

The logo for the DRIVE project features the word "DRIVE" in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. The letter "V" is replaced by a stylized white icon of two hands shaking. The background consists of a series of wavy, dotted lines in shades of yellow, orange, green, and purple, creating a sense of movement and depth.

# DRIVE

Inclusion Against Extremism  
[driveproject.eu](http://driveproject.eu)

Prof. Dr. Tahir Abbas FAcSS, Professor of Radicalisation Studies, Leiden University



**DRIVE - Determining multi-level led causes and testing intervention designs to reduce radicalisation, extremism and political violence in north-western Europe through social inclusion**



Horizon2020  
European Union Funding  
for Research & Innovation

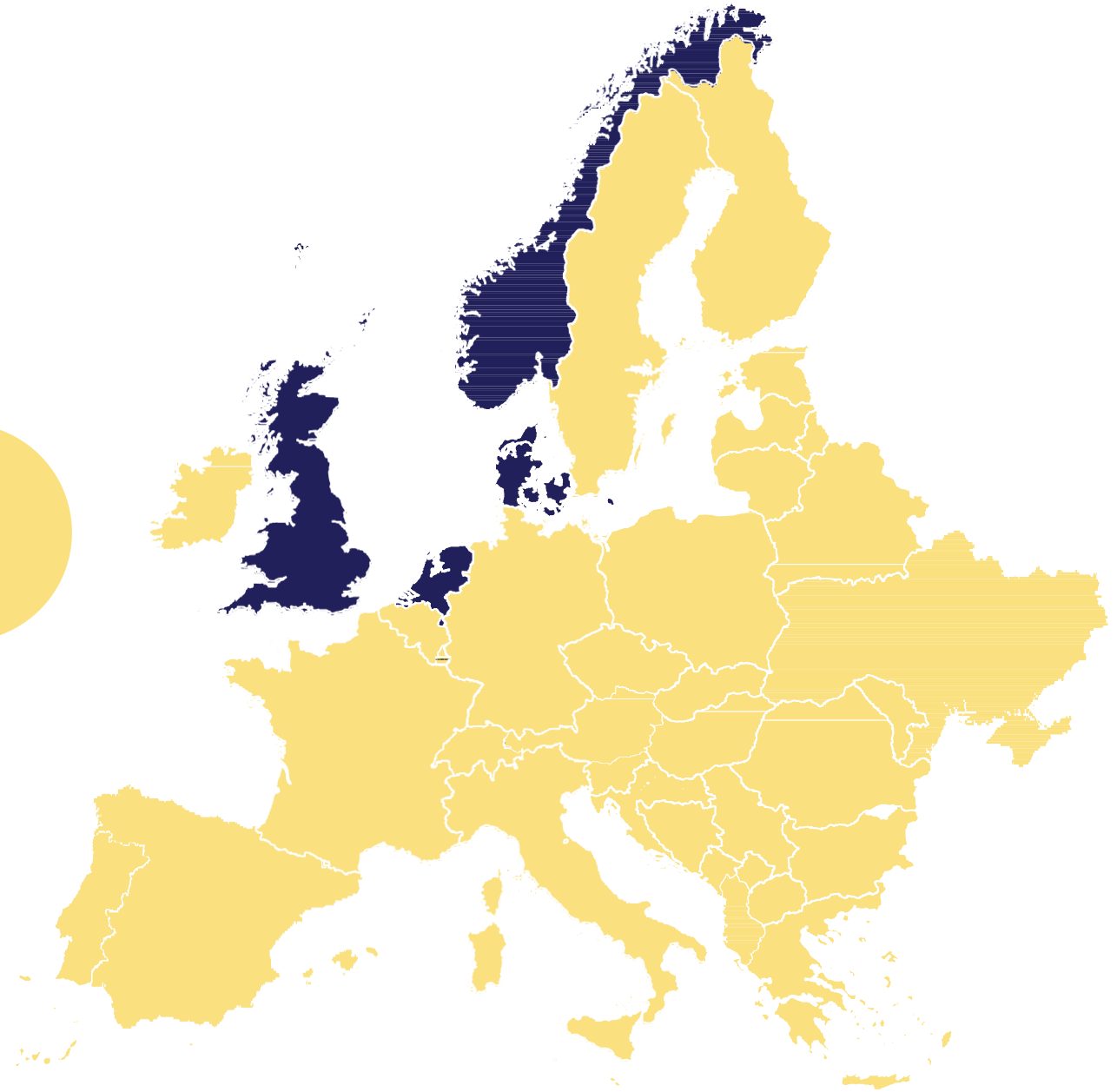
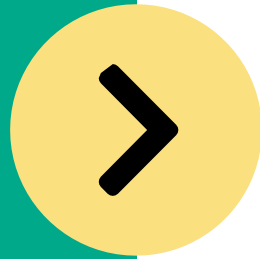


AARHUS UNIVERSITY



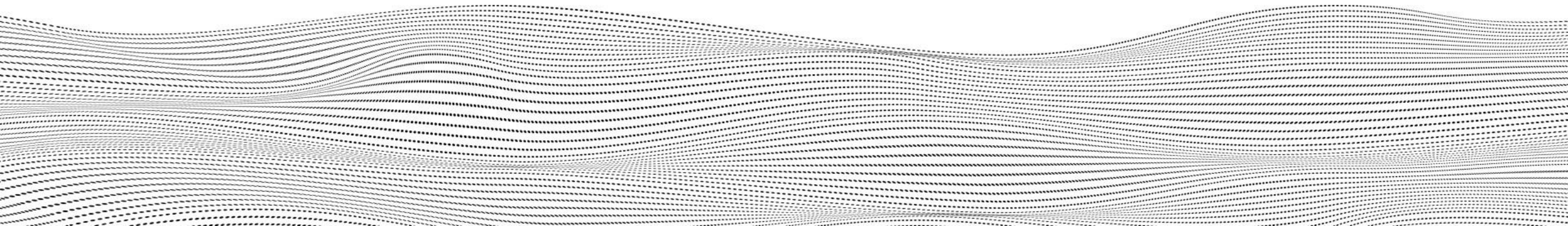
23  
colleagues  
from 5  
countries  
(with 7  
post-docs)

