

# Transboundary crisis management: opportunities & challenges

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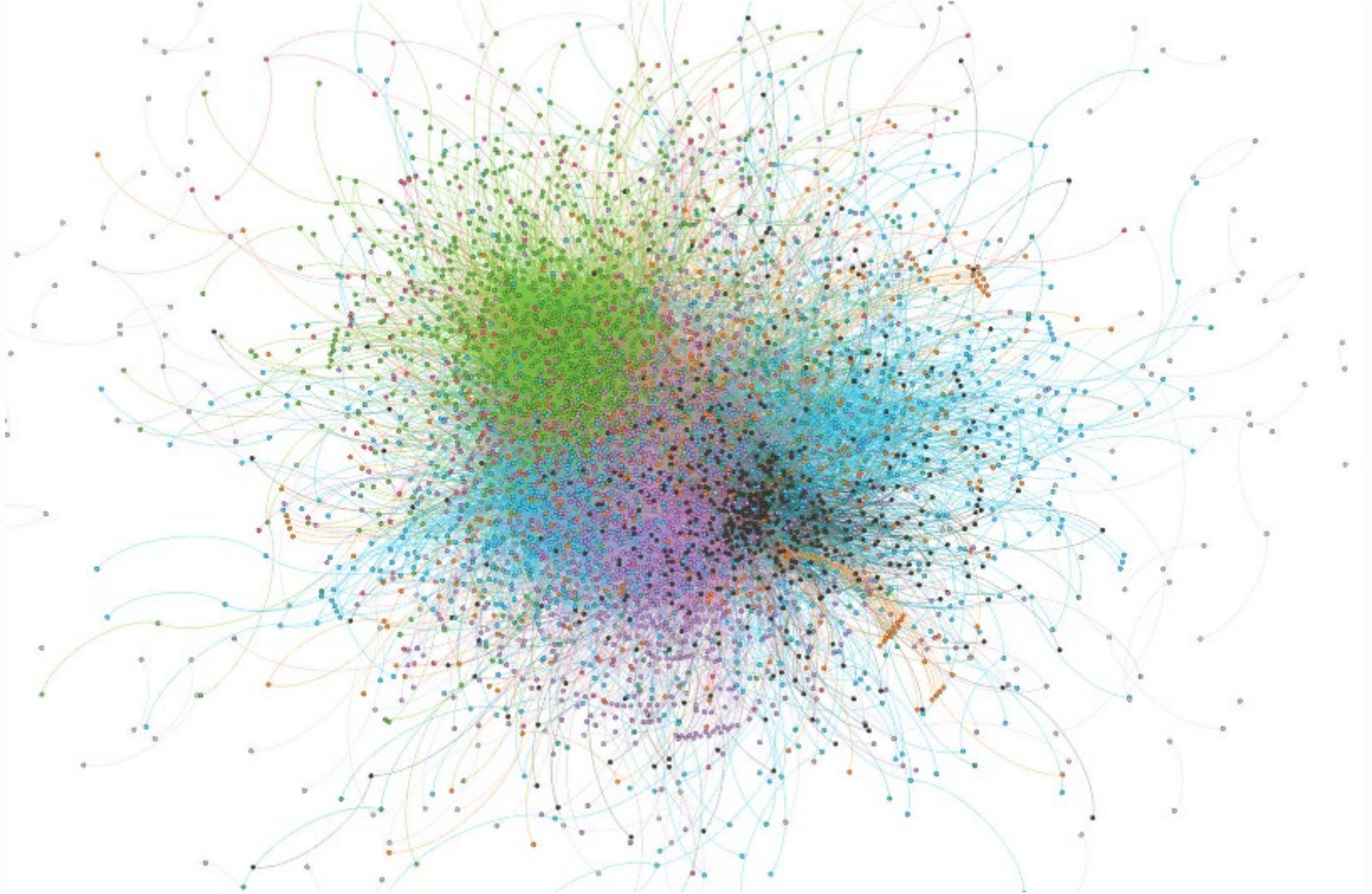
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# What are transboundary crises?

“crisis that crosses geographical and/or policy boundaries”

(Boin & Ansell 2010)



