Concept Note: Robust Final Event

Background

The Robust Consortium set out to conceptualize and critically examine what makes governance robust in times of turbulence and crisis. Through interdisciplinary research, the consortium explored how multi-level governance functions under stress, the drivers and barriers at both national and EU levels, and the often-messy realities of "networked localities" where crises are experienced most directly. It aimed not only to identify the key factors that enable robust governance but also to build a learning hub for mobilizing shared insights and advancing theory.

The project produced significant academic and practical outcomes, including new theoretical and methodological tools for supporting crisis governance, recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness and inclusiveness of governance arrangements, and insights into how political leadership can be strengthened while empowering citizens during turbulent times. The consortium generated a rich body of evidence on how governance systems adapt, innovate, and sometimes falter.

The consortium not only advances academic understanding of governance robustness but also provides actionable insights for policymakers and institutions tasked with crisis response.

Objectives

The closing event will:

1. Present the consortium's key findings across the five research work packages.
2. Situate AMR, hybrid warfare and climate disasters as a pressing governance crisis requiring urgent attention.
3. Explore the relevance of robust governance approaches to future crises.

Session Formats and Rationale

- **Session 1: Presentations – Dissemination of the Consortium's Final Research Findings**
  Detailed presentations from project partners outlining the core results and conclusions of the Robust Horizon initiative, followed by moderated discussion and audience Q&A.

- **Session 2: Thematic Deep Dive – Cross-Cutting Insights from Robust Horizon**
  An interactive session exploring key lessons on resilience, multi-level governance, and the translation of research into policy relevance.

- **Session 3: Keynote Address – Framing AMR as a Global Governance and Societal Crisis**
  A keynote presentation positioning Antimicrobial Resistance as a governance challenge with wide societal implications, followed by short Q&A.

- **Session 4: Thematic Talks – Applying Robust Insights to Hybrid Warfare and the Climate Crisis**
  Two focused talks examining how the principles of robust governance can inform responses to hybrid warfare and the climate crisis, each followed by brief discussion.

- **Session 5: Panel Discussion – Integrating Robust Insights Across Global Crises**
  A moderated panel bringing together Robust Horizon representatives and thematic experts to connect lessons from the project to AMR, hybrid warfare, and climate governance.

Agenda

09:15 – 09:35 | Opening & Welcome
- *Opening remarks*: *Anne Haglund Morrissey* (EC) (09:15 – 09:25)
- Opening remarks and overview of symposium aims and structure: *Jacob Torfing* (09:25 – 09:35)

09:35 – 11:10 | Session 1: Final Findings of the Robust Horizon Projects
Format: Presentations
- **Defining Robust Governance in Turbulent Times:** (*Jacob Torfing*), Roskilde University (9:40-9:55)
- **Interactivity in Multi-Level Governance:** (*Tiziana Caponio*), University of Turin (10:00-10:15)
- **Hybridity in Governance, Democracy, and Law:** (*Steven Nõmmik*), Tallinn University of Technology (10:15-10:30)
- **Negotiation in Societal Intelligence:** (*Chiara Russo*), University of Antwerp (10:35-10:50)
- **Pathways to Robust Governance in Networked Localities:** (*Scott Douglas, Emma Pullen*), University of Utrecht (10:55-11:10)

Each presentation approx. 10 min, followed by moderated discussion and audience Q&A

11:10 – 11:30 | Coffee & Networking Break

11:30 – 12:30 | Session 2: Deep Dive – Insights from Robust Horizon
Format: Interactive Small Group Discussion lead by each WP
- Brigid introduces the activity and audience divides into group of about 10 people for targeted discussions surrounding one of the WP focus areas. (11:30-11:40)
- Collaborative discussion (11:40-12:15)
- One reporter per group shares the key insights of the discussion in 2-3 min. (12:15-12:30)

12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch & Informal Networking

13:30 – 14:15 | Session 3: AMR Keynote (*Bruno Gonzalez Zorn*)
Format: Keynote Address + Q&A
- **Keynote:** AMR as a Crisis of Governance, Science, and Society with the focus of AMR as a governance challenge and its implications for interdisciplinary collaboration
- Short moderated Q&A

14:15 – 14:35 | Session 4A: Hybrid Warfare (*Rasmus Dahlberg*)
Format: Thematic Talk + Q&A

- **Speaker:** Expert on hybrid threats with a focus on how hybrid warfare challenges democratic governance and policy coordination
- **Q&A:** 5 min

14:35 – 14:55 | Session 4B: Environment and Health (*Francesca Racioppi*)
Format: Thematic Talk + Q&A

- **Speaker:** Expert on climate
- **Q&A:** 5 min

14:55 – 15:15 | Coffee & Networking Break

15:15 – 16:30 | Session 5: Panel Discussion – Applying Robust Insights Across Global Crises
Format: Panel Discussion with Robust Horizon Representatives & Thematic Experts

- **Panel composition:**
  - Moderator: *Milka Sokolović*
  - Robust Horizon project representative: *Eva Sørensen*
  - Experts on AMR (*Malin Grape*), hybrid warfare (*Rasmus Dahlberg*), and climate fields (*Francesca Racioppi*)

Discussion Themes:

- How Robust Horizon findings can inform governance responses to AMR, hybrid warfare, and climate crises
- Lessons from turbulence and crisis governance for managing complex global challenges
- Mobilizing research for societal and policy impact
- Strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration and local implementation

Moderated discussion followed by audience Q&A

16:30 – 17:00 | Closing Session & Takeaways

- Reflections on consortium achievements and day highlights
- Key takeaways and pathways forward for research, policy, and collaboration
- Final remarks