

Project-No. 290454
TRANSWORLD
 Redefining the transatlantic relationship and
 its role in shaping global governance

Start date of project 01/03/2012
 Duration of the project 42 months

Coordinator: Nathalie Tocci

Deliverable Report

D7.3 "WP7 Workshop on Elites Survey Results"

Deliverable title	Transworld Scientific Interim Report
Due date of deliverable	month 23 (January 2013)
Actual submission date of the deliverable	10/02/2014
Organisation name of lead contractor for this deliverable:	UNISI

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Project co-funded by the European Commission within the Seventh Framework Programme

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PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission services)	
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The logo for TRANSWORLD, featuring the word "TRANSWORLD" in a serif font. The letter "O" is replaced by a blue sphere with a red ring around it, which is part of a larger red circular graphic.

**Memo Transworld Elites Survey Data Analysis meeting
January 30 – February 1 2014, Rome**

Venue

Istituto Affari Internazionali –IAI
Via Angelo Brunetti n. 9
Rome

Agenda:

Thursday January 30th

19:15: Meet in hotel lobby to walk to restaurant

Hotel Valadier

Via della Fontanella n. 15 - Roma

19:30: Welcome dinner . “Al 59” restaurant – Via Angelo Brunetti n. 59

Friday January 31st

09:00: Meet in hotel lobby to walk to IAI (Via Angelo Brunetti n. 9)

09:15: Welcome – Agenda Presentation (Director’s Room)

10:00: # Global economy

11:00: Coffee break

11:15: # Global economy

12:00: # Human rights/Democracy

13:00: Lunch. “Canova” restaurant - Piazza del Popolo,16-17

15:00: # Human rights/Democracy

16:00: # Climate change

18:00: end

19:30: dinner “Trattoria al Gran Sasso” – Via di Ripetta n. 32

Saturday February 1st

09:00: Meet in hotel lobby to walk to IAI (Via Angelo Brunetti n. 9)

9.15: # International Security (IAI Library)

11:00: Coffee break

11.15: # International Security and Miscellaneous issues

13:00: Lunch catered at IAI

15:00: Report writing and time schedule

16.30: Dissemination of the Transworld élites data

17.30: end

19.30: dinner “Al 59” restaurant – Via Angelo Brunetti n. 5

TRANSWORLD*WORK PACKAGE 7 WORKSHOP ON ELITES SURVEY RESULTS***WORKSHOP REPORT**

The TRANSWORLD consortium Work Package 7 group met for a two days workshop at the *Istituto Affari Internazionali* in Rome on 31st January – 1st February 2014. The workshop was organized to discuss the results of the Elite survey. It represents the final stage of the Work package 7 “elites survey design and analysis.”

Representatives of UNISI, UMA, GMFUS, IAI and TNS attended it, as well as three external advisors: Richard Sinnott (University College Dublin), Philip Everts (Leiden University) and Philippe Manigart (Military Royal Academy).

The main goal of the committee was to discuss the preliminary results emerged from the interim dataset released by the TNS in mid-January. The latter contains 1,980 respondents, attaining a 97% completion rate. Missing data are those related to the US politicians. In this case, in fact, delays were due essentially to the difficulties in reaching this elite sector. The provision of an invitation letter, signed by the partner institutions, notably helped to complete the target sample. The fieldwork therefore continued until the 31st January and the final dataset should be delivered by 7th February 2014.

Day 1: Morning session (h 9-13)

The meeting started with the presentation of the fieldwork report by the representative of the TNS, Mr. Anthony Allen, who addressed the main issues related to the implementation of the elites survey. He described the fieldwork, since the pilot test of the questionnaire. The pilot tests revealed that the draft version of the questionnaire was still too long, with an average length of interviews in English of about 27 minutes and some questions were too complicated for the respondents. A further suggestion was to harmonize the different scales used in the survey. After two conference calls between UNISI, UMA and the TNS, a revised version of the questionnaire was finally approved and translated in the six languages of the seven countries in which the survey was carried out, namely: the USA, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland and the UK. The fieldwork partners checked the translations. Polish and Greek versions implied a much more time consuming process than the others. The Polish translation of the questionnaire also revealed problems for question QD5A, thus implying to contact again the respondents. The final length of the survey was reduced to around 20 minutes in the English version. The survey started in September 2013 and was concluded on 31st January 2014.

