

About the project

Facing the acute lapse of the rule of law, the Institut für Europäische Politik (IEP) launched the project "RESILIO - Resilience Observatory on the Rule of Law in Europe". Its goal is to develop an interdisciplinary approach based on both academic literature and institutional practice in order to identify institutional and structural factors that contribute to the resilience of the rule of law. While implementing a comparative perspective, IEP will draw on its German and Europe-wide networks, engaging relevant actors from academia, think-tanks, politics and civil society to support this endeavour.

RESILIO was launched in January 2022 and is scheduled for two and a half years.

Objectives

RESILIO is structured in two modules: analysis and outreach.

The analytical part will focus on providing practice-oriented knowledge about the resilience of the rule of law, policy recommendations to strengthen the rule of law in the EU, and fact-based arguments to support decision-makers and actors in the rule of law debate in Europe and beyond. In particular, it will investigate factors that influence the rule of law, such as: constitutional culture and legislative processes, judicial system and the role of corruption, trust in political institutions as well as political culture, public debate and freedom of the media. The main outputs of this analytical part are a resilience monitor (Resilience Observatory), a toolbox of concrete policy recommendations for preventing rule of law regression and strengthening the rule of law, and 27 EU country analyses.

The outreach component will be realized through country-specific workshops and two expert talks in Berlin and Brussels as well as continuous and dynamic online communication, presenting research results of the resilience monitor in a series of user-friendly visualizations.

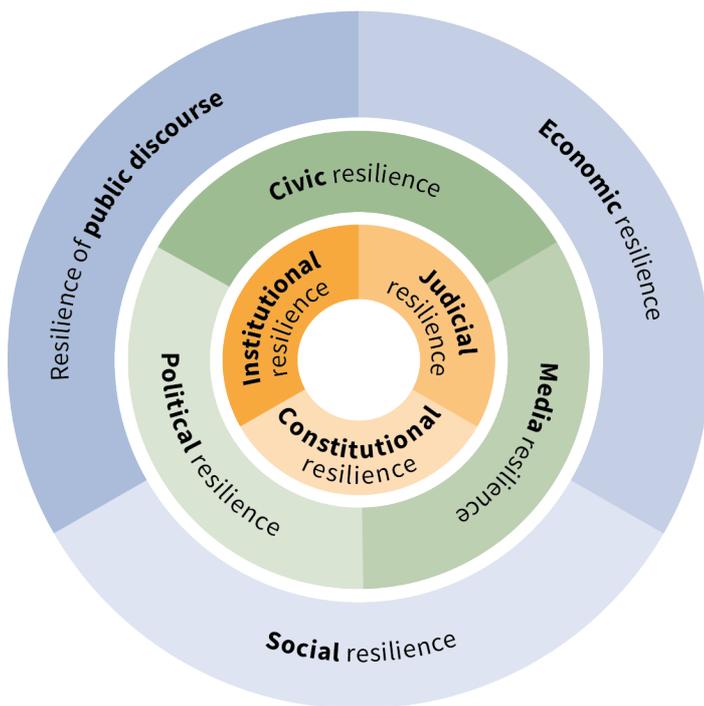
Target groups

Core target groups of the project are: decision-makers at the EU level; decision-makers from member states strongly committed to protecting the rule of law in the EU; academics and think-tankers with interdisciplinary expertise on democracy research and the rule of law; CSO and advocacy organisations specializing in questions of the rule of law, human rights, media and press freedom, democracy; journalists and media outlets with a focus on the EU.

The project is funded by

RESILIO in a nutshell

Under the **rule of law**, all public powers always act within the constraints set out by law, in accordance with the values of democracy and fundamental rights, and under the control of independent and impartial courts. Core elements of the rule of law include the principles of legality, legal certainty, prohibiting the arbitrary exercise of executive power, effective judicial protection by independent and impartial courts, respect for fundamental rights and equality before the law.



Resilience of the rule of law means that the rule of law can experience hazardous events or incremental threats without losing its core function, structure and purpose or can effectively defend itself against attempted assaults. Sources of resilience lie not only in constitutional texts and institutions, but can also be facilitated by social, political, cultural and economic circumstances.

The resilience of the rule of law depends on different factors. They refer to both the institutional architecture of the rule of law as well as the environment, in which the rule of law is functioning. RESILIO offers a multi-layered model of the rule of law resilience. Systemic dimension (orange) reflects upon the resilience of the legal setup; subsidiary dimension (green) looks at the phenomena and

tendencies present in societies as possible facilitators; and contextual dimension (blue) analyses the broader habitat, determined by structural and systemic variables like economic growth, social cohesion, and general political climate.

Last but not least, RESILIO also takes into account the horizontal effects of unpredicted and unprecedented crises that can affect all dimensions of rule of law resilience with different intensity. While each factor is necessary for a resilient rule of law, they are only sufficient in combination.

Questions? Comments? Please get in touch!



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