

## 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 fourth TransSOL newsletter covers the results of our third workpackage and updates on our latest activities. <http://www.transsol.eu>

### European views on transnational solidarity

What do Europeans really think about solidarity and how does this differ in the context of financial solidarity, support for the European Union and migration? As part of the TransSOL project, a survey of 16,000 people was carried out in 7 EU member states and Switzerland to shed light on whether transnational solidarity really is on its knees in Europe or whether Europeans still believe in and practice solidarity.

#### What do the results say?

Carried out between November and December 2016, three broad areas are covered in this study: European solidarity, which looks at the extent to which Europeans believe and practice solidarity actions toward each other and the wider world; European Union membership and attachment, looking at how Europeans view European Union membership – and in the case of Switzerland, how they would view joining the EU – as well as how the UK's departure is viewed; and Migration, examining support for both intra-EU, non-EU migration and refugees, after a year in which migration dominated the news in Europe.

#### European solidarity

Findings indicate that solidarity remains strong in Europe despite, or perhaps in response to, the financial crisis. A strong majority of Europeans support **development aid**, more than half of Europeans have **taken action** to support the rights of people in their own country and around a third to support other EU citizens and persons living outside the EU, and most people believe in the importance of **eliminating big inequalities** between citizens.

Support to assist other EU member states having difficulties in paying debts, often referred to as **bailout funds**, is a more mixed picture. While Europeans are overall more supportive than not, public willingness for debt support is generally weaker in Northern Europe than Southern and almost as weak in Denmark and the UK, which are not participating in Euro bailout funds, as they are in Germany, which is.

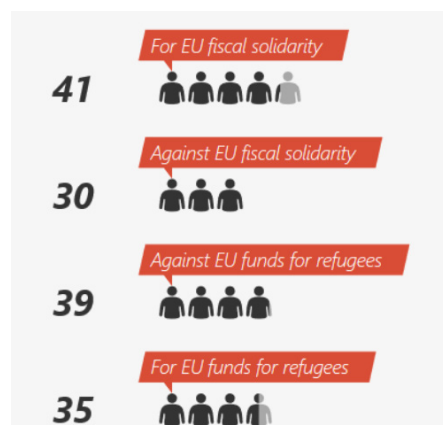
When it comes to providing the EU with **financial support for refugees**, Europeans clearly need more convincing, with 35% indicating they are in favour against 39% who say they are not. Similarly, Europeans remain unconvinced about providing **social assistance to migrants**, with two in five saying this should come only after having worked and paid taxes for one year and just under a third saying this should only come with citizenship.

#### How can the results be used?

The results provide a snapshot of views of Europeans on a range of topics, from development aid to EU membership to support for Syrian refugees. This data is accompanied by analysis at the European and national level.

A data set such as this can be used in several ways, from identifying policy or advocacy policies, to better understanding what motivates people to act and what the risks can be when looking for public support in an area, to further research into transnational solidarity.

The full report and methodology can be found at: [www.transsol.eu](http://www.transsol.eu)



## European Union membership and attachment

Membership of the EU sees very different responses depending on the question asked and the nationality of the person responding. On the question of whether **EU membership has been positive on jobs and employment**, the largest part of respondents found it was, however a larger proportion were neutral or thought EU membership was negative on jobs and employment.

Despite that finding, the greater part of respondents from Denmark, France, Germany, Italy and Poland would **vote to stay in the EU**, were a referendum to be held. Perhaps unsurprisingly a slight majority of UK respondents would vote to leave and a clear majority of Swiss respondents would not join, but a result that may give some cause for concern is that a majority of Greek respondents would also vote to leave the EU and at a larger rate than British respondents. On Brexit, respondents were largely split on whether or not the **UK should remain an EU member**, with support for continued UK membership particularly strong in Germany and Poland and weaker in France, Greece and Italy.

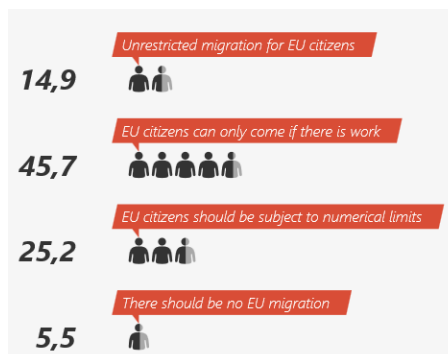
Outside of specifics and looking more generally, the greater number of respondents in all EU countries, except Greece but including the UK, nevertheless think **EU membership is a good thing**. This is despite a greater number of respondents from France and Italy, as well as Greece, indicating that their country has not **benefited from EU membership** than saying that it has.

