PERITIA – Policy, Expertise and Trust in Action

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PERITIA
Policy, Expertise and Trust

Work Package Leaders
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Advisory Board
Prof Onora O'Neill (Cambridge), Prof Susan Owens (Cambridge), Prof Judith Simon (University of Hamburg), Prof Dan Sperber (CNRS), Prof Christiane Woopen (University of Cologne), Prof Göran Hermerén (Lund University), Prof David Farrell (University College Dublin), Prof Heather Douglas (Michigan State University), Prof Stephan Lewandowsky (University of Bristol), Prof Stathis Psillos (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)

peritia-trust.eu

About

PERITIA (2020-2023) was a 40-month Horizon 2020 project that brought together a multidisciplinary consortium of 11 partner institutions from 9 European countries to investigate the level and conditions of public trust in expert advice on policy matters.

Objective

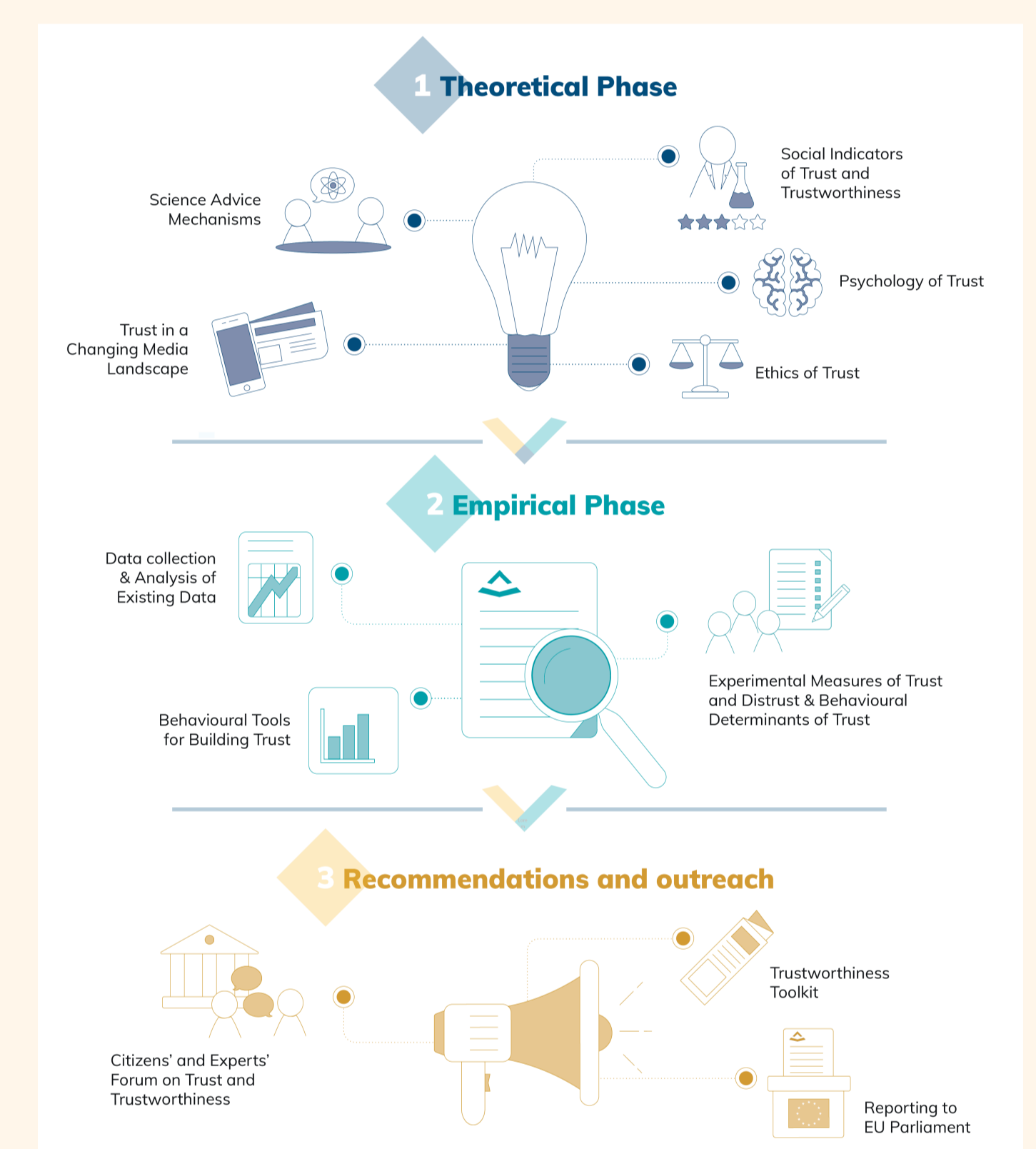Understanding and fostering trust in experts and expertise in the public domain

VISIBILITY
INFLUENCE
POSITION
REPUTATION
SCIENTIFIC CONSENSUS

Research plan

The project was carried out in three phases, each with specific methodologies and outcomes.

Phase 1 carried out multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research on the philosophical, ethical, psychological and social underpinning of social trust in experts.

