RE.CRI.RE

BETWEEN THE REPRESENTATION OF THE CRISIS AND THE CRISIS OF REPRESENTATION

TR DIACHRONIC ANALYSIS

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1. THE REPORT IN A NUTSHELL

Core theme	This document presents the framework, aims, methodology and findings of the part of Re.Cri.Re. WP3 devoted to the diachronic analysis of the cultural context of European societies, namely the retrospective estimation of the evolution of its relevant aspects.
Key terms	*Symbolic universe.* A system of generalized meanings embedded within the cultural milieu and working as affective-laden worldview shaping the lived experience of the person identified with it. *Cultural milieu.* The cultural milieu is the social arena where people communicate, act, think and experience life and in so doing reproduce and elaborate symbolic universes. The cultural milieu consists of a plurality of symbolic universes; each of them emerging as a particular interpretation of the cultural milieu.
How to read it	The main text provides the essential elements; the notes give more depth on theoretical, methodological and technical aspects.
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Aims	The aim of the diachronic analysis is to verify whether, and where, any form of change in symbolic universes has occurred as well as to understand how it is reflected in the way some important topics are represented. In so doing, the diachronic analysis complements the synchronic analysis by checking if the current cultural scenarios can be viewed in continuity with the past or if they have to be considered as the effect of a rupture occurring as a result of the economic crisis.
Areas of investigation	A1. Retrospective estimation of the incidence of symbolic universes This area of investigation is aimed at esteeming the incidence of symbolic universes (i.e. of the people associated with each symbolic universe) within the

	population. A2. Retrospective analysis of the semantic structures of the social representation of topics. This area of investigation is aimed at mapping the evolution of the semantic structures grounding the social representation of the main topics analysed in the framework of the WP3.2 task (health, participation, subjectivity, homosexuality, Islam, immigration, cf. Deliverable 3.2). A3. Retrospective analysis of the cultural difference among political orientations This area of investigation is aimed at mapping the evolution over time of the cultural difference between political orientations (left vs. right wing).
Position in the context of Re.Cri.Re	The output of this analysis complements the synchronic analysis - task 3.2 (cf. Deliverable 3.2).
Framework	Diachronic analysis adopts the same theoretical and methodological framework - the *semiotic-cultural psychological theory* (SCPT) – as synchronic analysis. SCPT is a specific interpretation of a more general view (cognitive paradigm), which highlights the essential role that mental processes play in shaping social, psychological and behavioural processes as well as the way they are related.
Main findings	1. Cultural resources have shown a considerable reduction in the cultural milieu over the last decade. 2. There are indications that this reduction did not occur homogeneously over European societies; rather, it seems to have occurred in the Southern territories, namely the ones more exposed to the negative consequence of the socio-economic crisis. 3. The modification in the availability of symbolic resources does not seem to correspond to a structural transformation of the cultural milieu or of its salience
Implications and expected impact	The cultural milieu has retained a level of continuity that can be used for grounding policies aimed at its development. The different evolution of the cultural milieu among territories represents a challenge because European Institutions are faced with a fully new psycho-social scenario that requires deeply innovative policy approaches.

2. PURPOSE AND AIMS OF DIACHRONIC ANALYSIS

This document presents the aims, methodology and findings of the part of the Re.Cri.Re. WP3 devoted to the retrospective analysis of the systems of meanings (i.e. the cultural milieu, cf. Deliverable 3.2) grounding the forms of social identity characterizing European societies (diachronic analysis, according to the Re.Cri.Re terms).

The presentation is articulated in different levels of detail. The main text reports the essential elements; the notes and annexes give theoretical, methodological and technical depth.

Due to the intertwined relation between synchronic and diachronic analysis of symbolic universes, this Deliverable is strictly associated with Deliverable 3.2 devoted to the synchronic analysis. The conceptual framework rationale and most of the method are the same as that grounding the analyses reported in that document.

2.1. Aims

The aim of the diachronic analysis is to verify whether, and where, any form of change of symbolic universes is underway as well as to understand how it is reflected in the way some major topics are represented.

In so doing, the diachronic analysis complements the synchronic analysis by checking whether the current cultural scenarios can be viewed in continuity with the past or have to be considered as the effect of a rupture occurring as a result of the economic crisis.

To this end, the diachronic analysis is articulated in the following areas of investigation, each of them aimed at a specific goal of empirical analysis.
1. Retrospective estimation of the incidence of symbolic universes
2. Retrospective analysis of the semantic structures of the social representation of topics.
3. Retrospective analysis of the cultural difference among political orientations.

A1. Retrospective estimation of the incidence of symbolic universes
This area of investigation is aimed at esteeming the incidence of the symbolic universes (i.e. of the people associated with each symbolic universe) within the population. To this end each symbolic universe has been characterized in terms of the association to a set of socio-ecological indicators (see Deliverable 3.2). The retrospective trend of each set of socio-ecological indicators is used to map retrospectively the incidence of the corresponding symbolic universe

A2. Retrospective analysis of the semantic structures of the social representation of topics.
This area of investigation is aimed at mapping the evolution of the semantic structures grounding the social representation of the relevant topics analysed in the framework of the WP3.2 task (health, participation, homosexuality, Islam, immigration, cf. Deliverable 3.2).

A3. Retrospective analysis of the cultural difference between political orientations
This area of investigation is aimed at mapping the evolution over time of the cultural difference between political orientations (left vs. right wing). The cultural difference between political orientation has been considered an indirect marker of the global shape of the cultural milieu; accordingly, a significant change in distance over time can be considered a sign of a major change in the cultural milieu.

2.2. The position of the diachronic analysis within the WP3

The diachronic analysis is one of two complementary stages of analysis comprising the *WP3 Multilevel Analysis of the symbolic universes*.

> *"WP3 (...) is aimed at mapping structurally (i.e. in terms of the network of linkages among elements) and developmentally (i.e. in terms of trajectories over time) the systems of meaning*

(i.e. the symbolic universes) grounding the social identity and therefore channelling the way social actors interpret their social context and the relation between themselves and their context.

The combination of a synchronic (i.e. structural) and a diachronic (i.e. developmental) level of analysis has been designed in order to make it possible both to map symbolic universes in the present time and to know if a change of symbolic universes has occurred, of what type and where."

More specifically, area of investigation 1 is part of task WP3.1 output; areas 2 and 3 were carried out in the context of task WP3.2.

3. PART I. RETROSPECTIVE ESTIMATION OF THE INCIDENCE OF SYMBOLIC UNIVERSES

3.1. Aim
The aim of this area of investigation is to esteem the incidence of the symbolic universes within the local sites' population over the past years.

3.2. Method
The estimation of the incidence of each symbolic universe over past years was carried out by means of the retrospective measurement of a set of socio-ecological indicators that proved to work as markers of said symbolic universe (cf. Deliverable 3.2, § 5.2.b).

