

Swiss Corona Citizen Science Team

Les expériences de la crise / Experiences of the crisis



1. Overall perception of the situation

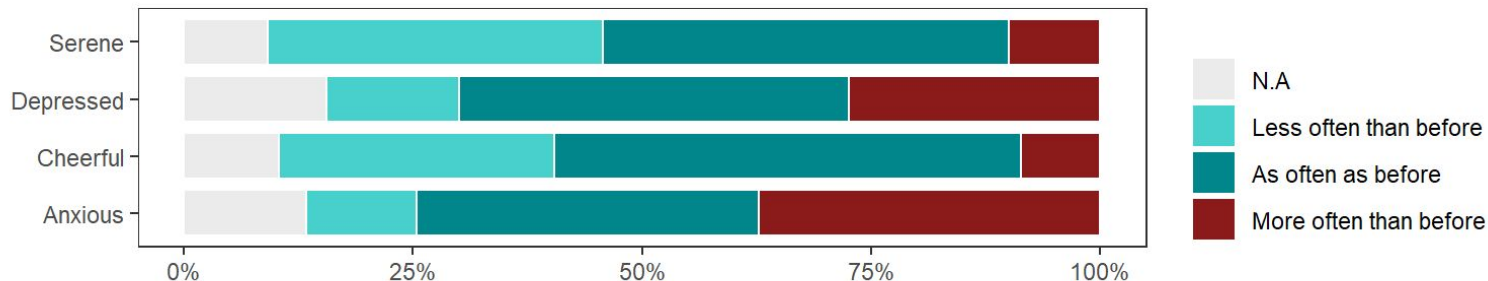


Most participants had a **positive mood overall**—slightly good or very good mood (Q: *How do you feel today?*) when undertaking the challenges in the crowdsourcing app. Pertaining to their perceptions of the COVID-19 crisis (Q: *How do you feel about the course the COVID-19 crisis takes in Switzerland?*), the most common sentiment was slight optimism, but around one third of participants were undecided.



2. General state of mind

State of mind during lockdown



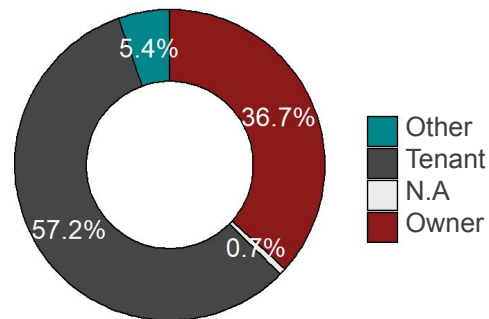
There is an ambivalence in the overall evaluation of feelings: the respondents' state of mind is generally the same when responding to the survey as it was before confinement. On the other hand, just as many (37%) feel anxious more frequently. Likewise, for every 5 people who say they are as happy as before, 3 people say the opposite.

It may be interesting to compare these results with the 46% of respondents, of all genders, who believe they are **lacking in physical interactions** (although 22% are ambivalent in this regard), and with the 59% of people who claim that they **miss their loved ones** (20% moderately agree with this statement).

Finally, it should be noted that for 11.5% of people on average, state of mind **improved with confinement** (more serene or joyful; less anxious or depressed).



3. Housing conditions



Type and size of housing _ During confinement, respondents mostly lived in apartments (**65% versus 32% in houses**). Only 4% of respondents live in a dwelling with two rooms or fewer, while 23% of the sample occupy a dwelling with 6 rooms or more.

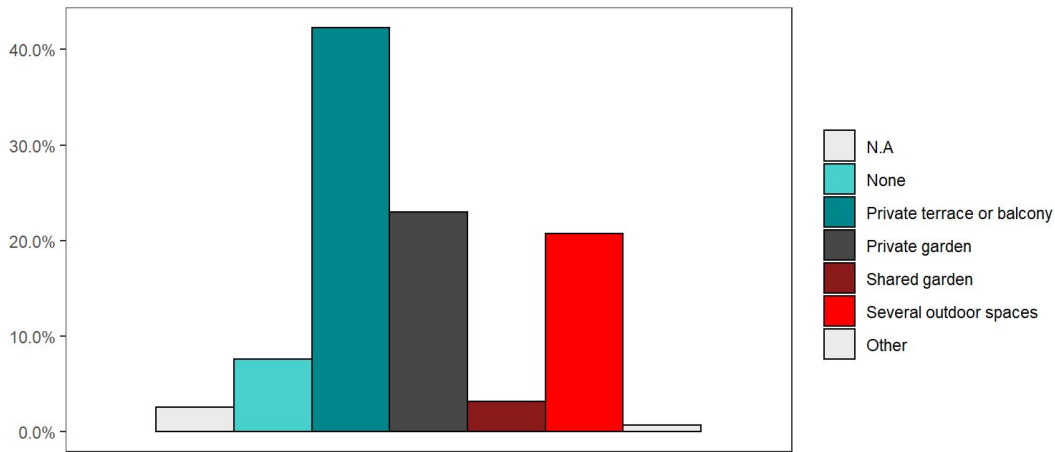
Neighbourhood _ It is difficult for respondents to estimate the size of the neighbourhood in their building: many give no response for this. Almost 20% estimate this figure to be less than 10 people, and 9% estimate more than 20.

