ROBUST

CRISIS GOVERNANCE IN TURBULENT TIMES

Can innovation during a crisis help to maintain core values?

Crisis governance is central to democratic societies seeking to navigate increasingly turbulent times. However, current approaches seek to protect existing systems and practices by building resilience ("bouncing back"), which risks enhancing inequities and heightening turbulence. Building on recent examples from nine European countries, ROBUST identifies a forward-looking 'robustness' approach to crisis governance that embraces the need for innovation and adaptation of current practices ("building back better") as a necessary condition for maintaining the core values of democracy and the rule of law during crisis governance interventions

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Objectives

- Conceptualize robust multi-level crisis governance
- Investigate national and EU-level drivers and barriers
- Study the messy realities of "networked localities"
- Identify configurations of factors leading to robustness
- Build a learning hub to mobilize shared insights.

Outcomes

- Comparative and historical analyses of crisis governance responses to COVID-19 + refugee and financial crises
- Recommendations for crisis response capacity-building by democratic institutions.
- Insights about changing geopolitics, trust, digitization, and more.

Impacts

- Improved theory and method for scientific crisis governance support.
- Increased effectiveness and inclusiveness of crisis governance.
- Strengthened political leadership in crisis governance.
- Empowerment of citizens during future crises.

Coordinator: Roskilde School of Governance, Roskilde University (DK)

Partner organizations:

Tallinn Technical University (EE)
University of Turin (IT)
University of Antwerp (BE)
Utrecht University (NL)
European Public Health Alliance (BE)
Nord University (NO)
University of Zaragoza (ES)
Corvinus University (HU)
Masaryk University (CZ)

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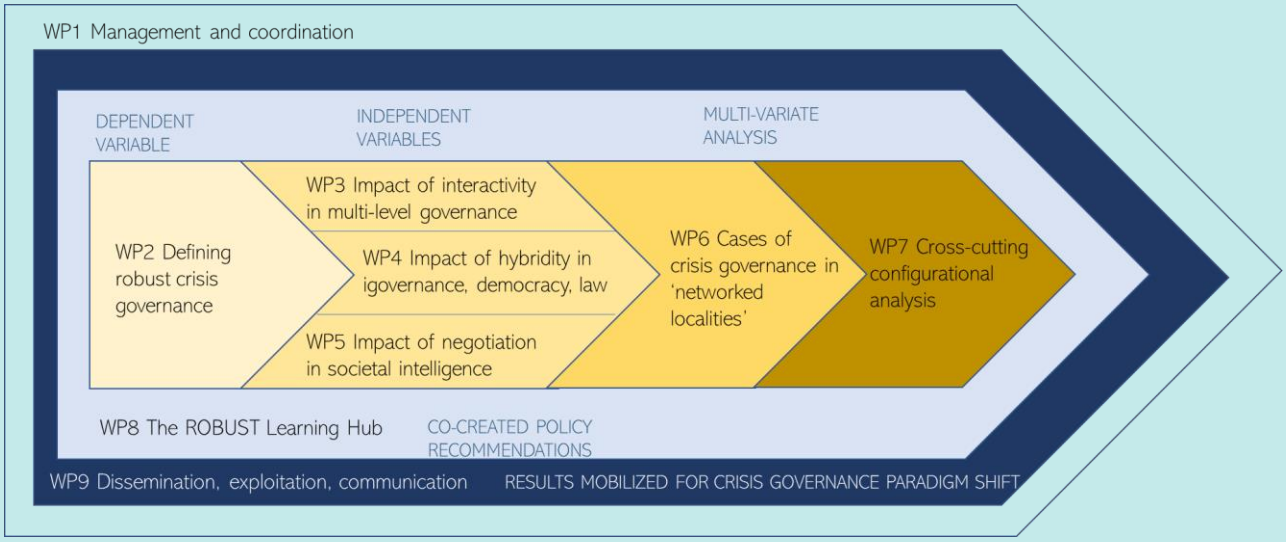
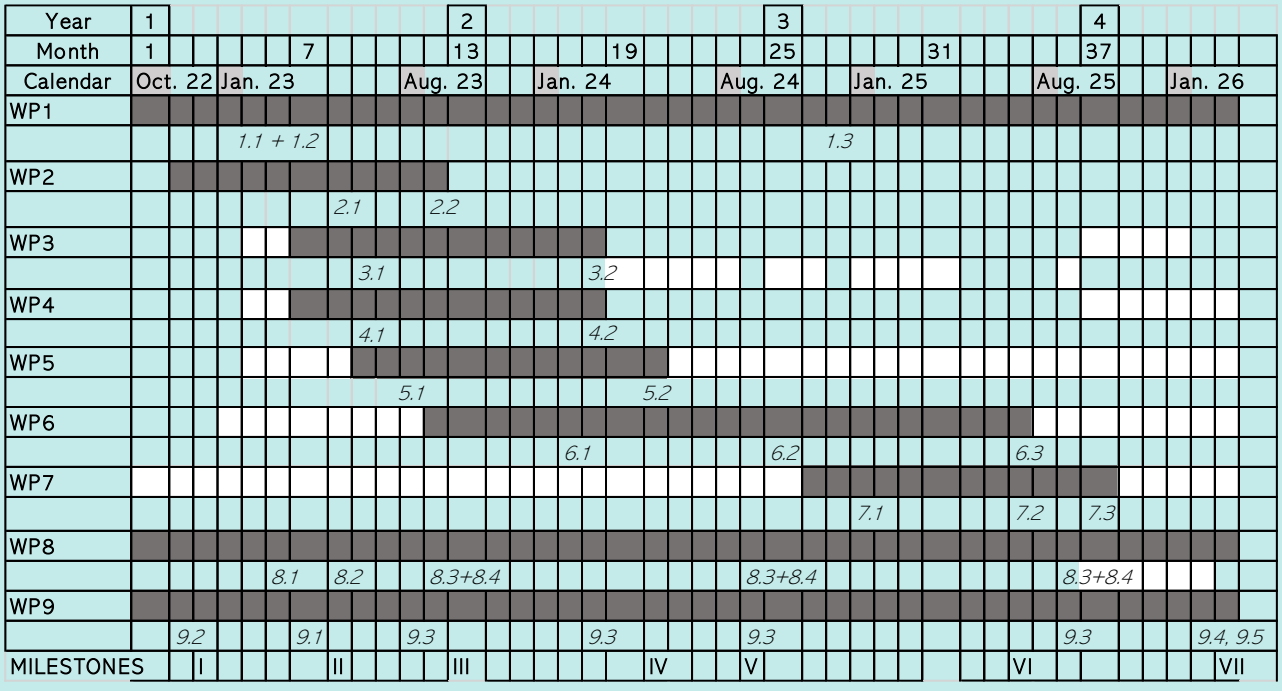
PERT



