

Protecting Child Well-Being in Turbulent Times: Lessons from COVID-19 and Pathways for the Future

Agenda - International Stakeholder Meeting Robust Governance

Date: Wednesday May 21st 2025

Time: 10:00 – 12:00

Location: EPHA office, Rue de Trèves 49-5, 1040 Brussels



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Societal shocks, such as economic turndowns, pandemics and political upheavals significantly impact communities and can especially affect children. In this workshop, we bring together relevant policymakers, practitioners and other key stakeholders and share the latest academic insights in how support for children can be organized, especially in turbulent times.

The workshop builds on the ROBUST project which collected insights from across Europe. During the session, we will explore the pandemic's impact on children from an international and European perspective and examine the role of (e.g.) multilevel governance in shaping these responses. Through concrete examples and case studies from different countries, we then connect insights from the international level to local realities. In doing so, we go beyond reflecting on the past as we focus on forward-looking strategies. Ultimately, this session will equip participants with actionable knowledge and foster collaboration among European stakeholders. The ultimate goal is to enhance preparedness for future turbulence.

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introduction
2. Short presentation: ROBUST research and key concepts (10 minutes)
3. Group discussion: Looking back on the COVID-19 crisis (15 minutes)
4. Short presentation: Findings & Observations (10 minutes)
5. Group discussion: Looking to the future (40 minutes)
6. Round-up & Closing reflections

SPEAKERS



Dr. Scott C. Douglas is Assistant Professor of Public Administration at Utrecht University and a lead researcher in the ROBUST project, focusing on robust and adaptive governance in times of crisis.



Fleur Stalenhoef (MSc) is a junior researcher in the ROBUST project at Utrecht University, examining how governments can adapt to complex societal challenges through robust governance.



Chiara Russo is a PhD Researcher at the University of Antwerp (BE). Chiara is currently involved in the ROBUST project and is on the Steering Committee of the ECPR Standing Group on Knowledge and Governance. Chiara's PhD dissertation contributes to research at the intersection of crisis governance and knowledge management, working on the novel concept of societal intelligence and analyzing how knowledge exchanges in interfaces contribute to robust crisis governance in turbulent times.



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