

ENLIGHTEN - TransCrisis Roundtable

EU Institutions and Crisis Management

Femke van Esch with
Jacint Jordana & Mark
Rhinard



TRANS**C**RISIS

Enhancing the EU's Transboundary
Crisis Management Capacities



This project has received funding from the
European Union's Horizon 2020 research and
innovation programme under grant agreement
No 549484

Key questions

- ❖ How do EU leaders make meaning during a crisis?
- ❖ What crisis management capacities have emerged in EU institutions?
- ❖ What role do EU agencies play in transboundary crises?

How do leaders make meaning during a crisis?

Leaders & citizens' meaning making of the financial crisis

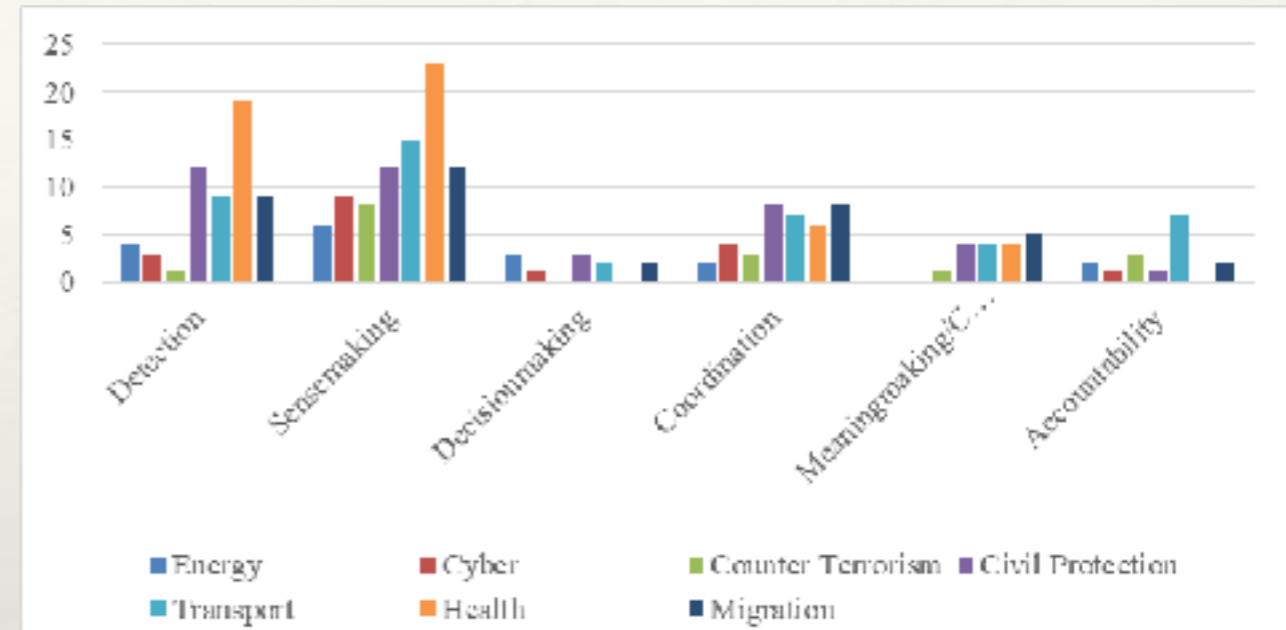
- ❖ Leaders showed broad consistency
 - ❖ crisis = sovereign debt crisis affecting economic development within EU
 - ❖ Ideological differences, which lessen over time
- ❖ Citizens emphasised employment and economic growth & more Keynesian
- ❖ Congruence with media > with citizens (diff. per leader)

Legitimate leadership?

- ❖ Mediocre scores on legitimacy (top dimensions: democracy & competence)
- ❖ Gender does not affect perception of legitimate leadership
- ❖ Representative meaning making <> legitimacy (ideology, identity, caring)
 - ❖ but more for congruence with media than with citizens

What crisis management capacities have emerged in EU institutions?

- ❖ Continuous rise of transboundary crisis capacities over time - but in different tasks
- ❖ All domains (at least 42) have their own 'threat detection' system
- ❖ Change in legitimation strategy
- ❖ What is the impact of this 'crisisfication'?



What role do EU agencies play in transboundary crises?

- ❖ **They offer a repository of plausible knowledge-based mechanisms to react to unexpected crises threatening policy domains where they are active**
 - ❖ Management board members generally regard their agencies as crisis 'ready'.
 - ❖ However, those in agencies with a risk profile expressed the need for more resources to cope with crisis
- ❖ **What do EU agencies do in *actual* crises situations?**
 - ❖ Agencies play a leadership role in exchanging information among Commission, national regulatory agencies and national governments
 - ❖ Despite limited resources, they can act more autonomously and are able to expand their scope (channelling resources, building networks)
 - ❖ They assume critical role in coordination, absorbing administrative rivalries among EU institutions and MS (mitigating tensions)