Comfort _ 74% of respondents are satisfied with the level of comfort of their accommodation. Lack of comfort is among the most cited reasons for people who chose to move to a different living space during this period.



3. Housing conditions

Access to outside space from home _ 65% of people surveyed have access from their home to at least one private outdoor space: for 42% of these people, this is a terrace or balcony; for 23% it is a garden. Almost 20% have access to several types of space, either private or shared, while 6% do not have access to any such spaces. Finally, a minority of respondents (3%) have access to a shared garden.



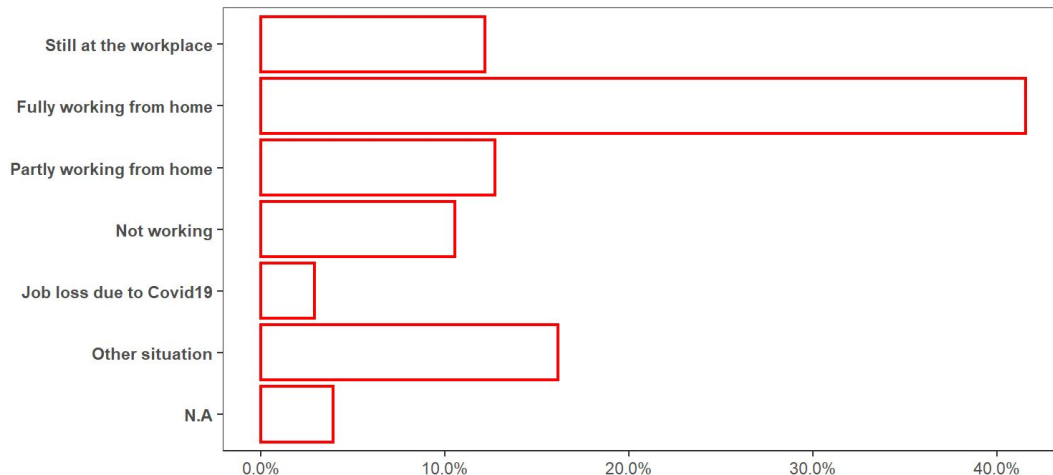


4. Work situation

Professional situation during the crisis_ At the time of responding, **55% of the sample are remote working** either full- or part-time. More than 1 in 10 people work face-to-face. 195 people say they have lost their jobs because of Covid-19 (3% of the sample), of which 70% are women. This can be explained by the feminisation of employment sectors which are highly affected by the crisis (such as home care jobs), but also by the fact that women were more likely to give up their jobs during the crisis to take over domestic tasks and educating their children in particular.

In addition, 40% of respondents **live with at least one person in a remote working situation.**

FIND OUT MORE ➡ “Remote working could last for a long time in Europe after the crisis, but not with the same opportunities for all” (Mobil’homme survey, 2020)





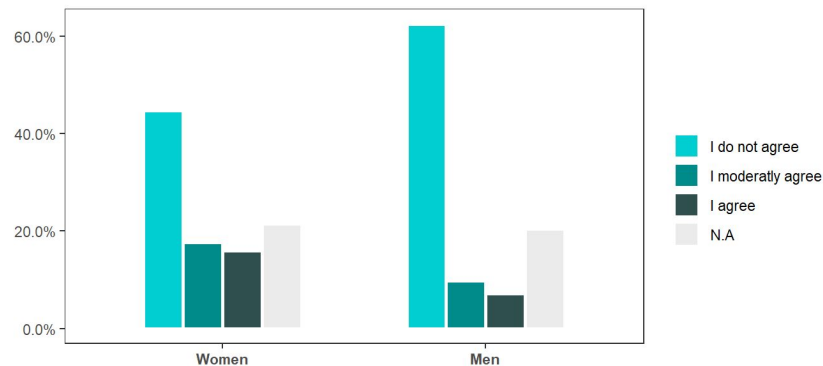
5. A crisis that sheds light on gender inequalities

Generally speaking, participants – particularly men – believe that they do not take on too many household chores in confinement (45% women, 63% men). Note: 20% of participants chose not to comment on this question.

This difference between responses is **as interesting as it is difficult to interpret**. Indeed, a question arises in relation to double standards: the amount of domestic work and the sense of obligation to take this on.

While the distribution of domestic tasks remains unequal in Switzerland**, women's responses may reflect a higher level of tolerance in the face of obligation which will be felt as normal, not excessive.

