

REPORT · IRISP/2026/006

26 August 2026

IRISP Research Programme 2026–2028

Abstract

This report sets out the research programme of the International Research Institute of Shared Perceptions for the period 2026–2028. It defines the three founding agendas — trust and institutions, information and perception, and perception gaps — and states, for each, the questions the institute intends to measure, the comparisons it intends to sustain, and the publications it commits to producing.

The programme binds the institute to its own working principles: no claim without measurement, perception reported against evidence, open access to every output, and comparability by design. Each agenda is paired with the instruments through which it will be measured and the format in which its findings will appear.

The report closes with the calendar of the first measurement round, which opens in the fourth quarter of 2026, and with the criteria by which the programme itself will be reviewed at the end of the period.

1 · Purpose and scope

This programme defines what the institute will measure between 2026 and 2028, and binds every study conducted in the period to the working principles of the founding charter and to the measurement framework (IRISP/2026/005). It is a public commitment: the agendas below are not indicative themes but the actual boundaries of the institute's work for the period.

The programme is deliberately narrow. Three agendas, pursued with consistent instruments, produce comparable series; a broader portfolio would produce isolated findings. Any addition to the programme during the period will be published as a revision of this report, with its reasons.

2 · The three agendas

01 · Trust and institutions

How much societies trust their institutions, science and media — and how that trust moves.

Lines of inquiry: Institutional trust across generations; Trust in science and expertise; How trust responds to crises.

02 · Information and perception

How perceptions form in the information environment, and how new technologies change them.

Lines of inquiry: Social media and the perceived majority; Artificial intelligence in everyday information; The reach of misinformation versus its correction.

03 · Perception gaps

Where public belief diverges from the evidence — by how much, for whom, and why.

Lines of inquiry: Crime and public safety; The economy and the cost of living; Estimates of migration and demography.

3 · The measurement cycle

01 Question

One question, defined in measurable terms.

02 Measurement and analysis

Documented instruments; uncertainty quantified, never hidden.

03 Open publication

Report, dataset and methods note — published together.

4 · Calendar and review

The first measurement round opens in the fourth quarter of 2026. Each round produces, for every agenda it touches, at least one report and its accompanying dataset and methods note; working papers and data notes appear between rounds as the material warrants.

At the end of the period the programme itself will be reviewed against three questions: whether the instruments held their comparability, whether every published finding met the standards of the measurement framework, and whether the agendas still name the most consequential questions about shared perceptions. The review will be published.

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