



10 years ESJ
Special edition

Preface: Public Policies in Times of Pandemics

Georgios Farantos, PhD

Nikitas-Spiros Koutsoukis, Associate Professor

Department of Political Science and International Relations,
University of Peloponnese, Korinthos, Greece

Published: 15 September 2021

Copyright 2021 Author(s)
Under Creative Commons BY-NC-ND
4.0 OPEN ACCESS

Academic Editors: Georgios Farantos & Nikitas-Spiros Koutsoukis

Cite As:

Farantos G. & Koutsoukis N-S. (2021). *Preface: Public Policies in Times of Pandemics*.
European Scientific Journal, ESJ, 17 (31).

This is an Editorial in the Special Edition of the European Scientific Journal, which is an anniversary edition of the 10 years of circulation of this Scientific Journal. It is a great honor for us, the proposal of the Editorial Team to take over as Guest Editors of this Special Edition. The issue of the Special Edition was inspired by the current political developments in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and after reviewing the current bibliography related to the public policies for the management of the pandemic in all aspects of social life and activity. The collection and selection of valuable works by institutions and authors was achieved, in order to be assessed through the double peer review process. The successful completion of the process of publishing the Special Edition is the culmination of our efforts, the Editorial Team's and the reviewers'. We hope that this Special Edition will be used in the further study of Public Policies in times of Pandemics in the future.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, people, organizations and governments around the world have sunk into uncertainty, leading to changes in daily behavior (Oldeweme, Märtns, Westmattelmann & Schewe, 2021). Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic is reshaping the world economy at a rate we have never seen before. Supply and demand conditions were affected and in turn affected all dimensions of the economic environment. An obvious anxiety about the economy has appeared (Coveri, Guarascio & Landesmann, 2020). Ethical health issues have arisen, such as the division of responsibilities among relevant bodies who are involved in the implementation of international policies and laws, given the global nature of the pandemic (de

Campos, 2020). The outbreak of the pandemic caused by the new coronavirus COVID-19, threatened the life and health of individuals and especially the vulnerable groups of the population.

In the face of this threat, governments have designed and implemented public policies to halt the development of the pandemic and to adapt individuals to the new strict labor and social requirements. Indicatively, some important public policies are:

- Policies that affect the health system
- Epidemiological surveillance policies and pandemic statistics
- Free movement restriction policies
- Labor market policies
- Participation policies in digital technologies
- Educational policies
- Policing and public order surveillance policies

Decision-making in times of pandemic is necessary so as to be able to protect public health (Safipour, 2020). Policies implemented in times of pandemic to ensure public health raise important ethical issues. These policies impose restrictive measures on individuals and must be implemented under great time pressure (Smith, 2020). Issues of monitoring the course of the pandemic with epidemiological surveillance and proper statistical monitoring, are useful to the public health authorities before deciding on the actions to be taken (Nunes et al., 2020). Anti-smuggling and deportation policies have changed during the pandemic. Mobility and the labor market, as they had been formed before the pandemic based on the Schengen governance, needed to be reconsidered (Wolff, Ripoll Servent & Piquet, 2020). Policies for wider public participation in digital technologies are being implemented by governments in this period (Bigo, Guild & Kuskonmaz, 2021). Some states, especially those with liberal governments, under the influence of the electorate pressure, have chosen the educational institutions to open online (Johnson, Roberto & Rauhaus, 2021). With regard to the implementation of distance learning in education, states with liberal governments were more likely to promote online openings in the fall of 2020, with the power of the electorate voting to mediate the relationship (Johnson, Roberto, & Rauhaus, 2021). Public policing policies change and the tactics and the role of the police are shaped by new values and new expectations of citizens (Nix, Ivanov, & Pickett, 2021).

These policies have been implemented in a wide range of activities in the fields of health, economy, travel, research against the pandemic, public awareness as well as fight against misinformation and solidarity among states. These policies have been implemented with specific measures aimed at ensuring acceptable results in terms of epidemiological indicators. The

modification of the process of providing health services by the primary and secondary units of the health sector, the restriction of the movement of the citizens, distance work, the modification of the budgets, the acceleration of the research for the forthcoming vaccine, the information provision and the treatment of the opposers' movement, are some of the measures taken in accordance with the policies for the combat of the pandemic.

The implementation of the measures that have been taken in accordance with the health policies has caused specific results in tackling the pandemic, but has also caused a wide range of potentially adverse effects on work and social activities. A protest policy organized by interest groups against the pandemic measures has emerged. This policy has been accused of its advocates intentionally violating health care rules. In this context, superficially it appears that public health policies and civil liberties seem contradictory (Lange & Monscheuer, 2021). COVID-19 case detection and patient contact applications have provoked much debate among politicians, epidemiologists and the public, calling into question transparency and public confidence in these policies (Oldeweme, Märtins, Westmattelmann & Schewe, 2021). The widening and consolidation of inequalities, which has been observed to occur after pandemics, also occurred in the COVID-19 pandemic (Venkatapuram, 2020). Mismanagement of pandemics creates increased costs for societies while the crises and political decisions that accompany them shape the perceptions of the public and how the public evaluates policies in particularly difficult times (Herrera, et al., 2020).

