

POIESIS Newsletter I



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TRUST IN SCIENCE



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

THE PROJECT



POIESIS is a 3-year (September 2022-August 2025) EU-funded project that brings together a multi-national and transdisciplinary consortium composed of seven research performing organizations that come from seven different European countries, co-ordinated by the Aarhus University.



- Aarhus Universitet 
- Wissenschaft Im Dialog 
- National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) 
- Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (ISCTE) 
- Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) 
- Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de la Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) 
- London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) 



MAIN OBJECTIVES

Understand how, and to what extent, societal trust in science, research, and innovation is affected a) by the aligning of research practices with principles of research integrity and b) by the integration of citizens and societal stakeholders in different phases of the research cycle.



Understand how institutions, particularly Research Performing Organizations (RPOs) and Research funding Organizations (RFOs), can foster research practices that are, in turn, conducive to enhancing public trust in science.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

We will pursue our objectives by answering the following research questions:

- **RQ1:** How can the nature and scale of public trust and mistrust in science be characterised and which are the factors that affect the relationship?
- **RQ2:** To what extent and how does the alignment of research practices with principles of research integrity (or, conversely, scientific misconduct, questionable research practices, poor or absent science communication, and/or misinformation) impact public trust in science?



- **RQ3:** To what extent and how does the integration of citizens and societal stakeholders in research practices (or, conversely, lack of co-creation and open science practices) impact public trust in science?
- **RQ4:** To what extent and how can institutions provide policies and procedures that enable researchers to act in ways that are conducive to public trust in science?


METHODOLOGY




POIESIS introduces the “**integrity, integration, and institutions for trust**” (3i4t) model, a novel theoretical approach which integrates the individual and institutional levels and emphasizes the chains of mediation between the two. Crucially, we will examine the interrelatedness of these concepts as well as the conditioning of these interrelations by institutions. We consider integrity and integration as broad concepts facilitated by institutions, which through chains of mediation affect public trust in science.

OUR ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES


To test this model into practice POIESIS will host 7 types of events characterised by a strong co-creational focus, across the 7 consortium countries involving 7 different types of stakeholders: Mediating Actors, Researchers, Research leaders and managers in Research Performing Organisations, Research Integrity Officers, Research & Innovation policy makers, Research Funding Organisations, and the general public).




7 Public Workshops will take place from May until July 2023, one in each consortium country, involving more than 160 lay people of different social and cultural backgrounds.




3 Focus Groups will be held in each consortium country. These activities aim to examine how institutions can foster research practices that ultimately contribute to public trust in science gathering participants that either work with research integrity or societal integration at their institutions.



A **Survey Experiment** that will build on the indicators of public trust in science, to investigate how research practices influence trust in science among societies. It concerns the general public and aims to validate survey instruments and produce a large amount of empirical data.



3 Expert Workshops will be conducted in Berlin and Lisbon. These workshops will involve an international group of academics and other professionals with extensive knowledge about indicator development in the areas of concern for POIESIS.




A total of **112 Expert Interviews** with Researchers and Science Communicators (Mediating Actors, according to the terminology of POIESIS' 3i4t model) will be conducted across all the consortium countries (16 in each country).



7 Open Deliberative Roundtable Workshops will take place, one in each consortium country, by selecting 20 people in each country from the pool of experts that will participate in the Focus Groups.

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+ The results of all these research activities will be funnelled at the **POIESIS Final Scenario Workshop** which will be conducted in the summer of 2025 in Brussels.



Participants from the national-level research activities and Research Policy Makers will be consulted to develop the POIESIS policy recommendations.

These recommendations aim to tackle societal mistrust in science and to strengthen the co-creation of Research & Innovation contents by society.

POIESIS KICK-OFF MEETING



POIESIS in motion! The project's Kick off Meeting was held in Aarhus University on 8th and 9th of September. For the next three years, we will be exploring ways to cultivate trust in science!

