

# Swiss Corona Citizen Science Team

Premiers résultats/First results

# The Covid-19 lockdown experience

The COVID-19 outbreak affected many areas of our daily lives. The effects on our social, professional, family, community, university and business lives are unprecedented. It was in the midst of this turmoil that the Swiss Corona Citizen Science Team was launched.

A space was created to explore, share and discuss the new experiences that were disrupting our habits and routines and the organisation of our society, to reflect on our ways of living and to raise questions about how we want to live moving forward. Citizens and scientists of EPFL, UNIL and idiap started to research jointly with the objective of re-thinking and re-framing both our individual and community lives.

In a series of activities – a survey, mobile crowdsourcing, interviews and Citizen Think Tanks – we started to research and learn together. These are our findings so far.

# Swiss Corona Citizen Science Team

Présentation des différentes activités de recherche et des échantillons /  
Presentation of the different research activities and of the samples

# Presentation of the research activities

The data presented are from several samples collected as part of an [interdisciplinary research project comprising several components](#), launched in March 2020, following the health situation related to SARS-COV-2.

This research initiative followed legal procedures in terms of ethics and respect for privacy as laid out by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL) and the Canton of Vaud.

The results are part of an unprecedented collaboration between different research laboratories at EPFL and the University of Lausanne (UNIL).

# Presentation of the research activities

**16.03.2020**

First lockdown measures  
in Switzerland

**27.04.2020**

First relief measures

**15.06.2020**

Reopening of  
borders with  
neighbouring  
countries

**19.03.2020**

First  
videoconference of  
the Swiss Corona  
Citizen Science  
Team



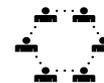
**SURVEY / 08.04 - 10.05.2020 / 6919 participants / FR - DE - IT - EN**



**APP CHALLENGE #1 / 23.04 - 18.04.2020 / 216 participants / FR - DE - IT - EN**  
**APP CHALLENGE #2 / 30.04 - 25.05.2020 / 163 participants / FR - DE - IT - EN**



**INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS / 20.04 - 20.05.2020 / 57 participants / FR**



**CITIZEN THINK TANKS #1 / 27 & 28.05 / FR - EN**  
**5 thematic sessions, 28 participants**  
**CITIZEN THINK TANKS #2 / 10 & 11.06 / FR - EN**  
**5 thematic sessions, 27 participants**



## THE SURVEY

**16.03.2020**

: First lockdown measures  
: in Switzerland

**27.04.2020**

: First relief measures

**15.06.2020**

: Reopening of  
: borders with  
: neighbouring  
: countries



**SURVEY / 08.04 - 10.05.2020 / 6919 participants / FR - DE - IT - EN**

### Aims:

- Document how confinement measures affect different Swiss populations in terms of living, interpersonal and personal spaces.
- Provide supportive resources to respondents throughout the survey.
- Initiate “citizen science” research by recruiting participants.

**Coordination:** EPFL, Urban Sociology Laboratory

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**Scope of Survey** \_ The survey was online from 8 April 2020 to 10 May 2020. The majority of responses were collected between 12 April and 16 April 2020. A total of **6,919 people** responded to one of the **four translated versions (French, German, English and Italian)**. The questionnaire was shared via an EPFL press release to mainstream media in Switzerland, the EPFL website page, social networks of the various institutions involved and researchers' personal networks.

**Geographical distribution of responses** \_ The survey for the Swiss resident population travelled across borders and collected responses from all over the world. However, 91% of responses came from people residing in one of the country's 26 cantons. To avoid mixing health and social situations that were too different, the results given here are only from **Swiss residents**, regardless of their nationality.