More particularly, the study of the association between the incidence of symbolic universes and socio-ecological indicators was performed in the context of the synchronic analysis and it led to the definition of linear regression models, each of them having the incidence of a symbolic universe as criterion variable and a set of socio-ecological indicators as predictor variables (cf. Deliverable 3.2, § 5.2.c)[1].Accordingly, the regression models were used in esteeming the level of the criterion variable (i.e. the incidence of the symbolic universe) in one previous moment of time (2009) for each sampled territorial site (cf. Deliverable 3.2., §5.2.b for the description of the sample of sites [Sample C, n=24 sites]).

For each symbolic universe, the incidence at the two moments of time (2009 vs. 2016) was compared by means of a one-way repeated measures ANOVA[2].

3.3. Results
In the case of *ordered universe* data were available for only two sites; therefore, the ANOVA test was not performed and the comparison was limited to the visual inspection of the figure (cf. Figure 3.1). This symbolic universe decreased from 2009 to 2016 in both sites. The reduction is particularly evident for the Estonian site, where the incidence moved from more than 40% to less than 10%.
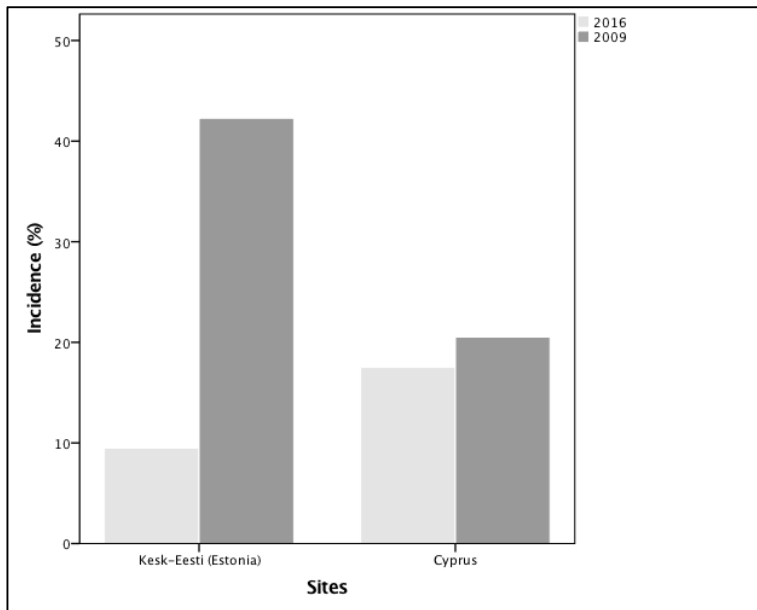
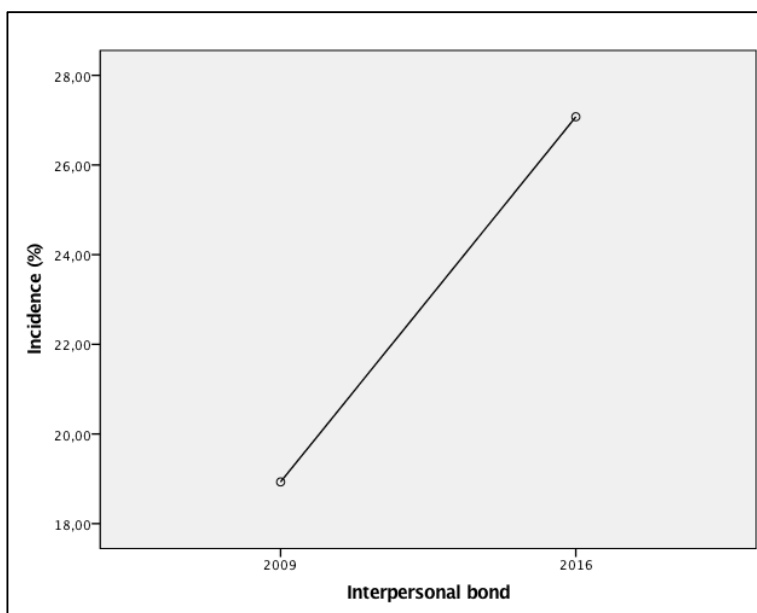**Figure 3.1. Incidence of the symbolic universe ordered universe**

Figure 3.2. Incidence of the symbolic universe interpersonal bond

Interpersonal bond increased from 2009 to 2006 (cf. Figure 3.2). Taking into account the small size of the sample, the difference can be viewed as significant.[3] *Others' world* was stable between the two periods (cf. Figure 3.3) – indeed, the difference between the two periods was not statistically significant.[4]

C*aring society* incidence was also reduced by 25% (from 12,35% to 9,36%). Due to the fact that for this parameter the dataset provided enough data for the analysis, it was possible to carry out a two-way ANOVA with time as within factor and geographical position as between factor, in order also to check whether or not the temporal differences varied across European territories. Accordingly, territorial sites were divided into North (Estonia, France, UK) vs. South (Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Spain). Both difference over time and interaction with geographical position resulted significant.[5] As Figure 3.4 shows, whereas the incidence of *caring society* in 2009 was distributed homogeneously between South and North territories, a large gap between these two sets of sites is revealed in 2016, as the result of the dramatic decrease of the incidence of the symbolic universe within Southern sites.
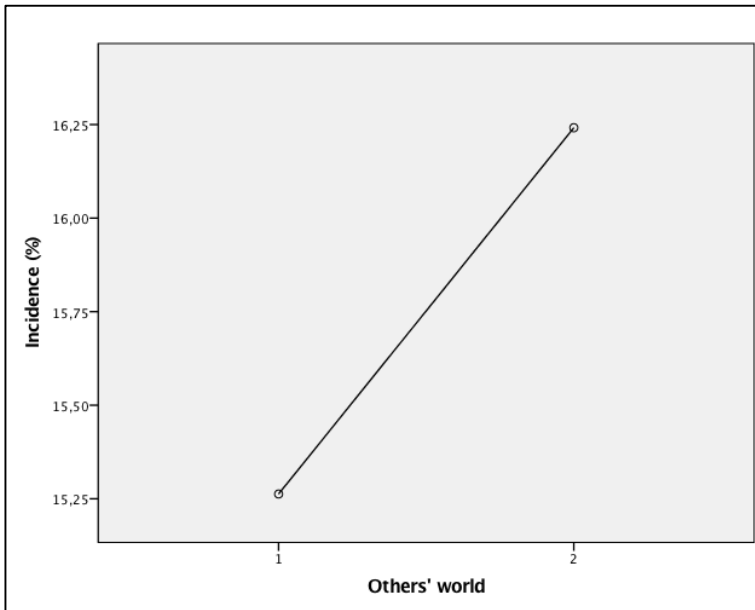
7