“I take on too much house and care work”



The women who respond that they take on too much domestic work are mostly professionally active (44% are between 35 and 44 years old) with more than one child living at home. They are more educated than those who say the opposite, reflecting the attention paid to the equal distribution of tasks among more advantaged backgrounds*, but also the fact that in normal times, the upper classes have greater recourse to paid cleaning and childcare services, which became more difficult to access during the crisis.

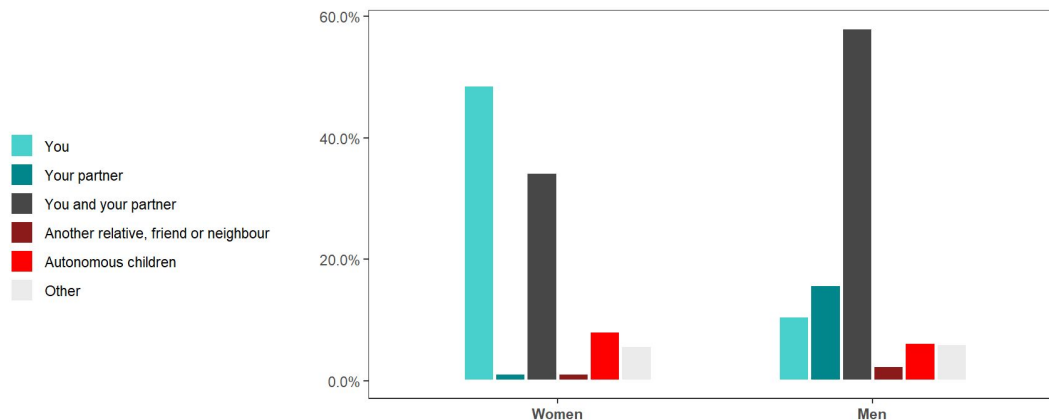
* CREDOC study, 2015, Towards a greater recognition of gender inequalities, Report n° 329

** https://www.swissinfo.ch/fre/societe/pourquoi-une-gr%C3%A8ve-des-femmes-_in%C3%A9galit%C3%A9s-entre-les-sexes--les-chiffres-en-suisse/45014642



5. A crisis that sheds light on gender inequalities

Who takes care of homeschooling?



The question of taking care of homeschooling seems to correspond with this interpretation, since **1 in 2 women declare that they are solely responsible for this, compared to 1 in 10 men**. These latter are nearly 20% more likely to consider that this task is taken on by both parents, but also nearly 20% more likely to designate their spouse as the person in charge of this task. This could be read as a desire to become more actively involved in this task with the other parent, while recognising that, in practice, the distribution is still largely unequal and carried by women. Finally, it should be noted that a small portion of the children (7%) were of the age and/or had the skills and/or the obligation to be in charge of their own education.

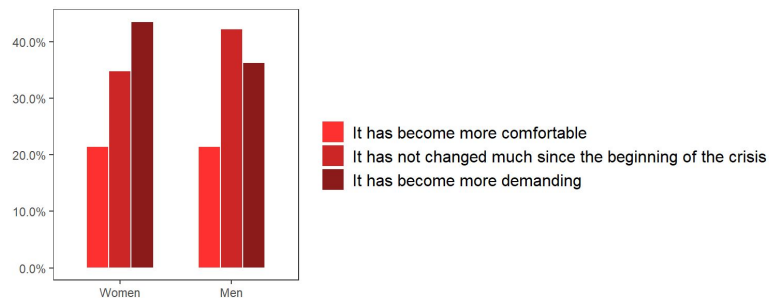


5. A crisis that sheds light on gender inequalities

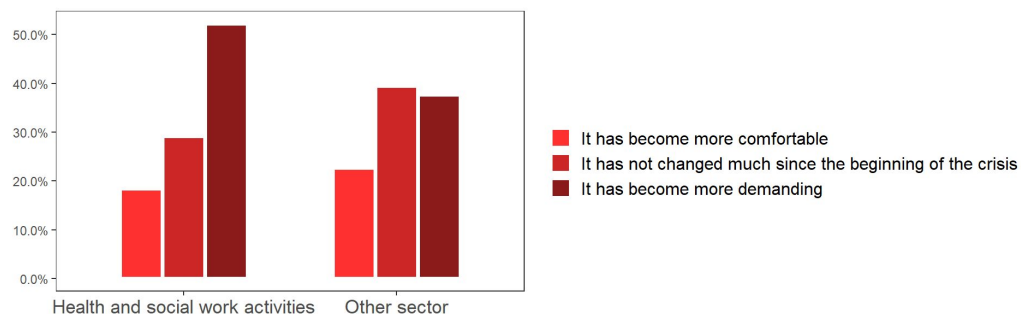
→ Focus on women working in the health and social work sector

Working conditions _ When answering, **while men feel that their working conditions have not changed much since the start of the crisis, the same proportion of women (43%) feel that they have become more difficult.** This difference can be explained in particular by the nature of the professional areas in 2 categories, as well as by domestic work which still generally falls to the latter group. Finally, for 2 in 10 people of all genders, working conditions have become more comfortable.