* *WP10: Ethics Requirements*

Timeline



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WP1 – Management and Coordination
WP1 will ensure timely implementation and coordination of the work plan and the delivery and dissemination of scientific outputs of international quality, including professional administrative and financial management of the project management of ethical issues, gender aspects, open science and data protection.

WP2 - Defining robust crisis governance in turbulent times
The main objective of WP2 is to construct theoretical and operational definitions of the key concepts in the project. The WP thereby lays the conceptual foundation for the project while creating the rudiments of a new robust governance mindset.

WP3 – Impacts of interactivity in multi-level governance
The objective of WP3 is to study examples of how multi-level governance can help or hinder robust responses to crisis and turbulence through documentary evidence of EU and national crisis responses. Results will be scrutinized in discussions with a group of relevant public and private decision-makers. The task will draw lessons for multi-level governance.

WP4 – Impacts of hybridity in governance, democracy, and law
The objective of WP4 is to conceptualize, operationalize and study the use of hybridization in the face of crisis and turbulence. The work package will study examples of hybridization that both illustrate productive synergies between different tools of governance, democracy, and law, and deal with potential trade-offs between legitimacy (democratic principle), efficiency (governance principle), and legality (juridical principle).

WP5 – Impacts of negotiation in societal intelligence
The objective of the work package is to conceptualize and operationalize societal intelligence. We will study the institutional interfaces at EU and national level between experts and policymakers (scientific advisory committees, advisory reports, etc.), between experts and the public (science communication in various forms), and between policymakers and the public (communication campaigns, press meetings, media coverage, etc.).

WP6 - Cases crisis governance in networked localities
This work package explores the messy reality of how robust crisis governance emerges (or fails to) in practice by examining how the response to the COVID-19 crisis played out in 18 'networked localities' across Europe. This citizen-centric approach allows us to study the interaction between multi-level governance, hybrid governance, and societal learning and how these factors impact robustness.

WP7 – Configurational analysis
This final analytical work uses the analytical results and data from WP2-6 to identify how different strategies in multi-level governance, hybrid governance, and societal learning do (or do not) reinforce each other in producing robust governance. In this analytical process, the project explicitly allows for identifying multiple configurations for ensuring robustness, rather than vainly seeking 'one best way'.

WP8 – Learning Hub
This work package establishes an interactive Learning Hub which facilitates two-way exchange with the stakeholder community and provides an online repository of learning materials. The two-way exchange in the Learning Hub informs and guides the project and, simultaneously, provides the mutual learning opportunities needed to achieve a paradigm shift among policymakers and practitioners. A strategy for continuing the hub beyond the project's lifetime is developed.

WP9 – Dissemination, exploitation, and communication
The aim of WP9 is to develop an inclusive outreach program in order to maximize the impact of the project through effective knowledge exchange and communication with a wide range of relevant audiences and beyond. Communication and dissemination activities will use targeted and tailored channels that cover the spectrum from personal and traditional to digital and social media.

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