

Typology of socio-economic practices of resilience

Many households across Europe are facing a crisis of hardship, which for many has been accentuated in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis and ensuing Great Recession. Many of them have not experienced adversity on such a scale before, which intensifies feelings of crisis, at a personal, household and community level. In such situations the practices households can employ to reduce, protect against and escape hardship are crucial. This is the subject of RESCuE's latest international report, which highlights how households experience and talk about hardship, and how this affects how they deal with social and financial insecurity.

The international report is based on the national reports, analysing a series of interviews undertaken in Germany, Greece, Poland, Portugal, Ireland, Finland, Turkey, Spain and the UK. Although each country provides a specific context, a general typology of socio-economic practices of surviving, coping or overcoming hardship as different forms of resilience can be produced.

Dealing with hardship requires households to focus on three areas: strategies targeting household consumption, strategies involving the use of available resources, and strategies focused on increasing household income. Households across Europe aim to generate, protect or stabilise their incomes, and to reduce the cost of living (See Figure. 1). These categories and strategies form the bedrock of households' socio-economic practices of coping with hardship.

European households have shown great resourcefulness, industriousness and determination in the face of regional, national and household crises, as well as longer-term contexts of hardship. Different national contexts point to different methods of coping with such hardships, but there are also significant commonalities across all the countries in the RESCuE project.

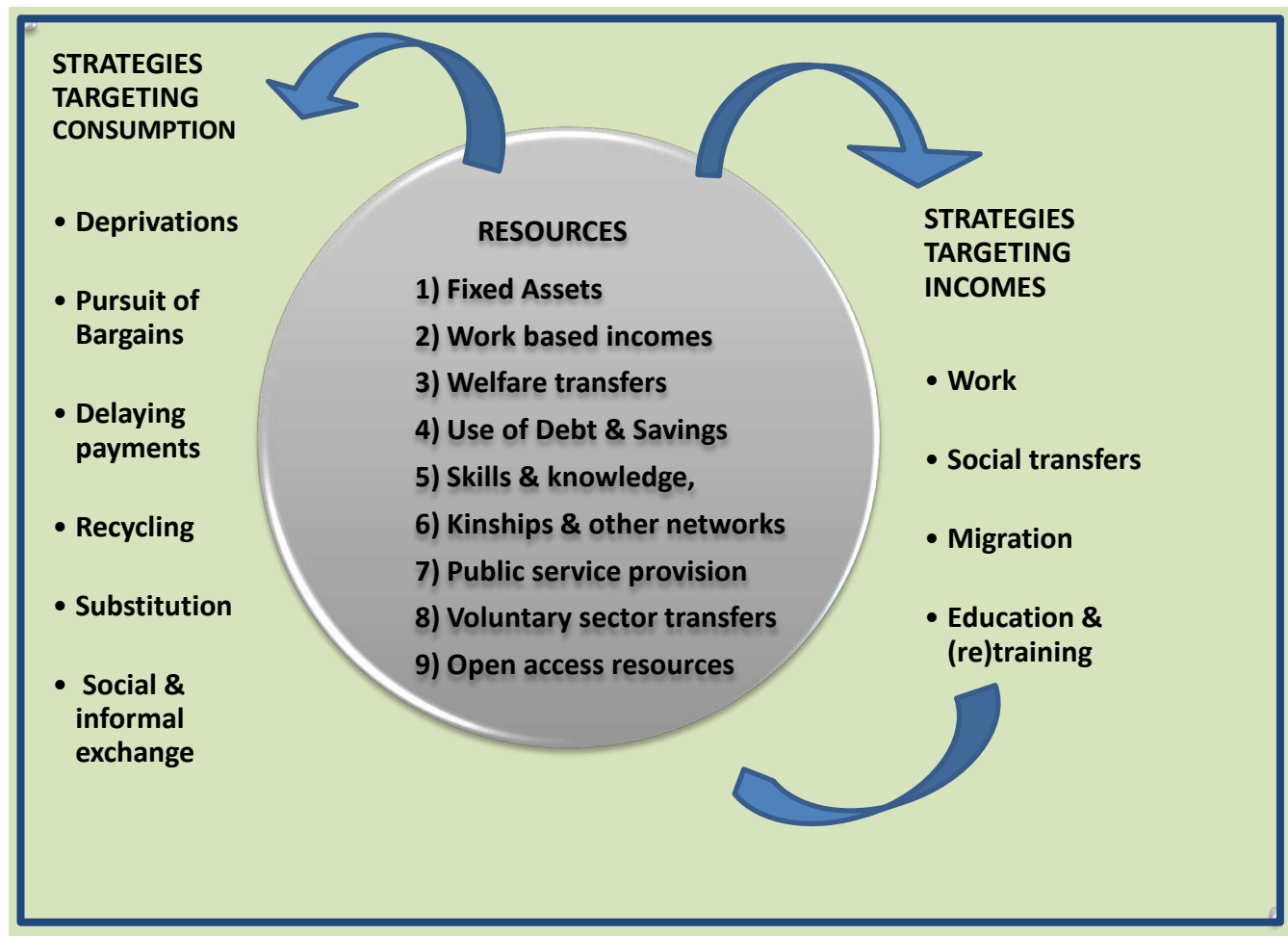


Figure. 1 – A typology of socio-economic practices of resilience, as documented in the International Report for Workpackage 4 (D4.20)