Data Management Plan (DMP)

University of Göttingen

Claudia Neu

We-ID deliverable D1.3

March 2026

Data Management Plan DMP (WP1)

EU-Programme

HORIZON.2.2 - Culture, creativity and inclusive society Main Programme

HORIZON.2.2.1 - Democracy and Governance

Topic

HORIZON-CL2-2024-DEMOCRACY-01-04 - The interrelation between social, cultural and political identities, as well as the sense of belonging, and democracies

Grant agreement ID: 101177925, DOI 10.3030/101177925

Dissemination Level	Public (PU)
Work Package	WP1 Project Management/Dissemination, Exploitation & Communication (UGOE)
Milestone	M1.4 DPM (Month 6)
Deliverables No	D1.3
Version	V1.0
Submission Date	12.03.2026
Due Date	31.07.2025

We-ID Identities - Migration - Democracy is a three-year project (2025-2028) that analyses the transformation of individual and collective identities, social cohesion and democracy in the midst of migration, demographic change and current crises in Europe. The consortium includes eight partners: Georg August University of Göttingen, the University of St Andrews in Scotland, the Bocconi University, the Institute for the Study of Population and Human Studies (Bulgaria), the Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar (Croatia), Max Planck Society (Population Europe), the Council of the Baltic Sea States, and The Civics Innovation Hub.

Website: https://www.uni-goettingen.de/We-ID

Publication information:

Table of Contents

Preface

This document presents the We-ID Data Management Plan (DMP). WP1 will establish and regularly update the DMP (D 1.3, M1.4): The DMP will follow the FAIR principles of Horizon Europe carefully. Taking these principles into account, the management team (WP1) will operate the project website (https://www.uni-goettingen.de/We-ID) and ensure open access to data and the provision of supporting material in accordance with GDPR regulations and ethical considerations.

Purpose of the deliverable

WP1 is responsible for the DMP (D 3.1). The result D1.3 serves as a basis for all project partners for the secure handling of research data during and after a research project. The DPM serves to ensure the traceability, reusability, and quality of the data produced in the We-ID project. The DMP is part of the WQAP.

Figure 1: Quality Assurance Plan

Intended audience

The level of dissemination of this document is public. It is mainly addressed to the members of the consortium as well as to the members of the European Commission.

Acknowledgement

This document was reviewed by the University of Goettingen (eResearch Alliance) as part of We-ID quality assurance procedures. The content of the document, including opinions expressed and any remaining errors, is the responsibility of the authors.

Authors

Author	Institution	Email
Prof. Dr. Claudia Neu	University of Goettingen UGOE	Claudia.neu@uni-goettingen.de

Control Sheet

Version History			
Version	Date	Modified by	Summary of Changes
DMP D1.3 V1.0	12.03.2026		Initial Version

List of Participants

Participant No. *	Participant Organisation Name	Country
1 (Coordinator)	University of Goettingen (UGOE)	Germany
2	Bocconi University (UB)	Italy
3	University of St. Andrews (USTAN)	Great Britain
4	Institute for Population and Human Studies (IPHS)	Bulgaria
5	Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar (IPI)	Croatia
6	Max Planck Society (MPG)/Population Europe	Germany
7	Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)	IGO, Sweden
8	THE CIVICS Innovation Hub (CIVICS)	Germany

Objectives

The European Union's promise of prosperity and security is based on the principle of "unity in diversity" and the guarantee of fundamental freedoms, rights and democratic participation of its citizens. The vast majority of EU citizens share these values. At the same time, democracies are in crisis. Populist parties are fuelling fears and spreading the narrative that migration leads to a loss of identity. There is no doubt that migration always raises the question of identity and belonging. How do we organize integration and participation in such a way that cohesion is created despite diverse identities? The project "Identities - Migration - Democracy" (We-ID) is therefore concerned with the transformation of individual and collective identities, social and territorial cohesion and democracy under the conditions of demographic change, particularly with regard to migration and growing population diversity. We-ID follows an innovative research path by a) analysing the impact of migration on

identities, belonging, cohesion and democracy, taking into account both the impact on host communities and the changes in the identities of migrants and their descendants, and b) elaborating the interrelationship between identities, cohesion, resilience and democracy. In addition to quantitative data analysis, we will use qualitative methods at the local level (e.g. pilot study in a border region, content analysis, case studies) to look for factors that strengthen resilient democratic communities. By consistently pursuing a transdisciplinary approach within our Policy, Advocacy and Research Lab (We-PARL) throughout the project, we will create a platform for mutual learning between different stakeholders from the European to the local level, while at the same time contributing to evidence-based and thoroughly discussed policy recommendations. In addition, based on our findings, we will develop materials such as toolboxes that can be used by practitioners and local actors (We-SCOUTS).

