



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM)

SUPPORT TO WORKING GROUP 2

METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES IN MEASURING 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 2 - Methodological challenges in measuring values invites applications for **one Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM)** to support activities within **Working Group 2**. WG2 focuses on conducting a **comprehensive review** of existing data collection tools based on relevant literature, while simultaneously **identifying and implementing** various tools for the validation of value-measurement scales. The group is also dedicated to **developing specialized content** for three summer schools in collaboration with other WGs and ensuring the **broad dissemination of research** through the publication of at least one open-access scientific article.

The STSM will contribute directly to WG2 deliverables and will support the production of a **comprehensive review of existing data collection tools**.

2) STSM aim and expected contribution

The successful applicant will work with the WG2 team and the host institution – **Department of Sociology, Catholic University of Croatia** in Zagreb, Croatia to:

A. Corpus Preparation and Bibliographic Database

- Supporting the compilation of a corpus of measurement instruments and scientific publications related to value measurement (subject to systematic review).
- Expanding the keyword list used for comprehensive literature searches.
- Assisting in the automated generation of the source corpus (e.g., using R), while proactively suggesting additional relevant sources.

B. Source Review and Data Processing

- Supporting the review process of selected literature and instruments.
- Assisting in the development of automated content analysis solutions.
- Verifying and refining data results obtained through automated content analysis.

C. Reporting and Documentation

- Supporting the preparation of reports on the findings of the measurement instrument and publication review.
- Developing the structural framework of the report.
- Drafting specific segments and sections of the final report.

3) Expected outputs (deliverables)

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

(D1) Updated Corpus & Metadata: A screened inventory of scientific publications and measurement instruments, including an expanded keyword list and complete metadata.

(D2) Technical Analysis Output: The automated content analysis workflow and validated results, bridging automated generation with manual verification.

(D3) Structured Report Draft: An integration-ready synthesis of findings, including tables and thematic summaries of the analyzed instruments, formatted for the final project report.

(D4) The comprehensive literature review will serve as a methodological foundation for the development of the validation toolkit and the design of the summer school programs.

4) Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Meet the STSM eligibility rules of the COST Action
- Be affiliated in Countries different from Croatia
- Be available to complete the mission within the stated timeframe
- Possess a basic grasp of methodological rules and guidelines for the validation of measurement instruments and are familiar with the procedures for conducting content analysis across various types of publications

5) Preferred applicant profile

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

- Expertise in identifying and classifying scientific publications and measurement instruments related to the study of values
- Proven ability to conduct structured text analysis, including the development of inclusion/exclusion rules and the use of software-assisted methods for automated corpus generation and coding
- Strong skills in drafting structured report segments and maintaining a transparent, verifiable metadata inventory and analysis workflow in English

- Capacity to work collaboratively with an international team

6) Host institution and duration

- **Host institution:** Department of Sociology, Catholic University of Croatia, Zagreb, Croatia
- **Host supervisor:** Dr. Josip Ježovita, WG2 leader
- **STSM duration:** 2 months
- **Planned period:** by agreement – to start any time after May 15, 2026 and end no later than September 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 and projects focusing on the methodological aspects of value research, specifically the construction and validation of measurement instruments, or the development of transparent and replicable coding frameworks for analyzing value-related data.
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 WG2 selection panel using the following criteria:

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

Evidence that the proposed mission directly contributes to WG2 outputs (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 WG2 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 – WG2 A comprehensive review of existing data collection tool”
- **Deadline:** 7.05.2026
- **Notification of results:** 15.05.2026

Contact for questions:

Host Supervisor: Dr. Josip Ježovita, josip.jezovita@unicath.hr

Grant Awarding Coordinator: Prof. 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>