By gender



By professional area

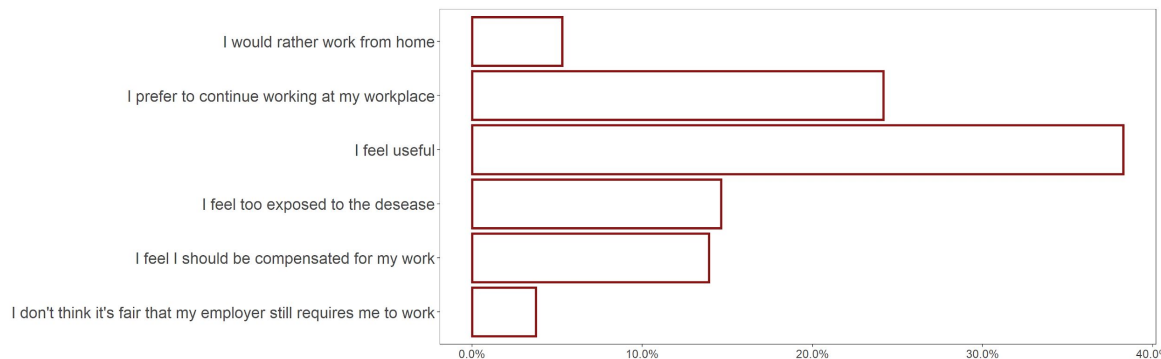




5. A crisis that sheds light on gender inequalities

→ Focus on women working in the health and social work sector

Working conditions _ When asked about how they experience the crisis, people who continue to go to their workplace demonstrate two opposing attitudes: those who are satisfied with the situation, and those who would prefer to work remotely. While the first preference is seen more among men (27% say they prefer to go to their workplace compared to 22% of women), we can also see that area of work influences responses from women.

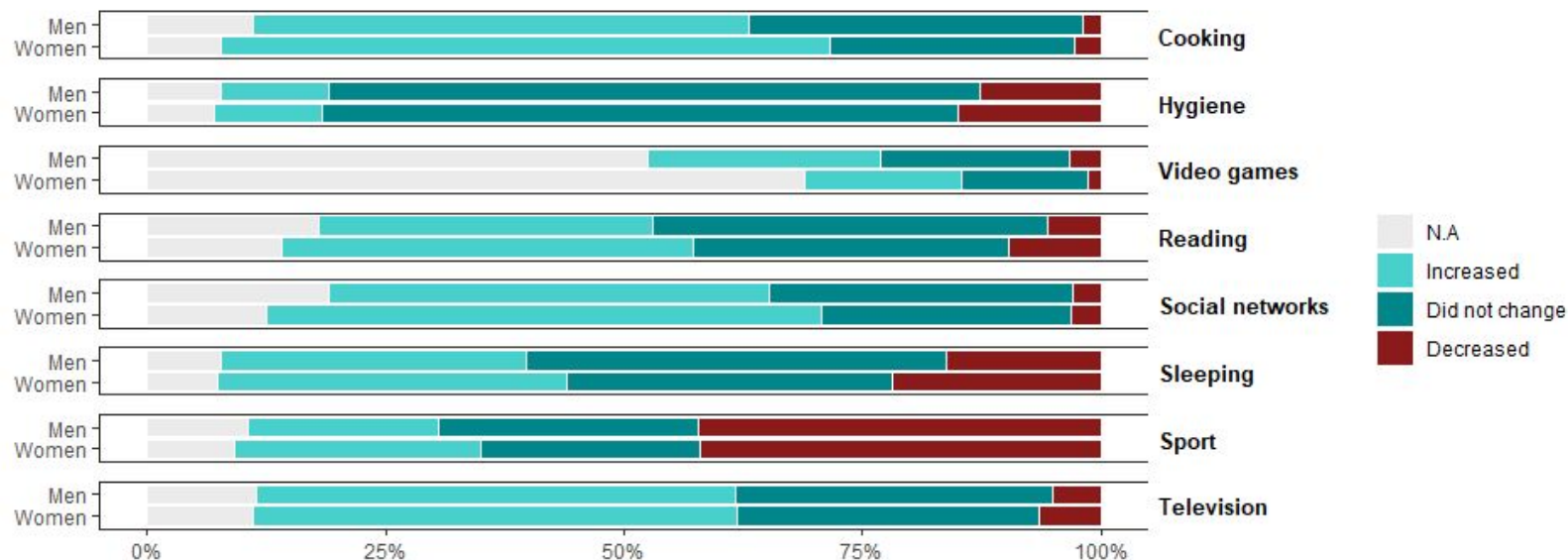


When comparing responses given by professionally active women working on-site in the medico-social sector with other active women who do not work remotely, we observe that the former are less likely to want to change the way they work, but **more want compensation** (whether financial, as leave or as time off in lieu) for their work.