In detail, We-ID pursues the following objectives:

Objective 1: Revise and evaluate the relevant conceptual issues concerning identities, belonging and cohesion, and establish their relationship with resilience and democracy, with a particular emphasis on migration.

Objective 2: Map trends and patterns of identities, belonging and cohesion together with their drivers, including geographic differences, gender, age and education, as well as immigrant status and employment.

Objective 3: Investigate how the social identities and political participation of immigrants and their descendants differ across European countries, what factors influence identity and participation of immigrants, and what assumptions can be made for the future.

Objective 4: Extending objectives 2 and 3 through a regional pilot study in a Bulgarian border region. To analyse, how migration flows affect both the migrant communities themselves and their identities, and the communities exposed to new and large-scale immigration.

Objective 5: Development of an inclusive concept for resilient democratic communities (ReDeCos), through the identification (five case studies) of local factors that hinder or strengthen belonging.

Objective 6: In addition, development of a Civic Competences Toolbox (CCT) for local actors (We-SCOUTS) equipped with civic skills and competences to support local communities, moderate conflicts and controversies and create spaces for participation.

Objective 7: Establish the We-PARL - Policy, Advocacy and Research Lab - transdisciplinary platform, the tool which supports all thematic research areas foreseen in the project.

Objective 8: To disseminate We-ID findings, drawing on the outcomes and findings from the We-PARL, communicating them to a broader audience.

Objective 9: The project will identify factors at both national and local level that hinder social and political participation and at the same time develop policy recommendations on how to achieve equality and mitigate discrimination against women, LGBTIQ+ and ethnic minorities.

1.0 Data Summary

The We-ID project pursues a multi-methodological approach, employing both quantitative and qualitative methods. In addition, stakeholder dialogues are held in various formats. The project results are to be published in open access publications.

All relevant project data, including metadata, will be archived and stored indefinitely in a subject-specific (higher-level) repository (e.g., in conjunction with the NFDI (https://www.nfdi.de/konsortien/)). We will use the free GRO.data, a universal research data repository for the Göttingen Campus. GRO.data stores data without an expiration date.

During the project period, the volume of data to be archived is expected to be 40 GB. The expenses for data archiving during the project period are expected to amount to €0. The expenses/costs for this will be borne by the research institution.

The DMP serves for the entire We-ID project. WP1 will establish and regularly update the DMP: The DMP will follow the FAIR principles as required by Horizon Europe carefully. Taking these principles into account, the management team (WP1) will operate the project website and ensure open access to data and the provision of supporting material in accordance with GDPR regulations and ethical considerations.

1.1 Use of secondary data source

The first part of the project is based on existing political reviews (WP2). The reports on these reviews will be published in accordance with open access principles.

The consortium will draw on a series of secondary data sources, and in several cases consortium members have had direct involvement in the creation of these sources. WP3 will use large-scale repeated cross-sectional data. The European Social Survey (ESS) and the Eurobarometer survey will be used to map patterns and trends of identity, social cohesion and migration over a 20-year period, thereby establishing the current state-of- the-art of the European setting, and they also demonstrate how key parameters have changed over that period. As ageing is one of the current megatrends, WP3 will also use the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) to address patterns of social cohesion and identity among the older part of the European population.

The European Social Survey (ESS) will also be used in WP4 to investigate identity, belonging, political participation and social cohesion among immigrants and their descendants in Europe. ESS is one of the few data-sets in Europe, which allows for the study of both immigrants and their descendants. WP4 will also use longitudinal data (UKHLS, GSOEP, Italian FFS) to study the interrelationships between family and employment experiences, and between social identities and political participation among migrant and ethnic minority populations.

