



PROJECT NUMBER 101080161

Report of the Transnational Topic-Based Group Discussion

Work Package 7





About the project

The COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic has affected our lives in many ways and manifested itself in many undesirable forms, such as the negative impact of coronavirus on individual lives, it has caused many deaths, the negative impact has also been on the global economy and employment, and on the quality of life in society in the form of restrictions on social rights, such as the right to be protected from poverty and social exclusion, the right to housing and education, and restrictions on medical care. COVID-19 also has effects on the democratic debates and the enjoyment of fundamental rights in the different countries of Europe. The impact was even more pronounced from a gender perspective, because as the United Nations (2020) noted, "from health to the economy, security to social protection, the impacts of COVID-19 are exacerbated for women and girls simply by virtue of their sex". Given the mentioned situation, the European Commission has awarded the project partners with the project HEARD, which focuses on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the democratic debate, the enjoyment of fundamental rights and the work and life of women through a gender perspective.

HEARD focuses on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the democratic debate, the enjoyment of fundamental rights and the work and life of women through a gender perspective. The search for an adequate response to overcome the crisis that occurred during the pandemic of COVID-19 should be a result of the participation of the involvement of various social partners, civil society and decision-making bodies of a given state. By involving partners from 9 different European countries in all the phases of the project we aim to measure the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of respect for the rule of law, democratic values, and the enjoyment of fundamental human rights, with special attention to the social rights of citizens and residents of the given state.

The project HEARD consists of 11 Work packages. In this document - the Report of the Transnational Topic-Based Group Discussion - we summarise the following project results/deliverables of Work package 7 (WP 7):

- 1. Event Description Sheet for the Transnational Topic-Based Group Discussion (See Appendix 1),
- 2. Report of the Results of Transnational Topic-Based Group Discussion (See Appendix 2).



About the deliverables of Work package 7

Within the WP 7, the in-situ Transnational Topic-Based Group Discussion on the topic how COVID-19 crisis had affected on the democratic debate, titled Co-designing ways to respond effectively and equitably to future epidemics, was conducted by 10 project partners in Novo mesto, Slovenia and attended by 9 partner countries (7 in-situ and 2 online) and with 32 participants (27 in-situ and 5 online) (See Appendix 1: Event Description Sheet for the Transnational Topic-Based Group Discussion).

After the Transnational Topic-Based Group Discussion the feedback of the participants was processed, the report in English language was prepared (See Appendix 2: Report of the Results of Transnational Topic-Based Group Discussion). During the implementation of the Work Package 7 we faced some challenges. The Transnational Topic-Based Group Discussion was conducted In-situ in Novo mesto, Slovenia, where 7 project partners (from Italy, Greece, Bulgaria, Spain, Portugal, Cyprus, and Slovenia) attended the event in-situ and 2 partners (France and Sweden) attended online, due to unforeseen and unpredictable circumstances and were unable to travel. We informed the EU Officer about the mentioned problem and after a discussion with the EU Officer, it was decided that the event can take place in a hybrid form to also accommodate the partners who were unable to travel.

Even though the participants from two partner countries could not attend the event in-situ, and could only attend online, we still ensured the participant requirements which were set in the project application form. We ensured the minimal number of participants (25-50) and a minimum number of countries, from where the participants are coming from (7-9 countries). At the event we had 27 in-situ participants coming from 7 different countries (Italy, Greece, Bulgaria, Spain, Portugal, Cyprus, and Slovenia), and additionally we had 5 participants online coming from 2 countries (France and Sweden).

The findings of the report will serve as guidelines in the next steps of the project.



Meet the partnership























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Appendix 1: Event Description Sheet for the Transnational Topic-Based Group Discussion



Appendix 2: Report of the Results of Transnational Topic-Based Group Discussion