Mr. Allen also described the sampling procedure for each of the three surveyed elites groups, as well as the main implications of the mixed mode survey, that is to say the combined use of CATI and CAWI interviews. The TNS also provided information about the response rate, which was high for

business leaders, which were exclusively contacted via online. The completion rate for politicians, especially MEPs and US leaders was lower than expected, while in Germany the long negotiation process leading to the formation of the new government postponed the start of the fieldwork.

To increase this response rate, UNISI, IAI and all the partners in the project drafted a follow-on letter for MEPs and US politicians. It is unfortunate, however, that the Commission refused to endorse such a letter with their own logo. Since respondents, especially of leaders surveys, are often busy and reluctant to answer surveys, a greater involvement of the EU Commission would have been advisable.

The second part of the morning was devoted to the discussion of the main findings for the first policy area, namely global economy, which took around 1,5 hour. The discussion was based on frequency distributions tables with breakdown by countries and elites, which were prepared by UNISI and delivered to the participants before the meeting. The key preliminary considerations emerging from the discussion are (and more details can be found in the analysis report):

1. In the analyses, the elites groups should be aggregated as follows: opinion leaders (formerly labelled as social leaders, including academics, media, think tank and trade unions), business leaders and political leaders (MPs and MEPs). Unlike the original project, it was decided to move the trade unions from the economic to the social sector, given their greater similarities in opinions with the other social leaders.
2. Elites show different behaviour; the economic sector, in particular, tends to systematically assume a somewhat distinguished attitude from the other groups.
3. The EU and the US often show a different attitude on several economic issues.
4. Opinion leaders are more pro-euro than the other groups.
5. European integration seems to be based more on economic than on political grounds.

In the remaining part of the morning questions on Human rights and democracy promotion were discussed.

Day 1: Afternoon session (h 15 – 19)

The afternoon session proceeded with the discussion on the Human Rights & Democracy Promotion issue area.

Among the most controversial question, that on the most threatened human right was particularly debated (QD3). For some of the participants, the differences between economic, civil, political, social rights might not be so clear-cut for most of the respondents.

In general, two main points emerged from the discussion:

1. In this issue area there is more variation within each elite group than on global economy.

2. To the extent that the issues of HR and Democracy promotion are rather abstract for elites and masses, their attitudes seem to be more convergent than in the case of global economy.

The last part of the day was devoted to discuss the environment and climate change section.

Day 2: Morning session (9-13)

The second day opened with the discussion of the main findings for the International security area. This is a section in which several variables are comparable with mass surveys of the TTS. This would allow us, in the report for the EU Commission, as well as in other analyses, to develop interesting public vs. mass comparisons.

The main preliminary results of the discussion were:

1. The US and the EU seem to be increasingly independent on international security, although still cooperative;
2. The EU countries are willing to increase an effective EU leadership.
3. We are moving towards a multipolar world in which, however, some countries are expected to be more influential than other, especially China.

Day 2: Afternoon session (h 15-17)

The afternoon session was devoted to a general discussion of the nature of the report for the Commission. In particular, for the drafting of the report, it was suggested to focus on the following comparisons:

1. EU and US
2. Differences within EU countries
3. Mass vs. elites
4. Within different elite groups

The tenor of the discussion on the report should make easier to link the results to the overall research goals of the TRANSWORLD project.

Before closing the meeting, the participants also shared some proposals and ideas for future projects of dissemination of the data, although more concrete decisions were left to further discussions.