These data sources have large sample sizes relating to three large European countries (UK, Germany and Italy):

The data used, e.g., from the European Social Survey (ESS), is available in SPSS (.sav), Stata (.dta), and CSV formats. All of these software products offer CSV or RFT formats, and all generated quantitative data will be made available in those formats and therefore made freely accessible (in compliance with GDPR regulations). They will be published under CC0 license. GRO.data allows both, documentation and metadata, to be stored in one place (referenceable via DOIs). The homepage is used only as a landing page; it links to the documentation and data stored in the repository.

However, in order to access the individual-level (anonymized) data, the users need to sign the End User Agreement. The data will be stored on a university server and is password protected. All results are published in an aggregate format (e.g. percentages, counts, or regression coefficients) that does not allow for the identification of individual records. We will prepare a technical report for each study, which will provide a detailed description of the sample and the variables used.

1.2 Creation of new data sources

The available secondary data provide important insights into patterns and trends, but are not well suited for examining the situation in municipalities, and especially in Eastern European countries. This is a major disadvantage, as it is essential to understand the interrelationships between identity, migration, and cohesion at the local level and also at Europe's external borders (Bulgaria, WP 5). Furthermore, the existing surveys do not focus on the fundamental motives underlying identity formation and the sense of belonging, which are important for both the immigrant population and the communities experiencing high levels of immigration. In other words: There is insufficient information available to make a meaningful contribution to the development of appropriate measures to overcome the significant differences between EU Member States. Added to this are the rapidly changing context of newly arrived immigrants and the clash of different values, cultures, and religions, which have a direct impact on the three constructs of identity, belonging, and cohesion and, in particular, pose problems for the democratic process. It is essential to

a) create a new qualitative survey in a Pilot-Study to gain a detailed understanding of the three constructs (WP5). In addition, the aim is not only to gain new insights into migration at the European external border, but also to test new, more sophisticated measurement methods, including the selection of items and verification of their reliability;

b) conduct municipal case studies (including prior media analysis) in selected partner regions in order to explore the challenges and opportunities of cohesion and integration at the local level (WP6);

c) discuss the results collected in the project with stakeholders at an early stage (We-PARL).

The following formats are used in the pilot study (WP5), the local case studies (WP6), and the stakeholder dialogues within the WE-PARL project (WP7):

– Interviews, street conversations, and participant observation, recorded via video, recording device, or notepad.

– The recordings are transcribed (partially using transcription software) and anonymized. The interview formats are transcribed in the original language; a translation is only provided for the presentation of the results.

– They are then analysed and incorporated into results reports and publications.

We are in contact with the data protection officer, Mr. F. Hallaschka, from the University of Göttingen regarding questions of qualitative data collection. In preparation for the interviews (via audio, video, or notepad), the researchers are documenting the following points: What device is being used for recording? When and by whom is the data transferred to a computer connected to the data backup system? Who has access to the recording/device/storage computer?

1.2.1 Frontline Pilot-Study

As part of the Bulgarian pilot study (D 5.2), a qualitative study is being conducted based on semi-structured interviews with three groups: migrants from Ukraine (n=10), migrants from Syria (n=10), and locals (n=20), divided between

    a) regions with a high proportion of Ukrainian migrants (coastal regions) and

    b) regions with a high proportion of Syrian/Afghan migrants (Harmanli and Sofia).

Participants will be recruited on a voluntary basis with the support of the national refugee agency and NGOs working with migrant communities. The samples will be drawn from the national population, but targeted to communities at the migration front-line. The interviews will be conducted with the support of professional translators, as many participants do not have sufficient knowledge of Bulgarian or English. The interviews are audio recorded with the consent of the participants and then transcribed. It is expected that transcription and translation will prove difficult due to GDPR requirements and language restrictions. Therefore, GDPR-compliant tools will be used and combined with extensive manual transcription and translation work from Ukrainian and Arabic into English.

The qualitative content analysis, which takes place after the fieldwork phase, is carried out using QDA Miner and WordStat and focuses on key thematic dimensions such as identity, belonging, democratic values, resilience and social cohesion between groups and regions. All data is anonymized. Audio files, transcripts, and translated materials are stored on an institutional server with restricted access and on an encrypted external storage device. Access is restricted to authorized project researchers in accordance with the requirements of the GDPR and Horizon Europe.

For the sake of the robustness, transparency and validity of the analysis, the consortium will provide access to the survey samples used whenever possible, and/or there will be detailed descriptions of the steps taken in the preparation of these samples.

