Work Package 7 – Discussion

11.00

COFFEE BREAK

11.30

Roundtable

Chair: Soeren Keil

Next steps in Work Packages – work plan and timetable for the coming months

Interactions and Collaboration – Feedback from Mid-term Review

13.00

Lunch and Departure (or time for bilateral discussions)

WP1

Mapping Multilevel Government During Crises: A coding scheme to trace the role of subnational governments in Covid-19 governmental responses

Bilal Hassan, University of Bergen, Bilal.Hassan@uib.no

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The Covid-19 crisis has put strong pressures on governments to respond. At the start, it was mainly a public health crisis but later became also an economic, a social, transport, and an education crisis. Businesses and schools were closed for long periods, transport and travel was restricted, and employees lost their jobs, and, as a result, governments were forced to develop responses across several policy sectors. A strong expectation in the literature is that crises lead to strong centralization of decision-making. However, subnational governments had a large role in the formation and implementation of policies across the public health, socio-economic, transport and educational policy sectors, especially in the second phase of the crisis when the Covid-19 infection rates increased again (around June/July 2020 in most countries).

In this paper we develop a coding scheme that aims to trace the role of regional and local governments in the policy responses during the Covid-19 crisis. Our coding measures decision-making and implementation authority of subnational governments during the Covid-19 crisis. We aim to track local and regional governments' autonomy in public health (e.g. pandemics, hospitals), transport (e.g. roads, train, bus, tram), and education (e.g. closing of schools) policy in 31 European countries during the Covid-19 crisis (January 2020-January 2022). The coding scheme should help us, at a later stage, to compare the levels of authority before, during, and after the Covid-19 crisis and analyse in how far and under which conditions the Covid-19 crisis has led to centralization or decentralization.

Keywords: self-rule, shared rule, local government, regional government, intergovernmental relations, Covid-19 government responses

WP2

Legitimate Crisis Governance in Unitary and Federal States During the Early Stages of the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Multi-Level Governance Perspective

Lars Brummel, Brendan Carroll, Dimiter Toshkov & Kutsal Yesilkagit

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 posed unprecedented challenges to governments worldwide, necessitating swift and effective crisis governance responses. This paper investigates and compares the crisis governance strategies adopted by unitary and federal states during the initial phases of the pandemic, with a focus on their varying levels of multi-level governance structures.

Utilizing a comparative approach, we analyze how governance mechanisms at different levels of authority within these states responded to the emergence of the virus, with particular attention to decision-making processes, coordination efforts, policy implementation and actors' expressed attention to legitimacy concerns. More specifically, this study examines the interplay between central and subnational authorities in unitary states, as well as the distribution of responsibilities among federal, state, and local governments in federal systems. Through case studies and cross-national analyses using process-tracing, we identify key factors influencing crisis governance performance, including institutional structures, political dynamics, administrative capacities, and intergovernmental relations.

WP3

Legislative oversight of Covid-19 crisis governance in the context of multi-level governance

Edina Szöcsik

Crisis governance is characterized by executive dominance. Legislatures' direct influence on emergency law and policy-making and their oversight of emergency laws and policies tend to be weak. This paper addresses legislatures' ex-post oversight of Covid-19 crisis governance in federal or strongly decentralized European countries. It studies why some national and regional legislatures have formed ad hoc commissions to review Covid-19 crisis governance. To explain the formation of legislative Corona commissions, the paper focuses on multi-level governance dynamics. More specifically, it investigates whether a more centralized approach to Covid-19 crisis governance led to more stringent oversight by Corona commissions of regional legislatures. The analysis includes the countries Austria, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and the UK.

WP4

Legitimate crisis management, human rights, rights, protection and position of minorities, and non-discrimination: Work so far, problems, concepts, methodology and initial findings

Mitja Zagar et.al.

The paper presents the work of the WP4 so far and planned activities until the end of the LEGITIMULT project. Upon the completion of the literature review (elaborated in Deliverable 4.1 that notes that the work on literature review will continue throughout the project), elaboration of conceptual issues and methodology (presented in Deliverable 4.2), the field research started in the Fall of 2023 that is planned to continue until the Spring of 2025. This field research is predominantly qualitative in its approach and nature, based upon open-ended in-depth interviews supplemented by other techniques.

It focuses on studying the perceptions of the legitimacy of Covid-19 related crisis management in selected countries (so far, Austria, Croatia, Italy and Slovenia, possibly also in additional countries) of persons belonging to different minority and distinct communities and groups, particularly traditional national minorities and border communities. In this context, the paper addresses some open conceptual and methodological issues, problems encountered at our field research and possible solutions and presents initial results and research findings of the WP4.

WP5

What determines political trust in different levels of government in times of crisis? Findings from a survey analysis and a qualitative comparative analysis.

Jakob Frateur, Susana Coroado, Patricia Popelier, Peter Bursens
University of Antwerp, GOVTRUST

Research on political trust in different levels of government in times of crisis is rather scarce. It often also neglects trust in lower levels of government, as well as the possible effect of decision-making procedures, including intergovernmental cooperation, on citizens' political trust. Crises like the Covid-19 pandemic or climate change, however, are increasingly dealt with at various levels of government, on their own or in cooperation with other levels. Furthermore, the Covid-19 pandemic showed that governments did not always follow the set procedures when taking measures that, among others, restricted certain fundamental rights. Therefore, we study citizens' trust in various levels of government in times of crisis, with special attention for lower levels of government, especially the regional level, and their respective decision-making procedures.

Indeed, research shows that political trust is an important precondition for citizens' compliance with crisis-mitigating measures and, broader, the law. We study political trust from two perspectives. First, we study citizens' political trust at an individual level through a survey among 6000 citizens in six EU member states. In addition, with a qualitative comparative analysis (QCA), we uncover the conditions that lead to high and low political trust when confronted with a crisis at an aggregated level by looking at levels of political trust in a selection of European countries. The aim of this paper is to show the data obtained by the survey as well as to give an overview of the first results of the QCA.

WP6/1

Effective Crisis Management Behind Closed Doors? Intergovernmental Coordination and The Political Legitimacy of Crisis Management in Multilevel Systems

Marius Guderjan, FU Berlin; Mario Kölling, UNED; Johanna Schnabel, FU Berlin

Intergovernmental coordination is seen as being crucial for successful crisis management in multilevel systems.

However, while coordination is likely to increase the effectiveness and efficacy of policy measures, it may undermine their accountability. To establish whether intergovernmental coordination in multilevel systems really improves crisis management, we examine the effect of coordination on the political legitimacy of economic and social measures during the Covid-19 pandemic in Italy, France, Germany, Poland, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

WP6/2

Does decentralization affect the size of public intervention? Evidence from anti-Covid public policies

Ana Herrero-Alcalde, UNED; Javier Martín-Román, UNED

This paper analyzes the impact of the level of decentralization on the size of economic anti-Covid measures implemented by 31 European countries. Using the data of the Oxford Covid-19 Government Response Tracker, we test the decentralization and the Leviathan hypothesis, finding evidence of the inverse relationship between decentralization and public governments' interventions to fight the pandemic. On the contrary, the level of tax decentralization does not seem to have influenced on the size of those interventions.



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