Figure 3.3. Incidence of the symbolic universe others' world
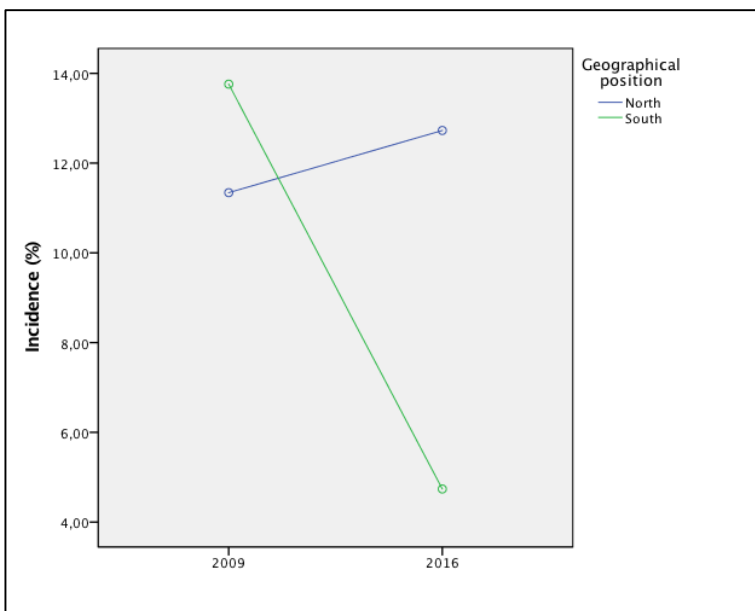
Figure 3.4. Figure 4. Incidence of the symbolic universe caring society

3.4. Conclusive remarks

This area of analysis aimed at comparing the incidence of the symbolic universes detected by means of the VOC survey performed in 2016 (cf. Deliverable 3.2., § 4) and their incidence in 2009, the latter esteemed by means of regression models built within the framework of the synchronic analysis (Deliverable 3.2., § 5.2.b; see also Note 1 and Annex 1 of this Deliverable).

Results are consistent with the hypothesis that the socio-economic crisis produced a negative impact on the cultural milieu. This impact takes two complementary forms: on the one hand, the symbolic universes that can be viewed as cultural resources (*ordered universe* and *caring society*(cf. Deliverable 3.2, cf. § 4 and § 5) decreased in their incidence within the European societies whereas the symbolic universe that was interpreted as expressive of a sort of hedonistic escape into private life (*interpersonal bond*) increased. Moreover, the analysis of the interaction between the incidence of *caring society* and the geographical position of the sites showed that the decrease of this symbolic universe is not homogeneous, but is a phenomenon that seems to concern the Southern European

territories, namely the territories that have been more exposed to the negative impact of the socio-economic crisis.

On the other hand, it must be noticed that the incidence of the symbolic universe expressing the most anomic connotation of experience (*others' world*) remained stable between 2009 and 2016, thus suggesting that the crisis did not produce an expansion of the area of European society characterized by an acute, generalized impotency and lack of sense.

In sum, the crisis seems to have had an impact on the cultural milieu, reducing the cultural resources and favouring the tendency to take refuge in private life, valorising the emotional and affective experience of the interpersonal bond as "semiotic safe haven". Yet, although this impact is relevant, it does not seem catastrophic – it did not produce a deep rupture in the cultural milieu, with a significant expansion of anomic feelings and attitudes. Instead, the impact seems to have led to a marginalization of cultural resources and a parallel development of a defensive symbolic strategy against anomy, like the one the *interpersonal bond* can be considered to express[6].

Moreover, the results suggest that the impact of the socio-economic crisis has been rather higher in South European territories – if one takes the figure 3.4 as an indication of the whole dynamics, one is led to conclude that the crisis has transformed what was a marginal difference in the availability of cultural resources in 2009 into a structural rupture between two anthropological scenarios.

On the other hand, the small size of the sample as well as the incompleteness of the dataset the current stage of the study is based on, limit the reliability and generalizability of findings. An extension of the analysis has been planned to address such limitations. Despite this, the results obtained so far appear quite consistent and, taken as a whole, suggest that the methodological hypothesis of retrospectively esteeming the characteristics of the cultural milieu by means of socio-ecological indicators is a research path that is worth following.

4. PART II. RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF THE SEMANTIC STRUCTURE OF THE SOCIAL REPRESENTATION OF TOPICS

4.1. Aim

This area of investigation is aimed at the retrospective analysis of the evolution of the semantic structure grounding the social representation of 5 out 6 topics analysed in the framework of the WP3.2 task (health, participation, homosexuality, Islam, immigration, cf. Deliverable 3.2, § 7)[7]. As discussed in that framework, semantic structures lend themselves to be viewed as instantiations of the cultural milieu in the context of the specific social domain outlined by the topic. Accordingly, the analysis of the changes of the semantic structures over time provides a way to detect the more general evolution of the cultural milieu. In other words, *topics are conceived as "local field" where the symbolic universes can be detected*(Grant Agreement - Proposal, p. 17).

4.2. Method

The analysis adopted the same sample, methodology and data analysis procedure (ACASM method) implemented in the framework of the synchronic analysis, (cf. Deliverable 3.2, § 7.2.b). Each textual corpus corresponding to a combination country*topic was segmented in 5 sub-corpora, each of them comprising the newspapers articles collected within a given temporal block (2000-01; 2004-05; 2008-09; 2011-12; 2014-15). Separate analyses were performed for each sub-corpus. Analyses concerning the same master corpus adopted the same computational parameters (i.e. list of lemmas, criteria of segmentation, cf. Deliverable 3.2, § 7.2.b), in order to make their output comparable.

4.2.a. Domain of analysis and procedure

The domain of analysis is represented by the 14 country*topic combinations for which reliable textual data covering at least 3 temporal blocks were available (cf. Table 4.1). Accordingly, 66 analyses were performed (5 x Italian, UK and Greek combinations and 3 for Romanian combinations).

For each analysis, the main 2 factorial dimensions extracted were interpreted, as the most relevant components of the semantic structure grounding the social representation of the topic in the country and in the given time period.

Table 4.1. Corpora under analysis

	Health	Participation	Islam	Homosex.	Immigration	TOT
Greece	1	1	1	1		4
Italy	1	1	1	1	1	5
Romania*	1		1			2
UK	1		1		1	3
*analyses available for 3 temporal blocks (2008-09; 2011-12; 2014-15)						15

4.3. Results

In what follows, interpretations of factorial dimensions are reported for each county*topic combination, ordered by topic (the statistical outputs are reported in Annex 2).

4.3.a. Health

Greece

Table 4.2 reports the interpretation of the 2 main factorial dimensions extracted by the analysis of the 5 sub-corpora of the Greek corpus concerning *health*. As one can see, the factorial dimensions show a large area of overlap across the time blocks. The contrast between illness as an experience/condition concerning individuals and health as a systemic issue (of socio-economic and/or political content) is present in 4 out of 5 blocks. The contrast between economic constraints (allegedly due to the financial crisis) and the political reaction to them (in terms of regulation or voice) is present in 4 out of 5 blocks.

