

# POIESIS Newsletter II



poiesis  
TRUST IN SCIENCE



**How Integrity and Open  
Science affect Public  
Trust in Science**

# POIESIS ON THE SPOTLIGHT!



We are proud to announce that POIESIS was featured in an article published in the European Research Executive Agency (REA) website.

POIESIS efforts to tackle societal mistrust in science gained recognition with their inclusion along with [CDE4Peace](#), [CROWD4SDG](#), [EL-CSID](#) and our sister projects [IANUS](#) and [VERITY](#) in an [article](#) of the **European Research Executive Agency** (REA) that presents a brief overview of the Swafs and Horizon Europe projects revolving around Research for Peace, Sustainable Development and Trust In Science.

The [article](#), which was published in celebration of World Science Day for Peace and Development, serves as an additional inspiration for the POIESIS Consortium for the fascinating challenges that lie ahead.



## POIESIS 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly

The POIESIS Project 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly was held in Athens on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of May with the participation of all the projects' consortium members. There were many exciting things to discuss regarding the POIESIS Agenda such as the [projects' conceptual model](#), our ongoing and upcoming engagement events ([deliberative](#) and [expert workshops](#), [focus groups](#), [expert interviews](#) etc.) and so much more.

We are looking forward to the next steps, towards our final recommendations for tackling societal mistrust in science and for strengthening the co-creation of Research & Innovation contents by society.



## POIESIS at the 6<sup>th</sup> Nordic STS Conference



Member of the coordinating team and WP5 Leader, Dr. **Serge P.J.M. Horbach**, presented the overall work, the concept, the methodology and the current progress of the POIESIS Project at the 6<sup>th</sup> Nordic STS Conference, which was held at the TIK Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture of the University of Oslo. This is great news for POIESIS, as its progress begins to get noticed throughout the Academic community.

Click [here](#) for more information about the event.

## POIESIS at Germany's Science Communication Forum

POIESIS has been present at the [Forum Wissenschaftskommunikation 2023](#), the biggest science communication conference in Germany, held this year in Bielefeld. **Anne-Sophie Behm-Bahtat** (Wissenschaft im Dialog) presented the project in a session with two other research projects with a focus on trust in science, science communication and the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. A poster displayed during the 3 days of the conference further informed participants about POIESIS and its objectives.



## POIESIS at the XII SOPCOM Congress



**Marta Entradas, Inês C. Sousa, and Feng Ya** attended [XIII SOPCOM Congress](#) from Jan. 24 to Jan. 26, 2024. The conference took place at University of Minho, in Braga, a city in the north of Portugal.

The team presented results of the POIESIS public consultation that took place last summer in Lisbon in the session "Trust is not given, it is earned: The role of the media in public trust in science". The presentation received audience appreciations and interest, as well as comments during Q&A.

## 1<sup>st</sup> expert workshop on trust in science

On the 19th and 20th of June, the London and Berlin team jointly organised the first POIESIS' expert workshop on trust in science in Berlin which has been a great success.

The nearly 20 participants had intense and constructive discussions which will certainly lead to some common effort of reporting on the results of the workshop



The workshop had two parts: the debate about how trust in science is measured very concretely in various national and international surveys and what results the different measures produce, animated by numerous experts involved in the realisation of such surveys; on the other hand, a more conceptual discussion about the very meaning of "trust in science" and its different dimensions with input from experts with a more theoretical perspective on the topic.



# A trip to POIESIS public deliberation workshops

## Greece

The 1<sup>st</sup> Public Deliberative Workshop of POIESIS was held in Athens on May 13<sup>th</sup>. 32 people of various professions and social backgrounds discussed for more than 4 hours about issues of trust in science, research integrity, citizen integration on the research process and many more!



## Denmark

The Danish POIESIS workshop successfully took place, on Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup> and we had a great experience! The participants were very engaged, and we had really interesting, informative and nuanced discussions in all four groups. Importantly, there was a really nice atmosphere, a lot of talk and laughs and participants expressed that it had been very valuable and interesting for them to participate.

## Portugal

The 3<sup>rd</sup> POIESIS Public Deliberative Workshop attracted 24, in the afternoon on 3<sup>rd</sup> of June, at ISCTE. Participants were super engaged in the discussions, all talked and shared their views, and in the end, they reported to us having a very lovely and enjoyable afternoon. Both the coffee break and drink reception were excellent moments for people to get to know each other. The drink reception (with Porto wine), lasted until 8pm, as people kept talking to each other...



## Germany

The Berlin public deliberative workshop, called Bürger\*innen-Dialog in German, successfully took place on a hot Friday afternoon on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June. Even with a somewhat smaller group of participants (15 in total), we had great and fruitful discussions based on our material but also covering the topics of trust in science, research integrity and public participation from a much larger perspective.

# A trip to POIESIS public deliberation workshops



## Spain



The Valencia Public Deliberative Workshop was held on June 22<sup>nd</sup> by the CSIC team. The 20 participants spent the day discussing around the Covid-19 pandemic, the climate change and how those affect trust in science in general. POIESIS consortium members Richard Wooley and Irene Monsonís Payá organised, managed and led the event extremely effectively and efficiently.

## United Kingdom



The London team organised public deliberations in the Marchmont Citizen Centre located in Central London, where 42 participants engaged in discussions about trust in science. Participants witnessed diversity in their 'distance from science', which reflected in the way they think and talk about 'trust in science', in general and in relation to Climate Change and the Covid19 pandemic.



## France



The European journey of the POIESIS Public Deliberative Workshops ended on July 7<sup>th</sup> in Paris. The Workshop was held at the Maison de la recherche of the Sorbonne University. Despite the limited number of participants, the workshop went very well, with very interesting and rich discussions and the empirical cases helped decisively in that purpose.

This was the last stop of a fascinating journey throughout seven great European cities, where people interacted and discussed about topics regarding trust in science, research integrity, citizen science issues and a lot of more at the face of the climate change crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic.



# POIESIS PUBLIC DELIBERATION WORKSHOPS MAIN FINDINGS



## How do those affect public trust in Science?

- Integrity appears to be less relevant for developing trust in science than other aspects such as communication. However, lack of transparency in how the scientific process is conducted by researchers can lead to distrusting science.
- Scientific self-control mechanisms, such as peer-review, and open science practices can contribute to more trust in science.



## Public integration in science

- Public integration in research was identified as a key factor to fostering trust in science; by educating society about scientific activities and making people feel they can contribute to scientific advancement. It also helps scientists to develop science that is socially relevant, meeting people's needs in daily lives.
- On the contrary, a perceived lack of expertise of the general public and concealed agendas when involving the public were clearly seen as capable of hindering public trust in science



To learn more about the findings of this exciting trip download the Deliverable D2.2 [here](#).

## Participants awareness and concerns

- In several PDWs, integrity was discussed superficially and cases of lack of integrity were considered an exception to the norm.
- Participants' main concerns were conflicts of interest, principally the influence of political power or private industry. In this sense, they would expect scientific institutions, peers, and media to act as watchdogs to reveal cases of bad practices.



## Science Communication and bad practices

- Science communication was considered a factor for trusting science when recognised professionals who provide supporting evidence for their claims use trusted traditional channels.
- In participants' view, there does not seem to be a hierarchy of bad practices, and they all affect the credibility of science.

