

The Future of Intergenerational Solidarity beyond the Pandemic: Empirically-informed Ethical Analysis and Public Deliberation

Initiative: Herausforderungen für Europa

Ausschreibung: Challenges and Potentials for Europe: Intergenerational Futures

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This project investigates the ongoing public (re-)negotiation of intergenerational solidarity in Europe. Starting from the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, that can be regarded as a multidimensional "stress test" for intergenerational solidarity, the aim is the development of morally acceptable and socially sustainable future visions for intergenerational relations on both a national and a transnational level. Drawing on an empirical analysis and ethical evaluation, the project investigates how appeals to intergenerational solidarity are used in individual moral considerations and in public and policy debates about the pandemic as well as in other contemporary societal challenges, such as the war in Ukraine, population ageing and climate change. Combining social research and moral philosophical analysis, the project draws lessons from the pandemic and discusses acceptable conditions and scenarios of solidarity between generations to develop visions for a new intergenerational contract. In order to do so, the project employs qualitative and quantitative research in an exploratory phase. This is followed by an evaluative and a participatory research phase where insights from the exploratory and evaluative phase will feed into a public deliberative process in workshops aimed at the explicit (re-)negotiation of moral relations between generations in Europe.

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