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TRIAL GUIDANCE METHODOLOGY

A STRUCTURED APPROACH TO
ASSESSING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS
IN CRISIS MANAGEMENT

In 2014, dedicated and forward-thinking practitioner organisations, research institutes, industries and SMEs teamed up to drive innovation in Crisis Management for European resilience. The DRIVER+ project valorises the wealth of European innovation in Crisis Management through approaches that seek to improve the way capability development is tackled and potentially innovative solutions are assessed.

DRIVER+ has committed to deliver five sustainable outputs to the European Crisis Management community: a pan-European Test-bed, a Trial Guidance Methodology, a European Crisis Management Innovation Network, a Portfolio of Solutions and a Centres of Expertise framework.



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WHAT IS IT?

Many different innovative solutions are available to address the specific needs involved in improving Crisis Management. Before investing both time and money in figuring out which solution will best meet your needs, you may want to assess them in a non-operational context, such as in a Trial. The DRIVER+ project has developed a structured methodology called the Trial Guidance Methodology (TGM) to help you do this.

The TGM consists of three distinct, but connected phases:

Preparation phase: The objective of this phase is to design your Trial. The design follows an iterative and non-linear six-step approach. It starts with the identification of the objectives and the formulation of research questions. In the Trial, you should try to address the questions through an appropriate data collection plan as well as through evaluation approaches and metrics to analyse the data collected during your Trial. To do this, realistic scenarios must be developed and solutions to be trialled must be selected to figure out if they can be innovative.

Execution phase: This phase is much more than just the actual Trial. Before getting there, you need to check if you have everything you need to gather relevant data. After checking and testing, you are ready to run your Trial.

Evaluation phase: This phase amounts to a systematic assessment of the potential added value of the solutions that were trialled. When the analysis is done, you are ready to sum up the results, providing evidence on the impact of the solutions and to disseminate the results within and beyond your community.

The TGM gives step-by-step guidelines to carry out a robust assessment of the solutions through recommendations from the preparation phase until the evaluation of the results.

To support the application of the TGM, a Training Module (TM) has been developed providing education, practice and assignments via e-learning and face-to-face workshops. Modules cover all aspects of organising a Trial and are delivered as a complete training package.

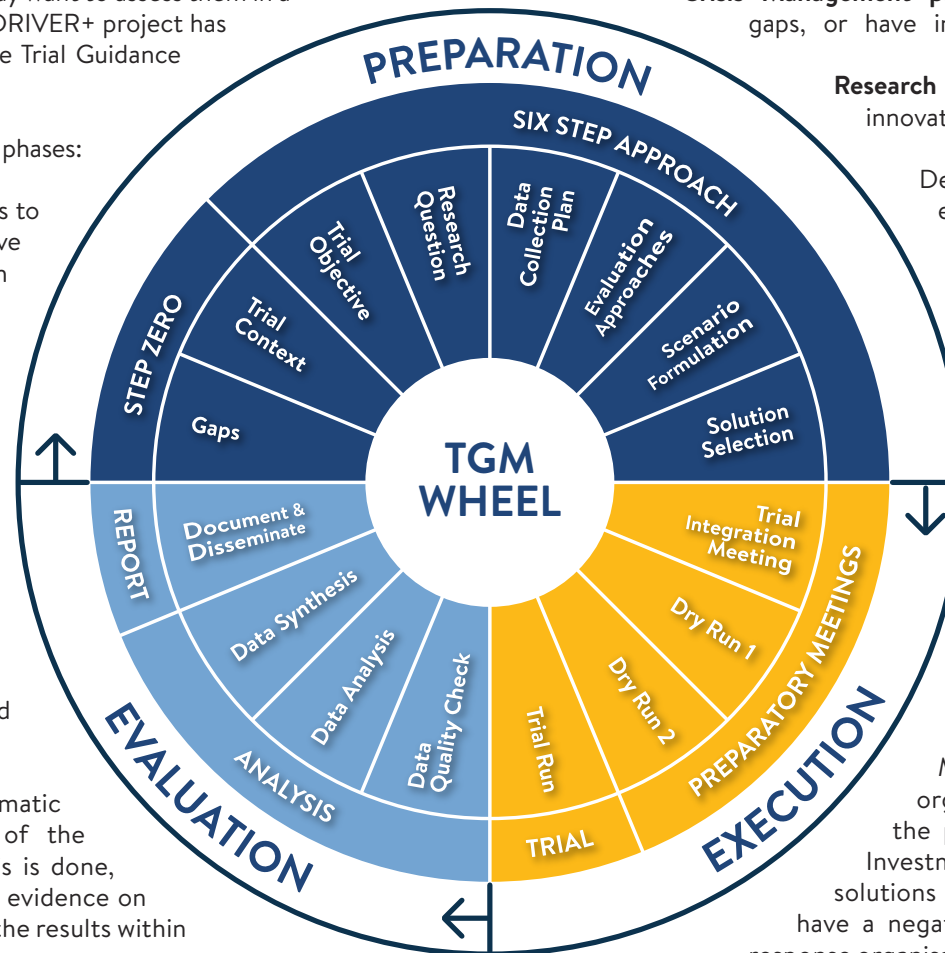
WHO IS IT FOR?

The TGM is specifically designed for:

Crisis Management practitioners who have identified one or more gaps, or have in mind solutions that can address these gaps

Research and innovation professionals, for instance at an innovation department of a Crisis Management organisation

Designing a Trial using the TGM is a collaborative effort involving various stakeholders in a co-creation process. Other interested stakeholders may include solution providers, R&D organisations, universities and consultancies.



ADDED VALUE? WHAT IS THE

With the help of the TGM, you can assess the potential impact of a change brought by a solution on the socio-technical set-up of a Crisis Management organisation. Crisis Management organisations often face difficulties in assessing the potential impact and benefits of new solutions. Investments in new, yet inappropriate, socio-technical solutions not only produce significant costs but may also have a negative impact on the operational performance of response organisations. The TGM has been co-developed and tested in various Trials with practitioner organisations, research organisations and solution providers. It has become a robust methodology to evaluate a wide range of innovative solutions.