



POIESIS RECOMMENDED ACTION POINTS FOR RESEARCH FUNDING ORGANISATIONS (RFOs)

While POIESIS reaffirms that there is no crisis of trust in science, it also highlights areas where the science–society relationship faces challenges. The nine [final recommendations](#) of POIESIS aim to provide guidance on sustaining current initiatives that bolster trust and trustworthiness, while also addressing existing challenges and further strengthening the science-society relationship. All recommendations are accompanied by targeted actions for key stakeholders, and none of the recommendations are the sole responsibility of a single actor nor are they the product of shortcomings that are solely the fault of science nor society. Improving research integrity and societal integration in science has reasons beyond building trust, and lack of trust or skepticism towards science is not by definition problematic. However, **POIESIS provides a firmer understanding of how integrity, integration, and trust are connected, and provides directions for how challenges to these relationships can be addressed** in future research and science policy.

In particular, the POIESIS recommendations highlight how European and national policymakers, research performing organisations, research funding organisations, researchers, and mediators can work to maintain trust in science and address current and future challenges. These recommendations address the three core areas of research integrity, societal integration in science, and science communication, and build directly on the findings of the POIESIS project to provide robust empirically founded recommendations. Furthermore, **all recommendations are accompanied by specific actions for relevant stakeholders, who are to be pivotal in ensuring societal trust in science**. In the following pages you may find the actions recommended to Research Funding Organisations (RFOs) per each of the nine recommendations.



Research Integrity and the Organisation of Science

Recommendation 1

Align Principles and Practices of Research Integrity

Recommendation 2

Ensure Transparency in Collaboration with External Interests

Recommendation 3

Recognize and Mitigate the Politicisation of Science

Actions for Research Funding Organisations (RFOs)

- ✓ Implement clear and updated guidelines, codes of conduct and promote shared research integrity standards across European countries, institutions and funding organisations while taking contextual factors into account.
- ✓ Encourage research and funding institutions to commit to the CoARA principles. Promote the use of qualitative indicators of integrity-related contributions such as responsible mentoring, ethical leadership in collaborative projects, FAIR data production, public engagement, and responsible science communication.
- ✓ Require statements on research integrity considerations in grant proposals and project reporting to ensure that research integrity is considered, implemented and monitored.
- ✓ Support the sharing of best practices for fostering responsible research, with a focus on effective dissemination, meaningful collaboration, and avoiding superficial 'tick-box' approaches.
- ✓ Support the appointment of dedicated integrity and ethics officers in research institutions.

- ✓ Secure transparency in funding and cooperation agreements.
- ✓ Implement quality and legal advice mechanisms to support researchers navigate collaborations with external parties.
- ✓ Ensure funding programmes that are explicitly insulated from partisan or interest-driven agendas, supporting open-ended research outcomes that are not dominated by the policy interests of current governing bodies.
- ✓ Support the development of a public discourse around research funding and collaboration with societal interests.

- ✓ Commit to promoting and protecting the principles and practices of freedom of research to ensure the independence of research, innovation, teaching, and communication from external influences.
- ✓ Promote the adoption of shared institutional guidelines to create protective environments for researchers and safeguard freedom of research, particularly in highly politicized areas of research.
- ✓ Launch a collaborative thematic initiative among public and private research foundations to examine their role and influence in safeguarding freedom of research and to identify potential support mechanisms.

Societal Integration and Public Engagement in Science



Recommendation 4

Align Public Engagement Activities with Societal and Scientific Demands

Recommendation 5

Nurture Public Engagement Competences

Recommendation 6

Prioritise Infrastructure for Effective Science-society Interaction

Actions for Research Funding Organisations (RFOs)

- ✓ Differentiate efforts and demands across areas of research to align with scientific and societal needs.
- ✓ Dissemination, dialogue and engagement efforts should be justified by their relevance for both research, society, and democracy.
- ✓ Work for public outreach and facilitate dissemination, discussion, and engagement with the general public, prioritizing both scientific and societal discussions.
- ✓ Provide guidance and guidelines for researchers who apply for and receive funding for public engagement.

- ✓ Encourage public involvement in early stages of research, to facilitate mutual learning and effective public engagement.
- ✓ Provide funding for building competence within public engagement and other forms of societal integration within research projects.

- ✓ Prioritise and incentivise public engagement research and public engagement activities in and outside research institutions.
- ✓ Ensure support for implementing and developing public engagement, to continually develop practice and ensure that engagement does not become a mere byproduct.
- ✓ Work to establish and maintain networks in and across institutions to facilitate the development, sharing, and maintenance of expertise on engagement.
- ✓ Provide resources for implementing public engagement initiatives and infrastructure through cross-contextual cooperation and learning.
- ✓ Ensure that lessons learned are channeled between national and institutional contexts in networks and research collaboration.



Science Communication and Chains of Mediation

Recommendation 7
Foster Context-sensitive Science Communication

Recommendation 8
Enhance Awareness of the Nature and Principles of Science

Recommendation 9
Adapt to Changing Communication Landscapes

Actions for Research Funding Organisations (RFOs)

- ✓ Be attentive to science communication as a societally impactful outcome of research and facilitate and incentivise these activities.
- ✓ Support the establishment and maintenance of science communication spaces and organisations and emphasise the importance of both deliberation and dissemination.
- ✓ Push to increase diversity in science communication and science communication audiences in terms of individuals, venues, and formats.
- ✓ Ensure that the results of research are available to broader society and relevant stakeholders in a format they find useful.
- ✓ Work cross-institutionally to facilitate cooperation of science communication, education, and science debates.

- ✓ Produce and maintain codes of conduct for science communication to ensure that these follow best practices and align with societal and scientific needs.
- ✓ Prioritize understanding of not only the results but also the methods and nature of science in science education and science communication efforts.

