



## TRUST IN SCIENCE

Trust in experts is not a given. In crisis situations, scientists' credibility can become contested. From one day to another, scientists can suddenly become public figures, the targets of blame and abuse, and can inadvertently make controversies worse. In the age of misinformation, and when trust in experts is low, dangerous beliefs can spread across society like wildfire. The trustworthiness of scientists and trust in science should not be taken for granted. This simulation brings these challenges to life in a fictional scenario. How can trust in science be safeguarded? How can it be restored? The **Climate Science Crisis Simulation** demonstrates how such questions can be answered by a range of policy options and worldviews.



## BENEFITS

Learn about the relationship between democracy and trust in expertise.

Witness the complexity of trust and plurality of views within science.

Develop an awareness of the risks and outcomes of this collapsing trust.

Gain insight into the policies that can protect and restore trust in expertise.



## THE STORY

The simulation is set in 2030, in an alternative world similar to our own. In this world, the Pangean Union faces a protracted crisis of trust in climate science and expertise. The crisis is triggered by a whistleblower's revelations and allegations about a solar geoengineering operation. Through ensuing misinformation spreading across the Pangean Union, failed attempts by scientists to reassure the public, and further revelations, the controversy reaches epic proportions.

## FOR WHOM?

The simulation is an experiential crash course in science-policy interactions and trust in science. It can also stimulate creative and precise thinking around policies and actions related to science for policy and policy for science. This simulation might be of interest, amongst others, to:

- Science-policy organisations and professionals**
- National and international policy officials**
- Organisations working on trust and misinformation**
- University lecturers**
- Early-career researchers**

## THE ROLES

Simulation participants take part in the fictional Regain Trust Conference to discuss policies and measures to address the damages caused by the solar geoengineering controversy and - more importantly - to prevent future crises of trust in expertise. They take on a variety of roles - from scientists to decision makers and lobbyists - with unique perspectives and nuances.

## FACE-TO-FACE WORKSHOPS

During the face-to-face workshops participants use their phones or tablets. They connect via the internet with a mobile version of the simulation platform, where they receive emails from supervisors and lobbyists, and can suggest and vote on policies. A fully online version of the workshop using a computer browser can be developed. If you're interested in making that happen, please get in touch.

The Climate Science Crisis Simulation was funded by the PERITIA project, and co-designed with PERITIA partners for the project's closing event 'Research Insights for European Policymaking' held in May 2023 at the European Parliament's InfoHub in Brussels. The event was co-hosted by the European Parliament's Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA) and the European Science-Media Hub.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 870883.