1.2.2 Case Studies

According to the current state of research in subject-specific data archives (repositories), there is no data available that can be used for our specific comparative perspective in the project. Therefore, in Phase 1, Work Package 6 (WP6) will conduct (or have conducted) its own content analyses of selected media (which will vary depending on the partner country) and select five case studies. In research phase 2, qualitative interviews with citizens in the five selected case regions (Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Scotland, Lithuania) are planned. We are aware that obtaining informed consent is required here. In phase 2, participants are recruited on a voluntary basis with the support of municipalities, associations, and non-governmental organizations that work with migrant communities. These conversations include, on the one hand, chance encounters on the street, in cafes, or at clubs. No personal data is collected during these conversations; only summaries of the conversations (personal field notes) are created, which cannot be traced back to any individual. On the other hand, we will conduct "planned" interviews with mayors, club presidents, and participants in educational and integration programs. These interviews consist of both guided conversations and unplanned, open conversations, which are either recorded and later transcribed, anonymized and stored using transcription software, or, if they are notes, kept in the respective institutes. The interviews, which are available as audio or film recordings, constitute personal data (the interview transcripts and translation transcripts remain in the respective partner institutions). Access to the transcripts is restricted to authorized project researchers in accordance with the requirements of the GDPR and Horizon Europe.

Qualitative content analysis is performed using for example F4 (Germany), focusing on key thematic dimensions such as identity, belonging, democratic values, resilience, and social cohesion between groups and regions. Quality assurance of the transcription and data analysis will be carried out according to the dual control principle or will be discussed within the research team. In phase 3, we will work together with We-PARL (see next point) on the basis of the case studies. In phase 4, a toolbox (CCT for We-SCOUTS) will be created and tested in a trial run. The data obtained in this trial run will be anonymized, recorded in writing, and stored (the interview transcripts and translation transcripts remain in the respective partner institutions).

1.2.3 We-PARL

New data is also generated in the context of the events organized by the Policy Advocacy and Research Lab (We-PARL, WP7). The work of We-PARL will be based on both the qualitative (WP5, WP6) and quantitative analyses of the project (WP3, WP4, and WP5). We-PARL organizes discussion rounds (lunch talks, ladies' lunches) and workshops (Berlin Demography Days, New Narrative Workshop, Scenario Building) as well as online formats that bring together scientists, politicians, and civil society. The online formats are only recorded for use in the project (after personal consent by the participants via Click on the button "will be recorded), then evaluated and logged according to topic. For live formats, transcripts are created and then evaluated. The transcripts and minutes are kept at Population Europe for ten years in accordance with the MPG data protection guidelines (https://www.mpg.de/18159523/mpg-datenschutzleitlinie.pdf), but are not available to the public. However, the summarized results are available in the form of newsletters or policy insights, which are publicly available on our homepage https://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/publikationen/694959.html), for which a contingency plan exists to move/back up content to GRO.data

2.0 FAIR Data

2.1 Making data findable, including provisions for metadata

All project data sharing and exchange is managed via GRO.data. All We-ID metadata is marked with a persistent identifier (DOI) to improve findability.

Reused data is already assigned persistent identifiers (DOIs), and all publications and metadata created as part of the project refer to the DOIs of the (reused) data. The DOI in GRO.data is assigned to a landing page where the metadata and data files of the dataset are presented. GRO.data also supports the versioning of data sets to enable correct referencing/attribution in the event of edits. Qualitative raw data (i.e., interview transcripts, videos, etc.) are only available via GRO.data to researchers involved in the project and therefore do not have a persistent identifier.

The backup, storage, and sustainable availability of research data is a central and forward-looking concern of Georg August University Göttingen. All project partners are granted access to the University of Göttingen's IT services. Data storage, naming, and versioning are carried out in accordance with the standards of the University of Göttingen (https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/488918.html). Data storage (2027-2037) will be provided on a long-term basis by the University of Göttingen's computer center (www.gwdg.de) (GRO.data). An agreement between the project and GRO.data is not required.

The university's own data management consulting service, the Göttingen eResearch Alliance (https://www.eresearch.uni-goettingen.de/de/), will be used for support in consultation.

