

# DRIVE

Resisting Radicalisation Through Inclusion

## Workshop on Data Gathering Instruments Deliverable 3.4

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## Project information

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### DRIVE project information

<b>Grant agreement number</b>	959200
<b>Project full title</b>	Determining multi-level led causes and testing intervention design to reduce radicalisation, extremism and political violence in north-west Europe through social inclusion.
<b>Project acronym</b>	DRIVE
<b>Funding scheme</b>	H2020 Research and Innovations Actions (RIA)
<b>Start date of the project</b>	1 January 2021
<b>Duration</b>	36 months: 1 January 2021 - 31 December 2023
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="https://www.driveproject.eu/">https://www.driveproject.eu/</a>

## History of changes

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Version	Publication date	Author	Description of change
1.0	16.06.2021	Tahir Abbas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial version</li> </ul>
1.1	16.06.2021	Tobias Müller	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and addition complementary aspects of the workshop content and implication for research instruments</li> </ul>
1.2	18.07.2021	PMHT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reworked version, and integrated public mental health contributions</li> </ul>
1.3	19.07.2021	Lianne Vostermans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of different versions and final edit</li> </ul>



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## 1. Summary

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On 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2021, at 11.00am CEST, a DRIVE public webinar workshop was hosted by Leiden University to introduce the project and discuss the multi-disciplinary research instruments that will be deployed in a mixed-methods design across four countries (Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, UK). With as many as 130 participants logged into the workshop, the discussion focused on the ethical and methodological challenges inherent to the topic areas and target populations being researched in this project. Given heightened public attention to jihadi Islamist networks, the rise of the far-right across Europe and incidents of violence, complex questions relating to identity, belonging, conflict and violence have become ever more relevant and yet more challenging to research.

To our knowledge, DRIVE is unique in multi-disciplinary, geographic, and ecosocial scope. The workshop benefitted from expert and state-of-the-art reviews and experience of radicalisation research and the lead in Norway presented the ground-breaking digital ethnographic methodology that will be used in DRIVE. Time constraints prevented full discussion of the multi-disciplinary challenges unique to this project, such as the need to satisfy public health ethical scrutiny in order to include a public mental health promotion focus within the wider anthropological, sociological, ethnic studies and political science perspectives. These foci and perspectives have been discussed during whole Consortium meetings.

The workshop built on and was followed by whole Consortium online meetings on the data gathering instruments and administration protocols within a multi-disciplinary ethical framework. Meetings to date are listed in the below table to indicate the level of ongoing engagement required for multi-disciplinary research using a mixed-methods design to examine the relationship between social exclusion and radicalisation across online and physical contexts in four countries. The sensitivity of the topics, potential risks, and importance of remaining fair, balanced, and transparent throughout will continue to require whole Consortium attention.

Date	Type of meeting	Topics discussed
20-4-2021	Collaboration meeting	Initial Country Reports (ICRs) Methodology design Data Management Interview questions Consolidated Ethics Application
26-5-2021	Collaboration session	ICRs Consolidated Ethics Application
08-6-2021	Collaboration session	Consolidated Ethics Application Research instruments
15-6-2021	Collaboration meeting	Determining terminology 4 Hypothesis Streamlining ICRs
22-6-2021	Collaboration meeting (following the public webinar workshop)	Consolidated Ethics Application, Data Management Plan, D1.4 and Methodology D1.5



## 2. Data Gathering Instruments

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### **Background: Instrument selection informed by Initial Country Reports (ICRs)**

To assess and enhance understanding of the research contexts (both online and physical, focusing on but not limited to two urban cities in each country) and to guide research instrument selection and development, the DRIVE Consortium produced four initial country reports (ICRs, deliverable 3.1). The ICRs synthesised desktop reviews of the local, national, transnational, historical, socio-economic and ongoing research issues. These reviews confirmed and refined the key topic areas on which data will be gathered. The reviews also highlighted ethical and methodological challenges regarding data collection with the target populations (those moving toward radicalisation in ‘far right’ or ‘Islamist’ directions).

### **Workshop focus: Data gathering with project target populations**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2021, at 11.00am CEST, DRIVE hosted a workshop in which academics and practitioners shared their perspectives on the challenges of researching extremism today. DRIVE consortium member Dr. Catherine Thorleifsson (University of Oslo) shared her prior experiences and the future DRIVE strategy for online ethnographic fieldwork. Dr. Joel Busher (Coventry University) talked about the key challenges, opportunities and dilemmas of researching the far-right. Dr. Jennifer Eggert (University of Warwick) shared insight on the intersectional approaches to gender-inclusive research. Dr. Chris Allen (University of Leicester) shared his personal experiences of the risk of participant observation and mitigating strategies against the problematisation of Muslim communities. Dr. Anouk de Koning (Leiden University) chaired the event and provided a useful synthesis on the different topics. A YouTube link to the event can be found [here](#).

