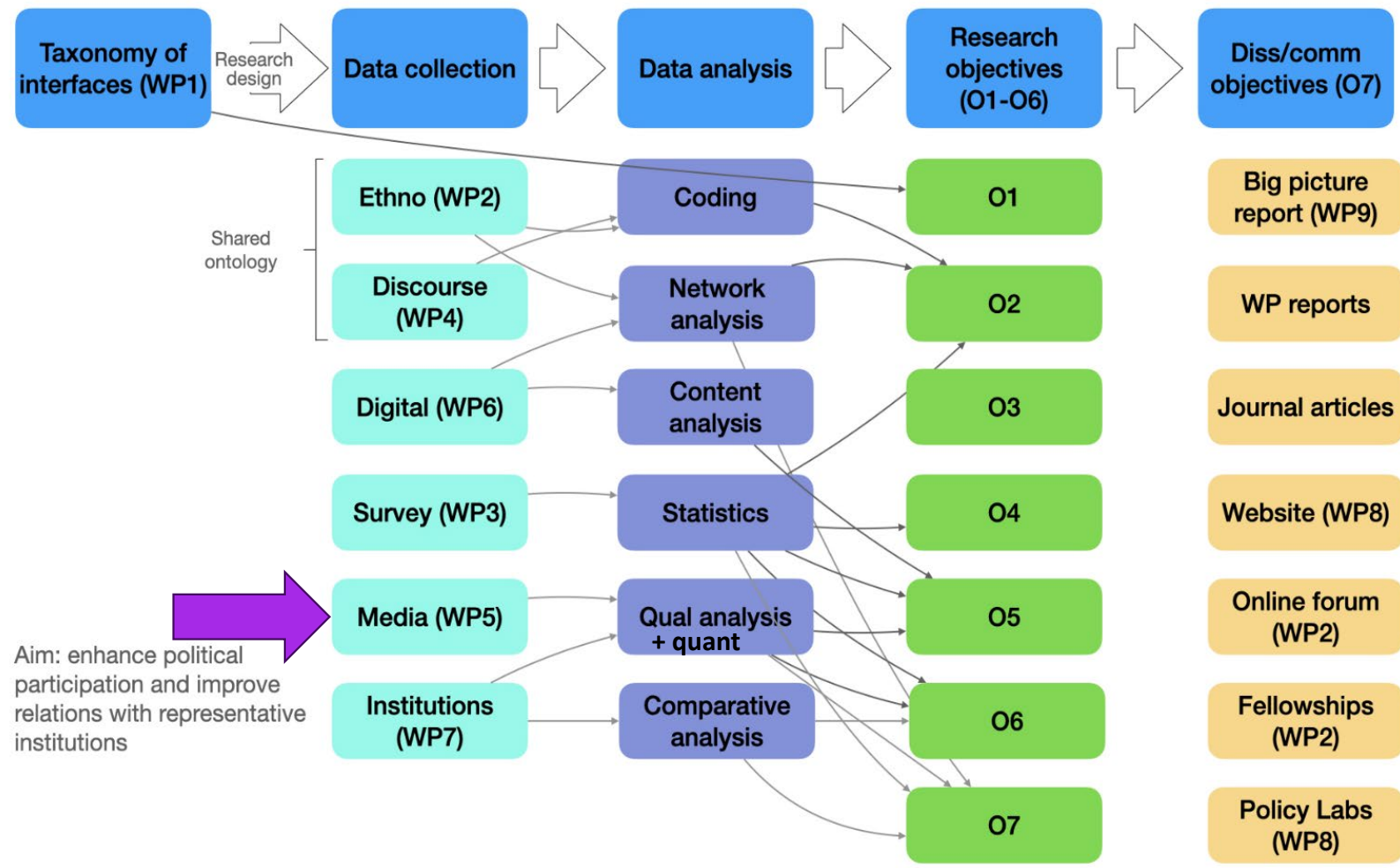


WP5

*(Post-)Pandemic-era Political participation
Through the News Media Interface*

Coordinating institution:
University of Parma (UNIPR)

Figure 1. INTERFACED Project Structure



WP5 - (Post-)Pandemic-era Political participation Through the News Media Interface

- Months: 1-36
- **Objectives**
- **O5.1** WP5 considers **news media as an interface** through which to investigate the strategies and interactions of both sets of actors (taking an agency-centred perspective), and how they have evolved over the course of the pandemic in different countries (with a structural perspective, considering their different political and media systems).
- **O5.2** We pursue an overarching ‘3C’ conceptual framework to **investigate the content, causes and consequences of the media coverage of protest participation during the pandemic.**



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RQs

- 1) How did different legacy media outlets (newspapers) represent the protest during and after the pandemic (2020-2025)?
- 2) Did the representation of pandemic-related protest have specific characteristics compared to other types of protest?
- 3) Have journalistic meanings and imaginaries related to the reporting of political participation and the quality of news been affected by the pandemic?
- 4) How have the movements' strategies toward the media evolved in the same period?
- 5) What are cross-national differences and similarities?



