



**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM)  
SUPPORT TO WORKING GROUP 1  
EPISTEMOLOGICAL, THEORETICAL AND ANALYTICAL ISSUES ON VALUE  
ORIENTATIONS**

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

**AT A GLANCE**

- Number of grants: 1
- Application deadline: 15 April 2026, 23:59 CEST
- Maximum grant: EUR 4,000
- Final deadline for submission of the report and other supporting documents on e-COST: 15 September 2026
- Apply via: e-COST portal (Activity Grants)

**1) Background**

**CA24150 -Values in Turbulent Times: Navigating Social Changes and Challenges (VISTA), Working Group 1 - Epistemological, theoretical and analytical issues on value orientations** invites applications for **one Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM)** to support **activities within Working Group 1**. WG1 has the goal to elaborate **the theoretical understanding of values** through an **interdisciplinary approach** by **critically** examining **established analytical categories** used to define values and to **clarify key concepts with stakeholders**. To kickstart this work, we will develop a glossary of key concepts, categories and terms regarding European Values, based on a series of systematic literature reviews.

The STSM will contribute directly to WG1 deliverables and will support the production of the glossary.

## 2) STSM aim and expected contribution

The successful applicant will work with the WG1 team and the host institution to:

### A. Support systematic literature reviews

- Develop inclusion/exclusion criteria for a general systematic literature review on values
- Conduct a systematic literature review

### B. Pilot analysis of literature body

- Identify aspects in literature relevant for glossary
- Identify potential speakers and venues for a panel session on values

### C. Support for the conceptualisation of the glossary

- Contribute to identifying key categories to structure the glossary
- Participate in discussions on form of glossary as living document and implementation of decision

### D. Contributing on writing the contextual parts of the glossary

## 3) Expected outputs (deliverables)

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

**(D1) PICO Scheme** for a general systematic literature review and first results of a review following PRISMA, as well as a concept how to extract information relevant for glossary from systematic literature reviews conducted by other subgroups of WG1.

**(D2) First draft version of Glossary**, including a category system that can be expanded. A living document to which WG members can contribute but where consistency is assured.

**(D3) Writing contribution:** Co-drafting the contextual parts of the glossary, such as introduction, description of structure and form.

## 4) Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Meet the STSM eligibility rules of the COST Action
- Be affiliated in Countries different from Switzerland
- Be available to complete the mission within the stated timeframe
- Have demonstrated experience in at least one of the following fields: values research, discourse analysis, comparative analysis of theories, literature databases, interdisciplinary collaboration

## 5) Preferred applicant profile

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

- Knowledge on how to conduct literature research, ideally systematic literature reviews
- 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:** FORS – Swiss Centre of Expertise in Social Sciences, Lausanne, Géopolis, 1015 Lausanne, Switzerland
- **Host supervisor:** Michael Ochsner, michael.ochsner@unil.ch
- **STSM duration:** 3-5 weeks
- **Planned period:** by agreement – to start any time after May 1, 2026 and end no later than August 15, 2026

## 7) Funding

The STSM grant is intended to provide contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, implementation of the project, delivery of the report to the COST Action MC on the work developed, main achievements of the STSM, planned future follow up activities and overall effort, 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.

## 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 research on values, literature review

3. **Proposed work plan (max 2 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, workflow)

5. **Budget estimate (max ½ page)**

- Travel, accommodation, subsistence (as applicable) + brief justification

## 9) Selection criteria

Applications will be evaluated by the WG1 selection panel using the following criteria:

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

Evidence that the proposed mission directly contributes to WG1 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 WG1 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 application – WG1 EPISTEMOLOGICAL, THEORETICAL AND ANALYTICAL ISSUES ON VALUE ORIENTATIONS”
- **Deadline:** 15 April 2026, 23:59 CEST
- **Notification of results (expected):** 30 April 2026

**Contact for questions:**

Host Supervisor: Dr. Michael Ochsner, michael.ochsner@unil.ch

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

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

Action Vice Chair: Prof. Bogdan Voicu, [bogdan.voicu@ulbsibiu.ro](mailto: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>