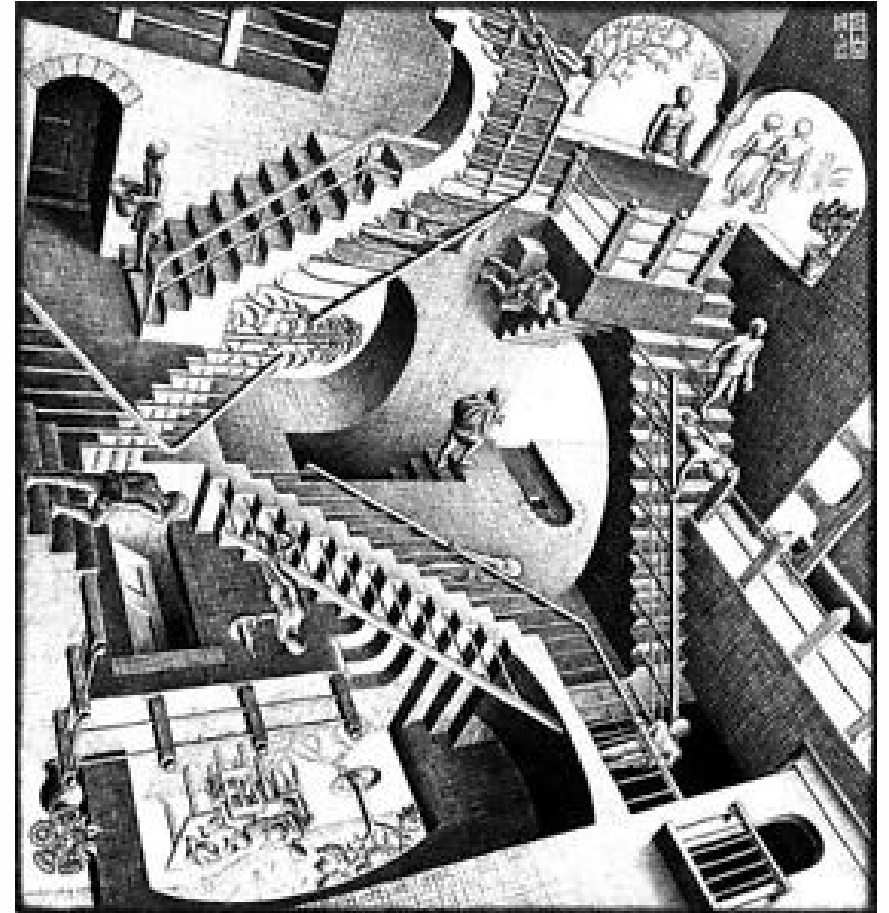
# Why are transboundary crises challenging?

## The crisis conundrum

- The resolution and prevention of TC require cooperation between countries

BUT

- Urgency vs dispersed authority
- Politicisation in crisis challenges joint response capacity



# What is transboundary crisis management?

- *Set of rules, regulations and norms to prevent, prepare for, and respond to crises across levels*
- Crisis policies beyond crisis response:
  - in most domains of public policies,
  - Not just in crisis times
  - Includes preparedness
- At all levels of authority





# Opportunities (1)

Crises as ‘windows of opportunities’

- Moments that can trigger significant policy shifts under certain conditions



# Opportunities (2)

Crises as a source of integration for the EU

- ‘EU will be built on crises and will be the sum of those crises’ (J. Monnet)



# Challenges (1)

How to *organise* cooperation in highly dispersed governing systems?

Who decides?

Who has the power & the capacity to perform crisis management?

# Challenges (1)



## One size fits all

- Subsidiarity deficit: lack of attention to local capacities and needs

## Flexibility

- Centralisation deficit: does flexibility lead to better implementation or threaten cohesion?



# Challenges (2)

How to *enforce* cooperation in highly dispersed governing systems?

## **Prescriptiveness deficit:**

- 'loose' implementation and coordination challenges created by lack of oversight and stringent rules

## **Flexibility deficit:**

- Stringent rules not fitted too local situations

# Challenges (3)

Effectiveness *vs*  
democratic  
accountability?

Increased accountability and  
legitimacy challenges at  
supranational level

Urgency vs accountability

# Challenges (4)

The long term  
challenge

Focus on the short  
term

Failing together  
forward?

Trade-offs and  
structural imbalances

# Conclusion

- Transboundary crisis management has become central to systems of governance
- Opportunities for integration
- Significant challenges, inevitable contestation
- Continued differentiation and tension, need to address trade-offs

# References

## *Strengthening the EU's Response Capacity to Health Emergencies: Insights from EU Crisis Management Mechanisms*

Anne-Laure BEAUSSIER\* and Lydie CABANE\*\* 

*What could a European Union (EU) response mechanism to health emergencies look like in the context of a more integrated Health Union? Despite an increased EU role in the preparedness, monitoring and coordination of health emergencies over the past two decades, Member States' responses to the first wave of COVID-19 were surprisingly uncoordinated. In light of calls to improve cooperation regarding future health emergencies, this article discusses the creation of EU surveillance, preparedness and response mechanisms for health emergencies. Using insights from previous research and secondary literature, we highlight gaps in the existing serious cross-border health threats regulatory framework and discuss opportunities for further EU action. Based on a comparison with other EU crisis management mechanisms (the Banking Union, risk preparedness in the electricity sector and food safety), we discuss different crisis decision-making and coordination models and their potential applicability to the health sector. We then formulate several propositions to strengthen Decision 1082/2013/EU on serious cross-border health threats to streamline ex ante pandemic preparedness and organise emergency responses.*

European Journal of Risk Regulation (2020), page 1 of 13

doi:[10.1017/err.2020.80](https://doi.org/10.1017/err.2020.80)



## Dealing with Transboundary Crises in the European Union:

Options for enhancing effective and legitimate transboundary crisis management capacities

TransCrisis White Paper