Italy

Table 4.3 reports the interpretation of the 2 main factorial dimensions extracted by the analysis of the 5 sub-corpora of the Italian corpus concerning *health*.

The juxtaposition between illness (being the target of scientific activity or an individual condition) and health system or its political regulation characterizes 4 out of 5 blocks. The juxtaposition between healthcare (its function and activity) and economic and normative constraints is present in 4 out 5 of time blocks.

Romania

Table 4.4 reports the interpretation of the 2 main factorial dimensions extracted by the analysis of the 5 sub-corpora of the Romanian corpus concerning *health*.

The juxtaposition between illness (being the target of scientific activity or an individual condition) and political regulation of the welfare system characterizes all 3 blocks under analysis. In 2 out of 3 cases one finds the opposition between illness as an individual condition or a medical issue and health as a systemic dimension concerning collective behaviour, and as such needing to be dealt with.

Table 4.2. Semantic components of the social representation of health over time. Greece

	Factorial dimension 1	*Factorial dimension 2*
2000-01	Illness vs. Health as Political issue*	Political mobilisation vs. Socio-economic issue°
2004-05	Economic issue vs. Scientific issue	Economic issue vs. Political issue°
2008-09	Socio-economic issue vs. illness*	Medical approach to illness vs. Daily life experience
2011-12	Health as political issue vs. Illness*	Economic constraints vs. Political regulation°
2014-15	Illness vs. Economic constraints*	Political mobilisation vs. Economic constraints°

Factorial dimensions whose interpretation is similar are marked with the same sign

Table 4.3. Semantic components of the social representation of health over time. Italy

	Factorial dimension 1	*Factorial dimension 2*
2000-01	Political regulation vs. Scientific issue°	Economic regulation vs. Healthcare* activity
2004-05	Illness vs. Healthcare system°	Healthcare functions vs. Normative* regulation
2008-09	Illness vs. Political regulation°	Normative regulation vs. Economic regulation
2011-12	Political regulation vs. Functioning of service	Economic regulation vs. Healthcare*functions
2014-15	Illness vs. Healthcare system°	Normative regulation vs. Functioning of services*

Factorial dimensions whose interpretation is similar are marked with the same sign

Table 4.4. Semantic components of the social representation of health over time. Romania

	Factorial dimension 1	*Factorial dimension 2*
2008-09	Political regulation vs. Illness*	Personal stories vs. Public management of health°
2011-12	Illness vs. Political regulation*	Illness vs. Lifestyle°
2014-15	Illness vs. Political regulation*	Unclear

Factorial dimensions whose interpretation is similar are marked with the same sign

Table 4.5. Semantic components of the social representation of health over time. UK

	Factorial dimension 1	*Factorial dimension 2*
2000-01	Health economics vs. Personal stories°	Unclear
2004-05	Health economics vs. Personal stories°	Politics vs. Healthcare system*
2008-09	Personal stories vs. Health economics°	Health system vs. Politics*
2011-12	Unclear	Personal stories vs. Healthcare system°
2014-15	Lifestyle vs. Health system	Health policy vs. Personal stories°

Factorial dimensions whose interpretation is similar are marked with the same sign

Table 4.5 reports the interpretation of the 2 main factorial dimensions extracted by the analysis of the 5 sub-corpora of the UK corpus concerning *health*. The juxtaposition between personal stories concerning illness and the health as an economic or political issue is present in 4 out of 5 time blocks. The factorial dimension Politics vs. Healthcare system is present in 2 out of 5 time blocks.

4.3.b. Participation

Greece

Table 4.6 reports the interpretation of the 2 main factorial dimensions extracted by the analysis of the 5 sub-corpora of the Greek corpus concerning *participation*.

A factorial dimension juxtaposing the reference to the political-institutional system and the local political practice is present in 4 out of 5 time blocks. A second opposition between social life and the political system crosses all time blocks. However, this opposition changes in one relevant aspect over time. Indeed, the reference to the social dimension is expressed in terms of needs and aspirations in the first two blocks (2000-01 and 2004-05), whereas it assumes the valence of social conflict in the blocks that follows.

Table 4.6. Semantic components of the social representation of participation over time. Greece

	Factorial dimension 1	*Factorial dimension 2*
2000-01	Social dynamics vs. Political-institutional dynamics°	Social needs vs. Political-institutional system*
2004-05	Political participation and identity vs. Political-institutional system°	Political-institutional system vs. Social needs*
2008-09	Political-electoral system vs. Social conflict**	Power vs. Culture
2011-12	Social conflict vs. Political-electoral system**	Political-institutional system vs. Local political practice°°
2014-15	Social conflicts vs. Political-electoral system**	Political-institutional system vs. Local political practice°°

Factorial dimensions whose interpretation are similar are marked with the same sign

Table 4.7. Semantic components of the social representation of participation over time. Italy

	Factorial dimension 1	*Factorial dimension 2*
2000-01	Political-institutional system vs. Social needs/action*	Institutional participation vs. Mobilisation°
2004-05	Mobilisation vs. institutional participation°	Political-institutional system vs. Social needs/action*
2008-09	Mobilisation vs. institutional participation°	Political-institutional system vs. Social needs/action*
2011-12	Mobilisation vs. institutional participation°	Political-institutional system vs. Social needs/action*
2014-15	Social needs/action vs. Political-institutional system*	Institutional participation vs. Mobilisation°

Factorial dimensions whose interpretation is similar are marked with the same sign

Italy

Table 4.7 reports the interpretation of the 2 main factorial dimensions extracted by the analysis of the 5 sub-corpora of the Italian corpus concerning *participation*. The time blocks lend themselves to be interpreted in terms of the same two factorial dimensions - one juxtaposing the social dynamics and

political-institutional system and the other the institutional form of political participation (characterized in terms of electoral procedure) to social conflict and mobilisation.

4.3.c. Islam

Greece

Table 4.8 reports the interpretation of the 2 main factorial dimensions extracted by the analysis of the 5 sub-corpora of the Greek corpus concerning *Islam*. Factorial dimensions are more heterogeneous among the temporal blocks than for the previous topic. Anyway, one can see redundancies among them:

- In 3 (2000-01 and 2008-09, 2014-15) out of 5 blocks factorial dimensions are characterized by the juxtaposition between the view of Islam as a cultural and religious phenomenon and the view of it as an international political issue.
- In 2 blocks (2000-01 and 2008-09) one finds the factorial dimension consisting of the opposition between the view of Islam as a global threat or a matter of local, domestic conflict.
- In 2 blocks (2000-01 and 2008-09) one finds the juxtaposition between the Islam as a threat coming from the inside or from the outside.

Moreover, it can be seen that the 3 remaining factorial dimensions are characterized by the anchorage to the destructive actions performed by Islamic people as one polarity

Finally, there seems to be no relation between the distribution of the factorial dimensions and time.

