Probing the impact of integrity and integration on societal trust in science

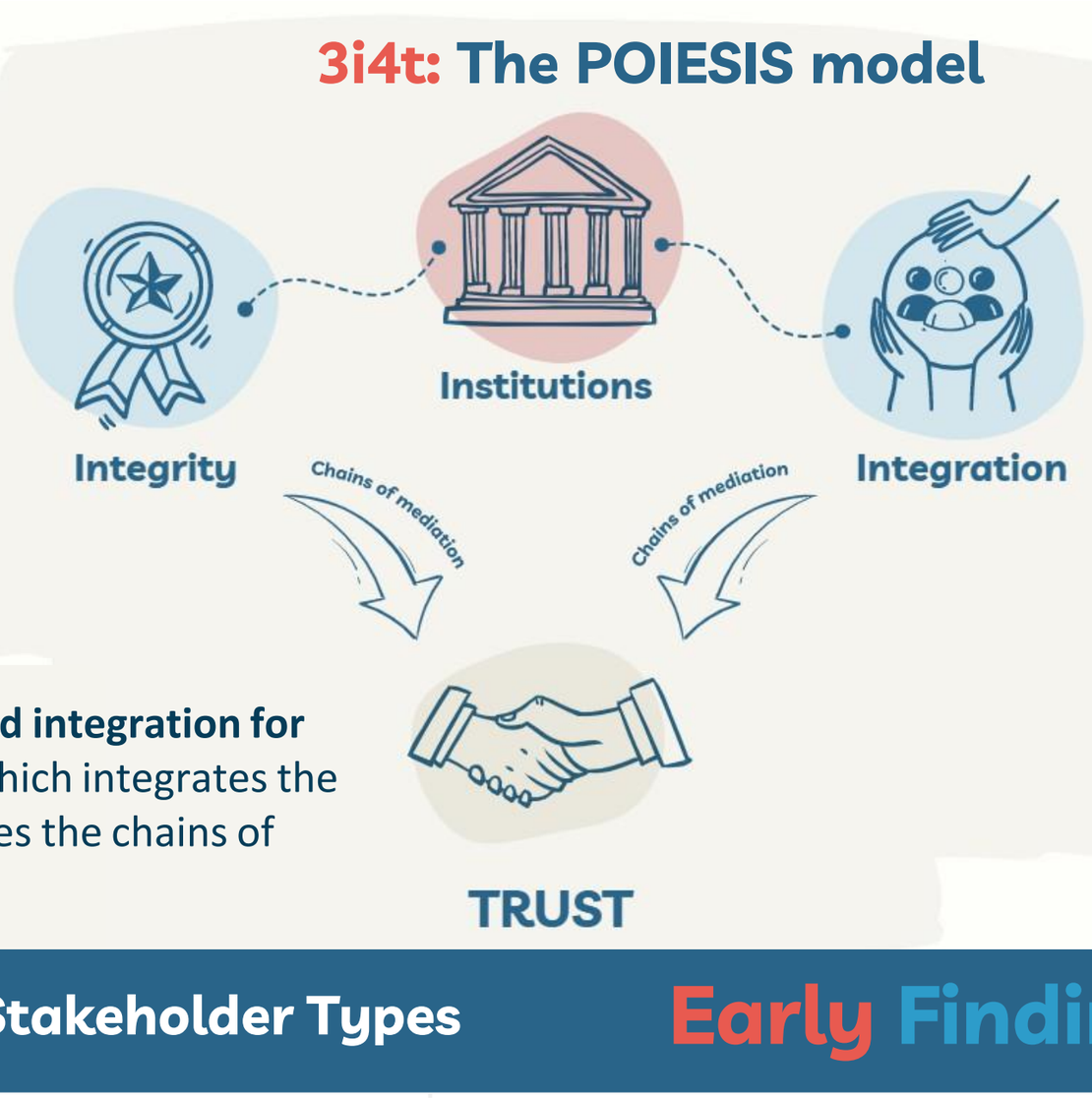
The Mission

The POIESIS project has set out to systematically develop a knowledge base about trust in science, including detailed examination of how patterns of trust relate to (i) the alignment of research practices with fundamental principles of research integrity; and (ii) the integration of citizens and societal actors in research practices.

Three basic assumptions that POIESIS puts to the test

1. Trust depends on scientists' capacity to demonstrate **high standards of research integrity**
2. **Citizen and civil society's involvement** in co-creating research agendas and contents strengthens trust
3. **Institutions can foster** integrity and societal integration by enabling and supporting researchers to act responsibly

3i4t: The POIESIS model



POIESIS introduces the "**institutions, integrity, and integration for trust**" (3i4t) model, a novel theoretical approach which integrates the individual and institutional levels and emphasizes the chains of mediation between the two.

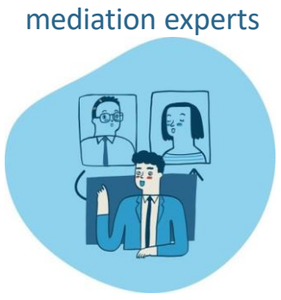
Seven Types of Engagement

7 Public Workshops in 7 countries, 160 people

3 Focus Groups per country, more than 120 researchers and mediators

3 Workshops more than 40 research and mediators

16 Interviews in each country on 112 research and mediation experts



A large Survey Experiment with 100s of people from 7 countries

7 Roundtable Workshops with 20 researchers and mediators

Final Scenario Workshop with Research Policy Makers

The Workshop will implement POIESIS final recommendations for Tackling Societal Mistrust in Science

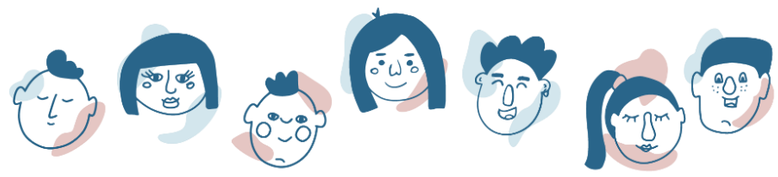
Seven Stakeholder Types

POIESIS deliverables

Early Findings

Public Workshops

- Conflicts of political and private interests were the main concern regarding research integrity
- Integrity appears to be less relevant for developing trust in science than other aspects such as communication
- Science communication is considered a factor for trusting science when recognised professionals, who provide supporting evidence for their claims, use trusted traditional channels
- There does not seem to be a hierarchy of bad practices; they all affect the credibility of science
- Public integration in research is a key factor to fostering trust in science, and in helping scientists to develop socially relevant science
- A perceived lack of expertise of the public and concealed agendas were clearly seen as a negative factor concerning public integration



Focus Groups

- There is no general crisis in trust in science; however, increasing and complex challenges related to trust between science and society were identified
- Questionable or detrimental research practices, irresponsible science communication, "disruptors", and the influence of private and political interests are some of the main factors contributing to these challenges
- Participants were relatively divided on the effects of public engagement in science but agreed that fostering a culture of participation requires a mobilisation of all actors in the 'chain of mediation'

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