



ΕΛΙΔΕΚ.
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H.F.R.I.
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Data Management Plan

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CRITIC – *Crisis Narratives: Beyond Pandemic Discourses in Greece*

Deliverable: D6.1

WP6: Project Management

Work package leader: Panteion University

Due date: 31 March 2026

Submission date: 31 March 2026

Data Management Plan

1. Data Summary

CRITIC generates and analyses multi-source primary and secondary textual data, in order to examine the construction and evolution of religious and political populist far-right narratives in Greece and their impact on national and European identity imaginaries during the period March 2020 to June 2024. The data correspond primarily to WP2 'Textual Data Collection and Analysis' and WP3 'Collection of Original Data from Interviews and Focus Group'.

The project draws on four main categories of data:

1) Targeted semi-structured interviews

Primary textual data will be collected through semi-structured interviews with high-rank members of Greek populist far-right parties and with clergy representatives. The interviews aim to explore how these key actors articulate crisis narratives and how they perceive the relationship between national and European identity. The expected output consists of audio recordings (where consent is provided), verbatim transcripts, anonymised analytical memos and coded datasets.

2) Focus group(s)

Focus group(s) will complement the interviews and will be conducted with participants representing divergent positions on European integration, including Eurosceptic and pro-European individuals. The purpose is to observe interactional dynamics and the circulation of religious populist far-right narratives in everyday discourse. The resulting data will include audio recordings (subject to consent), transcripts, field notes and coded analytical material.

3) Social media content

The project will collect publicly available social media posts, comments and multimodal material produced by political actors, clergy, and affiliated supporters. Data will be sampled according to predefined criteria related to topic, actor type and time period. These datasets will be analysed using Critical Discourse Analysis and sentiment analysis.

4) Official discourses and mediated texts

Textual data will be gathered from publicly accessible sources, of selected party and movement websites, press releases, parliamentary speeches, media interviews, public speeches and official Church declarations. These materials will be compiled into focused textual corpora organised by genre, actor and thematic issue.

The overall dataset therefore consists of:

- Primary textual data (derived from interviews and focus group), and

- Secondary publicly available textual material (collected from (social) media, official discourses) systematically curated and analysed within the project framework.
- No biomedical, genetic or sensitive personal data categories are collected. The only personal data involved concern adult participants in interviews and focus groups, processed exclusively for scientific research purposes in accordance with applicable data protection legislation.

2. Ethical and Legal Compliance

CRITIC involves both primary textual data derived from original qualitative research with adult participants and secondary publicly available textual material. All data processing will be conducted in full compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and applicable national legislation on personal data protection and research ethics.

2.1 Informed Consent

For interviews and focus group(s), participants will receive:

- An information sheet describing the purpose of the research, data use, storage procedures and their rights.
- A written informed consent form.

Participation will be voluntary. Participants will have the right to withdraw at any stage without providing justification. Where audio recording is involved, explicit consent will be obtained.

2.2 Anonymisation and Confidentiality

Interview and focus group data will be pseudonymised at the transcription stage.

- Names and directly identifying information will be removed.
- Indirect identifiers that could enable recognition of individuals will be generalised where necessary.

Given the small and politically exposed population of high-rank far-right actors and clergy representatives, full anonymisation cannot be automatically guaranteed. In such cases, publication of identifiable material will occur only with explicit written consent.

2.3 Publicly Available Data

Social media posts, official speeches, press releases and website material constitute publicly accessible data. These materials will be processed exclusively for scientific research purposes. When citing such material, the project will follow established academic standards regarding quotation, attribution and contextualisation.

2.4 Data Protection and Access Control

Personal data (audio files, transcripts, consent forms) will be stored securely on password-protected institutional servers. Access will be restricted to authorised members of the research team. Consent forms will be stored separately from research data in order to minimise identification risks.

No automated decision-making or profiling of individuals will take place. Data will not be transferred to third parties outside the research team.

3. Data Storage, Security and Documentation

CRITIC implements structured procedures for the secure storage, controlled access, systematic organisation and documented analysis of all research data. Given the combination of primary textual data and secondary curated public corpora, data management practices are designed to ensure confidentiality, traceability and methodological transparency throughout the project lifecycle.

3.1 Storage Infrastructure

All digital research data will be stored on secure, password-protected institutional servers provided by Panteion University. The institutional infrastructure ensures controlled access, regular back-ups and protection against accidental loss.

Research data will not be permanently stored on personal computers or external devices. Where temporary storage is necessary during fieldwork, transcription or initial processing, files will be transferred to the institutional server as soon as possible and deleted from local devices.

Project folders will follow a structured internal hierarchy, separating:

- Interview data (audio files, transcripts, memos),
- Focus group data,
- Social media corpora,
- Official textual datasets,
- Codebooks and methodological documentation,
- Administrative documents (stored separately from research data).

3.2 Data Security and Access Control

Access to research data will be restricted to authorised members of the CRITIC research team. Permissions will be granted on a need-to-access basis.

