Appendix 1 Example of an audit trail: Main categories (column 5) derived from the thematic content analysis, partly illustrated for the main categories 'conference design´ and 'skepticism'.

Text fragment	Open coding	Axial coding	Sub-categories	Main categories
• "as soon as you invite a collaborator, you are on the same team" [RL] • "I felt equal to all others and I was stimulated to participate" [RH] • "as part of the team I was considered an equal co-researcher" [PG] • "I don't remember feeling us and them" [PM]	• Co-researcher • Equality	• Participation ladder: partnership • Co-creation • Equality	• Multi-stakeholder approach • Spirit of OMERACT • **Full & equal participation** • Interactive breakouts • Structural involvement	STRONG LEADERSHIP SELECTION PROCEDURE **CONFERENCE DESIGN** MODERATION STYLE PEER SUPPORT

FACILITATORS

Text fragment	Open coding	Axial coding	Sub-categories	Main categories
• "New stakeholders often don't have knowledge about clinimetry" [RE] • Clinicians who do not accept patients' influence, are difficult to change [PI] • "there is still an undercurrent that questions the issue of the added value of patient input" [PN]	• (low) expectations of patients' contribution	• Resistance to change • Perspective on potential contributions of patients	• Risk of tokenism • **Doubts about added value** • Imperceptibility of contributions • Lack of continuity	INTENSITY OF THE PROGRAM **SKEPTICISM** COMPOSITION PATIENT GROUP

BARRIERS