2.2 Metadata

The metadata in the We-ID project is descriptive in nature (both structured and, for example, via code books or protocols) and administrative in nature (license, contact); structural information describing the syntax will be provided in free-text descriptions. GRO.data supports extensive metadata. In accordance with the funding agreement, the metadata is made publicly available and published under a CC0 license (Public Domain Dedication). We use GRO.data for the source code and metadata with DOIs to ensure citability and discoverability. The landing page of the project data within GRO.data (accessible via DOI) contains information and a "Contact the Owner" button for accessing non-public data. The data may be locked, but the homepage, to which the DOI points, will remain available and discoverable for as long as GRO.data exists, which is expected to be more than ten years. And even if not, the Uni committed to the repository and will provide a contingency plan to keep data available.

The plan is to include documentation or references to software (e.g., as open-source code) required for accessing or reading the data. For the quantitative analysis, the teams across the WPs will use statistical software but the scripts and code will always be converted to R and Python so to make them accessible in dedicated code repositories like gitlab.gwdg.de (the University of Göttingen's gwdg offers a local solution at Gitlab.gwdg.de, https://gitlab.gwdg.de/dashboard/projects). It is also possible to reference these within the data repository, in technical reports or in the appendix of the main reports.

In addition, metadata of the DDI type, for example, will be stored together with the data we describe. Search terms will also be provided in the metadata to optimize findability and thus potential reusability. GRO.data not only supports search terms, but is also networked, e.g., via search.datacite.org, so that the metadata can be harvested.

For external data that we redistribute, such as ESS, we may include various types of metadata or, where appropriate, refer to the original source for structural metadata.

2.3 General Standards Followed

The project follows standards of the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) when producing metadata.

2.4 Making data accessible

Openness is a central principle of our project's research activities. It is linked to good scientific practice and is one of the core values on which our research is based.

After completion of the project, the We-ID website will be maintained, curated, and made freely accessible by the Chair of Rural Sociology at the University of Göttingen for at least ten years. The We-ID data will be made freely available via a GRO.dat repository and registered with a DOI to ensure permanent access.

We do not plan to include personal or otherwise sensitive data (e.g., from the interviews) in the publicly accessible We-ID database, so we see no need to set up user authentication.

2.5 Re-used data

Reused data is accessible on the websites of the data providers. However, all coding tools and metadata created as part of the project are made freely available under the Creative Commons CC0 license or a similar license and published in GRO.data.

2.6 Qualitative data

The qualitative raw data (i.e., interviews with municipalities, photos, videos, audio recordings and text notes from the case studies) can be assigned DOIs via GRO.data in order to publish the metadata; however, access will continue to be restricted and only possible for project partners and researchers.

Qualitative raw data from interviews with citizens from administration, businesses and civil society are anonymized by deleting all references to personal data such as names and other personal information. Nevertheless, due to the size of the group or a location (e.g., a hamlet in a rural area), identification may be possible even when personal identifiers are removed. The audio files, film recordings, and transcripts cannot therefore be made available to the public. The results obtained from the analyses of the transcribed texts, audio or film files are anonymized and made available as open access publications.

Anonymized texts without references to personal data prevent the re-identification of participants. Anonymized texts are translated into English. Anonymized texts are then used as input for publications, social media or stakeholder workshops with civil society and political decision-makers. Other qualitative data (i.e. voice recordings and text notes from interviews or participant observation in the communities) are not made publicly available.

Qualitative data will be stored for ten years after the projects ends, after five years of storage the data will be permanently destroyed.

2.7 Making Data Interoperable

Interoperability of the data and metadata produced in the project will be assured by following standards best practices commonly used in the social sciences. Data can be (and will be) saved in CSV that are interoperable across operating systems and that can be accessed using free open-source software.

Data and metadata will be assigned with terms coming from established vocabularies such as The European Language Social Science Thesaurus (https://elsst.cessda.eu/). Furthermore, we commit to follow the best practices for interoperability in the social sciences according to the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI, https://ddialliance.org), and the Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA, https://www.cessda.eu).