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Participant short name	CITY	UC3M	UBB	CSS	UNIPR	UCPH	GUF	JFRC
PMs per participant	2	2	2	10	31	1	2	3

- Involved partners: all academic institutions.
- Partners involved in qualitative interviews: UK, Romania, Hungary, Italy, Tunisia.



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Empirical work:

1) Protest event analysis (PEA)

2) Interviews with journalists and activists



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T5.1 (quoted from the project)

- We will analyse how political participation during this period has been reported in the news media. We will conduct [Protest Event Analysis](#) to identify the most frequently covered protests through [archival research from three newspapers from each country](#).
- We will then assess the [media framing](#) of these organizations and their activities and undertake [deductive qualitative and quantitative content analysis of emotionally loaded moral frames promoted by news sources](#). This will allow us to quantify the biases inherent in the portrayal of public actions by different countries and sources.
- To investigate the processes by which selection bias and description bias have emerged in the reporting of political participation during the pandemic, we will triangulate the data from the Protest Event Analysis with [interviews conducted with key figures from the media institutions](#).



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1) PEA

Source: 3 newspapers per country.

Type of coding

- computational analysis (CA).

– Who does what

- UniPr: codebook proposal
- Other units: proposed sources to be analyzed
- Other units: first exploratory analysis on national dataset. National report due month 20.
- UniPr: cross-national report due month 24th.



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T5.2 (quoted from the project)

- We will analyse the [media strategies of social movements](#) and protest participants in the period since the onset of the pandemic.
- Focusing on those movements that were selected in the preceding part of the investigation (T5.1) due to their high visibility in the media, we will [investigate their strategies to engage with news media](#) at different times during the pandemic and across different contexts.
- For this part of the work package, [we analyse protest movements' media strategies via a quantitative-qualitative research design using social media analysis and in-depth interviews](#) with social movement organisers and protest participants.



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- **T5.3** (quoted from the project)
- We will analyse the influence of (post-)pandemic-era political participation on news media institutions. More specifically, we investigate whether (and how) the reporting of political participation during the period since the onset of the pandemic has impacted on news media institutions in terms of an enhancement (or deterioration) of quality journalism.
- We will conduct qualitative in-depth interviews with journalists from the three newspapers selected in each country. These interviews will enquire into journalists' meanings and imaginaries attached to the reporting of political participation, and the quality of news they offered to readers.
- In addition, they will explore the concrete daily practices experienced and embodied by journalists within their news media institutions when reporting on political participation during the pandemic.



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2) Interviews with journalists and activists

- **To be done**
 - Number of interviews for the 2 categories of actors: 6 journalists and 6 activists.
 - Transcriptions (Sonix software UNIPR) – joint data controller agreement.
- **Who does what**
 - UniPr: draft questionnaire to activists.
 - UniPr: draft questionnaire to journalists.
 - Other units: proposed groups/activists to be interviewed based on PEA results and actual contact availability + proposed journalists who should belong to media outlets considered for PEA (2 journalists per media outlet).
 - Other units: first exploratory analysis on national dataset? National report due month 32.
 - UNIPR: cross-national report due month 34.



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– **Deliverables** (brief description and month of delivery)

D5.1 Literature review on news media coverage of political participation since the onset of the pandemic and elaboration of related hypotheses (Month 12). + literature review on PEA / computational analysis.

D5.2 Dataset PEA: protest event analysis of protest (from coverage by newspapers) since the onset of the pandemic in 5 countries (Month 18).

D5.3 Dataset: analysis of social media posts regarding news media organisations and their framing by political participation organizations in 5 countries (Month 24).

D5.4 Dataset: interviews conducted with journalists in 5 countries regarding their coverage of political participation since the onset of the pandemic as well as their subjective understanding of the impact and consequences of pandemic-era political participation on news media institutions (Month 30).

D5.5 Dataset: interviews conducted with social movement organisers and protest participants regarding their perceptions of, and relations with, news media institutions (Month 32).

D5.6 Final report: political Participation Through the News Media Interface (Month 36).

