

Newsletter

TransSOL is a project that studies European paths to transnational solidarity in times of crisis. It aims to identify the forms and conditions of solidarity and to develop role models and policy responses. The TransSOL team is pleased to present you with the first project newsletter. It gives an overview of our project and introduces our research team. <http://www.transsol.eu>



About TransSOL

The economic and financial crisis affecting the European Union has put solidarity on top of public and policy agendas. But how strong is European solidarity after almost 60 years of European integration? How much can we count on solidarity among citizens, organisations and governments in times of financial restrictions and political conflicts within the EU? What do we know about beneficial and detrimental factors, and what should be done to safeguard or enhance European solidarity?

These and further questions are at the centre of the TransSOL project. In particular, the project studies solidarity in Europe and aims to increase knowledge of the importance of solidarity within the general population, organised civil society and the media. TransSOL sheds light on the socio-economic, political and legal conditions that may benefit or inhibit solidarity. It identifies best practises and role models for transnational solidarity and develops evidence-based recommendations for policy-makers and civil society actors.



TransSOL has a comparative perspective and looks at the situation in different European countries with regard to distinct issues and target groups. On the one hand, the project measures and compares solidarity in Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. On the other hand, it explores the extent, forms and conditions of solidarity with regard to three vulnerable groups: the unemployed, people with disabilities and immigrants and asylum seekers. The comparative approach allows us to account for relevant variations and to better understand both how solidarity is affected in times of crisis and which intermediate country- and field-specific factors affect it. The project started in June 2015 and will run until May 2018.



The Research Teams

The TransSOL project brings together researchers and civil society practitioners from eight European countries; it is formed by the following partners: the University of Siegen (project coordinator, Germany), the University of Copenhagen (Denmark), the University of Crete (Greece), European Alternatives (United Kingdom and Germany), the University of Florence (Italy), the University of Geneva (Switzerland), Glasgow Caledonian University (United Kingdom), the Sciences Po

Paris (France), the University of Sheffield (United Kingdom) and the University of Warsaw (Poland). Its members come from various scientific backgrounds, including sociology, political science, law and communication studies, and they form a truly multidisciplinary team geared to capture the multifaceted and multidimensional character of European solidarity in times of crisis.

Here are the links to each partner's website:

Centre for Modern European Studies (CEMES), University of Copenhagen
<http://cemes.ku.dk>

Department of Sociology, University of Crete
<http://www.en.uoc.gr/courses/faculty-social-sciences/sociology.html>

Institute of Citizenship Studies (InCite), University of Geneva
<http://www.unige.ch/sciences-societe/incite/bienvenue/>

European Alternatives
<http://euroalter.com>

Department of Legal Sciences, University of Florence
<http://www.dsg.unifi.it>

Yunus Centre for Social Business and Health, Glasgow Caledonian University
<http://www.gcu.ac.uk/yunuscentre>

Centre for Political Research (CEVIPOF), Sciences Po
<http://www.cevipof.com>

Department of Politics, University of Sheffield
<http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/politics>

Department of Social Sciences, University of Siegen
<http://www.uni-siegen.de/phil/sozialwissenschaften>

Institute of Social Policy, University of Warsaw
<http://www.ips.uw.edu.pl/the-institute-of-social-policy.html>



Kick-off Meeting in Brussels

On 4th-5th June 2015, members of the TransSOL project came together on the premises of Saint-Louis University in Brussels to kick off the project. During the two-day meeting, the project team discussed administrative, technical, conceptual and methodological issues; the work plan for the coming 36 months; and its strategy for effective and target-specific dissemination and communication activities. Apart from the project consortium, the meeting was attended by members of the Advisory Board, a scientific officer from the European Commission and civil society stakeholders

Next steps and research activities

Since the kick-off meeting, the project teams have started to analyse the context conditions in each of the eight countries. The aim is to see how (and if) solidarity is influenced, for instance, by constitutional characteristics, legislation, levels of political participation, various political parties and associations, economic development, social welfare systems, divergences in income and unemployment rates. In parallel to these studies, the teams are currently preparing a comparative survey of existing practises and solidarity initiatives. In addition, they plan a population survey that will shed light on various aspects of solidarity's popular appeal. In preparation for this survey, the teams will develop a questionnaire over the summer.

The next project meeting will take place in November. At this meeting, subsequent research activities will be planned. These will include interviews with civil society organisations and NGO networks about their experiences with solidarity within and between European countries in addition to a content analysis of media debates on transnational solidarity. Moreover, the teams will discuss further steps towards a comprehensive catalogue of best-practise models and policy recommendations that citizens, organisations and governments can use to implement their projects and support measures more effectively.

TransSOL will publish its second newsletter at the end of November. That issue will present the first findings of the project's contextual analysis and further information about ongoing and planned research activities.



Find out more:

TransSOL website: www.transsol.eu
 TransSOL on Twitter: [@TransSOLproject](https://twitter.com/TransSOLproject)
 TransSOL on Facebook: [TransSOLproject](https://www.facebook.com/TransSOLproject)



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Project Information

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