



Measuring European solidarity
Interdisciplinary small-group workshop
Call for Papers

No community can exist without a certain degree of solidarity among its members; this also applies to the member states and citizens of the European Union. Over the course of recent European crises, solidarity, or the lack of it, developed into a buzzword in the media discourse as well as in academic research. Various studies analyzed the development of European solidarity during the last decade. However, the conceptualization and measurement of this crucial concept highly differ between the approaches. With regard to public opinion research, some authors classified citizens' willingness to redistribute financial resources within the European Union as an act of European solidarity (Baute et al. 2019; Ciornei & Recchi 2017; Kuhn et al. 2017; Lengfeld & Kroh 2016; Verhaegen 2016) while others focus on activities towards certain societal groups (Kiess & Trenz 2019) or the access to social benefits as aspects of solidarity (Baute et al. 2019). On the meso level, cross border solidarity campaigns such as European labor movements during the Eurozone Crisis (Bieler & Erne 2015) or civic protests during the long summer of migration were analyzed as acts of solidarity (Della Porta 2018). Moreover, meanings and manifestations of solidarity in media discourses have been discussed (Kontochristou & Mascha; Wallaschek 2019) and when it comes to political elites, papers intensively studied discussions on Europe wide solidarity actions in national parliamentary debates (Closa & Maatsch 2014; Kontochristou 2014).

Facing this increasing research interest in European solidarity within the last decade, it is at least questionable whether the conceptualization of solidarity as well as its measurement are comparable among the approaches. The aim of our international workshop '*Measuring European Solidarity*' is to investigate solidarity within the European Union in more detail and to discuss different operationalizations as well as empirical measurements of the concept. Core questions to be addressed during the workshop are: (1) How can we define European solidarity? (2) How can we measure this kind of solidarity? (3) Which actions, attitudes and

motivations actually qualify as European solidarity? (4) How can we distinguish national or group-centered solidarity from European solidarity? While this list of questions is not exhaustive, it should be useful to guide submissions for the workshop.

Submissions to the workshop should empirically capture aspects of European solidarity either on the micro, macro or meso level through, for instance, survey data, content analysis or experimental designs. European solidarity can serve as a dependent as well as an independent variable and we also invite conceptual work if it aims on providing guidelines for empirical research. The workshop is open for researchers in the field of political science, sociology, psychology, communication science and related fields.

As a common output of the workshop, the organizers plan to publish a special issue in an international peer-reviewed journal. The workshop will be held with about 20 participants at GESIS in Cologne (Germany) on **January 27th and 28th, 2020**.

Please send your abstract (up to 500 words) to Ann-Kathrin Reinl (ann-kathrin.reinl@gesis.org) by **October 10th, 2019**. Funded by the *Leibniz Research Alliance Research Group on Crises in a Globalised World*, travel and accommodation costs as well as catering during the workshop will be fully covered for one author per paper.

We are looking forward to see you in Cologne next year!

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