

## **Deliverable No. D7.2**

### **H – Requirement No. 9**

Project acronym:

**PERFORM**

Project Title:

**Participatory Engagement with Scientific and Technological Research through Performance**

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## **1. SUMMARY**

This deliverable meets the Ethics requirement No. 9 of Table 1.4 in the Grant Agreement Annex 1 corresponding to providing details on the procedures and criteria that will be used to identify and recruit research participants before the commencement of the relevant part of the research (February 2016). In what follows, a detailed explanation on the procedures and criteria to select participant schools, students, teachers and early career researchers is provided. This deliverable has been elaborated by the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) as the institution coordinating PERFORM, , and by the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) as the institution that will centralise data collection and storage during the lifetime of the research project, which is also responsible for impact assessment (WP4 leader).

## 2. PARTICIPANTS IDENTIFICATION

The research will be developed under the supervision of the UAB's Ethics Commission for Human and Animal experimentation (CEEAH) – an independent organism appointed by the Council of the UAB, which will centralize data collection and storage during the lifetime of PERFORM. CEEAH members do not have any conflict of interests when making their deliberations- and comply with relevant EU legislations (i.e., the European Charter of Fundamentals Rights).

Participants' involvement in the PERFORM project will be strictly voluntary, and they will have the right to choose not to participate or to withdraw at any point.

The three PERFORM partners coordinating case-studies in Spain, France and United Kingdom (The Big Van Theory-TBVT, Les Atomes Crochus-LAC and Science Made Simple-SMS, respectively) will use purposive sampling to select four secondary schools as participants along the entire project from a list of schools with which they have previously collaborated or can potentially collaborate based on their previous expertise. The selection criteria will be only based on ensuring socio-economic variability for comparison purposes (i.e., two secondary schools from low socio-economic contexts and two secondary schools from medium socio-economic contexts).

Additionally, the three case-study coordinators will invite another 10 to 16 different secondary schools in each case study (from low and medium socio-economic contexts preferably) to participate in the last activities of Task 2.1. Specifically, case-study coordinators will test science education activities based on performing arts developed in initial activities of Task 2.1. These secondary schools will be randomly selected from the UNESCO's network of associated schools (ASPnet) in each country to ensure their interest in the project. Case-study coordinators will elaborate a list including the desired number of schools plus replacements.

In each school, the participation of groups of students will be collectively agreed by the school principal, teachers and the correspondent PERFORM case-study coordinator according to the research purposes in each stage of the project.

PERFORM will also work with teachers from selected schools and interested early career researchers from PERFORM universities and organizations and associated research centres whose participation will be voluntary. Case-study coordinators will identify interested teachers and their involvement will be agreed by the school. Case-study coordinators will also identify 2-4 early career researchers whose research is related to the topics selected by the students in each school.

### **3. PARTICIPANTS RECRUITMENT**

In all cases, we will use informed consent to recruit participant (see Annex 1 and Annex 2).

#### **3.1 STUDENTS**

PERFORM will work directly with secondary school students who are underage and thus considered persons unable to give informed consent to participate in the research as well as vulnerable individuals. In order to meet the EU and national legal and ethical requirements (i.e., EU Charter of Fundamental Rights) of involving underage students in education research and dissemination we will follow several steps to obtain informed consent as detailed here.

First, each case study coordinator will send an invitation letter to the selected secondary school principals. This letter will include an information sheet and the consent form. The information sheet will include information on PERFORM project's objective, main activities, benefits and risks, and the PERFORM team commitment of ensuring data confidentiality according to personal data protection national legislation . The consent form will include authorisation for the school participation in PERFORM activities as well as for unrestricted permission for images, videos, and recordings of the school and participating underage students to be used in print, video, digital and internet media for PERFORM dissemination purposes. The principal will sign the consent form giving his or her free, prior and informed consent and ethical approval of the activities to be performed at the school and will send the form to case study coordinators. Secondary schools should be able to confine their participation to those activities which they deem to be responsible for the students in their care.

Second, each case study coordinator, in the presence of the teacher, will then provide an information sheet explaining the project and the consent form to each student in order to obtain their parental consent for their participation in PERFORM activities. The consent form will include authorisation for the child/ren's participation in PERFORM activities and unrestricted permission for images, videos, and recordings of the participating underage students to be used in print, video, digital and internet media for PERFORM dissemination purposes. Students will be required to return a signed parental consent form, based on an approved template modified according to the corresponding national legal and ethical requirements of each case study country. In addition, students will be informed that they can decline to participate in the project or

withdraw from it at any moment without need of further explanations event if their parents signed the consent form.

### **3.2 TEACHERS AND RESEARCHERS**

Third, each case study coordinator will provide selected teachers and early career researchers with an information sheet and the consent form in order to obtain their consent to participate in PERFORM activities. Teachers and researchers will be asked to return the signed consent form to participate in the project. The involvement of secondary schools and teachers in the project will be encouraged through non-economic and/or economic incentives (education material for schools, punctual payments and/or official recognition for teachers by the corresponding public administration). If needed, in the case of UK and France, teachers participating in the project might receive a small economic compensation that has been established by local partners according to their previous experience and projects. In the case of Spain, teachers might receive a symbolic compensation, such as an official recognition of the time they invest in these activities since teachers' economic compensations are not as usual in Spain as in the other countries. Researchers in the three countries where the case studies will be implemented might also receive a minor monetary compensation for the time they spend participating in the project activities if needed.

The signed consent forms obtained from the participants will be kept by case-study coordinators until three years after the end of the project.

No data, other than a count for an anonymous person unwilling to participate, will be kept from people who do not want to take part of the study. We will keep record of the number of people deciding not to participate to assess whether this type of attrition bias research results.