Phase 2 tested the theoretical conclusions of phase 1 through a large-scale survey on the levels and indicators of trust in experts across seven European countries. This was followed by an investigation of key indicators of trust and trustworthiness of experts through online experiments.

Phase 3 aimed to reach citizens directly by engaging in and learning from activities that can enhance legitimate trust in experts. These included deliberative mini publics in five capital cities, an essay competition for young Europeans, online data dashboard, toolkit and podcasts.

Selected outputs

Research snapshot: 23 peer reviewed articles, 6 journal issues, 4 books, 2 literature reviews, 2 podcast series, data from a major European survey, 3 international conferences and 10 workshops.
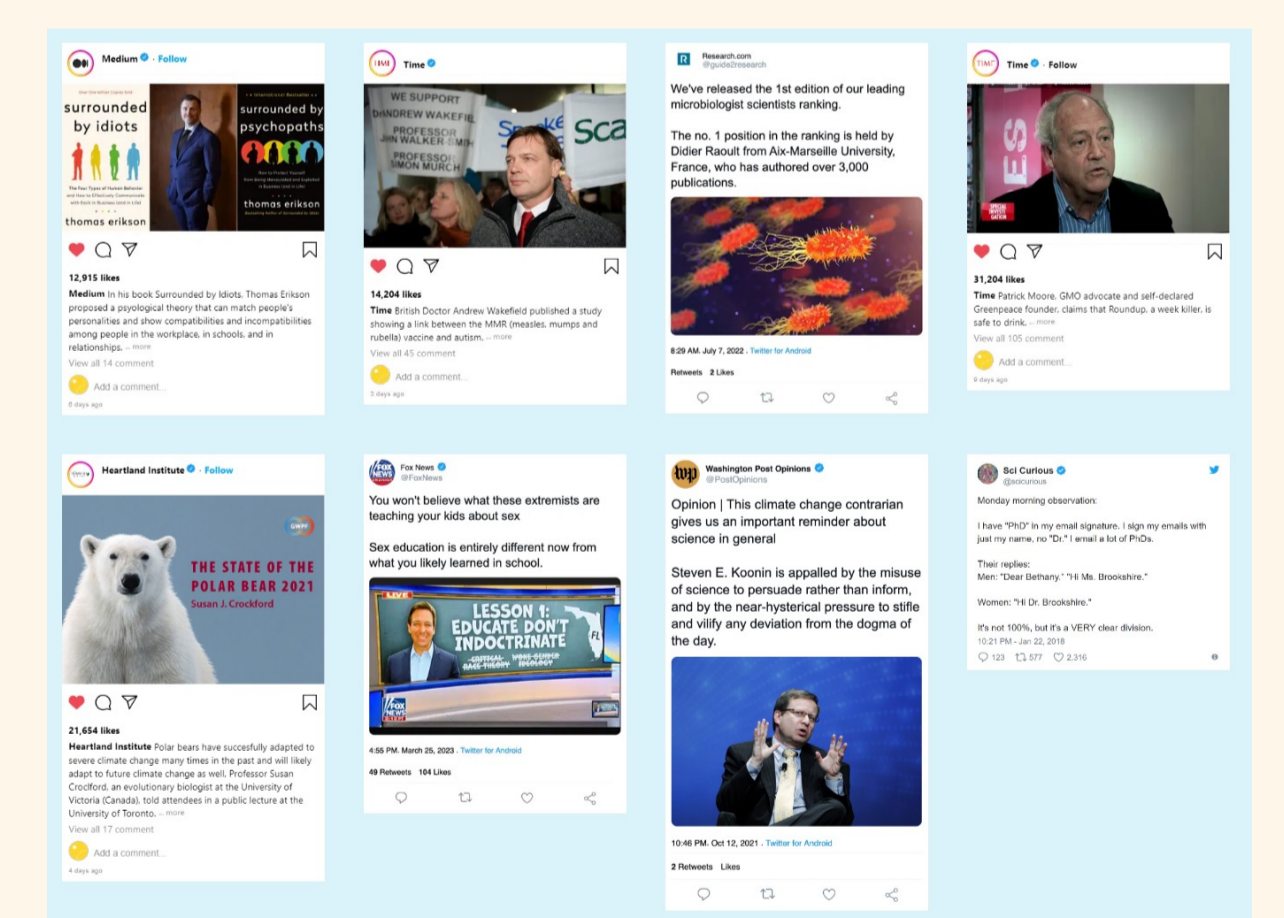
Deliberative Mini Publics:
• Working paper and Guidelines on Holding Citizens' Fora in 5 Capital Cities
• Policy brief on Uses of Deliberative Mini Publics for Restoring Trust and Ensuring Trustworthiness
• Report to the European Parliament on the Activities and Results of the Citizens' Fora

Trustworthiness Toolkit: simple tests and guidance to help citizens better gauge the trustworthiness of experts. Designed to be accessible to everyone, regardless of their technical expertise, including secondary school students.

Trust Hub: an interactive space with data from social surveys on public trust in individuals and institutions central to public policy, with a particular focus on Europe. Data collected and prepared by the Policy Institute at KCL.

The Trust Race Podcast: 6-part series exploring the scandals and controversies that have impacted our trust in science through conversations with journalists, scientists, philosophers, lawyers, and activists.

THE TRUST RACE