Specific measures include:

- Storage of audio recordings and transcripts in protected folders,

- Separation of consent forms from research data files,
- Replacement of names and direct identifiers with pseudonyms at the transcription stage,
- Careful handling of contextual details that may indirectly identify politically exposed participants.

Particular caution will be exercised in the handling of interviews with high-rank political actors and clergy representatives, given the limited population size and potential identifiability.

Institutional back-up systems ensure redundancy and recovery capacity in the event of technical failure.

3.3 Data Processing and Analysis Software

Primary and secondary textual data will be processed and analysed using Atlas.ti. The software will be used to:

- Import and organise transcripts and textual corpora,
- Develop and apply the project's unified codebook,
- Conduct thematic coding and discourse-analytical categorisation,
- Annotate rhetorical strategies and argumentation patterns,
- Record analytical memos and reflexive notes,
- Support sentiment-related categorisation where relevant.

Atlas.ti project files will be stored on the secure institutional server and updated through controlled versioning procedures. Export functions will be used to generate coded reports, codebooks and structured datasets in widely readable formats, ensuring long-term usability of analytical outputs independent of proprietary software environments.

3.4 Data Organisation, Documentation and Version Control

A consistent file-naming convention will be applied across all datasets to ensure clarity and traceability. File names will systematically indicate:

- Data type,
- Date of collection,
- Actor category or corpus type,
- Version number where applicable.

Version control procedures will be implemented for transcripts, codebooks and analytical files in order to document revisions and maintain transparency of analytical development.

The project will produce detailed documentation accompanying each dataset, including:

- Interview guides and focus group discussion guides,
- Sampling criteria and corpus construction protocols,
- A unified codebook integrating discourse-analytical and sentiment-related categories,
- Metadata documents describing the scope, structure and processing of each dataset.

This documentation ensures methodological transparency, supports internal reproducibility and facilitates potential future archiving or secondary analysis where legally and ethically permissible.

4. Data Sharing and Re-use

CRITIC distinguishes clearly between primary textual data derived from qualitative research and secondary publicly available textual material in determining conditions of access, sharing and potential re-use.

4.1 Interviews and Focus Group Data

Interview recordings, transcripts and focus group material constitute confidential research data. Due to the politically exposed nature of several participants and the limited size of the relevant actor population, full anonymisation cannot always eliminate re-identification risks.

For this reason:

- Audio recordings will not be made publicly available.
- Full transcripts will not be deposited in open repositories.
- Data will not be shared with third parties outside the research team.

Anonymised excerpts may be used in academic publications and presentations where this does not compromise participant confidentiality. Any identifiable citation will occur only with explicit written consent.

4.2 Publicly Available Textual Data

Social media posts, official speeches, press releases and website material collected in the framework of the project originate from publicly accessible sources. These materials remain subject to the original platforms' terms of use and applicable copyright provisions.

Curated corpora created for analytical purposes may be archived after the completion of the project, provided that:

- Legal conditions allow archiving, and

- No platform restrictions prohibit redistribution.

Where redistribution is not permitted, metadata and documentation describing corpus construction, sampling criteria and analytical procedures will be made available to ensure transparency.

4.3 Methodological Documentation and Codebooks

The project's methodological outputs, including:

- Interview guides,
- Focus group discussion guidelines,
- The unified codebook combining discourse-analytical and sentiment categories,
- Metadata documentation,

will be made publicly available through the project website and, where appropriate, institutional repositories.

4.4 Embargo and Timing

In order to safeguard the project's publication strategy, any curated datasets that may be eligible for archiving will be considered for release after the completion of core research outputs. An embargo period may be applied to allow the research team to publish primary findings before broader dissemination of structured datasets.

Overall, data sharing practices are designed to balance transparency and scientific integrity with ethical responsibility and legal compliance.

5. Long-term Preservation and Responsibilities

CRITIC establishes clear procedures for the retention, preservation and eventual disposal of research data following the completion of the project.

5.1 Retention Period

Research data will be retained for a minimum period of five years after the end of the project, in accordance with institutional and funding requirements. This retention period allows for verification of published findings, potential follow-up analyses and academic auditing where necessary.

5.2 Preservation of Research Outputs

During the retention period:

- Anonymised transcripts, coded datasets and analytical documentation will remain securely stored on institutional servers.
- Methodological documentation, including the unified codebook and research instruments, will remain accessible through the project website and, where applicable, institutional repositories.

Where legally permissible and ethically appropriate, curated non-confidential datasets may be considered for longer-term archiving in an institutional repository.

5.3 Destruction of Identifiable Data

Raw data containing identifiable information, including audio recordings and consent forms, will be securely deleted after the retention period unless continued preservation is justified by ongoing research obligations or explicit participant consent.

Deletion procedures will follow institutional data security protocols to ensure permanent removal.

5.4 Responsibilities

The Principal Investigator bears overall responsibility for:

- Ensuring compliance with data protection legislation,
- Overseeing secure storage and access control,
- Approving any data sharing or archiving decisions,
- Supervising data deletion at the end of the retention period.

All research team members are responsible for adhering to the data management procedures outlined in this plan.