

Public Attitudes and Trust in Europe – Analysing Country Level Differences

PERITIA EVENT

Berlin or online, 20 June 2022

PERITIA invites you to the **presentation of survey results on public attitudes towards national governments, science, and media** across six European countries: Germany, the UK, Ireland, Poland, Italy, and Norway. Participants are invited to discuss what the collected data tells us about how people relate to science and scientific experts, with a special focus on the **Covid-19 pandemic** and **climate research**.

[Register](#)

Check out some of the PERITIA Survey Results Before the Event

"Across both the UK and other European countries included in this study, there is a stubborn minority who still question not only the scientific consensus on vaccine safety but also government reporting of Covid deaths, while around one in six still believe the debunked conspiracy theory of a link between 5G and coronavirus."

-Bobby Duffy, Director of The Policy Institute, King's College London

Seven in Ten People Think That Nearly all Scientists Agree That Vaccines Are Safe

There is no full agreement on the safety of vaccines across six European countries, even though the World Health Organisation agrees that vaccines are safe and closely monitors their safety. Around 20% people think it is false that nearly all scientists agree vaccines are safe, while 11% say they don't know. 69% of people think that nearly all scientists agree. [Read more](#)

Protecting own Reputation Seen as Motivating Governments' Covid Responses

When it comes to Covid-19, a majority of people think their government is motivated by building or protecting its own reputation (70%) and making lots of money (60%) in relation to the pandemic. Scientists fare much better than the government in terms of how their motivations and performance are perceived by the public. [Read more](#)

Negative Feelings towards Government Are Highest in Poland and UK

Negative feelings about national governments and the European Commission are stronger than positive ones among six surveyed European countries and stand in contrast to the positive feelings expressed towards scientists. In Poland six in ten people feel negatively towards their government while the UK is the country where most people say the government ignores rules and procedures (62%). [Read more](#)

News from PERITIA

Why Trust Dr Didier Raoult? New PERITIA Research Article

A paper published in the journal Social Epistemology by PERITIA researchers **Ty Branch**, **Gloria Origi** and **Tiffany Morisseau** examines the rise to fame of Dr Didier Raoult, a French microbiologist, and his claims regarding the effectiveness of hydroxychloroquine as a treatment for Covid-19. [Read more](#)

Deplatformization, Platform Governance and Global Geopolitics - An Interview with José van Dijck

Our PERITIA colleague José van Dijck (Utrecht University) was interviewed in the journal 'Communication and the Public'. In this academic dialogue, she argues that public values and public institutions should play a more active role in digital platform governance in Europe. [Read more](#)

Youth on Trust Awards Finalists Announced

We are happy to share the finalists of the European student competition [Youth on Trust Awards](#). The initiative invited students from across Europe to share their views in a forum where their voices can be heard on the topic of trust in our social and political life. The winners of each category will be announced in Berlin on 20 June at 14:00 CEST during the event ['Public Attitudes and Trust in Europe – Analysing Country Level Differences'](#).

[Read more](#)

Events

Watch the Keynotes of 'The Ethics of Trust and Expertise' Conference

On 31 May-2 June, international scholars joined in Yerevan for the PERITIA conference 'The Ethics of Trust and Expertise', organised by our partners, the American University of

Armenia (AUA) and the University College Dublin (UCD). Keynote speakers included **Åsa Wikforss** (University of Stockholm), **Paul Boghossian** (NYU) and **Lynne Tirrell** (University of Connecticut). [Watch their keynotes online.](#)

[Watch Now](#)

Recordings of the PERITIA Workshop 'How to Address an Infodemic' Available

Watch the presentations of the PERITIA workshop 'How to Address an Infodemic: Experiments on (Dis)Information' held in London on 28 April. The event was led by PERITIA members Carlo Martini (UniSR - Milan) as programme organiser and Liam Delaney (LSE, London) and Bobby Duffy (The Policy Institute - King's College London) as local organisers.

[Watch Now](#)

Behind the Scenes

Meet our partner!

The **Institut Jean Nicod** is a multidisciplinary CNRS (French National Center for Scientific Research) research unit created in 2002, with two university-level affiliations: the Ecole normale supérieure (ENS) and the Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS). The laboratory hosts around one hundred members, of whom half are doctoral students, the other half includes about fifteen researchers attached to the CNRS, along with teacher-researchers and post-doctoral associates. The [epistemic norms group at the Institut Nicod, directed by Gloria Origgi](#), studies knowledge and epistemic norms from the twofold perspective of cognitive science (Proust) and social epistemology (Bouvier, Origgi). Among the topics under study are: the nature of knowledge and its properties; metacognition and epistemic introspection; the role of argumentation and rhetorics in the shaping of collective beliefs; epistemic authority, reputation, and the control of legitimacy on information sources.

Our Science Communication Corner

A Manifesto for Science Communication as Collective Intelligence

How can collective intelligence help science communication? The project SciBeh has launched a manifesto to harness the knowledge of a diverse group of researchers to improve science communication. [Learn more](#)

Did You Know...?

Interest in news has declined in many countries while trust in news has fallen back almost everywhere

According to a Reuters Institute Digital News report released this week, an increasing percentage of people is avoiding the news in many countries. **The number of avoiders has doubled in countries like Brazil or the UK over five years.** A majority (43%) say they avoid the news because they are put off by the repetitiveness of the news agenda, especially around politics and COVID-19. 36% say that the news brings down their mood and 17% say the news leads to arguments they would rather avoid. [Learn more](#)

Proudly a Horizon 2020 Research Project

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 870883. The information and opinions on this website and other communications materials are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Commission.



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