A draft of the information letter and the written consent form that will be used are attached in Annexes 1 and 2. The form will be adapted and translated to each study site.

## **ANNEX 1: Information for participants**

### **PERFORM: Participatory Engagement with Scientific and Technological Research through Performance**

#### **Information for participants**

*[name of the person collecting information]* are working with researchers from the PERFORM consortium on a new research project designed to explore the effectiveness of using performing arts in science education to engage secondary school students in Science Technology, Engineering and Maths subjects (STEM).

To achieve this, we will conduct a participatory research process involving secondary school students, teachers and early career researchers in the development of a science education project using performing arts to explore relevant scientific topics at schools.

Each interaction with the students will be systematically monitored and assessed throughout the duration of the project so as to include a pre, during and post-performance assessment. This will allow us to identify and analyze any cognitive and behavioral changes towards science and related careers by the boys and girls taking part.

The benefits of participating in the project include getting involved in a unique learning experience where students will have the opportunity to approach scientific issues with artists and scientific researchers. They will also receive training in performing arts and will build valuable transferable skills, desirable for future STEM careers and jobs. Individuals will not be paid for participating in this study. However, expenses will be covered for teachers and early career scientists actively taking part. We also plan to make donations to the schools (i.e., school materials).

This research is funded by the European Commission through a Grant to Isabel Ruiz-Mallén (from University *Universitat Oberta de Catalunya* –UOC, Spain). To conduct the research, this study will develop three case studies including a total of twelve secondary schools in France, Spain, and UK. A total of approximately 600 students will be constantly involved in the research as stakeholders. An additional 6,000 students from 30 to 48 other schools will receive some engagement through this project (i.e., by attending the resultant performances).

Students taking part in this project will be actively involved in a set of workshops designed to encourage collective reflection and dialogue with early career researchers about STEM and relevant scientific topics. The workshops will be recorded in video and audio formats enabling researchers to compare interventions over time and track changes within the group. Students, teachers and early career scientists will also complete a written survey and, eventually, they will be interviewed on their perceptions, attitudes and interest in STEM. The assessment will also include a social media analysis of participants' interaction related to the study in social platforms. Private and personal information will not be obtained during this analysis nor will secretive methods be used

to gain access to social media data. PERFORM will be accessing content that audience members choose to make public, either on the performance groups webpages or on Twitter. The data generated in this study will be used for basic science research; it will not be used with any commercial purpose.

All of the procedures chosen for this study are widely used by social researchers and entail no risk to the participants. The Principal Investigator and other participants in the team have considerable experience with using these methods, having used them successfully in numerous social science research projects over the last 10 years. The PERFORM consortium will treat any personal information and data with the highest level of consideration, courtesy, privacy and ethical practice according to the corresponding national legal and ethical requirements.



## ANNEX 2: Informed consent

We are asking for your participation, because *[a) for school principals: your school has been selected to participate; b) for parents: your daughter/son studies in one of the participating secondary schools]* in the PERFORM project. *[For school principals: Your school; b) for parents: Your daughter/son]* does not have to participate if you do not wish so, and you are welcome to decline to proceed at any time. Participation in this study is strictly voluntary. There are no penalties to people who decide not to participate, or who started to participate and later decided to withdraw.

Data from this project will only be available for the project's key personnel. Data are completely confidential. All names will be replaced by coded numbers. Any publications, videos and reports to the funding agency will not identify participants by name. Data will not be used for any purpose other than scientific publications. Data will not be sold, given, or passed in any other way to third parties that might use it with any other purpose than research. Even in this case, we will ensure that third parties cannot identify the person who provided data.

Information will be used to inform scientists and the general public about the effects of the use of innovative science education methods based on performing arts in fostering young peoples' motivations and engagement with STEM. At the end of the research, we will carry out a workshop at each school to inform about our preliminary research results and ask for feedback. We will invite participants, parents, members of local institutions, and research institutions. A group of students who will be actively engaged in the participatory research will also execute the generated performance-based science education activities in their own school, becoming agents to engage and to motivate other youngsters to approach STEM. We will prepare publications in local languages to disseminate the lessons learned.

Isabel Ruiz-Mallén is the responsible for the project, and you might ask her any questions about the project or the procedures. She will be visiting the schools at least once a year. You can also write to her at the Internet Interdisciplinary Institute, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, 08860 Castelldefels, Spain. You may also call at 00 34 93 2535743 or send an e-mail to [iruiz\\_mallen@uoc.edu](mailto:iruiz_mallen@uoc.edu). To contact her, you can ask one of the project members at the school who will have complete instructions and will do it on your behalf at no cost for you. If you have questions about your legal rights as a research subject, you may contact: [ceeah@uab.cat](mailto:ceeah@uab.cat).

You will be given a copy of this form to keep. By agreeing to participate and giving consent, you are not waiving any of your legal rights, claims, or remedies. You will keep the right to withdraw from the project at any moment, without explanations or further consequences. You may sign the form yourself or ask for someone else to sign on your behalf. If you prefer we can record your consent to participate by tape recording it.

I have read (or someone has read to me) the information in the consent form. I have had

an opportunity to ask questions and all my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. By signing this consent form, I willingly agree to participate in this study.

Name of participant (type or print):\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_.

Signature of subject or legal representative

\_\_\_\_\_.

Date (must be signed prior to entry)

I have explained the research to the participant and answered all of his/her questions. I believe that he/she understands the information described in this consent form and freely consents to participate.

Name of Investigator/research team member (type or print):\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_.

Signature of investigator/research team member

\_\_\_\_\_.

Date