



## **LIVEWHAT**

### **Living with Hard Times How Citizens React to Economic Crises and Their Social and Political Consequences**

#### **Guidelines for the qualitative interviews (Deliverable 6.3)**

#### **WP6: Alternative forms of resilience in times of crisis**

#### **Workpackage Leading Institution: UoC**

Submission due date: October 2015

Actual submission date: June 2016



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## **LIVEWHAT**

### **a. GUIDELINES for INTERVIEWS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF AAOs**

Interview identification number  
(IID): \_\_\_\_\_

WP leader: University of Crete

WP6.3 Task Force: Maria Kousis, Christian Lahusen, Lorenzo Bosi, Maria Mexi, Marco Giugni

#### **TO FILL IN BEFORE GOING TO THE INTERVIEW**

To be filled in by interviewer (i.e. field researcher).

P1 Name of the Alternative Action Organization:

P2 Abbreviation:

P3 Date of Interview

P4 Time (starting\_\_\_\_\_& ending\_\_\_\_\_) for interview:

P5 Location of the interview:

P6 Name of interviewer 1:

P7 Name of interviewer 2 (optional):

P8 Recording the interview:

P9 Video-taping the interview:

## TO BE READ BEFORE INTERVIEW STARTS

### INSTRUCTION TO FIELD WORKER:

Present yourself and hand over the 'Agreement to be interviewed' (letter of consent). Use the letter to describe our research project, aim and institutions by reading the short letter. (The interview person could decide to read it himself/ herself.) Once all is clarified, the respondent should sign at least one copy. The signed copy stays with us, and the other copy with the respondent. In case the interviewee agrees to be video-taped (for the documentary) the related arrangements should be made (following instructions from the technicians). After this, start the interview and record it (following the permission of the respondent).

Topics	Very general open question	Further questions on the topic, in case he/she is not providing much information.
A. SPOKESPERSON	Tell us about you as representative of your organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can you please, tell us how and when did you enter this organization?</li> <li>• What is your current position in the organization?</li> <li>• What do you do for the organization?</li> <li>• For how long have you had this position?</li> <li>• How did you enter in this organization?</li> <li>• Are you representative of, or do you participate in, any other organization or group ?</li> </ul>
B. POLITICAL ISSUES	Tell us something about the organization's missions, core ideals and political aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the goal of your organisation? what kind of change would you like to bring about in your environment?</li> <li>• Why have you decided to do what you? Which kind of groups in the public sphere you feel close to in terms of your goals?</li> <li>• How is your group enforcing specific socio-political values? Which initiatives does it use?</li> <li>• Do you believe that your organization meet social needs of the beneficiaries? If so tell us more about the process of offering services and its effects on them.</li> <li>• Do you think that alternative organizations and networks can offer new ways for social changes? If so explain your viewpoint.</li> </ul>
C. INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS	<p>Tell us about recent initiatives and projects that your organization has conducted.</p> <p><i>[direction/specific questions on innovative initiatives may be given to respondent, as needed]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why were these initiatives chosen from/created by your organization? Where did they come from? Were these new/innovative initiatives?</li> <li>• How far did you try to go towards new/alternative paths, or try to go beyond conventional routes from others operating in the field?</li> <li>• How were the decisions about these recent initiatives made in your organization?</li> <li>• Has there been an increased demand during this period for these specific initiatives in your view?</li> <li>• Which groups of people were you aiming to help/mobilize/... with these initiatives?</li> <li>• What were your group's three main goals in staging these initiatives?</li> <li>• Were you organizing these initiatives with</li> </ul>