Together, the panellists (and audience members during Qs and As) successfully explored research challenges associated with asking questions of individuals on a potential path to radicalisation. Prior and since the workshop, considerable discussion has been necessary to determine a set of interview questions that will apply to both far right and Islamist extremist groups while also accommodating variations in gender and generation. Bringing together the disciplines of anthropology, ethnic studies, law, political science, public mental health, and urban sociology was seen and experienced as both a challenge and an opportunity. After the public webinar in the morning, the Consortium held a closed consortium meeting on the afternoon of the 22 June, discussing the implications of the morning webinar for our research instruments and general research design.





Why is it so difficult to do conclusive research on extremism? How is studying far-right extremism different from Islamist and other types of extremism? What are the ethical dilemmas when working with young people in milieus that are frequently targeted by stereotypes and racism? And what are the dangers researchers face when conducting fieldwork?

This workshop - organised under the auspices of the H2020 DRIVE project - brings together scholars, practitioners, professionals, and community groups who work on understanding radicalisation to address these questions. The DRIVE project specifically focuses on the need to understand the significance of social exclusion in radicalisation, which necessitates carrying out research on hard-to-reach communities and involves asking complex and sensitive questions. In order to ensure that quality data can be generated, free from bias and prejudice, we need to remain understanding of the sensitivities and at the same time introduce initiatives that help generate in-depth, viable, and penetrating insight.

This workshop, open and free to all, explores the challenges of doing research on extremism presented by some of the leading scholars in the field in Europe.

[Register for this event >](#)

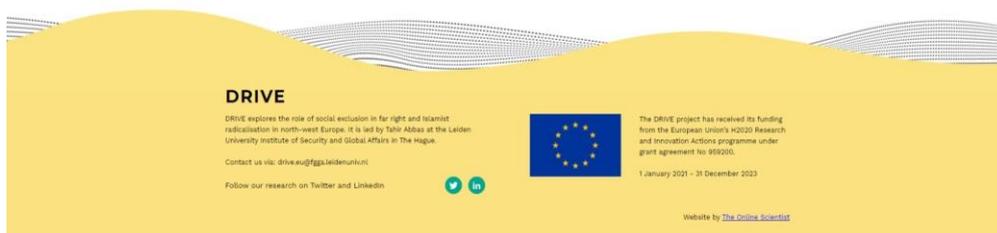
### Programme

- 11:00- **Tahir Abbas** (Leiden University): Welcome and introduction to DRIVE project
- 11:05- **Cathrine Thorleifsson** (University of Oslo): DRIVE's approach to balancing the online and offline
- 11:35- **Joel Busher** (Coventry University): Key challenges, opportunities, and dilemmas in researching the far-right
- 11:30- **Jennifer Philippa Eggert** (University of Warwick): 'Intersectional approaches to gender-inclusive research on sensitive topics'
- 11:45- **Chris Allen** (University of Leicester): 'The risk of participant observation and mitigating the problematisation of Muslim communities'
- 12:00- Q&A chaired by **Anouk de Koning** (Leiden University)
- 12:30

Did you miss the event? [Rewatch it here!](#)

### Event details

- June 22, 2021
- 11:00 - 12:30 CEST
- Location: Online via Zoom
- Organised by: DRIVE
- [Visit the event website](#)



### *Ethical considerations*

From the project's beginning, the Consortium partners have been aware of several ethical considerations specific to this project. Such considerations were raised during the 22<sup>nd</sup> June workshop, including the particular ethical challenges faced while researching extremism today. Panel speakers focused on issues of identity, the role of the researcher vis-a-vis the respondents, the importance of reflexivity, transparency and accountability, as well as the more recognised problems of power, gender and authority that can emerge, for example, in interviewing contexts. Considering these and other ethical challenges has been highly complex due to the multi-disciplinarity of the mixed-methods research design with data collection in four countries and sometimes divergent methodological approaches to subject themes. The urgency of submitting a consortium-wide ethics application and receiving approval before deploying the data collection instruments has been a useful if relentless propellant.

### *Ethical review*

Even before the workshop, the Consortium had concluded that a comprehensive ethics application was required for the project. The workshop discussion of ethical considerations confirmed this decision. A project of this scope, spanning the disciplines of anthropology, ethnic studies, political science, public mental health and urban sociology, with a mixed-methods design to gather data in multiple sites across four countries will benefit from an ethical review of the whole project. Moreover, submission of an application to a clinical ethics committee will enable public mental health contributions in all research instruments and analyses. The University of Cambridge clinical school ethics committee was selected given its comparability with ethical reviews in other partner countries, e.g., Norway. In addition, each Consortium partner will submit the relevant ethics information to the ethics committee in their institution or country. Although logistically challenging, planning and drafting a comprehensive ethics application has spurred on the refining of the conceptual, methodological, and analytical frameworks for the data gathering instruments and general research design. This has occurred in parallel with the drafting of eleven reports originally scheduled for delivery at the end of M6.

