Call for Applications: Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM)

Call number: STSM – Year 2 (N.1)

Support to Working Group 3 - Trends and support of EU core values – 1st work stream

Values in Turbulent Times:
Navigating Social Changes and Challenges (VISTA)
Action number: CA24150

AT A GLANCE

- Number of grants: 1

- Application deadline: 6th December 2026, 23:59 CET

- Maximum grant: EUR 1,000

- Period: by agreement – to start in the second half of April 2027 and end no later than May 1, 2027

- Apply via: e-COST portal (Activity Grants)

1) Background

CA24150 -Values in Turbulent Times: Navigating Social Changes and Challenges (VISTA), Working Group 3 - Trends and support of EU core values invites applications for **one Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM)** to support **activities within Working Group 3**. WG3 focuses on compiling and reviewing **EU-level documents on values, and** establishing a transparent and replicable **repertoire of data sources on values**.

The STSM will contribute directly to WG3 deliverables and will support the production of the workstream's activities.

2) STSM aim and expected contribution

The successful applicant will work with the WG3 team and the host institution – **Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Studies** at **Masaryk University** in Brno to:

- **Support corpus construction and screening -** apply inclusion/exclusion criteria to EU secondary-law documents on values
- **Enlarge existing codebook by analysing secondary-law documents and refining the report on EU-level documents on values**
- **Contributing on writing a two academic papers.**

3) Expected outputs (deliverables)

By the end of the STSM, the grantee is expected to submit:

(D1) Updated Document Inventory contribution, including screening notes and/or metadata completion for assigned documents

(D2) Updated codebook input, including proposed code definitions, inclusion/exclusion rules, and examples (as applicable)

(D3) Updated report

4) Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Meet the STSM eligibility rules of the COST Action
- Be affiliated in a country different from Czechia.
- Be available to complete the mission within the stated timeframe
- Have demonstrated ability to work with policy documents and qualitative/structured text analysis
- Be able to document analytical procedures and communicate findings clearly in English.

5) Preferred applicant profile

Applications are welcome from researchers at any career stage who can demonstrate:

- Knowledge of EU institutions, policy documents, and/or value-related framing
- Experience with qualitative coding and codebook development (manual or software-assisted)
- Strong analytical writing skills in English and ability to produce clear, audit-ready documentation
- Capacity to work collaboratively with an international team

6) Host institution and duration

- **Host institution:** Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Studies at Masaryk University, Brno, Czechia
- **Host supervisor:** Dr. Beatrice-Elena Chromková Manea, WG3 leader
- **STSM duration:** 10-14 days
- **Planned period:** by agreement – to start in the second half of April 2027 and end no later than May 1, 2027

7) Funding

The STSM grant is intended to contribute to travel, accommodation, and subsistence expenses in line with COST Action rules. Applicants should include a concise budget estimate and explain value for money.

The grantee submits the required reports and relevant documentation in e-COST within 30 days after the end date of the activity and not later than 15th September, unless otherwise specified by COST rules for the relevant Grant Period.

8) Application package (a single PDF document)

Applicants must submit a single PDF containing:

1. **Motivation letter (max 1 page)**
   - How the mission aligns with call needs and the COST Action objectives
   - Relevant experience within the expected contribution
2. **Short CV (max 2 pages)**
   - Including selected publications/projects relevant to the WG3 activities
3. **Proposed work plan (max 1 pages)**
   - Tasks, timeline, and intended outputs (aligned with the deliverables D1–D3 above)
   - Tools/software competence and how work will be documented
4. **Host collaboration statement (max ½ page)**
   - A short plan for coordination with the host team (meetings, check-ins, repository workflow)
5. **Budget estimate (max ½ page)**
   - Travel, accommodation, subsistence (as applicable) + brief justification

9) Selection criteria

Applications will be evaluated by the Grant Awarding Committee in collaboration with the host supervisor, using the following criteria:

1. **Relevance to Action objectives and WG deliverables – 30%**

   Evidence that the proposed mission directly contributes to WG3 outputs (corpus, codebook/guidelines, review report).

2. **Scientific quality and originality – 30%**

   Quality of proposed analytical approach, conceptual clarity, and ability to contribute substantively to the review and coding framework.

3. **Feasibility and quality of work plan – 15%**

   Realistic scope, clear tasks and timeline, credible deliverables.

4. **Host suitability and collaboration added value – 10%**

   Fit between applicant and host expertise/resources, and clear plan for effective collaboration with the WG3 team.

5. **Impact, dissemination, and value for money – 15%**

   Potential contribution to Action outputs, plans to support dissemination (e.g., contribution to report sections), and a justified budget.

10) Submission procedure and deadline

- Submission: https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants
- Select: Apply for new Grant -> "STSM – Year 2 N. 1 Support to Working Group 3 - Trends and support of EU core values – 1st work stream
- **Deadline:** 6th December 2026, 23:59 CET
- **Notification of results (expected):** 21st December 2026

11) Contact for questions:

Host Supervisor: Dr. Beatrice-Elena Chromková Manea, 66436@muni.cz

Grant Awarding Coordinator: Professor Pieter Francois, pieter.francois@anthro.ox.ac.uk

Action Chair: Prof. Veronica Riniolo, veronica.riniolo@unicatt.it

Action Vice Chair: Prof. Bogdan Voicu, bogdan.voicu@ulbsibiu.ro

Grant Holder Manager: Dr. Alessandra Amato, grantholder.vista@unicatt.it

COST REFERENCE LINKS

- e-COST: https://e-services.cost.eu/

- COST funding documents and guidelines: https://www.cost.eu/funding/documents-guidelines/

- COST Grant Awarding User Guide: https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/01/COST-Grant-Awarding-user-guide.pdf