6. Changes to daily life

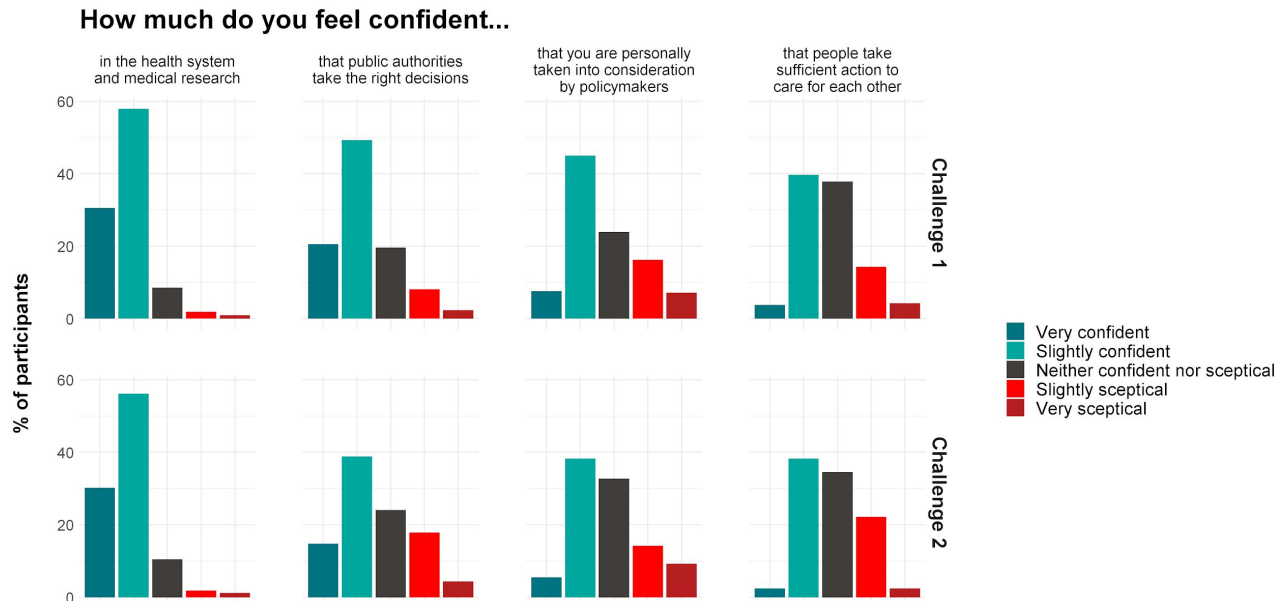
Daily activities _ As might be expected, activities where the amount of time spent has significantly increased in everyday life are cooking, social media, and watching television and series. Respondents state that they have reduced the amount of time spent exercising. Women are most likely to say (+10 points) that they have increased the amount of time spent cooking and on social networks, while men have increased their use of video games the most.





7. Perception of the navigation of the crisis

The results suggest that **most of the participants felt confident (very/slightly) in relation to the four topics**. The subject of the health system and medical research saw the most positive results, with more than 80% of participants feeling very or slightly confident in the Swiss system across both issues. Positive results are also generally observed for more than half of participants pertaining to confidence in decision-making by authorities. As for confidence in being personally taken into consideration by policy makers and whether people take sufficient care of each other, the results showed a larger proportion of undecided respondents, particularly in the case of action to care for other people, although most respondents still felt slightly confident.



Between the two challenges, only the results for the health/medical topic remained consistent. For the other three topics, the proportion of participants feeling very or slightly confident decreased to varying extents, with corresponding increases in scepticism (slightly or very sceptical).



7. Perception of the navigation of the crisis

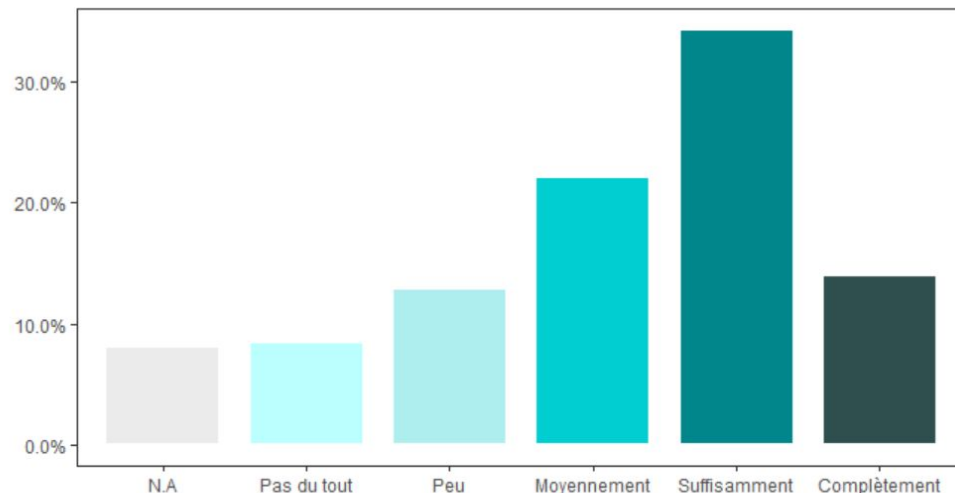
48% of the sample said they were sufficiently or completely taken into consideration by policy makers at the time of the survey.