When it comes to the question of attachment though, respondents from all countries feel less – and, in most cases, much less – **attached to the EU** than to their cities, regions, countries and even the world and humanity in general.

## Migration

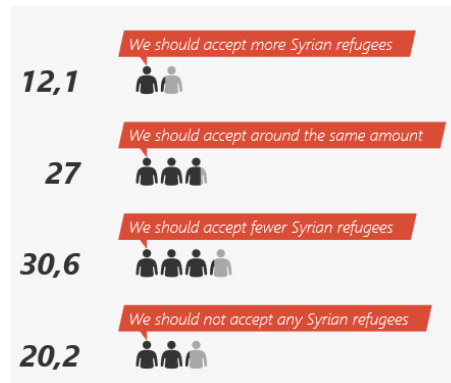
When it comes to migration, Europeans are largely homogenous in their views on **internal EU migration**: there is some, but limited, support for unrestricted migration, large support for migration for employment, some support for numerical limits on migration, and almost no support for ending free movement. Results are similar for **non-EU migrants**, but with a lower degree of support for open borders and higher degree of support for completely closed ones, with a greater degree of balance between those supporting non-EU migration linked to employment and those supporting strict numerical limits.

**Syrian refugees** have been the subject of discussion across Europe in recent years. Results of our survey looking at support for accepting refugees from the war in Syria shows that most people believe that their country should keep admitting around the same number or should admit lower numbers, with just over one in ten saying higher numbers should be admitted and one in five saying none should be ad-



mitted. Support for lower numbers of admissions were higher than average particularly in Greece and Germany, although a higher number of Germans than average also suggest keeping numbers about the same. Support for admitting more than currently was particularly high in Denmark and the UK, at almost one in five for each – both of which received fewer asylum seekers in 2016 than several other countries surveyed – and support for admitting no Syrian asylum seekers at all was particularly high in Poland and higher than average in France, with one third and one quarter respectively holding that opinion.

The full report can be found at: [www.transsol.eu](http://www.transsol.eu)



## TransSOL Summer School “Solidarity Beyond Borders”

Held over seven days between the 3rd and 9th of July 2017, the Solidarity Beyond Borders summer school, organised by the Institute of Social Policy at the University of Warsaw, was a unique opportunity for participants to share their research, opinions and ideas on transnational solidarity, as well as to get to know each other.

The school was inaugurated through a lecture by Professor David Ost on “European Solidarity and the legacy of the Polish Solidarity movement”, a public lecture that attracted several external guests and provided an introduction into the topic of solidarity. This was followed by a series of lectures, expert discussions and paper discussants from Mario Diani, Giuseppe Caccia, Jamie Mackay, Nina Eggert, Eva Fernandez, Veronica Federico, Ester di Napoli, Simone Baglioni, Maria Kousis, Angelos Loukakis, Hans-Jörg Trenz, Anna Kurowska, and Maria Theiss, as well as from the Institute’s sister project *Solidus* Maria de los Angeles Serrano Alfonso.



Student participants to the school came from a range of backgrounds, with many being PhD or Master students looking at transnational solidarity within a variety of academic fields, from communication studies to sociology and social policy. In addition to Poland, students came from as far away as Germany, Ghana, Portugal, Romania, Russia and Ukraine. Participating students were actively engaged in discussions throughout and had the opportunity to discuss their research, receive feedback on it and to provide input into discussions, as well as to interact with each other and discover the sights and sounds of Warsaw.

More information can be found here: <http://transsol.eu/summer-school/>

## Fourth Project Meeting in Copenhagen



Taking place at the University of Copenhagen between the 11-12 January 2017, the fourth project meeting of the TRANSOL project focussed on ongoing and forthcoming research activities, including looking at the publication of research findings.

Participants from all partner organisations were in attendance and the discussion looked at concrete steps for the coming parts of the project. This included ongoing work to complete WP1, the presentation of papers and feedback on them for WP2, including clarification of terms and the process, the idea to develop a book out of WP3 and the process for taking this idea further, the research approach for WP4, planning for the next steps of WP5 and the sampling procedure for this, and cases that would be interesting for the WP6 pilot study. Participants also discussed the mid-term event planning, the communication around the project, the summer school, publications and conferences.

### Find out more:

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

#### Project Information

Project Type: Collaborative Project  
Call: H2020 EURO-3-2014: European societies after the crisis  
Start date: June 2015  
Duration: 36 months  
Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Christian Lahusen, University of Siegen  
Grant Agreement No: 649435  
EU-funded Project Budget: € 2,483,805.00



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 649435.

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