### *Project term selection*

Project terms have been discussed with the project advisory and ethics boards and the importance of careful term selection was discussed among the 22<sup>nd</sup> June Workshop panellists and audience members. For example, 'vulnerable' and 'at risk' can be used in the field of public mental health to describe psycho-bio vulnerability or risk to disease or impairment. In radicalisation and extremism discourse, these terms can be used to label and stereotype individuals and communities. Agreement on project terms and vocabulary has progressed



through the process of identifying and refining the data gathering instruments and general research design.

### 3. Workshop success: Ethics, research design and research instruments

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The workshop held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021, 11.00 CEST, truly was successful in raising and further exploring some of the sensitivities associated with multi-disciplinary, multi-sited, mixed-methods research in four countries. Both the workshop event and ongoing Consortium discussions have been necessary to develop the general research design, consider ethical parameters, and plan for a productive outcome. Overall, the intersection of the social and mental health sciences in research to address policy questions has highlighted several benefits and challenges, some of which were unique to the current world situation.

Due to COVID-related travel restrictions, the Consortium partners have not benefitted from opportunities to build proper working relations during in-person meetings. As a result, it has at times been harder to push forward on difficult terrain, although trust and confidence in the DRIVE project were established early on. Extensive online sessions were exhausting at times, but the Consortium members persevered, and we are now in a good position to successfully carry out the project based on the thorough reflection and decision-making regarding ethics, research design and research instruments. It has been argued that multi-disciplinary research with disciplines that are more disparate or different from one another may be more likely to achieve new insights for complex problems than research involving disciplines that share similar assumptions, approaches and methodologies (Choi & Pak, 2008). The net result in this instance is that we are at the cusp of generating a rigorous, interdisciplinary, mixed-methods empirical and innovative research approach, to increase understanding of the multi-levelled sociological as well as public mental health dimension of radicalisation, polarisation, extremism and political violence in northwest Europe today. Before the project concludes, this approach will be operationalised and preliminarily tested in a pilot study format in two of the Consortium countries.

#### *Data gathering training for this empirical research*

Workshop panellists confirmed the Consortium plan to hold a data gathering training event. Before any research begins, all DRIVE researchers conducting empirical research will participate in an online training event regarding instrument administration, data collection, safeguarding and risk management protocols.



### *Workshop impact and dissemination*

In addition to this report that will be uploaded on the DRIVE project website, two DRIVE interns (early career researchers) prepared a [blog](#) on the webinar discussion about the data gathering instruments. Their engagement has begun the process of disseminating DRIVE project insights among their peers and others who might be entering this research field as well as among those with many years of engagement. In addition, quotes from the panellists were extracted and published via the main Twitter account of the project and individual accounts of participating researchers. Together these and other ongoing dissemination efforts will help to maximise the long-term impact of the insights and results from the public workshop.

### *Finalisation of data gathering instruments scheduled for M8*

As outlined in the Grant Agreement, the Data Gathering Instruments will be finalised in the ethics application and will be detailed in D3.5, both to be submitted in M8.

### **Reference**

Choi, B.C.K. and Pak, A.W.P. (2008). Multidisciplinarity, interdisciplinarity, and transdisciplinarity in health research, services, education and policy: 3. Discipline, inter-discipline distance, and selection of discipline. *Clinical Investigative Medicine* 31(10): E41-E48.



## Annex 1 – Attendance list

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Attendance lists

### Collaboration meeting 20 April 2021

Full Name	User Action	Timestamp
Vries, A.A.M. de	Joined	4/20/2021, 9:44:51 AM
Abbas, T.	Joined	4/20/2021, 9:55:08 AM
Abbas, T.	Left	4/20/2021, 10:01:13 AM
Abbas, T.	Joined	4/20/2021, 10:01:30 AM
Mark Sedgwick (Guest)	Joined	4/20/2021, 9:57:12 AM
Sacharias Wirén	Joined	4/20/2021, 9:58:26 AM
Cathrine Moe Thorleifsson	Joined	4/20/2021, 9:58:55 AM
Müller, T.	Joined	4/20/2021, 9:59:04 AM
Walklate, Sandra	Joined	4/20/2021, 9:59:05 AM
E.M. Boyd Macmillan	Joined	4/20/2021, 9:59:59 AM
Valerie DeMarinis	Joined	4/20/2021, 10:00:25 AM
Vostermans, L.P.E.	Joined	4/20/2021, 10:00:55 AM
Vaughn, Leona	Joined	4/20/2021, 10:05:05 AM
Maria Nordendahl (Guest)	Joined	4/20/2021, 10:05:07 AM
Mythen, Gabe	Joined	4/20/2021, 10:07:28 AM

