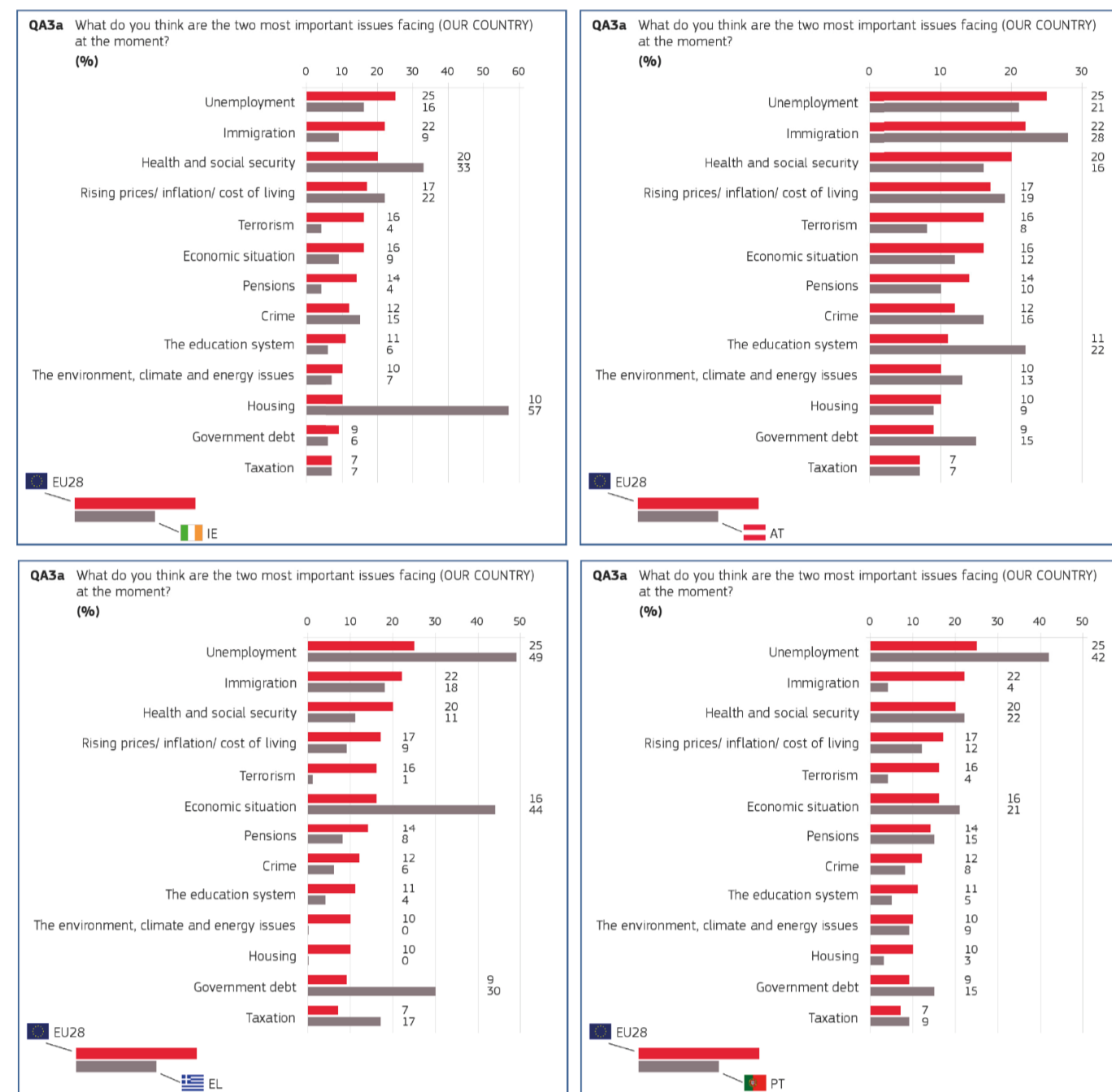


The Political Framework for Rural Development and Social Entrepreneurship



Source: EC, (2017). Standard Eurobarometer 87. http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/index.cfm?surveyDetail=STANDARD%20survey%2087

Early Stage Researcher

- ▶ Georgios Chatzichristos, University of Aegean
- Political Theory (M.Sc.)
- Philosophy (M.A.)
- Economics (B.A.)

Promotion at

- ▶ University of Aegean (UAE), Greece

Supervisory team

- ▶ Prof. Nikos Nagopoulos (UAE), Greece
- ▶ Dr. Thilo Lang (ifL), Germany

Secondments

- ▶ Otelo Egen, Austria
- ▶ ADC Moura, Portugal
- ▶ Stevia Hellas, Greece

Presentation

- ▶ The European Political Framework for Rural Development and Social Entrepreneurship, XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology – Power, Violence and Justice: Reflections, Responses and Responsibilities, 17/07/2018 Toronto/Canada, International Sociological Association

Research Objectives

- ▶ I. Contributing to both the social economy and the sociological institutionalism literature
- ▶ II. Relating European regional policies to social economy policies
- ▶ III. Mapping a nexus of socio-political interaction that is developed around the social economy sector
- ▶ IV. Highlighting the significance of political awareness and activation in the development of the social economy sector
- ▶ V. Generating new data on the assessment of social economy by policy makers in the selected regions

Research Questions

Testing the institutional assumption of the 'logic of appropriateness' (intra-regional):

- ▶ How can political institutions trigger change and promote social economy?
- ▶ Are there significant divergences between the three political levels (European, national and regional)?
- ▶ What does this imply for the potentialities of change?

Testing the assumption of 'institutional isomorphism' (inter-regional):

- ▶ Are there significant divergences between the political institutions of the four selected case regions? Is the assumption of an institutional isomorphism, which would allow common European identifications and policies, valid?

Core Concepts & Theoretical Foundations

- ▶ New Institutionalism (March and Olsen, 1989)
- ▶ Sociological Institutionalism (Peters, 2005)
- ▶ Institutional Isomorphism (DiMaggio and Powell, 1983)

James G. March and Johan P. Olsen (1989). *Rediscovering Institutions*, New York: Free Press.

Peters, B. (2012). *Institutional theory in political science*. New York, Continuum.

DiMaggio, P. & Powell, W. (1983). *The Iron Cage Revisited: Institutional Isomorphism and Collective Rationality in Organizational Fields*. *American Sociological Review* 48(2), 147.

Methodological Framework

- ▶ four regions: Phthiotis/Greece, Baixo Alentejo/ Portugal, Mühlviertel/Austria, Mid- West/Ireland
- ▶ mixed method research, explanatory sequential design
- ▶ quantitative research through an online survey (targets are members of the regional development agencies of each region)
- ▶ qualitative strand of the research through semi-structured interviews to develop a political narrative of the development of the region and to help interpreting our quantitative results (with persons from the broader political spectrum playing a role to the development of the region).

First Achievements

- ▶ Pilot research to the Greek NUTS3 regions of Lesvos and Limnos.
- ▶ www.koinseforum.gr: Generation and administration of a Greek social economy forum, with the aim of connecting social economy projects across Greece.
- ▶ Completion of the first secondment in Mühlviertel/Austria, where fifteen quantitative surveys and fifteen semi-structured interviews were conducted.