Italy

Table 4.9 reports the interpretation of the 2 main factorial dimensions extracted by the analysis of the 5 sub-corpora of the Italian corpus concerning *Islam*. One factorial dimension – the one juxtaposing Islamic people as a foreign group perturbing the community from the inside and Islam as a global dynamics of political conflict – is present in all time blocks. Other factorial dimensions can be viewed as different forms of one basic juxtaposition between the view of Islam as a form of religious and/or socio-political phenomenon to be recognized and the view of Islam as a conflictual identity, which can assume either the form of an absolute global threat or that of local practices destabilizing the local culture of the community.

Romania

Table 4.10 reports the interpretation of the 2 main factorial dimensions extracted by the analysis of the 5 sub-corpora of the Romanian corpus concerning *Islam*. One factorial dimension – the one juxtaposing Islamic people as a foreign religious group/practice perturbing the community from the inside and Islam as an absolute global threat – is present in all time blocks. Other factorial dimensions seem to be specific to each block.

Table 4.8. Semantic components of the social representation of Islam over time. Greece

	Factorial dimension 1	*Factorial dimension 2*
2000-01	Cultural-religious phenomenon vs. International political issue*	Global international conflict vs. Inside conflict with Islamic people°
2004-05	Domestic political affairs vs. Global international threat§	European Identity vs. Destructive actions by Islamic people
2008-09	Inside conflict with Islamic people vs. Global international conflict°	Global international threat vs. Cultural religious phenomenon*
2011-12	Destructive actions by Islamic people vs. International conflict	Global international threat vs. Domestic political affairs§
2014-15	Cultural-religious phenomenon vs. International political issue*	Destructive actions by Islamic people vs. Domestic politics

Factorial dimensions whose interpretation are similar are marked with the same sign

Table 4.9. Semantic components of the social representation of Islam over time. Italy

	Factorial dimension 1	*Factorial dimension 2*
2000-01	Inside outgroup vs. International conflict*	Global threat vs. Socio-political phenomenon°°°
2004-05	Religious phenomenon vs. Global threat°	Global political phenomenon vs. Inside threat*
2008-09	Global political phenomenon vs. Inside outgroup*	Religious phenomenon vs. International conflict°
2011-12	Inside outgroup vs. International conflict*	Religious-political phenomenon vs. Conflictual engagement with Islamic people°°
2014-15	Inside outgroup vs. International conflict*	Religious-political phenomenon vs. Conflictual engagement with Islamic people°°

Factorial dimensions whose interpretation is similar are marked with the same sign.

Table 4.10. Semantic components of the social representation of Islam over time. Romania

	Factorial dimension 1	*Factorial dimension 2*
2008-09	Global threat vs. People*	International issue vs. Domestic issue
2011-12	Religious practice vs. Global threat*	Religion vs. Politics
2014-15	People vs. Global threat*	Aggression vs. Demand for hospitality

Table 4.11. Semantic components of the social representation of Islam over time. UK

	Factorial dimension 1	*Factorial dimension 2*
2000-01	Global political issue vs. Local life/personal stories*	Domestic political affair vs. International political affair°
2004-05	Global political issue vs. Local life/personal stories*	Unclear
2008-09	Global political issue vs. Local life/personal stories*	International political affair vs. Domestic political affair°
2011-12	Local life/personal stories vs. Global political issue*	Unclear
2014-15	Local life/personal stories vs. Global political issue*	International political affair vs. Domestic political affair°

Factorial dimensions whose interpretation are similar are marked with the same sign

UK

Table 4.11 reports the interpretation of the 2 main factorial dimensions extracted by the analysis of the 5 sub-corpora of the Romanian corpus concerning *Islam.* One factorial dimension – the one juxtaposing Islam as a critical global political issue to ordinary life stories – is present in all time blocks. The juxtaposition between Islam as a global and domestic political affair is present in 3 time blocks.

4.3.d. Homosexuality

Greece

Table 4.12 reports the interpretation of the 2 main factorial dimensions extracted by the analysis of the 5 sub-corpora of the Greek corpus concerning *homosexuality*. One factorial dimension – the one

juxtaposing homosexuality as a issue concerning civil and political rights to homosexuality as an artistic theme - is present in all time blocks. In two time blocks (2008-09 and 2011-12) the second factorial dimension is characterized by the opposition between homosexuality as something the political system has to regulate in order to constrain it and homosexuality as a group expressing its diversity and demand for recognition.

Table 4.12. Semantic components of the social representation of homosexuality over time. Greece

	Factorial dimension 1	*Factorial dimension 2*
2000-01	Policy vs. Arts*	Unclear
2004-05	Arts vs. Policy*	Politics vs. Personal stories
2008-09	Policy vs. Arts*	Normative regulation vs. Demand of identity°
2011-12	Policy vs. Arts*	Normative regulation vs. Demand of identity°
2014-15	Arts vs. Policy*	Unclear

Factorial dimensions whose interpretation is similar are marked with the same sign

Table 4.13. Semantic components of the social representation of homosexuality over time. Italy

	Factorial dimension 1	*Factorial dimension 2*
2000-01	Similarity vs. Difference	Local events vs. Ethical issue
2004-05	Experience vs. Institutional recognition*	Similarity vs. Difference
2008-09	Experience vs. Institutional recognition*	Ethical conflict vs. Demand of identity
2011-12	Life events vs. Political issue	Institutional regulation vs. Experience*
2014-15	Experience vs. Institutional recognition*	Political issue vs. Law issue

Factorial dimensions whose interpretation is similar are marked with the same sign

Italy

Table 4.13 reports the interpretation of the 2 main factorial dimensions extracted by the analysis of the 5 sub-corpora of the Italian corpus concerning *homosexuality*. One factorial dimensions is present in 4 out of 5 temporal blocks – experience vs. institutional regulation. The other factorial dimensions vary over time, as a result of the oppositional combination of different forms of anchorage – i.e. homosexuality as a general ethical, political or normative category; homosexuality as a connotation of the single individual conveyer of actions and forms of experience.

4.3.e. Immigration

Italy

Table 4.14 reports the interpretation of the 2 main factorial dimensions extracted by the analysis of the 5 sub-corpora of the Italian corpus concerning *immigration*. The integration-emergence juxtaposition crosses all time blocks. One can see a variation in the content of the other factorial dimensions: in all time blocks one polarity is the view of immigration as the object of political regulation; moreover, in all time blocks the other polarity is represented by the anchorage to a vital dimension; but whereas the content of such anchorage varies over time, it consists of the personal stories of immigration in 2000-01, then shifts to the need for help coming from people trying to cross

the Mediterranean (2004-05, 2008-09, 2011-12) and finally shifts into the defensive reaction and mobilisation of local groups that feel the migrant flow is a threat.