Respondents over the age of 45 were more likely to report being satisfied (and this is the case for 25% of those over 75). **The strongest levels of dissatisfaction are found among 25-44 year olds**, of whom 25% believe that they are “not at all” or “not really” taken into consideration by decision-makers.

18-24 year olds are the age group that most refrained from answering this question.

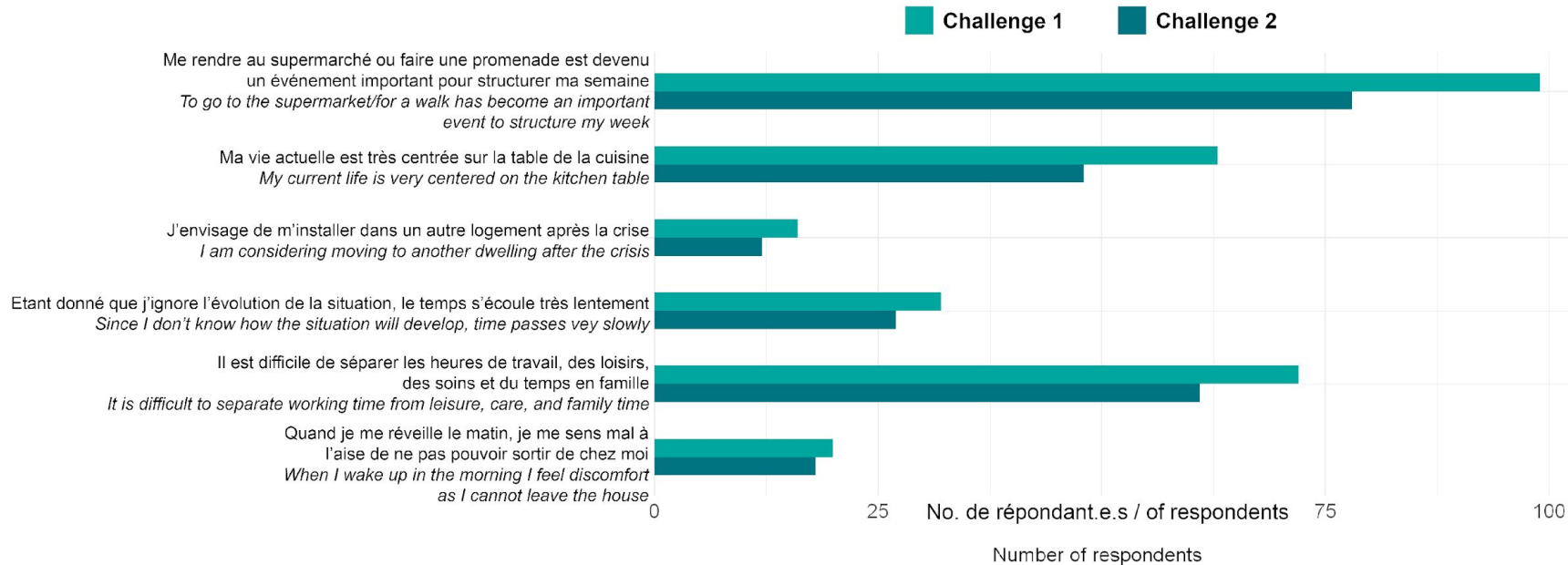
Dissatisfaction is also expressed by **people who have lost their jobs** due to Covid19 (**40% of this group say they are either not or are not really taken into consideration**, compared to 7% of remote workers).

How much do you feel taken into consideration by policy makers?





