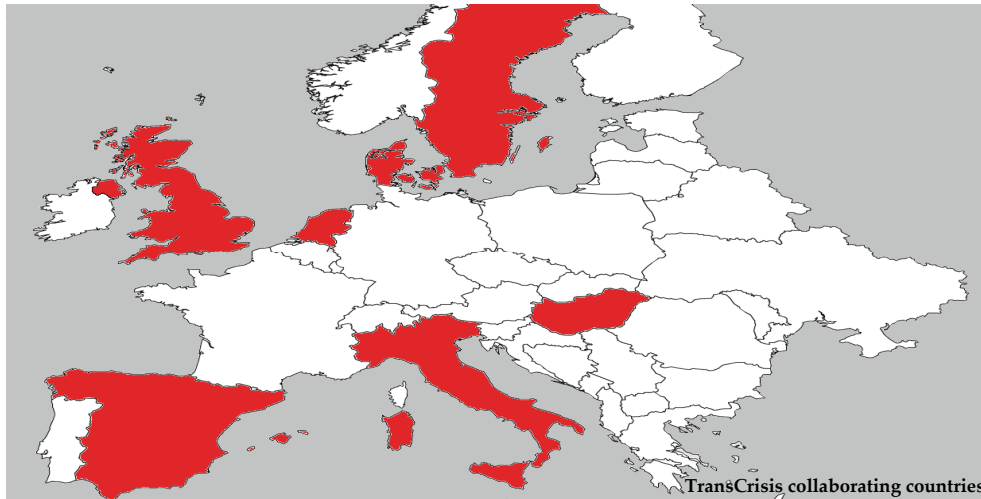


TransCrisis Project Launch



TransCrisis: An introduction

Transboundary crises are at the core of the 'new normal' that characterises politics and policy-making in Europe. The financial crisis and the ongoing debates about the governance of the Eurozone have highlighted the interdependencies among member states, and crises such as the horsemeat scandal, have pointed to the complexities of international production chains, and the limits of existing oversight procedures. Other crises, such as the Icelandic ash cloud, floods, oil spills, let alone geo-political crises have illustrated that crises usually do not stop at political boundaries. In a world where politics has lost its boundary control, the importance of managing transboundary crisis points to the critical role that the EU can play. However, this realisation comes at a time of growing scepticism regarding the effectiveness and legitimacy of the EU, and a re-nationalisation of politics.

TransCrisis is a three-year international research collaboration on EU transboundary crisis-management. TransCrisis aims to:

- advance our understanding of crisis management capacities across institutions within a multi-level governance setting
- contribute to debates in the world of practice appropriate governance arrangements in the light of transboundary crises, especially in relation to EU institutions
- promote public debate about transboundary crises and what citizens might expect from crisis leadership in a multi-level system

To advance our understanding of the capacities and limits affecting crisis management and leadership in the EU and to develop high-impact policy recommendations, this project focuses on a number of distinct components, ranging from (i) the role of European political leaders, their capacities and their responsiveness to public opinion, (ii) the crisis management capacities of EU institutions, and (iii) the interaction between the EU and national political-administrative systems in managing crises.

This issue:

TransCrisis: An Introduction

TransCrisis Projects



The TransCrisis newsletter is also published on the project's website: www.transcrisis.eu.

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TransCrisis Projects

TransCrisis explores different dimensions of European transboundary crisis management

Project 1 and 6: Understanding Transboundary Crisis Management

Leader: *Arjen Boin, Crisisplan.*

This project develops a framework for crisis leadership in the context of the European Union. This framework will inform all TransCrisis projects.

Project 2: Studying Political Leaders in the Financial Crisis

Leader: *Femke van Esch, University of Utrecht.*

This project utilises computer-based analysis to assess European political leaders' speeches during the financial crisis and how these speeches respond to changing public moods.