Table 4.14. Semantic components of the social representation of immigration over time. Italy

	Factorial dimension 1	*Factorial dimension 2*
2000-01	Personal stories vs. Political regulation°	Integration vs. Emergency*
2004-05	Integration vs. Emergency*	Political regulation vs. Rescue°°
2008-09	Integration vs. Emergency*	Political regulation vs. Rescue°°
2011-12	Integration vs. Emergency*	Political regulation vs. Rescue°°
2014-15	Integration vs. Emergency*	Political regulation vs. Local reaction°°°

Factorial dimensions whose interpretation is similar are marked with the same sign

Table 4.15. Semantic components of the social representation of immigration over time. UK

	Factorial dimension 1	*Factorial dimension 2*
2000-01	Rescue vs. Safety°	Stories vs. Policy*
2004-05	Stories vs. Policy*	Political issue vs. Management of refugees°°
2008-09	Policy vs. Stories*	Unclear
2011-12	Policy vs. Stories*	Boundary defence vs. Engagement°°°
2014-15	Management of refugees vs. Global political issue°°	Stories vs. Policy*

Factorial dimensions whose interpretation is similar are marked with the same sign

UK

Table 4.15 reports the interpretation of the 2 main factorial dimensions extracted by the analysis of the 5 sub-corpora of the UK corpus concerning *immigration*. The juxtaposition between immigration as a political phenomenon needing to be regulated and immigration as the life condition of concrete individuals crosses all time blocks. The other factorial dimensions can be clustered due to the fact that they involve the same basic opposition between the connotation of immigration in terms of involvement (to help, to host, to negotiate) and the connotation in terms of a threat from which to defend oneself.

4.4. Conclusive remarks

The analysis focused on the evolution of the social representation of 5 topics over a 17-year period, mapped in terms of 5 temporal blocks (2000-01; 2004-05; 2008-09; 2011-12; 2014-16). Analyses were performed on a sample of articles collected from a set of newspapers of 4 countries (Greece, Italy, Romania, UK). Analyses were performed separately for each temporal block*topic*country and were aimed at detecting the main components of the semantic structure grounding the social representation of that topic in that country in that time block. Then, for each of the 14 topic*country combinations analysed, the semantic components over the time blocks were compared, in order to map the temporal evolution of the corresponding semantic structure.

Taken as a whole, the 14 analyses show that the semantic structures are quite stable: Several semantic components were present over all or most of the time blocks. Table 4.16 reports the proportion of

coverage of the two most frequent factorial dimensions over the time block (i.e. number of times the two most frequent factorial dimension are present over the time blocks out the whole number of factorial dimensions [unclear factorial dimensions excluded]). As can be seen, globally the two most frequent dimensions cover 80% of the total amount of valid factorial dimensions extracted by the 66 topic*country analyses. Moreover, as discussed, in several cases factorial dimensions considered different lend themselves to be assimilated at a more abstract and general level of analysis. Finally, it should be noticed that only in a few cases (the social representation of participation in Greece; the social representation of homosexuality and immigration in Italy) the variability of the semantic structures appears to be associated with time; and also in these cases the variation can be viewed as reflecting the contextual changes rather than a deep modification of the semantic structure (e.g. the socio-institutional political crisis in Greece, the rise of the discussion about the civil rights of homosexual people, triggered by the legislative initiative; the explosion of migration as an absolute humanitarian and institutional emergency, in Italy).

In sum, the analysis leads us to conclude that the semantic structures underpinning the social representation of the topic under analysis have remained stable, with marginal modification through which the major changes in the issue have been assimilated.

Table 4.16. Coverage of the two most frequent factorial dimensions over the time blocks

	Health	Participation	Islam	Homosex	Immigration	Mean
Greece	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.9		0.7
Italy	0.8	1	0.7	0.4	0.8	0.7
Romania	1		0.5			0.8
UK	0.8		0.9		0.8	0.8
Mean	0.85	0.85	0.65	0.65	0.8	0.8

5. PART III.RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF THE CULTURAL DIFFERENCE AMONG POLITICAL ORIENTATIONS.

5.1. Aim

This area of investigation is aimed at mapping the evolution over time of the cultural difference between political orientations (left vs. right wing). The cultural difference between political orientation has been considered an indirect marker of the salience (as defined below) of the cultural milieu; accordingly, a relevant change in the distance over time can be considered a sign of a major change in the cultural milieu.

5.2. Method

The cultural difference between left and right political orientation is intended here as the difference between the sub-system of meaning[8] characterizing these two political orientations.

According to the WP3 theoretical framework (cf. Deliverable 3.2, §3.3), this difference can be viewed as a marker of the salience of the cultural milieu – where "salience" is here intended as the *cultural milieu's capacity of feeding semiotic variability*. Thus, the salience does not concern with the content of the cultural milieu, but with its dynamicity, namely with the capacity of its basic categories of working as attractors for individual sensemaking. A salient cultural milieu is a cultural scenario where the basic dimensions of sense are able to work as shared code, as a common socio-cognitive background making it foreseeable and interpretable the individual and collective life. Accordingly, the more the salience of a given cultural milieu, the more the differentiation between forms of life (ways of feeling, thinking, acting) that are active within the cultural milieu, and vice versa.

On the basis of the framework outlined above, the cultural difference between the left and the right

political orientations can be used as an indirect marker of the salience of the cultural milieu; in the same vein, the variation of the difference between left and right political orientations over the past time can be used for the retrospective estimation of the evolution of the salience of the cultural milieu.

5.2.a. Design

On the grounds of the theoretical framework adopted (cf. Deliverable 3.2, §3.3), the cultural difference between political orientations has been modelled in terms of the position of the political orientations on the cultural milieu.

Accordingly, the cultural difference between left and right political orientation has been esteemed by means of the position a set of national newspapers – each of them characterized by a political orientation - have on the semantic structures detected by the topic analysis (cf. Deliverable 3.2, § 7). This on the ground of the assumption that the semantic structure underpinning the social representation of a topic is the local instantiation of the cultural milieu (cf. § 4)

5.2.b. Data analysis

The following steps were carried out.

First, each national newspaper included in the topic analysis was classified in terms of its political orientation – left vs. right wing (cf. Deliverable 3.2, § 7). The classification was carried out by the local research team ("Country team", cf. Deliverable 3.2, § 7.2.b).

Second, the political orientation was inserted in the analysis as illustrative variable. In so doing, the factorial scores of the two political orientations (left vs. right) were calculated (cf. Deliverable 3.2, §7.2.b – point B). This analysis is part of the data analysis procedure implemented for the detection of the components of the semantic structure underpinning the social representation of topics (cf. § 4).

Third, the distance between the points corresponding to left and right was calculated. Euclidian distance was used for this purpose (cf. Deliverable 3.2, note 93). The distance was calculated on the subspace defined by the first three factorial dimensions.[9]

The distance corresponding to the different moments of time was compared, by means of univariate analysis (one-way ANOVA repeated measure).