According to plan, the methods used in the papers of the special edition, were extended in a wide range. The topics that were asked by the Editors and for which manuscripts were submitted, were the following:

- Health policies employed by governments to face the pandemic.
- Economic policies implemented by governments to address the particular economic conditions that occur under the influence of the pandemic.
- Policies that affect the travel and movement of individuals (including refugee groups) to limit the spread of the coronavirus.
- Policies that affect the work landscape (distance working, protection of special groups of the population) for the prevention of the coronavirus infection.
- Health research policies as modified under the particular conditions created by the pandemic.
- Information provision policies applied to inform the public and ensure that appropriate measures are taken to prevent the coronavirus.
- What are the public policies during the pandemic and how are the procedures for their design and implementation modified.

- Public policy analysis and pandemic conditions.
- Policies to combat misinformation.
- Policies for supranational (European or International) solidarity.

According to plan, the types of Manuscripts acceptable were research articles, reviews of literature, and conceptual framework.

The special edition intended to study in detail the public policies designed and implemented by governments to tackle the pandemic. In this context, it intended to study the history of these policies in similar cases, the discussion and decisions leading to these policies and the comparative study of these policies among different countries or groups of countries and both the beneficial results of these policies as well as their side effects.

The submitted papers were eventually extended to a wide range of policies in the time of the pandemic, on Sociological issues, in Reforms in Times of Crisis, in Digitalization and Digital Transformation and Adoption in the Public Administration during the Covid19 Pandemic Crisis, in the ethics and economics of medicine pandemic supplies, epidemiological management models, control policies, human resources issues, vaccination issues, in the Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on The Work Landscape and Employment Policy Responses and the General Epidemic Simulation Model Multi-Infected States - Multi Sociodemographic Segments - Multi-Region Mobility. The submission of the papers after their final assessment was characterized as Academic level work and fulfilled the purposes for which it was designed. The Special Edition leaves room for the extension of the studied object in the future.

References:

1. Bigo, D., Guild, E., & Kuskonmaz, E. M. (2021). Obedience in times of COVID-19 pandemics: a renewed governmentality of unease?. *Global Discourse: An interdisciplinary journal of current affairs*, 11(1-2), 1-2.
2. Coveri, A., Guarascio, D. & Landesmann, M. (2020). International production, structural change and public policies in times of pandemics. *Journal of Industrial and Business Economics*, 47(3), 363-369.
3. de Campos, T. C. (2020). Guiding principles of global health governance in times of pandemics: solidarity, subsidiarity, and stewardship in COVID-19. *The American Journal of Bioethics*, 20(7), 212-214.
4. Herrera, H., Ordoñez, G., Konradt, M., & Trebesch, C. (2020). Corona politics: The cost of mismanaging pandemics.

5. Johnson, A. F., Roberto, K. J., & Rauhaus, B. M. (2021). Policies, politics and pandemics: course delivery method for US higher educational institutions amid COVID-19. *Transforming Government: People, Process and Policy*.
6. Johnson, A. F., Roberto, K. J., & Rauhaus, B. M. (2021). Policies, politics and pandemics: course delivery method for US higher educational institutions amid COVID-19. *Transforming Government: People, Process and Policy*.
7. Lange, M., & Monscheuer, O. (2021). Spreading the disease: Protest in times of pandemics. *ZEW-Centre for European Economic Research Discussion Paper*, (21-009).
8. Nix, J., Ivanov, S., & Pickett, J. T. (2021). What does the public want police to do during pandemics? A national experiment. *Criminology & Public Policy*.
9. Nunes, B., Caetano, C., Antunes, L., Dias, C., Dunbar, M. B. N., Held, L., & Altun, E. (2020). Statistics in times of pandemics: the role of statistical and epidemiological methods during the COVID-19 emergency. *REVSTAT–Statistical Journal*, 18(5), 553-564.
10. Oldeweme, A., Mártins, J., Westmattmann, D., & Schewe, G. (2021). The role of transparency, trust, and social influence on uncertainty reduction in times of pandemics: empirical study on the adoption of COVID-19 tracing apps. *Journal of medical Internet research*, 23(2), e25893.
11. Safipour, J. (2020). On the use of theories in study of personal health behavior during epidemics/pandemics. *SunKrist Sociology and Research Journal*, 1(2), 1-10.
12. Smith, P. T. (2020). Thinking ethically about pandemics: a matter of public health and social ethics. *REVER-Revista de Estudos da Religião*, 20(2), 105-121.
13. Venkatapuram, S. (2020). Human capabilities and pandemics. *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*, 21(3), 280-286.
14. Wolff, S., Ripoll Servent, A., & Piquet, A. (2020). Framing immobility: Schengen governance in times of pandemics. *Journal of European Integration*, 42(8), 1127-1144.