**Main aims:** to test four hypotheses – 1) identity politics, 2) int-gen differences, 3) spatiality, and 4) reciprocal radicalisation – in relation to far right and Islamist extremism in NL, DL, NO, and UK





*To design and feasibility test a psychosocial intervention based on findings from the first phase of data collections and the IC-ADAPT model*



We are interested in the nature of the ‘grey zone’ between social exclusion and violent extremism – that is, the ‘processes of radicalisation’ from a sociological, anthropological, criminological, religious studies, and psychosocial perspective...

Empirical components – interviews, observations, surveys and focus groups in four countries



**640** interviews with young people, parents/carers, activists, and practitioners; **6,000** survey responses; **24** focus groups;

# Current stage:

40 per cent of the data has been collected...

Another 12 months of fieldwork to go...

Partially overlapping with 12 months of analysis and dissemination...





Radicalisation is a **social problem** – and we therefore understand it as  
a **societal challenge**

# What we have learnt so far...

- Significant ethical challenges to get the project going, compounded by covid-related delays.
- Fieldwork still underway – too early to state findings as the analysis has only just started while the data still comes in.

## 1. Methodological challenges:

1. Who speaks on extremism is important – can't get close to actual extremists and do not want to stigmatise marginalised communities with socio-pathology framework
2. Role of securitisation and surveillance making respondents reluctant to come forward.
3. Awash with experts and practitioners who know much but the rapid pace of change prevents deeper understanding... (academics understand and know many things but the fluidity of the landscape challenges comprehensive analysis)

## 2. Initial observations:

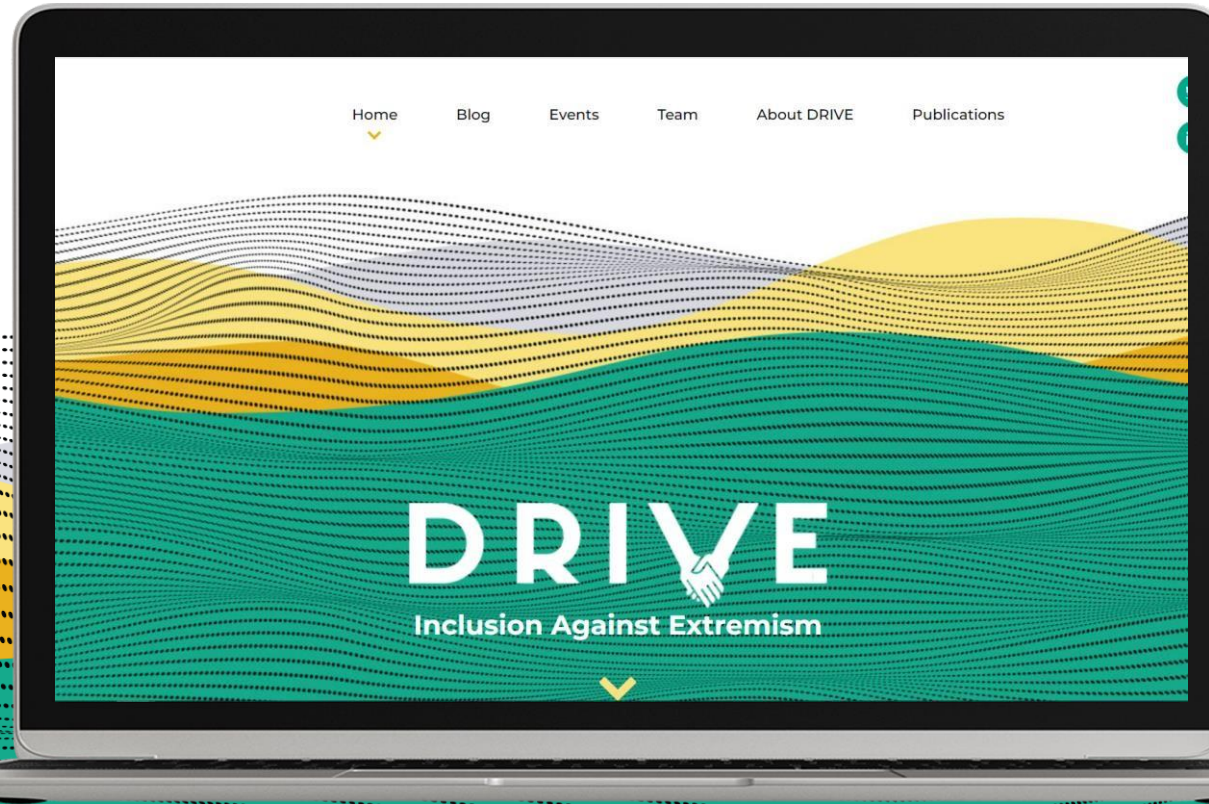
1. Reciprocal polarisation observable in all spaces at a rhetorical and actionable levels (through online scraping of FR and I websites)
2. Micro-meso-macro intersect for both sets of groups (individual identity, national politics, transnational mobilisation) – but the trigger is always at the individual level
3. Radicalised are far fewer than the dominant discourses would suggest
4. Still a long way to go...



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