



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM)

SUPPORT TO WORKING GROUP 3

TRENDS AND SUPPORT OF EU CORE VALUES – REVIEW OF EU DOCUMENTS ON VALUES

Values in Turbulent Times:

Navigating Social Changes and Challenges (VISTA)

Action number: CA24150

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**, establishing a transparent and replicable **document corpus**, developing a **codebook/coding guideline**, conducting **pilot coding** of selected “must-code” documents across defined time periods and **writing a full review report** on EU core values.

The STSM will contribute directly to WG3 deliverables and will support the production of the workstream’s review report.

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:

A. Support corpus construction and screening

- Apply inclusion/exclusion criteria to EU documents on values
- Help finalize the document inventory

B. Support codebook and coding guidelines development

- Contribute to drafting/refining code definitions and decision rules
- Identify potential ambiguities and propose clarifications

C. Pilot coding support

- Select and/or code a small set of documents across periods

- Produce a structured pilot coding memo documenting issues and suggested revisions

D. Contributing on writing the full review report

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

(D3) Report writing contribution: drafting an integration-ready section for the full review report on an assigned period or thematic cluster, including a structured synthesis of coded findings, documentation of the analysed document subset, and tables/figures-ready summaries, delivered in the project template for inclusion in the final report.

4) Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Meet the STSM eligibility rules of the COST Action
- Be affiliated in Countries 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

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:** 2 months

- **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 EU policy, values, qualitative methods, or coding
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, repository workflow)
5. **Budget estimate (max ½ page)**
 - Travel, accommodation, subsistence (as applicable), with a brief justification

9) Selection criteria

Applications will be evaluated by the WG3 selection panel 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 application – WG3 EU Values Documents Review”

- **Deadline:** 15.4.2026

- **Notification of results:** 30.4.2026

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: Dr. 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>