5.2.c. Domain of analysis

Table 5.1 reports the 14 country*topic combinations for which the distance was esteemed. For each combination, 5 parallel analyses were carried out, one for each time block (2000-01; 2004-05; 2008-09; 2011-12; 2015-16). Thus, for each country*topic combination, it was possible to map the evolution of the distance between left and right political orientations over 5 time points across a 17-year period (2000-2016).

Table 5.1. Domain of analysis

	Health	Participation	Islam	Homosex.	Immigration	TOT
Greece	1	1	1	1	1	5
Italy	1	1	1	1	1	5
UK	1		1	1	1	4
						14

5.3. Results

Figure 5.1 describes the distance between left and right political orientation over the five time periods. After the first time block, the distance remained quite stable. However, no difference was significant between periods (cf. Figure 5).

When considered separately, there are different trends from country to country: in the case of Greece

and the UK the distance increases; in the case of Italy it decreases over time. However, no clear trend can be detected (cf. Figure 5.2-5.4). No statistical analyses have been performed at this level, due to the small number of cases
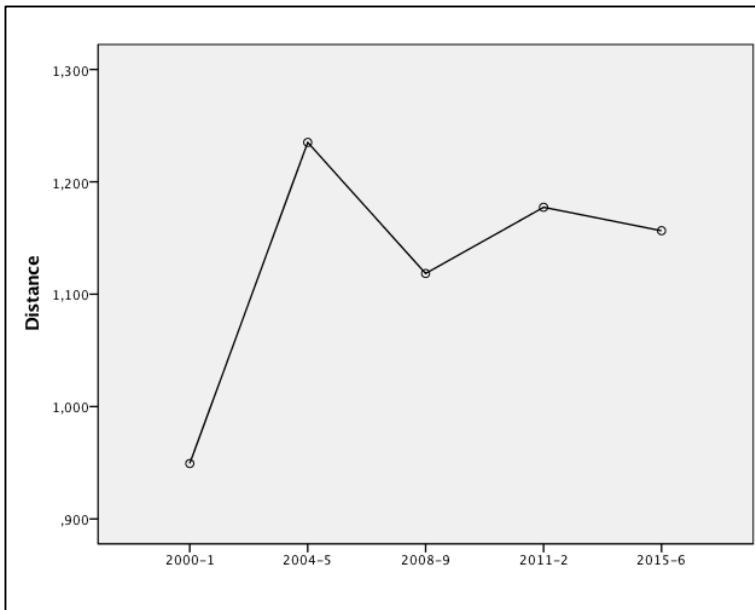

Figure 5.1. Distance between political orientations (left vs. right) over time
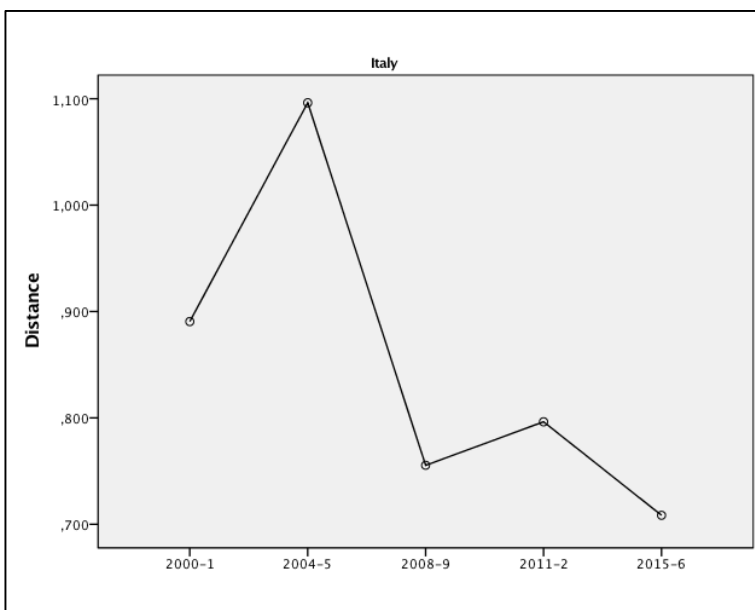

Figure 5.2. Distance between political orientations (left vs. right) over time. Italy
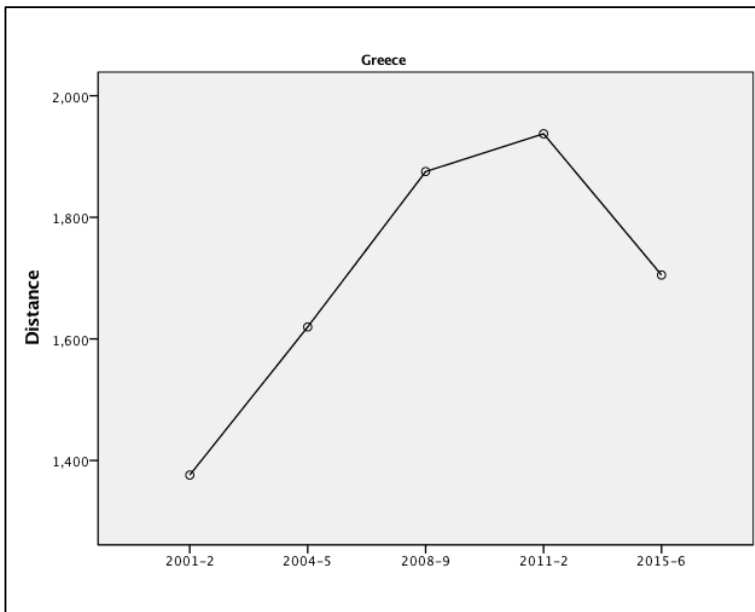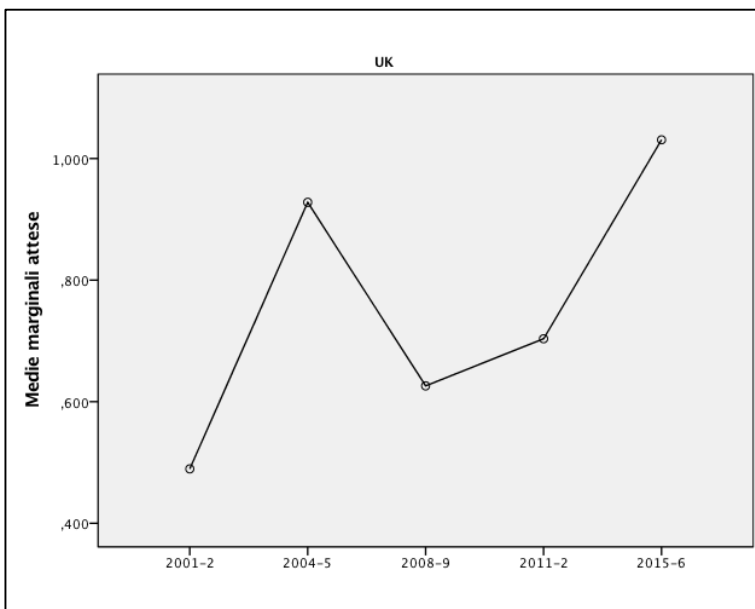
Figure 5.3. Distance between political orientations (left vs. right) over time. Greece

Figure 5.4. Distance between political orientations (left vs. right) over time. UK

5.4. Conclusive remarks

The analysis of the cultural distance between political orientations (left vs. right) did not show meaningful trends. It cannot be excluded that this is due to the low statistical power of analysis, as a result of the small size of the sample. On the other hand, this output is consistent with the findings of the other areas of investigation, that have shown the substantial stability of the main components of the cultural milieu and of the semantic structures that instantiate them in the context of the representation of a specific topic.