### Collaboration meeting 20 May 2021

Full Name	Join Time	Leave Time
Vries, A.A.M. de	5/20/2021, 9:44:15 AM	5/20/2021, 12:25:50 PM
Abbas, T.	5/20/2021, 9:57:55 AM	5/20/2021, 11:58:48 AM
Abbas, T.	5/20/2021, 12:00:30 PM	5/20/2021, 12:25:52 PM
Cathrine Moe Thorleifsson	5/20/2021, 9:58:24 AM	5/20/2021, 11:58:42 AM
Laura Zahra McDonald	5/20/2021, 9:59:28 AM	5/20/2021, 11:58:41 AM
Mark Sedgwick (Guest)	5/20/2021, 9:59:55 AM	5/20/2021, 11:58:39 AM
E.M. Boyd Macmillan	5/20/2021, 10:00:26 AM	5/20/2021, 11:58:47 AM
Sacharias Wirén	5/20/2021, 10:00:30 AM	5/20/2021, 11:58:42 AM
Valerie DeMarinis	5/20/2021, 10:00:35 AM	5/20/2021, 11:58:43 AM
Tobias Muller	5/20/2021, 10:00:40 AM	5/20/2021, 11:58:59 AM
Tobias Muller	5/20/2021, 12:02:33 PM	5/20/2021, 12:25:51 PM
Mythen, Gabe	5/20/2021, 10:01:31 AM	5/20/2021, 11:58:41 AM
Jane Braden-Golay	5/20/2021, 10:01:47 AM	5/20/2021, 11:58:46 AM
Jacob Astley (Guest)	5/20/2021, 10:03:56 AM	5/20/2021, 11:21:57 AM
Vostermans, L.P.E.	5/20/2021, 10:14:15 AM	5/20/2021, 12:25:50 PM

Collaboration meeting 8 June 2021



Full Name	User Action	Timestamp
Vries, A.A.M. de	Joined	6/8/2021, 9:53:54 AM
Abbas, T.	Joined	6/8/2021, 9:56:34 AM
Sacharias Wirén	Joined	6/8/2021, 9:58:49 AM
E.M. Boyd-MacMillan	Joined	6/8/2021, 9:59:49 AM
Vostermans, L.P.E.	Joined	6/8/2021, 10:00:08 AM
Mark Sedgwick (Guest)	Joined	6/8/2021, 10:00:51 AM
Jane Braden-Golay	Joined	6/8/2021, 10:01:09 AM
Cathrine Moe Thorleifsson	Joined	6/8/2021, 10:04:38 AM
Müller, T.	Joined	6/8/2021, 10:07:14 AM
Valerie DeMarinis	Joined	6/8/2021, 10:08:29 AM

**Collaboration meeting 15 June 2021** – download of attendance list was unfortunately not carried out for this meeting here the overview of the responses received for this meeting.

Name	Attendance	Response
Vries, A.A.M. de	Meeting Organizer	None
Abbas, T.	Required Attendee	Accepted
Cathrine Thorleifsson	Required Attendee	Accepted
Eolene Boyd-MacMillan	Required Attendee	None
Mythen, Gabe	Required Attendee	None
Jacob Astley	Required Attendee	None
Jane Braden	Required Attendee	Accepted
Laura Zahra Hashimi - McDonald	Required Attendee	Accepted
Leona Vaughn	Required Attendee	None
Maria Nordendahl	Required Attendee	None
Mark Sedgwick	Required Attendee	Accepted
Müller, T.	Required Attendee	Accepted
Sacharias Wiren	Required Attendee	Declined
Sandra Walklate	Required Attendee	None
Valerie DeMarinis	Required Attendee	None
Vostermans, L.P.E.	Required Attendee	Accepted

### Collaboration meeting 22 June 2021

Full Name	User Action	Timestamp
Vries, A.A.M. de	Joined	6/22/2021, 12:54:47 PM



Abbas, T.	Joined	6/22/2021, 12:54:58 PM
Laura Zahra McDonald	Joined	6/22/2021, 12:58:14 PM
Jane Braden-Golay	Joined	6/22/2021, 12:59:50 PM
Mythen, Gabe	Joined	6/22/2021, 1:00:24 PM
Cathrine Moe Thorleifsson	Joined	6/22/2021, 1:00:28 PM
Mark Sedgwick (Guest)	Joined	6/22/2021, 1:01:04 PM
E.M. Boyd-MacMillan	Joined	6/22/2021, 1:01:58 PM
Valerie DeMarinis	Joined	6/22/2021, 1:02:15 PM
Walklate, Sandra	Joined	6/22/2021, 1:02:24 PM
Lianne Vostermans (Guest)	Joined	6/22/2021, 1:03:22 PM
Müller, T.	Joined	6/22/2021, 1:04:49 PM