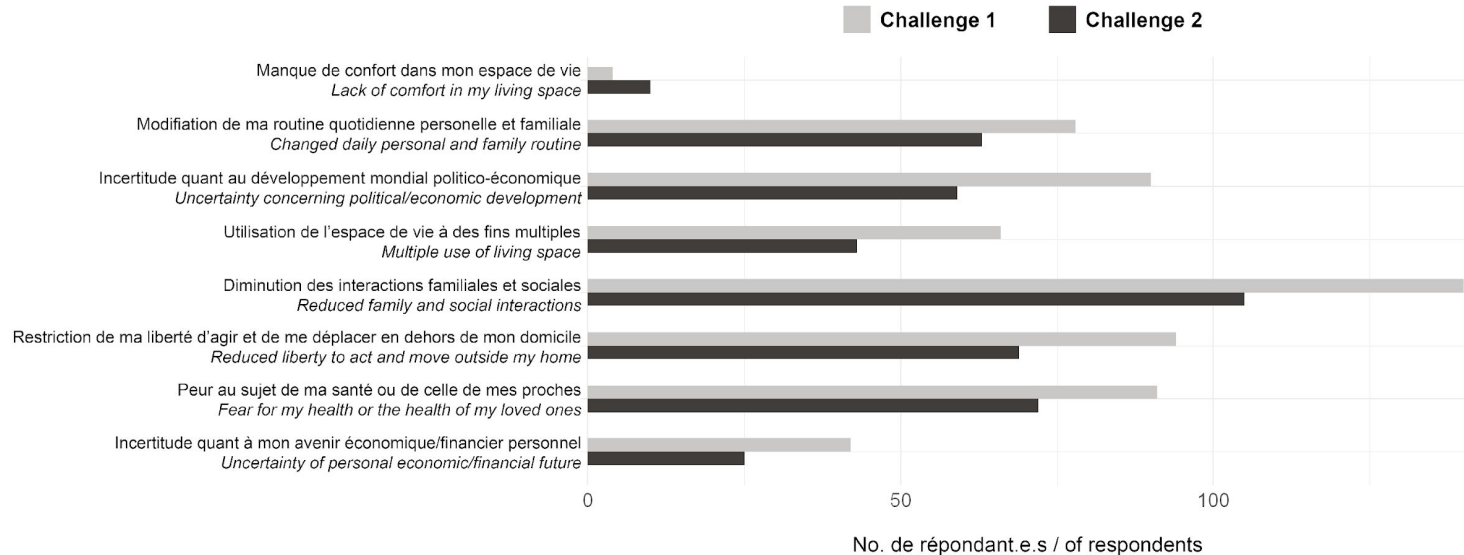
8. Changes and challenges



In the week leading up to their participation in the crowdsourcing challenge, the most common experience/sentiment shared among participants was the **loss of structure as well as sense of time in their day-to-day lives**. For many, once-mundane activities like going to the supermarket became a planning keystone in their weekly routines. It can also be observed from the results that an increasing proportion of participants felt uncomfortable with being housebound as the confinement period progressed, suggesting that **duration plays an important role in shaping one's experiences and perceptions**.



8. Changes and challenges

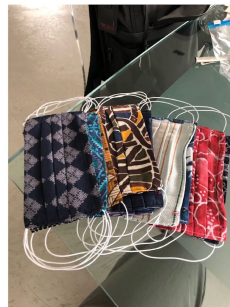
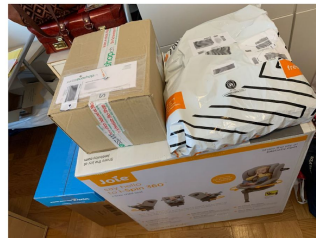


The most common challenge faced by participants was a **decrease in familial and social interactions**. This is followed by **uncertainties pertaining to personal health as well as the general political and economic trajectory**. Conversely, the least significant issues were those concerning the comfort of living space and personal financial situations. It should be noted, however, that the participants across our relatively small sample were not in particularly precarious situations based on their demographic background. From Challenge #1 to Challenge #2 in the crowdsourcing, the results previously reported remained largely consistent with one exception: a marked increase was observed in the proportion of participants feeling a lack of comfort in their living space. Despite the smaller number of total participants in Challenge #2, a greater number of responses citing this challenge were recorded in comparison to the first phase. **This is possibly an indication that practical constraints posed by one's living space, if any, become less tolerable with time.**



A selection of curated images: *What is the most significant change that has happened in your daily life due to the COVID-19 crisis during the past week?*

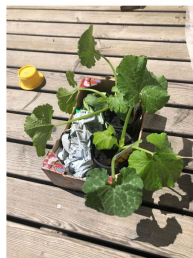
In these uncertain and difficult times, the approach to personal hygiene has changed for many people. Beyond more frequent handwashing, numerous challenge participants adopted additional measures to protect and safeguard themselves and their household members. These actions include shopping online for daily necessities to minimise contact with others, as well as the active use of protective masks and disinfection products to keep the risk of infection low.



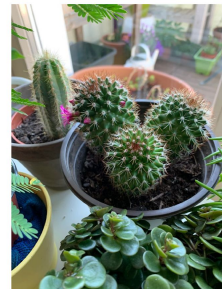


A selection of curated images: *What is the most significant change that has happened in your daily life due to the COVID-19 crisis during the past week?*

The confinement period in Switzerland greatly restricted the movement of the population and, for many, limited access to nature and the outdoors. This change sparked an interest in gardening for a large number of challenge participants; from aromatic herbs to ornamental succulents, tending to their greenery of choice provided both the novice and seasoned home gardener a little escape to nature right within their homes.