Project 3: Political leadership, EU institutions and Transboundary Crisis Management Capacity

This project consists of three interdependent studies that focus on the crisis management capacities of European institutions:

1. Crisis Management Capacity in the European Commission, Council of Ministers, and Council of the European Union

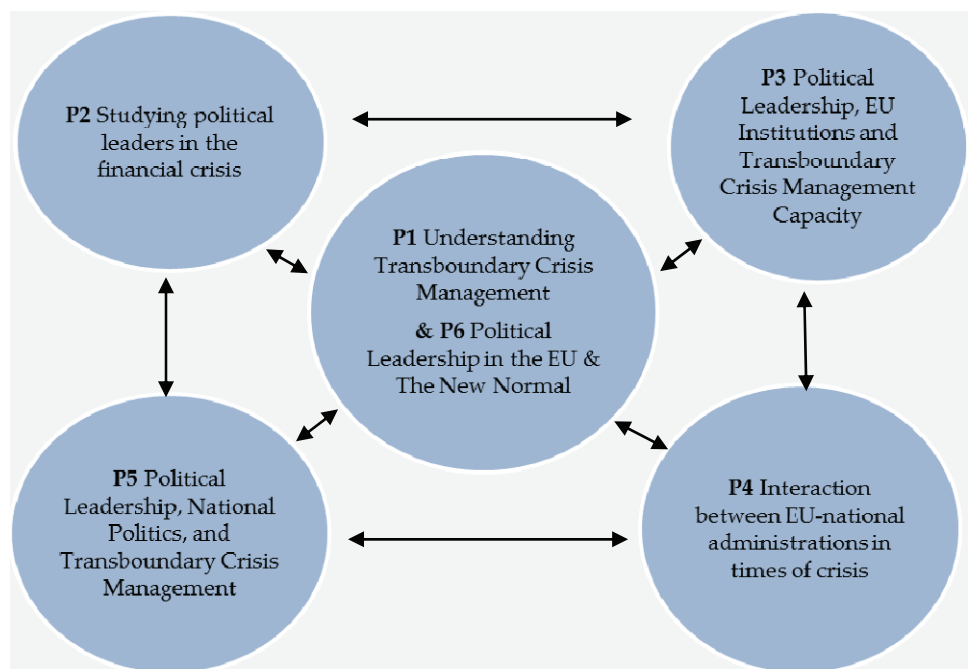
Leader: *Mark Rhinard, University of Stockholm.*

This project considers the institutional resources that are available to these institutions in order to provide political leadership in the context of transboundary crises.

2. Crisis Leadership in the European Parliament

Leader: *Maja Rasmussen, ThinkTank Europa, Copenhagen.*

This project focuses in particular on the informal agenda-setting power of the European Parliament as the only directly elected body in the EU in crisis management.



TransCrisis Projects

3. Political Leadership in EU agencies

Leader: *Jacint Jordana, IBEI, Barcelona.*

Through a survey and case studies, this project explores the role of non-majoritarian EU agencies in transboundary crisis management.

Project 4: Interaction between EU-national administrations in times of crisis

This set of studies investigates the interaction of EU and national political and administrative systems in transboundary crisis management:

1. Political Leadership and Crisis Management Regimes

Leader: *Martin Lodge, CARR.*

This project looks at different domains to explore the interaction between EU and national institutions and how diverse national settings may influence transboundary crisis management responses.

2. Managing the Immigration Crisis

Leader: *Fulvio Attina, University of Catania.*

This project focuses on one particularly salient aspect, immigration, to consider how the EU interacts with an increasingly volatile 'near abroad'.

Project 5: Political Leadership, National Politics, and Transboundary Crisis Management

Leader: *Nick Sitter, Central European University.*

This project considers how the *acquis* (i.e. existing Treaty commitments) and Copenhagen criteria are being monitored and enforced in the light of evidence that national politics are becoming increasingly critical of EU integration, and that existing commitments are coming under growing challenge. The project focuses in particular on gender, corruption, and the treatment of ethnic minorities.



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