2.8 Increase data re-use

The We-ID data will be accessible to everyone. We will adhere to the FAIR principles in the development and release of the We-ID database source code. In accordance with common standards, we provide the processing scripts and documentation required to validate data analysis and facilitate data reuse (e.g., readme files with information on methodology, codebooks, data cleansing, analyses, variable definitions, units of measurement, etc.). Our code and data will be discoverable using a persistently citable DOI. They will be made available through the freely accessible GRO.data repository. In our programming practices, we prioritize interoperability and therefore use free and open-source software that runs on Windows, Apple, and Unix-based operating systems. Our permanently released open-source code ensures (via Git.lab, https://gitlab.gwdg.de/dashboard/projects) reusability even after the project's end date and the maintenance of the web servers for the We-ID website. The open codebase allows future users to rebuild and adapt these resources using our source code.

The reused survey data belong to the data providers. The register data belong to the statistical offices, which compile them from the register sources. We make replication files for all research published in the project freely available via GRO.data. The replication files contain references to the persistent identifiers of the reused data, as well as code for data cleaning, linking, and analysis.

The data released under this license does not include any sensible information regarding interviewees, communities etc. that will be protected by GDPR and other relevant regulation,

Data and metadata are published under the Creative Commons CC0.

Funded by the European Union

2.9 Quality assurance

The We-ID database and website will be maintained by the University of Göttingen (Chair of Rural Sociology) for at least ten years after the project ends.

For the reused data, the data providers regularly check the quality of the survey data and publish corrected versions as needed. Register data are compiled from administrative register records by the responsible statistical agencies. Any corrections to the raw data are done at all times by the statistical offices themselves, both if pointed out by the administrative users of the original data or by the scientific users of compiled datasets. The project researchers use the most recent versions published by the data providers.

The selection of case regions was carried out by the team (work package 6), taking into account the results from work packages 2 to 7. In work package 6, semi-structured interview guides were developed and evaluated prior to the actual interviews. The qualitative data are generally collected in the respective national language, translated if necessary, subsequently transcribed, and the results presented and discussed in English. The quality of the qualitative data collected in the case studies by experienced and highly qualified researchers is ensured through the joint presentation and discussion of the results within the team (especially in work package 6). Quality assurance of the transcription and data analysis will be carried out according to the dual control principle and will be discussed within the research team. In phase 3, we will work together with We-PARL on the basis of the case studies.

3.0 Other research outputs

The project does not expect any other research outputs than those described in the previous sections.

4.0 Allocation of Resources

4.1 We-ID (Meta)Data

All costs incurred for the creation, maintenance, and public accessibility of the database and its metadata will be covered by the project. The project will use GRO.data, a free service provided by the University of Göttingen that provides long-term repositories for code and metadata.

Each project partner/WP manager is responsible for the GDPR-compliant use of the data at their institution, the PI for the entire project. In WP 1, we allocate one person month to oversee DPM compliance and data entry. The freely available We-ID data will be actively maintained by the Chair of Rural Sociology, Prof. Dr. Claudia Neu, for ten years after the project's end. The We-ID data resides inside GRO.data (as a collection of files), it will be maintained without an explicit time limit The data controller for the We-ID data is PI Prof. Dr. Claudia Neu (UGOE).

4.2 Re-used Data

Reused data is available through the data providers or the internet. Each work package leader is responsible for managing the reused data used in their work package. Data management by work package leaders and contributors must comply with the terms of use of the original providers, and in particular, the data security provisions.

4.3 Qualitative data

Qualitative data will not be openly accessible. As part of the pilot study (WP5), the case studies (WP6), and the stakeholder dialogues (WP7), interviews are conducted that could potentially be traced back to individuals, even if they are anonymized. This is primarily because we also work in very small rural

communities, where individuals such as mayors or club chairpersons can be identified. The participants in the stakeholder dialogues are directly identifiable by name in the recordings; therefore, the recordings will not be published and are used solely for internal results analysis. Nevertheless, Researcher Dr. Caroline Hornstein-Tomić, from IPI Croatia, is the data controller for the qualitative data.

5.0 Data Security

5.1 WE-ID (Meta)Data
The published We-ID data contains only aggregated, anonymized data. The network drive is managed by GWDG. The network drives @UGOE are backed up every 24 hours, as is the data in GRO.data.

5.2 Re-used Data
Once the project partners have received the data, the immediately usable data, such as survey and population register data, will be stored in secure physical or virtual storage, depending on the data providers' requirements. Each partner utilizes the secure storage infrastructure provided by their respective institutions, according to the requirements of the different data types.

