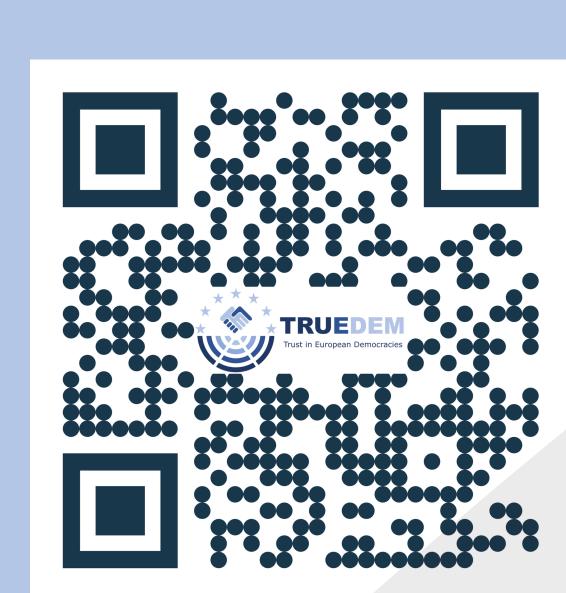# TRUEDEM — Work Package 3

Role of Socio-Economic Transformations in Reshaping European Democracies

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Overview

WP3 examines how three recent socio-economic transformations—**COVID-19, migration & refugee waves, and the digitalisation of work**—shape democratic attitudes, political participation, and trust in Europe.

- Map and compare the impacts of COVID-19, migration, and work digitalisation on trust and participation.
- Identify mechanisms and trust dynamics behind these impacts.
- Generate actionable, comparative evidence to inform EU and national policy.

Tasks, Methods & Data

Task 3.1 – Literature reviews (D3.1–D3.3).

Task 3.2 – Delineating the transformative power (D3.4–D3.5).

Methods & data: Selective literature reviews across EU countries; ESS Round 10 (2020–2022) analyses; qualitative content analysis of European Parliament debates (2016–2023); introduction of composite indices **OIPT (Overall Index of Political Trust)** and **IAI (Immigration Attitudes Index)** for cross-national comparison.

Deliverables

1. **D3.1 — COVID-19 & democratic attitudes/trust (Literature review)**. Comparative mapping of institutional trust (2008–2022), determinants of vaccination hesitancy and protest, and path models linking pandemic experiences → trust in government → social trust. (<u>**Demertzis, N., Yfanti, A., Koniordos, S.**</u>)
2. **D3.2 — Migration/refugees & trust (Literature review)**. ESS-based correlations between trust in parliament and immigration attitudes (generally positive, with country variation). (<u>**Sotiropoulos, D. A., Kanellopoulos, K. & Yfanti, A.**</u>)
3. **D3.3 — Digitalisation of work & democracy (Literature review).** Focus on robotisation/job insecurity and platform surveillance, discussion of political realignments and EU-level regulation debates, ESS-10 exploration of trust/trustworthiness. **(<u>Koniordos, S., Yfanti, A.</u>)**
4. **D3.4 — Transformative power (EP debates report)**. Qualitative analysis of EP narratives on COVID-19, migration, digital work, centrality of trust, transparency, preparedness, and workers' rights across party families. (<u>**Kafe, A., Sotiropoulos, D., Kanellopoulos, K., Klironomos, N.**</u>)
5. **D3.5 — Consolidated cross-national analysis**. Ten-country comparison, introduction of OIPT and IAI, systematic correlations between trust, satisfaction with democracy/government/economy, immigration attitudes, and COVID-19 experiences. (<u>**Sotiropoulos, D.A., Yfanti, A., Klironomos, N., Koniordos, S., Kafe, A. Kanellopoulos, K.**</u>)

Key findings

1. **Trust tracks democratic/economic satisfaction**. Higher satisfaction with **government and democracy** associates with **higher trust in national political institutions**, with strength varying by country (stronger in Germany/Netherlands, weaker in Poland). (D3.5)
2. **Immigration attitudes & trust move together**. Pro-immigration views tend to align with higher institutional trust (Germany, Czechia, Netherlands among the strongest; Poland atypical/weak). (D3.2 - D3.5)
3. **COVID-19 effects on trust are mixed**. In several countries, vaccination correlates with **lower** political trust, while satisfaction with government response and health services predicts **higher** democratic satisfaction and compliance; causal pathways differ across phases/contexts. (D3.1 - D3.5)
4. **Digitalisation pressures democracy via work**. Robotisation heightens insecurity among routine workers—fueling disaffection and realignments, **algorithmic surveillance in platforms** challenges privacy and trust, prompting EU-level regulatory responses (e.g., Platform Workers Directive debates). (D3.3)
5. **EP narratives differ by issue**. On migration, Right emphasizes security, Left/Greens emphasize rights, EPP/S&D combine both. On COVID-19, transparency and resilient health systems are cross-party priorities. On digital work, MEPs stress worker risks and trustworthy regulation. (D3.4)

Policy pointers

1. **Secure transparency & information integrity in crises to protect compliance and trust** (D3.1 - D.3.4)
2. **Regulate algorithmic management & surveillance in the platform economy; protect worker rights and privacy** (D3.3)
3. **Address insecurity and misinformation around migration with fair procedures, administrative capacity, and inclusive communication** (D3.2)
4. **Monitor Political Trust (**e.g. OIPT**) & Immigration Attitudes (**e.g. IAI**) over time to evaluate policy impacts on trust** (D3.5)

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