		<p>some other group/organization? Which ones?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In choosing these initiatives were you excluding some other initiative/s? If so, which one/s? Why were these not taken in consideration?</li> <li>• Are these initiatives service-oriented (offering service to beneficiaries), or policy-oriented (making political claims and demands)</li> </ul>
D. GOVERNANCE AND NETWORKS	Tell us something about your group relations with established political actors and other groups and organizations in the last five (5) years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does your group or organization have contacts with OR support from the local/municipal, regional or the national government in any way?</li> <li>• Does your group/organization try to influence policy or not? If so, for what purpose and how?</li> <li>• Does your group or organization have regular contacts or collaboration with other actors in the last five years? Which ones?</li> <li>• Which actors do you cooperate more closely with? On what issues/actions is this cooperation? Which type/s of collaborators do you perceive as most helpful? why?</li> <li>• Which of the above collaborations have been the most important ones in the last five years and why?</li> </ul>
E. ECONOMIC CRISIS EFFECT	Tell us what has been the effect if any of the economic crisis on your organization and its network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over the last five years and since the onset of the economic crisis has your group / organisation implemented any innovative or substantially changed/new/innovative initiatives, projects, strategies and/or tactics? If so, which ones and why?</li> <li>• Has the crisis impacted, or not, on the vision/mission of your organization? How?</li> <li>• Do you think that you have increased or lost members as a consequence of the economic crisis?</li> <li>• In general, how do the people who benefit from your activities cope with the crisis (provide some examples you often see)</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What types of deprivation/coping difficulties do they face in their daily lives</li> <li>• Have your relations with established political actors changed during the economic crisis? If yes, why?</li> </ul> <p><b><i>IN CASE (a) the respondent addresses crises other than the economic one, ask the following:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you are concerned about “XX crisis”(e.g. refugee, crisis of representation, political crisis), is this crisis related to the economic crisis? How so?</li> </ul> <p><b><i>IN CASE (b) that in some countries/cases there might be a tendency to simply say 'no' in this question we would then ask the question:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Think of an economic crisis, which is said to have started on 2008. Has it affected the way you operate? How was it about your actions? How about the people participating in your actions? How about your networks? ?"</li> <li>• Has the effect been more service-oriented (offering service to beneficiaries), or more policy-oriented (making political claims and demands) activities?</li> <li>• In general, have the people who benefit from your activities been affected by the crisis (provide some examples you often see)</li> <li>• What types of deprivation do they face in their daily lives</li> </ul>
F. OUTCOME VARIABLES	Tell us where, in your view, your organization is effective and where it is not.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thinking in general about your organization and the aims you have, how would you evaluate your organization’s effectiveness? Please describe.</li> <li>• How close do you think you are in achieving your organization’s ultimate and/or initial goal? Please describe</li> <li>• What would you need most in order to raise the effectiveness of your organization?</li> <li>• What project initiatives tend to work well, and which do not? What are the reasons for those that succeed and for those that do not succeed?</li> </ul>

**At the end of the Interview:**

Do not turn off the microphone immediately since they may offer more information on any of the questions above.

The Interviewer should write one paragraph on the experience of the Interview, such as on topics that were difficult for the respondent to address, any obstacles to the interview, briefdescription of the venue, atmosphere during the interview, etc.

**LIVEWHAT**

**b. GUIDELINES for INTERVIEWS WITH BENEFICIARIES\*OF AAOs**

**Interview identification number  
(IID):\_\_\_\_\_**

**WP leader: University of Crete**

**WP6.3 Task Force: Maria Kousis, Christian Lahusen, Lorenzo Bosi, Maria Mexi,  
Marco Giugni**

**\*NOTE: Drawing from the Guidelines of WP4, the UNEMPOL project (coordinated  
by Marco Giugni)**

## TO FILL IN BEFORE GOING TO THE INTERVIEW

To be filled in by interviewer (i.e. field researcher).

P1 Name of the Alternative Action Organization where Respondent is Beneficiary/participant:

P2 Abbreviation:

P3 Date of Interview

P4 Time (starting\_\_\_\_\_ & ending\_\_\_\_\_ ) for interview:

P5 Location of the interview:

P6 Name of interviewer 1:

P7 Name of interviewer 2 (optional):

P8 Recording the interview:

P9 Video-taping the interview:

## TO BE READ BEFORE INTERVIEW STARTS

### INSTRUCTION TO FIELD WORKER:

Present yourself and hand over the ‘Agreement to be interviewed’ (letter of consent). Use the letter to describe our research project, aim and institutions by reading the short letter. (The interview person could decide to read it himself/ herself.) Once all is clarified, the respondent should sign at least one copy. The signed copy stays with us, and the other copy with the respondent. In case the interviewee agrees to be video-taped (for the documentary) the related arrangements should be made (following instructions from the technicians). After this, start the interview and record it (following the permission of the respondent).