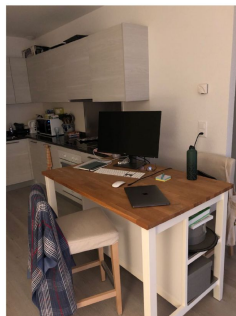
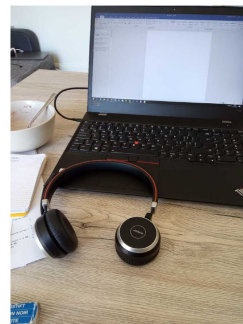
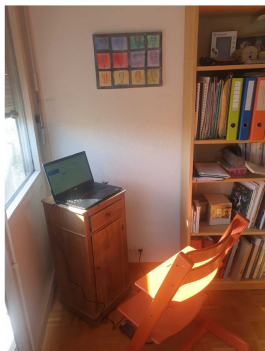
NATURE





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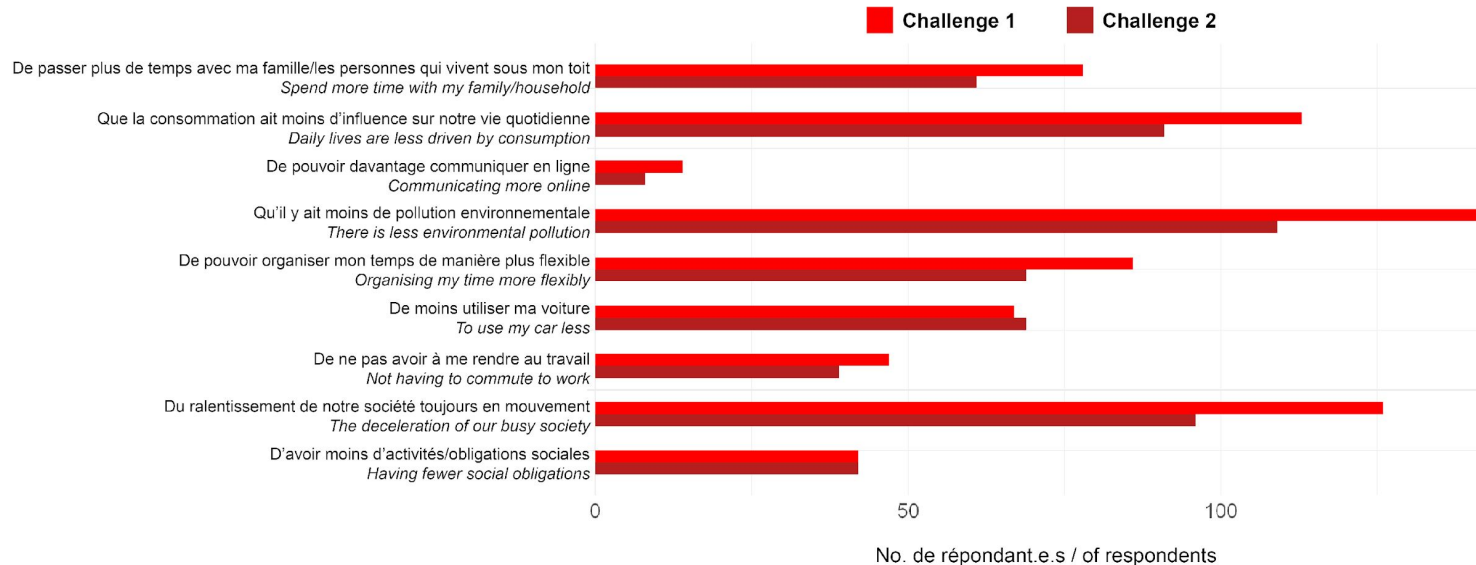
LIVING SPACE



As teleworking gradually became the new normal for many individuals over the last few months, many have transformed their living spaces to adapt to this new situation. From carving out work stations wherever space permitted to getting new equipment to boost productivity, the COVID-19 crisis has reshaped participants' personal spaces and changed their relationship with these places.



9. Positive experiences in times of crisis



Across both challenge phases, a large majority of participants agreed that **the COVID-19 crisis was good for reducing environmental pollution**. This was followed by the **deceleration of the general pace of life as well as a decrease in consumption**. The least popular option was the increase in online communication: most participants did not feel that this was a positive change. While most options showed generally consistent results from Challenge #1 to Challenge #2, **two changes in particular were considered positive by a larger proportion of participants as the COVID-19 crisis progressed: (1) the decrease in car usage, and (2) the reduction in frequency of social activities and obligations**.