

A PROPOSAL ON RESEARCH METHODS

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RESEARCH TIMELINE, RESPONSABILITIES AND OUTCOMES

STAGES AND TASKS	DESCRIPTION	RESPONSABILITIES	DURATION	OUTCOMES
Stage 1				
Task 1	Preliminary research	All partners	Apr-June 2019	Country reports
Task 2	Case studies selection	All partners	Sep-Dec 2019	2 case studies
Stage 2				
Task 3	Case study research	All partners	Jan-Apr 2020	Country reports
Task 4	Evaluation - Web survey	Mainly Univ. Firenze	Mar-July 2020	Report

TASK 1 – PRELIMINARY RESEARCH (A)

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- a. a comparable overview of the industrial relation systems in project's countries
- b. collect data on trade union membership, especially among the target groups
- c. find out the main strategies that trade unions adopt to cope with a declining membership
- d. collect general information on services (innovative and traditional) which are provided by trade unions (also part of task 2)
- e. generate hypothesis on how much the provision of such services affect the membership

TASK 1 – PRELIMINARY RESEARCH (B)

OPEN QUESTIONS

- How many trade unions should we consider in this preliminary research?
- Are we interested at national/sectoral services or also at regional/local?
- How we define innovative services vis-à-vis to traditional ones?

DEADLINE

- JUNE/AUGUST 2019 – Draft country report

TASK 2 — CASE STUDIES SELECTION (A)

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- a. selection of two case studies on service provided to cope with membership decline
- b. coordination of case selection strategies among partners

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

- a trade union (at national, sectoral or territorial level)
- other kinds of industrial relation actors in which trade unions play a relevant role (i.e. bilateral bodies, committees, etc.)

TASK 2 — CASE STUDIES SELECTION (B)

HYPOTESIS ON SELECTION CRITERIA

- a. services explicitly designed to cope with membership decline
- b. services addressed to project's target groups (vulnerable dependent workers + I-PROs)
- c. services that can be evaluated (by a web survey)

OPEN QUESTIONS:

- a. should all partners focus on the same sectors?
- b. should we focus on a specific trade union?
- c. one case study per each target group?

STEP 1 - TASK 1 AND 2

HOW TO COLLECT INFORMATION

- a. desk analysis
- b. 4/5 semi-structured interviews with peak level national/sectoral trade unionists
- c. interviews should focus on:
 - trends in membership decline
 - causes of such decline
 - the challenges of vulnerable dependent workers and of I-PROs
 - strategies adopted to cope with those threats
 - types and features of services provided
 - preliminary evaluation of such services

TASK 3 — CASE STUDY RESEARCH (A)

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- a. go through the features and the rationale of services provided by trade union
- b. collect trade unionists' personal evaluation on the effectiveness of services in terms of membership and of participation to union activity
- c. gather information and figures on service users
- d. collect email addresses of users

TASK 3 – CASE STUDY RESEARCH (B)

HOW TO COLLECT INFORMATION

- a. 2 interviews per each case study with:
 - i. the trade unionist responsible for the service
 - ii. union staff directly involved in service provision
- b. 1 focus group with trade unionists, union staff and (if possible) service users

DEADLINE

- APRIL 2020 – Draft of case studies report

TASK 4 —SURVEY ADDRESSED TO SERVICE USERS (A)

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- a. assess the effectiveness of the service
- b. evaluate the impact on membership
- c. evaluate the impact on participation
- d. gather insights on users/workers needs
- e. collect opinions on the role of unions for vulnerable workers and I-PROs and, broadly speaking, on collective actions

TASK 4 – SURVEY ADDRESSED TO SERVICE USERS (B)

RESPONSABILITIES

	LEAD PARTNER AND UNIV. FIRENZE	ALL PARTNERS
I	Prepare the questionnaire	Translate the questionnaire in national languages
	Design the web survey	
II	Sampling	Collect email addresses of service users
III	Implementation of the survey	
IV	Data analysis	
V	Reporting	

TASK 4 — SURVEY ADDRESSED TO SERVICE USERS (C)

OPEN QUESTIONS

- a. feasibility problems
- b. should we use a counterfactual approach?

STEP 1 AND 2 - METHODOLOGICAL TOOLS

- LEAD PARTNER AND UNIV. FIRENZE WILL PROVIDE THE FOLLOW RESEARCH TOOLS

TASKS	TOOLS
TASK 1	COUNTRY REPORT OUTLINE, SUGGESTION ON INDICATORS TO BE USED
TASK 2	1 SEMI-STRUCTURED QUESTIONNAIRE (PEAK LEVEL TRADEUNIONISTS)
TASK 3	1 SEMI-STRUCTURED QUESTIONNAIRE (CASE STUDY) 1 GRID TO GATHER FIGURES ON SERVICE USERES 1 GRID TO COLLECT USERS EMAIL ADDRESSES
TASK 4	SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

- EACH PARTNER HAVE VOICE ON RESEARCH TOOLS DURING MEETINGS AND CONFERENCE CALLS