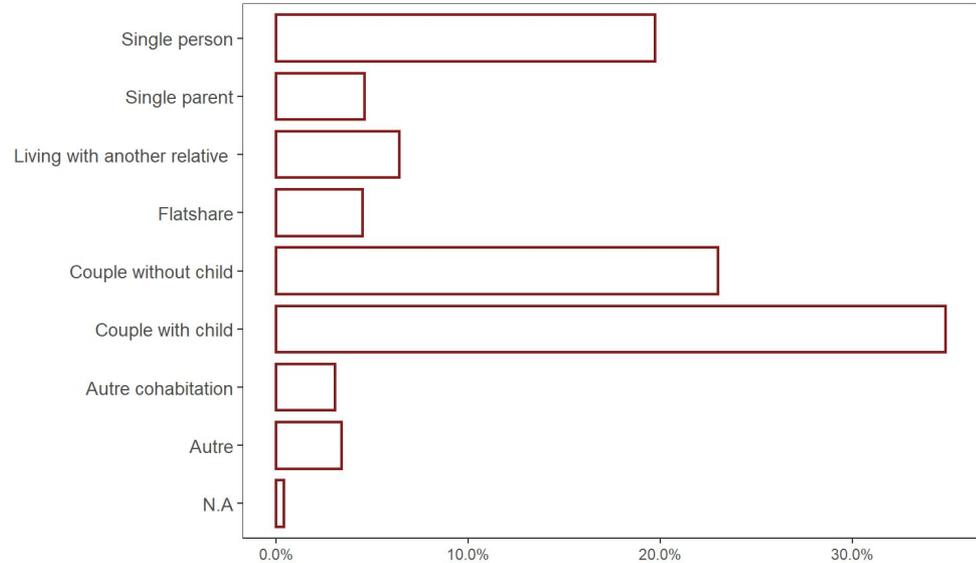
**Distribution of responses by canton** \_ The **Canton of Vaud** was the most active in survey responses, followed by the canton of Geneva, Valais, Friborg and Neuchâtel. The French-speaking region was predominant in the questionnaire period, with **91% of responses given in French**. To a lesser extent, Bern, Zurich and Ticino are also represented.



**Households** \_ The sample includes almost as many people without children, whether in a couple (23%) or not (20%), as people living with children. Regarding the latter category of people, 35% are in a couple and 5% are single.

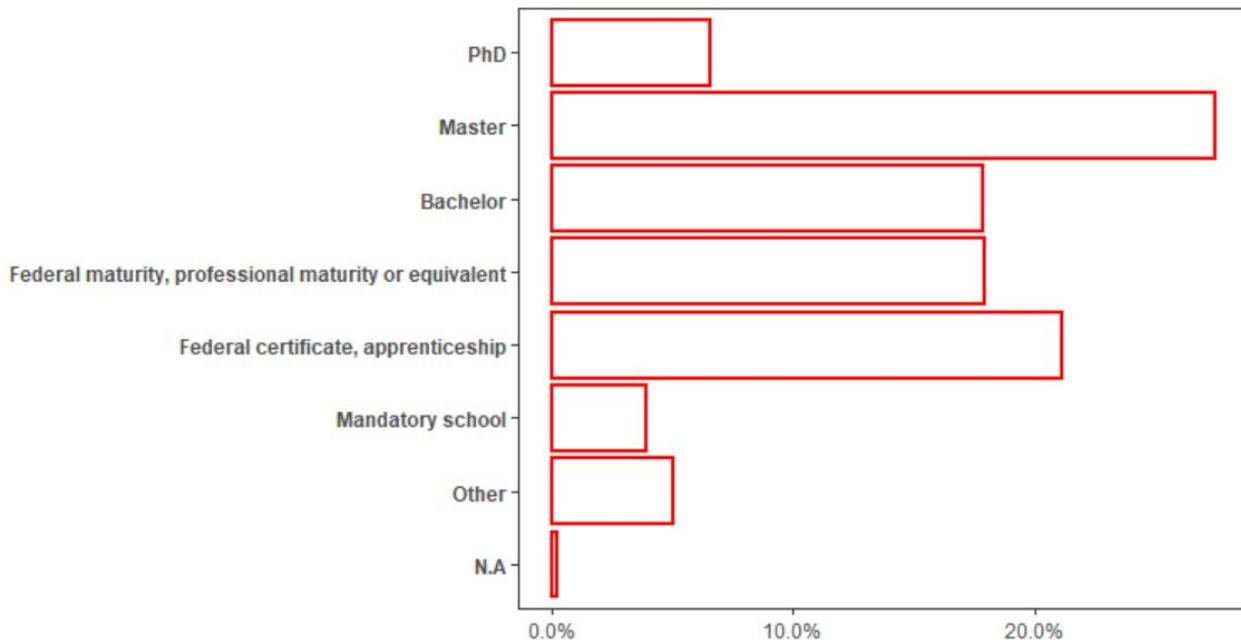
1 in 10 respondents share a home or cohabit with a close relative other than a spouse.