5.3 Qualitative data
The researchers use encrypted external hard drives or USB sticks to secure the data during the field research phase. Qualitative raw data (i.e. text entries, photos, videos, voice recordings) are anonymized after collection. Anonymized data and personal data of participants are stored in separate files on secure computers in locked rooms at the respective partner institution. The researchers appoint data controllers for the qualitative data at their respective institutions. Only these data controllers have access to the files that enable the anonymized data to be linked to the personal data. This is necessary in case participants wish to request their data or have it removed from the study.

The raw data from the community studies collected as part of the case studies is collected in various languages (English, Bulgarian, Croatian, German, Polish, etc.). Language recordings are transcribed, translated where necessary, and all references to personal data are removed. The researchers work with anonymiz ed transcripts.

Translators only have access to anonymized data from which all references to personal data have been deleted (Art. 32 GDPR). Translators sign a contract prohibiting them from keeping local copies of the data after completing the translations.

6.0 Data Ethics and Law

Our We-ID research will be based mainly on publicly available data, but also on case studies, interviews and the results of our transdisciplinary workflow, where we will generate new data and information sources ourselves.

Therefore, the project will coordinate closely with the Ethics Committee of the University of Göttingen, which will ensure that it complies with all applicable regulations, in particular the 'rules of good scientific conduct', the guidelines on transparency in research (joint position of the Lower Saxony State University Conference and the Lower Saxony Ministry of Science and Culture), the FAIR principles, All European Academies (ALLEA) European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity in all research contexts and the General Data Protection Regulation of the European Union (GDPR). The individual institutions of the consortium will also have the project evaluated by the relevant ethics committees. For example,

the Ethics Committee of the IPHS will support research of the highest ethical standards and will approve WP5.

Any project that examines identities, migration, and democracy and is active in different European regions carries the potential risk of highlighting marginalized population groups in particular, thereby further stigmatizing them or otherwise causing them unintended harm. To determine the applicable level of data protection for the collected data (see the Lower Saxony data protection level concept, https://www.lfd.niedersachsen.de/startseite/themen/technik_und_organisation/schutzstufen/schutzstufen-56140.html), the data protection officer is consulted. This level of data protection governs all subsequent measures before, during, and after data collection, including data security measures such as backup and storage procedures, the timing of anonymization, data accessibility, etc. The We-ID project is certainly aware of this danger and has an independent Scientific Advisory Board as well as a Stakeholder Advisory Board and seeks advice from the Ethics Commission of the University of Göttingen in order to discuss and, if necessary, minimize possible discrimination.

The topic of migration in particular has increasingly been framed in the media in recent years in a way that can be described as criminalization and threat by migrants—as our media content analyses also show. We-ID strives to highlight "positive" results (for example, on our social media account) without concealing "problematic" results. Project results are discussed at an early stage (kick-off meeting, lunch talk, Berlin Demography Day, etc., in person and online) with political decision-makers and the public, also with a view to working together on implementable recommendations for action.

6.1 Newly created and reused data

All project partners conduct their own ethical review before providing or publishing data. The data providers are based in the European Union and are therefore subject to the GDPR. The data providers have obtained the consent of each individual respondent (Art. 7 GDPR). Reused data is provided anonymously directly by the data providers and therefore does not contain any personal information about identified individuals. The usage licenses signed by the project researchers strictly prohibit researchers from attempting to re-identify individuals.

6.2 Qualitative data

All participants will be fully informed about the We-ID research project, its purpose and the use of their data. The researchers will obtain informed consent required by the GDPR for interviews, as well as for taking photos and videos, after providing all necessary information. The consent forms will be approved by the data protection officer. We are aware that separate consent is required for qualitative, anonymized data that will be archived and made available for reuse.

Participants will be informed of their right to withdraw from the study at any time. Participants have unrestricted ownership rights to their data and are informed of their right to review their recorded data at a later date by contacting the data controller, the data controller of the institution conducting the field study, or later PI Prof. Dr. Claudia Neu (UGOE).

Participants are informed about the role of the researchers with whom they will be working in the field research (e.g. in interviews, participant observation, etc.).

References to data provided by participants must be anonymized. No direct or implicit connection to individual persons is possible through quotations. Participants are informed of their right to anonymity and may terminate the observation at any time.

7.0 Other issues

We-ID will not use any other national/state/sector/departmental procedures for data management.

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