Topics	Very general open question	Further questions on the topic, in case he/she is not providing much information.
A. PERSONAL SITUATION	Tell me about your daily circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are your current living circumstances? Describe in general</li> <li>• What about your work/unemployment situation?</li> <li>• What is your family situation? (about partner, children, siblings, parents)</li> <li>• What is your housing situation?(e.g. sharing apartment, own/rent, with parents, with people of similar ethnic background)</li> </ul>
B. JOINING THE AAO	Tell us how you came into contact with AAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How did you find out about this organization?</li> <li>• Why did you join/start to participate in its activities? Since when?</li> <li>• Have you been in the past a beneficiary/member of a similar AAO?</li> <li>• Have you participated in the past in similar activities/services by other AAOs?</li> </ul>
C. ENGAGEMENT IN THE AAO	Tell us something about you as a beneficiary of the services / as a participant in the activities of this organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In which activities are you involved / which services do you use usually?</li> <li>• To what extent do they help you confront the difficulties you are facing?</li> <li>• How important is the support of AAO in your current situation?</li> <li>• Do you have the impression that you have a say in AAO / that your views are heard?</li> <li>• Are you in contact with other beneficiaries/participants, and for which purposes?</li> <li>• How strongly do you feel attached to the work of AAO?</li> <li>• Are you involved in other AAO, as well?</li> </ul>
D. EFFECTS OF HARD ECONOMIC TIMES	Tell us what has been the effect if any of the economic crisis on your living conditions and work situation	<p>Over the last several years and since the onset of the economic crisis, has your individual and/or family situation changed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If so, how and why?</li> <li>• What do you believe have been the impacts of the economic crisis on your living conditions and working circumstances?</li> <li>• Has the European economic and financial crisis affected your engagement in the activities of this Organization indirectly or directly?"</li> <li>• Has the European economic and financial crisis affected your engagement in the activities of other similar initiatives or organizations indirectly or directly?"</li> </ul> <p>Generally, are things improving or getting worse?</p>

		<p><b><i>IN CASE (a) the respondent addresses crisis/crises other than the economic one, ask the following:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you are concerned about “XX crisis” (e.g. refugee, crisis of representation, political crisis), is this crisis related to the economic crisis? How so?</li> </ul> <p><b><i>IN CASE (b) that in some countries/cases there might be a tendency to simply say 'no' in this question, we would then ask the question:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has the European economic and financial crisis affected your life/work situation indirectly or directly?"</li> <li>• Has the European economic and financial crisis affected your engagement in the activities of this Organization indirectly or directly?"</li> <li>• Has the European economic and financial crisis affected your engagement in the activities of other similar initiatives or organizations indirectly or directly?"</li> </ul>
E. POLITICAL VIEWS	Tell me something about your political views in the contemporary context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you think of politics (conventional/nonconventional)?</li> <li>• Is your participation in this organization motivated by political concerns of the organization or not? How important are the services/aid provided for people in need?</li> <li>• Do you ever discuss political issues with your friends?</li> <li>• Are (or were) you involved in any kind of political activity other than voting?</li> </ul>
F. FINAL OUTCOME	Coming to an end I would like to ask what you think about the work of this organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall, how do you assess/evaluate this organization in terms of what they offer and how this may or may not meet your needs?</li> </ul> <p>To what extent do they help you cope with the situation you are facing? Give us examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What activity do you like in particular?</li> <li>• Which activity is not helpful?</li> </ul>
G. OTHER SUGGESTIONS	Any other suggestions would be appreciated	Is there anything else related to the issues covered during our conversation that you would like to add?

At the end of the Interview:

Do not turn off the microphone immediately since they may offer more information on any of the questions above. The Interviewer should write one paragraph on the experience of the Interview, such as on topics that were difficult for the respondent to address, any obstacles to the interview, brief description of the venue, atmosphere during the interview, etc.

**Background information**

**(to be asked at the end of the interview through a standardised questionnaire unless you are sure that precise information was provided during the interview)**

**BQ 1. Sex:** F / M

**BQ 2. What is your year of birth?**

**BQ 3. Level of education?**

**BQ 4. Occupation:**

- acquired:
- (last) actual (*if different*):

**BQ 5. Personal situation:** married / living-in partner / in a relationship / single

**BQ 6. Children:**

- number of children:
- age of children:

**BQ 7. How many people live regularly as members of your household, including yourself and children?**

**BQ 8. Who of the following are living with you?**

(partner/spouse, children, mother, father, other relatives, friends)

**BQ 9. Housing situation:** staying at shelter/ staying with friends/ public or social housing / rented apartment / owned (or under loan) apartment or house

**BQ 10. Siblings:**

- number of siblings:
- occupations of siblings:

**BQ 11. Parents:**

- are they alive?
- age of parents:
- occupation of parents:

**BQ 12. Are you a citizen of [country]? (*if not*)** What citizenship do you hold?

**BQ 13. In what country were you born? (*if not [country]*)** When did you arrive to [country] (year)?