## Type of household





## Level of education



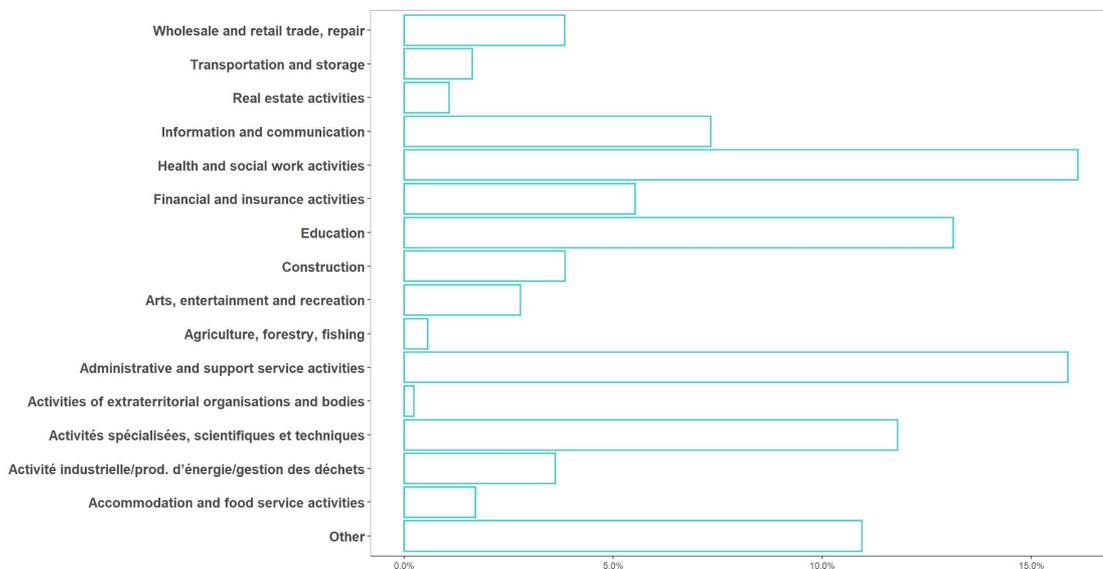
**Level of study** \_ The majority of survey respondents have a higher education qualification (51% of respondents compared to 44% according to the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO) figures for 2019\*).

This is mainly due to the fact that the survey was disseminated via EPFL networks. The survey did not reach many people who left compulsory education (3% compared to 11% nationally in 2019).

\*Source : Swiss Labour Force Survey, FSO, 2019



## Professional sector



N.B : Respondents were able to select multiple sectors, so the number of responses did not match the number of respondents.

**Professional profiles** \_ Among the respondents, 73% of women and 76% of men are active professionally.

The most represented business sector is health and social action, followed by education and specialist scientific and technical areas. This explains the over-representation of those with degrees in the sample.



## THE APP

**16.03.2020**

- First lockdown measures in Switzerland

**27.04.2020**

- First relief measures

**15.06.2020**

- Reopening of borders with neighbouring countries



**APP CHALLENGE #1 / 23.04 - 18.04.2020 / 216 participant.e.s / FR - DE - IT - EN**  
**APP CHALLENGE #2 / 30.04 - 25.05.2020 / 163 participant.e.s / FR - DE - IT - EN**

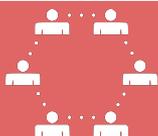
**Aims:** The mobile application “Civique” was set up to grasp the effects of the virus spread and according containment measures in everyday life. It aimed at monitoring the changes and challenges it caused and the new experiences that have been unknown to the world we live in. In the form of two Challenges, the app-based crowdsourcing activities guided participants through a series of questions and tasks to share experiences and strategies confronting the COVID-19 pandemic. They aimed at supporting participants to become researchers of their own situation, explore how to best face situations of crisis and reflect upon consequences for our common future. Besides responding to conventional survey questions, participants could express in creative ways, sharing stories and images of how the new circumstances had gradually transformed their lives.

**When and where**\_The crowdsourcing activities (Challenge 1 and 2) were implemented in the “Civique” App and lasted from End of April to End of Mai. With one week in-between Challenge 1 and 2, the app-based data collection accompanied participants over several weeks and documented changes in the situation over time.

**Who took part\_**At the end of the national survey, respondents could express their interest in taking part in further research activities, such as crowdsourcing via the Civique App.

A large majority of challenge participants in the app fell within the age bracket of **25–54 years old** (72%), with only a small fraction of elderly individuals above 65 years of age. Out of all respondents, just under two-thirds (63%) were female. Most (65%) lived in **urban areas** ranging from city centres to the urban periphery, and were residents of the Romandy (Suisse Romande) region. Within their households, most of the participants lived with their partner and children (34%). This is followed by two-persons households (25%) and single-person households (17%).

