



Vaccine hesitancy: research design and methods in focus

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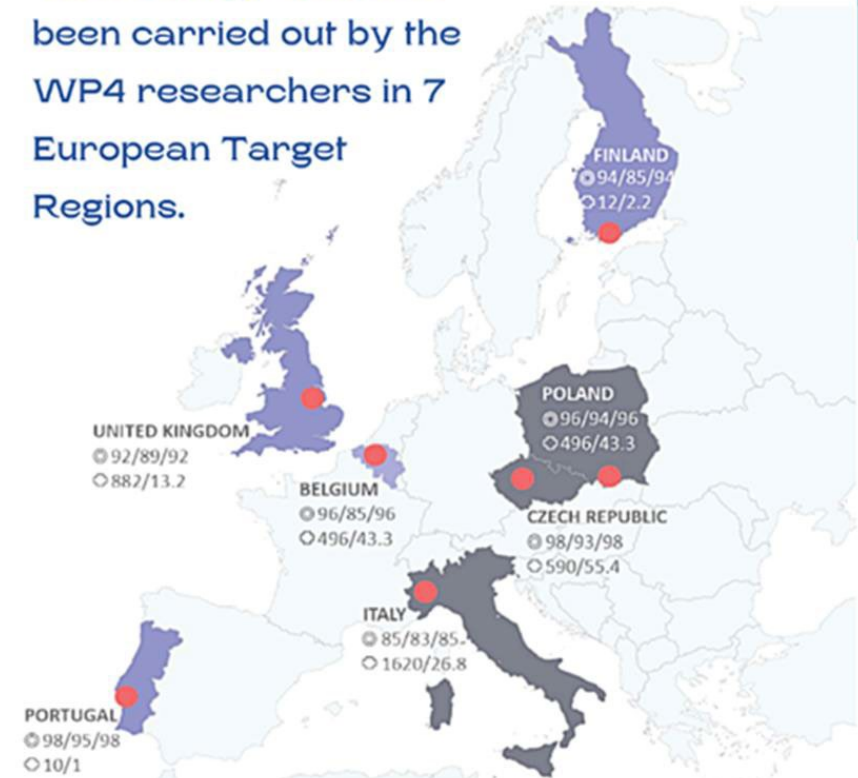
1. The research design: a comparative team ethnography
2. The team building process
3. How to construct a “local truth”
4. Learning from abroad
5. Some reflections on a “method in process”



1. THE RESEARCH DESIGN

- 420 hours of participant observation in healthcare facilities where childhood vaccinations are delivered
- 171 healthcare professionals and 160 parents interviewed

Team ethnography has been carried out by the WP4 researchers in 7 European Target Regions.



For a more analytical presentation of the research design, see the open-access paper:

Cardano M, Numerato D, Gariglio L, Marhánková JH, Scavarda A, Bracke P, Hilário AP, Polak P (2023) *A team ethnography on vaccine hesitancy in Europe. A case study of a local truth construction*, «Rassegna Italiana di Sociologia», 4 pp. 763-790.



2. THE TEAM BUILDING PROCESS

January-June 2022

- Internal situation:

«blind date approach» (Davidson 2019)
as a start, impossibility of in-person
meetings + cultural differences

Short time (rapid ethnography)

- Global situation (exogenous changes):

- Pandemic context – strict
hygienic rules -
- War in Ukraine – refugees –



Approach:

- Online meetings before
fieldwork (WP4 Cafés) to
discuss methodological and
ethical issues
- Monthly meetings during
fieldwork to share findings and
strategies to overcome
challenges

3. HOW TO CONSTRUCT A «LOCAL TRUTH»

- Dialectical confrontation, a «circle of differences» (Davidson 2019) as a critical version of intersubjectivity
- Valorise interpretive and methodological conflicts (Erickson, Stull 1998; Wasser Davidson and Bressler 2002)
- Sometimes ending up without a consensus