Further analyses are to be carried out in order to reach definite conclusions. More particularly, what is needed is an extension of the topics to include in the sample, in order to increase the statistical power of analysis and to allow analyses focused on more homogeneous cultural contexts.

6. CONCLUSIONS

This report has presented rationale, method and first results of three areas of investigation aimed at

estimating retrospectively the evolution of the cultural milieu from the beginning of the 21st century to nowadays. The retrospective analysis of the evolution of the cultural milieu has focused on three of its complementary aspects, each of them at the core of one area of investigation: the evolution of the incidence of the symbolic universes that are active within the cultural milieu, the structure of the social representations fed by the cultural milieu, the latter's salience.

Taken as a whole, the results lead to the following tentative conclusions.

First, in recent years the cultural resources (i.e. the symbolic universes that feed the socio-psychological capacity of viewing the systemic level of individual and social life, cf. Deliverable 3.2, § 4) have shown a considerable reduction within the cultural milieu.

Second, there are signs of the fact that such reduction did not occur homogeneously over European societies; rather, it seems to have occurred in the Southern territories, namely the ones more exposed to the negative consequence of the socio-economic crisis. Accordingly, this result reinforces the link between the cultural variations and the socio-economic crisis already discussed in the framework of synchronic analysis (cf. Deliverable 3.2, § 5.3) – and this makes it plausible to hypothesize a recursive linkage between socio-economic crisis and reduction of cultural resources occurring in the Southern European territories over recent years.

Third, regardless of such a linkage, the results show that a major cultural differentiation may have occurred inside European societies – what less than a decade ago appeared as an intra-systemic difference among territories, could be viewed more appropriately nowadays as an anthropological split, namely a deep differentiation between the cultural milieus of certain European territories and others.

Fourth, the modification in the availability of symbolic resources does not seem to correspond to a structural transformation of the cultural milieu or of its salience - at least in the terms used to esteem the latter aspects (namely in terms of the analysis of the semantic structure of the social representations and of the cultural difference between left and right political orientations).

In sum, the diachronic analyses reported in the present document show signs suggesting that the cultural milieu have undergone a shift of scenario, in the sense of a major loss of those symbolic resources substantiating the social and civic capital characterizing European societies and fuelling the social identity of European citizens – what in the Re.Cri.Re context can be considered a shift from Scenario 1 to Scenario 2. On the other hand, such a shift seems to have been limited both in extension and depth. It concerns certain European territories only (i.e. those that have been more exposed to the negative impact of the socio-economic crisis) and does not invest the deep structure of the cultural milieu.

This limitation in impact is good news but also presents a challenge. It is positive news in the sense that the cultural milieu seems to have kept a level of continuity that can be used for grounding policies aimed at its development; it is a challenge because the anthropological split within European societies means European institutions are faced with a fully new psycho-social framework that to be addressed requires deeply innovative forms of policy, namely policies based on the cultural diversity of European territories, rather than on their identity.

Before concluding, it is worth highlighting that the outputs of analysis, and therefore their interpretations - have to be considered an initial, tentative stage, given the limited level of reliability of results due to the small size of the dataset. A further stage of work aimed at increasing the dataset is underway. Output of such a stage will be used for updating the present document by the end of 2017.

7. INDEXES

Tables

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8. NOTES

[1]. It has to be highlighted that, due to the small size of the sample, in the case of the symbolic universe *niche of belongingness* it was not possible to obtain a valid regression model. Moreover, in all other cases except *other's world,* it was necessary to esteem a different regression model from the one presented in Deliverable 3.2 (cf. 5.2.c). This was because not enough information was available for the variables included in the original regression model. The stepwise method was used, applied on the subsample of cases for which complete information was available (list-wise criterion). Annex 1 reports the new regression models and their level of fitness.

[2]. Year 2009 was chosen because it was a time quite close to the explosion of the socio-economic crisis (whose first main effect can be localized in the first semester of 2009), and therefore came before the latter has had the chance to produce an impact on culture (the evolution of which is quite slow).

[3]. ANOVA: N=8; Mean[2009]=18,93(ds=4,22);Mean[2016]=27,07(ds=10,66); [df=1]: F=4,697; p>0,067; partial eta squared=0,469; observed power=0,464.

[4]. ANOVA: N=12; Mean[2009]=15,26(ds=4,13), Mean[2016]=16,24(ds=8,90); [df=1]: F=0,166; p>NS; partial eta squared=0,015; observed power= 0,066.

[5]. Assumption of homoscedasticity was respected (Levene's Test of Equality of Error Variances resulted non-significant). N=19; Mean[*caring society* 2009]=12,35(ds=3,00); Mean[*caring society* 2016]=9,36(ds=5,81). Within-subject effects: Time: [df=1]: F=8,664; p>0,009; partial eta squared=0,338; observed power= 0,792; Time* Geographical position: [df=1]: F=16,095; p>0,001 partial eta squared=0,486; observed power= 0,965.

[6]. Given the lack of reliable data the other symbolic universe that represents a defensive strategy (*niche of belongingness*) was excluded from the current stage of the analysis. Further analysis will show whether, consistently with the interpretation proposed, this symbolic universe shows the same increase from 2009 to 2016.

[7]. The topic subjectivity was not included in the retrospective analysis because of its high polysemy, as resulting from the general analysis performed within the framework of the synchronic analysis (cf. Deliverable 3.2., § 7). Indeed, the analysis of the whole corpus showed that, unlike the other 5 topics, the articles selected concerned a broad set of contents, contexts and domains (e.g. political activity, feelings, arts, literature). Whereas this was not a problem for synchronic analyses – which are focused on comparisons between topics and countries– it represents a problem for retrospective analyses, focused on within-topic comparisons.

[8]. The term "sub-system" is used here because the term "system" has been used for denoting the cultural milieu as a whole (cf. Deliverable 3.2, § 3.3). Accordingly, the term "sub-system" denotes the political orientation as an organized, generalized worldview (a system) consisting of the pertinentization of a region of cultural milieu (for this reason it is a "sub"-system of the more general system of meaning the cultural milieu consists of).

[9]. The decision to limit the measurement of distance to the three main factorial dimensions is consistent with the purpose of the analysis, namely to esteem the stability/change of the basic components of the cultural milieu.