

Resistiré

Press release

8 April 2021

Launching RESISTIRÉ, a new EU-funded project that aims to reduce the gendered inequalities caused by Covid-19 policies

The European Commission is investing EUR 5 million in an interdisciplinary project investigating how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected equality in 31 European countries.

The RESISTIRÉ project (Responding to outbreaks through co-creative inclusive equality strategies and collaboration) was launched on 8 and 9 April with representatives of its ten-partner consortium.

Over the next two years, this interdisciplinary project will collect, analyse, and translate extensive data into operational insights. This will result in a new research agenda, advocacy, policy recommendations, as well as innovative pilot actions to provide fairer social recoveries.

The corona pandemic is a health crisis as well as a humanitarian, economic and social crisis that is affecting us all. As a group, women have been hit harder than men. Some may work from home and order food online. Others have become unemployed, victims of violence, financial difficulties, or physical and mental illness, all a consequence of society being partially shut down during the pandemic.

"The goal is to find solutions and social innovations to reduce inequality quickly," says Dr. Tanya Warnaars, European Science Foundation Science Officer and RESISTIRÉ project coordinator.

The RESISTIRÉ project stands out in several ways. One is its quick implementation. Researchers, stakeholders in civil society, and policymakers begin by presenting their first proposals for initiatives within seven months.

"The social consequences of the pandemic itself are dramatic and affect large groups, but political decisions do too. For this reason, urgent efforts are needed to mitigate and counteract the effects of the pandemic." says Prof. Herman Van Oyen at Sciensano.

RESISTIRÉ is also notable for its approach, based on three co-creative cycles, each consisting of four steps. The first step will centre on researchers compiling and analysing the consequences of the pandemic.

"Results will focus on inequalities produced by policy responses with respect to the EU gender equality strategy, including for example gender-based violence, employment, and the gender care gap" says Associate Prof. Sofia Strid, at Örebro University and research leader for RESISTIRÉ.



These research findings will then be handed over to stakeholder groups of civil society in various countries. They will meet in what is called 'Open studios' to discuss and process the results and suggest ideas of concrete action. In the third step, groups of national policymakers will develop solutions based on the conclusions from the previous two steps. The last step will ensure that the project's results are disseminated and exploited.

The co-creation cycle takes six months and is repeated twice, which means that key players, such as policymakers and women's organisations, are included both for research purposes in the project and as participants in the innovation-oriented solutions workshops that are planned.

Researchers will conduct over 800 interviews with people from vulnerable groups in 31 countries. Included are also interviews with selected national experts. In addition to Open Studios in the participating countries, twelve workshops with participants from all countries will be held. And it all must happen quickly.

"We are integrating the efforts from many parts of society – and must work quickly. This means that the RESISTIRÉ project has the potential to have a tremendous impact and lead to ongoing concrete changes," summarises Dr. Marcela Linkova from the Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

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RESISTIRÉ stands for Responding to outbreaks through co-creative inclusive equality strategies and collaboration. The project involves a ten-partner European consortium and a network of researchers in the EU, the UK, Serbia, Iceland, and Turkey. The coordinator is the European Science Foundation in France.

The project is funded with 5,2 million EUR from the European Commission's Horizon 2020 program and will last for two years starting in April 2021.

Project partners are European Science Foundation (FR), Örebro University (Sweden), Yellow Window (Belgium), Oxford Brookes University (United Kingdom), Knowledge & Innovation (Italy), Technical University Dublin (Ireland), Sabanci University (Turkey), Universidad de Deusto (Spain), Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic (Czech Republic), and Sciensano (Belgium).

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