DIFFERENT GAZES



4. LEARNING FROM ABROAD

- EPISTEMIC VALUE OF THE COMPARATIVE RESEARCH DESIGN:

- How cultural, organizational and normative aspects impact on vaccine hesitancy
- Differences between how vaccination is conceived i.e. as part of the childcare activities (Belgium, Finland) or a preventive healthcare practice (Italy) and managed (compulsoriness or recommendation; free or payment)

- PRAGMATIC VALUE OF THE COMPARATIVE RESEARCH DESIGN:

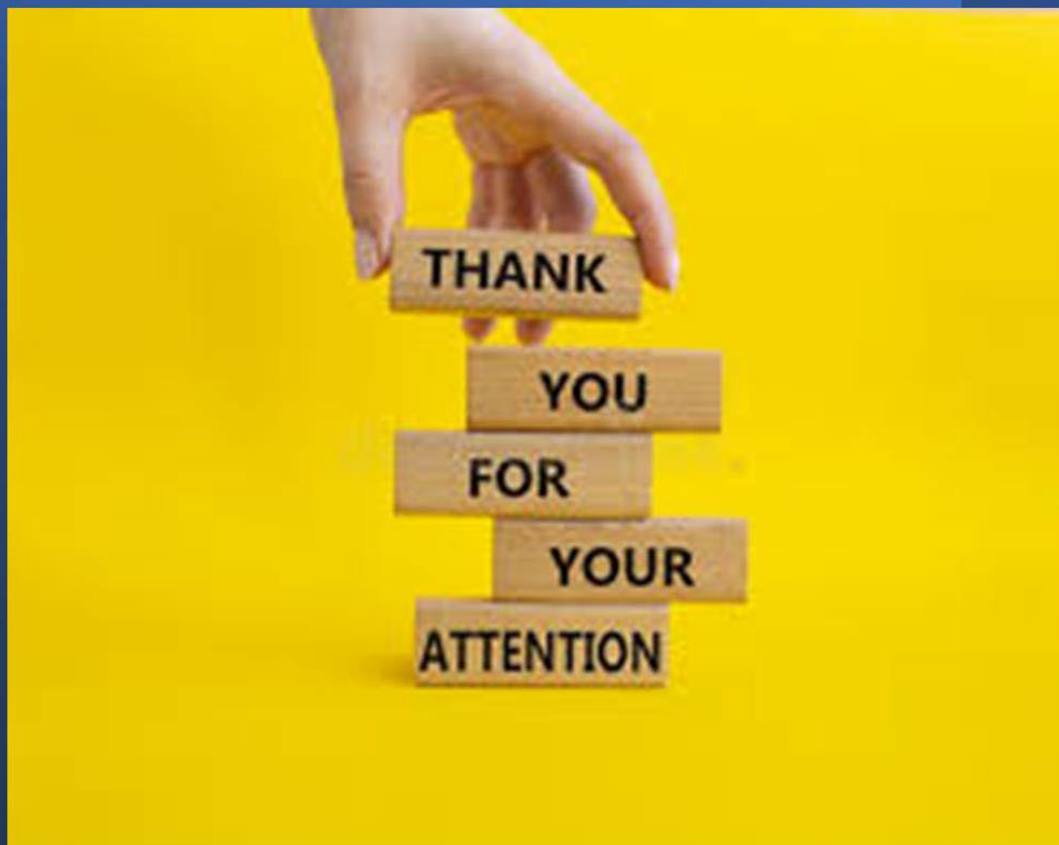
- What can be done in terms of policy implications



5. SOME REFLECTIONS ON A METHOD IN PROCESS

- Ethnography at European level is challenging
- Translation and sharing of fieldnotes is problematic
- Heterogeneity of perspectives is a positive element
- In a dialectical way we created the “though style” (Fleck 1935, English translation 1979) of the team
- Our local truth: vaccine hesitancy as a disposition influenced by interaction (next presentation)





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