Call for Applications: Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM)

Call number: STSM – Year 2 (N.2)

Support to Working Group 3 - Trends and support of EU core values – 2nd 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 on April 1, 2027 and end no later than April 15, 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:

- **Design and framework**: help finalise the template for the repertoire**,** propose a classification of value domains that matches the WG3 codebook, so the repertoire connects with the content analysis of EU documents, define inclusion criteria
- **Mapping cross-national sources:** systematic inventory of major comparative surveys that measure values: EVS, WVS, ESS, ISSP, Eurobarometer, EQLS, GGS, for each source, document which value items are included and how they changed across waves, such as wording, scales and dropped or added items, identify harmonised or integrated datasets: the EVS/WVS joint file, trend files, and harmonisation projects.
- **Engagement and dissemination:** present preliminary results, draft a short session or hands-on exercise for the winter school (early 2028) using the repertoire, write a short news item or post about the STSM for the Action's website.

3) Expected outputs (deliverables)

By the end of the STSM, the grantee is expected to submit a framework (template, classification and inclusion criteria) for the *Repertoire of data sources*, documented entries for the major cross-national value surveys including changes in item measurement over time, and materials to engage WG3 members and support the 2028 winter school.

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.
- Demonstrate experience in the survey data.
- 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 with experience in comparative survey data and data documentation (metadata, codebooks, data archives). Knowledge of at

least one national data landscape is an advantage. The candidate should have strong analytical writing skills in English and ability to produce clear, audit-ready documentation. At the same time capacity to work independently while collaborating with the host supervisor, co-supervisor and an international, interdisciplinary COST Action network is required.

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
- **Co-supervisor**: Katarina Strapcová, Institute for Sociology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Slovakia
- **STSM duration:** 10-14 days
- **Planned period:** by agreement – to start on April 1, 2027 and end no later than April 15, 2027, in Brno. The period includes one day trip in Bratislava.

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.

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. 2 Support to Working Group 3 - Trends and support of EU core values – 2st work stream
- **Deadline:** 6th December 2026, 23:59 CET
- **Notification of results (expected):** 21st December 2026

11) Contacts for questions:

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

Co-supervisor: Prof. Katarina Strapcová, katarina.strapcova@savba.sk

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