

POIESIS RECOMMENDED ACTION POINTS FOR RESEARCHERS

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 Researchers 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

Recognise and Mitigate the Politicisation of Science

Actions for Researchers

- ✓ Be committed to transparently assessing and communicating the credibility of scientific information, including instances of irresponsible practices, to help demonstrate the integrity and accountability of the scientific system.
- ✓ Incorporate research integrity in awareness raising, capacity building and training activities of students at all levels, e.g. in science communication and methods training.
- ✓ Ensure familiarity with established research integrity and ethics policies, principles, and codes of conduct within the relevant field, and commit to actively implementing and promoting these principles and practices.

- ✓ Ensure that the arm's-length principle is upheld to enable independent decisions and to avoid any doubt about individual integrity, independence, and impartiality.
- ✓ Establish clear agreements outlining the division of responsibilities and decision-making authority within each collaboration and ensure that these agreements are aligned with the nature of the collaboration (e.g. research- based public sector consultancy, co-funded research, etc.).
- ✓ Transparently and responsibly disclose funding sources and any interest- driven aspects of work and research to ensure independence from external influences, including political pressures. These principles should also guide science mediation and communication practices.
- ✓ Promote transparency and strengthen self-regulation mechanisms in science communication, ensuring that communication is guided by integrity, independence, and disclosure of conflicts of interest.

- ✓ Ensure close attention is given to how science is represented, and how scientific information is verified, received, and used.
- ✓ Contribute to clarifying the distinct roles of science and politics in society to foster greater coherence in their interaction.
- ✓ Acknowledge and display transparency regarding the limits of individual expertise, and clearly communicate the capacity in which a viewpoint is presented, for instance as a subject-matter expert, private individual, or specific advocate.



Societal Integration and Public Engagement in Science

Recommendation 4
Align Public Engagement Activities with Societal and Scientific Demands

Recommendation 5
Nurture Public Engagement Competences

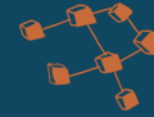
Recommendation 6
Prioritise Infrastructure for Effective Science-society Interaction

Actions for Researchers

- ✓ Ensure that the aims and demands of public engagement are transparent and avoid creating expectations that cannot or will not be fulfilled.
- ✓ Ensure that inclusion of the public is open to different perspectives and demands. Do not mistake critique for anti-scientific sentiments.
- ✓ Be open to public concerns and priorities both when designing, performing, disseminating, and discussing research.
- ✓ Be aware that engagement efforts are sensitive to both scientific and societal interests and respect that engagement and participation provide resources for science.
- ✓ Be honest about the aims of engagement and the expectations of participants.

- ✓ Have accessibility and mutual understanding in mind when engaging society and continually work to improve mutual understanding.
- ✓ Work to improve the reach of public engagement beyond groups already proximate to science.





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 Researchers

- ✓ Be aware that the aspects of research that are most salient for science and society are not necessarily the same and be willing to engage with questions and concerns that arise from public debate.
- ✓ Engage with the public in their preferred spaces, to learn, understand and frame communication in ways that will be accessible and attractive to audiences.

- ✓ Demand the same rigour of communication aimed at the public and stakeholders as towards the scientific community.
- ✓ When communicating science, ensure that limitations and uncertainties are included as a routine part of science communication.
- ✓ Be aware that the concept of science is understood differently within and between science and society. Do not assume shared understandings when communicating.

- ✓ Ensure that emerging forms of science communication and communicators are involved in the debate on science communication.
- ✓ Include public perspectives in communicating science, broadening ownership over scientific knowledge and the public debate and interactions about science.
- ✓ Harness new communication channels to improve and diversify public outreach when possible and meaningful.