CALL FOR APPLICATIONS (2026)

Inclusiveness Target Countries Conference Grant (ITCG)

Values in Turbulent Times:

Navigating Social Changes and Challenges (VISTA)

Action number: CA24150

AT A GLANCE

- Number of grants: 7

- Application deadline: 15 April 2026, 23:59 CEST

- Maximum grant: EUR 2,500 (in-person) / EUR 500 (virtual)

- Final deadline for submission of the report and other supporting documents on e-COST: 15 September 2026

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

ABOUT VISTA

VISTA is a COST Action fostering transnational and interdisciplinary collaboration on values in turbulent contexts. VISTA combines scientific excellence with inclusiveness, including strong participation and capacity-building for researchers and institutions in COST Inclusiveness Target Countries.

1. SCOPE

This call awards 7 ITC Conference Grants to support researchers with primary affiliation in ITC institutions to present accepted oral contributions at high-level third-party conferences and strengthen ITC integration in VISTA.

In line with the objectives and theoretical framework of the COST Action VISTA, the selection of applications will prioritise proposals addressing themes related to the study of values and their transformations in contemporary societies. In particular, applications focusing on the following topics will be given priority:

- **Evolution of values over time**, with specific reference to longitudinal perspectives and comparative analyses inspired by or connected to the VISTA Action;

- **Methodological reflections on the measurement of values**, including quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method approaches, as well as discussions on indicators, validity, reliability, and cross-national comparability;

- **Empirical research on values**, exploring their role in shaping social attitudes, behaviours, and political orientations across different social groups and contexts.

- **Changes in values at individual or societal level** as answer to major societal shocks/crises.

These thematic priorities are intended to indicate the general direction of the call and to ensure coherence with the COST Action VISTA. They should not be considered exhaustive: proposals addressing related or complementary topics relevant to the study of values are also welcome.

2. ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must:

- have a primary affiliation in an institution located in a COST Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC);

- have an active e-COST profile;

- have an accepted oral presentation directly relevant to VISTA objectives/deliverables.

3. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Up to EUR 2,500 for in-person conferences.

- Up to EUR 500 for virtual conferences.

- Awarded amount may be lower than requested, depending on ranking and budget.

- Grant is paid after completion and approval of required reporting in e-COST.

4. TIMELINE

- Call publication: upon publication

- Application deadline: 15 April 2026, 23:59 CEST

- Notification of results (expected): 30 April 2026

- Latest date to complete activity and submit the report and other supporting documents on e-COST: 15 September 2026

All applicants must plan their activity so that activity and report and supporting documents can be fully submitted on e-COST by 15 September 2026.

5. HOW TO APPLY

Submit via: https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants

Select: Apply for new Grant -> ITC Conference Grant

6. APPLICATION DOCUMENTS (UPLOAD IN E-COST)

1) ITC Conference Grant application form (e-COST template).

2) Accepted abstract (oral presentation) and, if available, draft presentation.

3) Conference acceptance/invitation letter.

4) CV (including selected outputs).

5) Budget estimate with short justification.

6) Short motivation letter (relevance to VISTA deliverables and follow-up collaboration).

All documents must be submitted in English.

7. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND WEIGHTING

- Relevance to VISTA and strategic value for ITC participation: 30%

- Scientific quality of accepted contribution: 20%

- Capacity-building and long-term benefit for the ITC institution/team: 20%

- Networking and collaboration potential within the COST network. Priority may be given to participants involved in the VISTA Cost Action: 15%

- Budget adequacy and co-funding leverage: 15%

Minimum thresholds:

- 65/100 overall

- At least 18/30 on criterion 1

Tie-break priorities:

- underrepresented ITC countries/institutions

- first-time applicants

- gender balance

8. AFTER THE CONFERENCE (MANDATORY FOR GRANT PAYMENT)

By 15 September 2026 (and in all cases within 30 days after activity end), submit in e-COST:

- activity/grant report (e-COST template)

- certificate of attendance

- conference programme/abstract book showing the oral presentation

- final presentation

- proof of acknowledgement of VISTA/COST support

Late or incomplete submissions may lead to non-payment.

9. GOVERNANCE NOTE

This call is issued under the VISTA Grant Period and budget in force in e-COST for 2026. The Action Management Committee may adjust the number/value of grants based on budget and final eligibility checks.

10. CONTACT

- 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