The educational background of the participants were relatively diverse, with ranging from Federal certificate apprenticeships (16%) and maturity (25%), to university degrees at the Bachelor (20%) and Master(29%) levels. From the professional perspective, more than 70% of all challenge participants were in full-time employment (including those self-employed), with university students making up the next biggest group (7%).



## THE CITIZEN THINK TANKS

**16.03.2020**

- First lockdown measures in Switzerland

**27.04.2020**

- First relief measures

**15.06.2020**

- Reopening of borders with neighbouring countries



**CITIZEN THINK TANKS #1 / 27 & 28.05 / FR - EN**  
**5 thematic sessions, 28 participants**  
**CITIZEN THINK TANKS #2 / 10 & 11.06 / FR - EN**  
**5 thematic sessions, 27 participants**

**Aims:** The Citizen Think Tanks (CTTs) of the Swiss Corona Citizen Science project were spaces for mutual learning and for designing possible post-Covid-19 futures. In a series of interactive online events, citizens collaborated with scientists from EPFL who hosted the CTTs. The topics of the CTTs emerged from the survey and mobile crowdsourcing. In 5 CTTs, desirable futures were envisioned for housing, mobility, local economy, contract tracing and digital governance and tourism. At the end of the national survey as well as Challenge 2 in the app, participants could express their interest in participating in interactive dialogue sessions: the Citizen Think Tanks.

**Coordination:** EPFL, HERUS

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## THE INTERVIEWS

**16.03.2020**

- : First lockdown measures in Switzerland

**27.04.2020**

- : First relief measures

**15.06.2020**

- : Reopening of borders with neighbouring countries



**INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS / 20.04 - 20.05.2020 / 56 participants / FR**

**Aims:** Through semi-directive interviews, the objective was to carefully listen to individuals' subjective experiences, by deepening some of the aspects questioned in the survey. More specifically, the interview grid aimed at understanding how individuals were managing the daily adjustments imposed by the lock-down situation as well as the resources used to deal with them, from the living space, material, temporal, social, emotional and physical points of view. It also questioned feelings regarding the media, the evolution of personal experiences of the pandemic over time, as well as their view of the future in this context.

**How\_** The interviews lasted 1 to 2 hours. They were conducted on virtual call platforms or by phone by 3 psychologists.

**Coordination:** UNIL, PHASE

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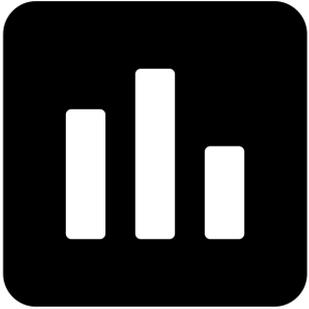


**Candidates selection\_** The persons that have been interviewed individually were enrolled on a voluntary basis from the registration file coming from the online survey. Candidates studying at the EPFL and UNIL were not selected in order to seek the diversity of the sample.

**Demographics\_** Over the 56 people interviewed individually, 36 were women and 20 were men. Participants were 46 years old on average, the youngest person being 24 and the oldest one 80 years old. Three-quarters of them were in a relationship (married or not). About the same proportion was living in **apartments**, mainly including 2 adults (for 20 of the respondents), 2 more children (for 10 of them), or 1 person (12 of them). None of the interviewees had moved during the lockdown.

**Educational background and professional profiles\_** The majority of them (26) had a Master's degree (highest diploma). The others held a Bachelor diploma (11), a Federal Certificate of Ability (9), a Doctorate (7) or a Federal Certificate (3). At the time of the survey, more than half of the interviewees were employees (34). Some of them were combining their job with studies or with self-employed jobs, the latter status being shared at least part-time by 9 people. Among the persons without paid activity, 2 of them benefit from AI, 3 are unemployed, and 10 are retired. The most represented sectors of activity are health and social work (14) and teaching and education (14). Next come specialised, scientific and technical activities (6), and other varied sectors, such as financial and insurance activities (4).

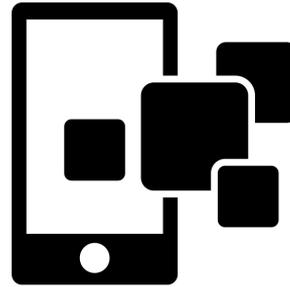
# Credits



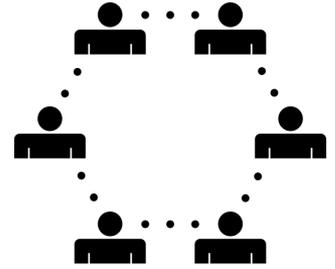
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