EVS – European Values Study

COST Action -VISTA Values in Turbulent Times

Call for Abstracts

The value(s) of connection:

Social cohesion and belonging in changing European societies

13 May 2027, 9:30-14:00

Tilburg University, the Netherlands

MindLabs, Locomotiefboulevard 101, 5041 SE Tilburg, NL

European societies are facing profound social, political, cultural, economic, environmental, and technological transformations. In this light, much attention has been devoted to processes of polarization and to the values, identities, and social divisions that drive societies apart. Yet, in times of uncertainty and change, an equally important question is what holds societies together. What do Europeans have in common, and what can provide a basis for social cohesion and collective identification?

Cost Action VISTA and the European Values Study join forces to explore these questions during the conference: **The value(s) of connection**. With this conference, we want to shift the focus from what drives European societies apart, to what binds them together. Particular attention will be paid to how crises and experiences of uncertainty reshape values, solidarity and belonging within and across European societies.

We welcome theoretical and empirical contributions from a range of disciplines and encourage interdisciplinary perspectives. Empirical studies may use quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods. Contributions may address questions such as:

- Can shared values provide a foundation for social cohesion in Europe? Which values are most important in this respect? Have they changed over time? Where do important value differences persist between and within countries?

- How do social identities, institutions, shared experiences, or other forms of collective identification strengthen social cohesion? How can social cohesion be sustained amid value pluralism and disagreement?
- How do digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, reshape social connections, shared values and collective identities?

We welcome both paper **presentations** and **posters**. If you want to participate in the conference, please submit an **abstract** (**max. 300 words**) by filling in **this form**. https://forms.gle/DvPNUKJUGU3qKYgt9

Important dates

Abstract submission deadline: **22 December 2026 5 p.m. CET**

Notification of acceptance: **29 January 2027**

Conference date: **13 May 2027**

Selection criteria

The following criteria will be taken into account when assessing submissions:

- Scientific quality: clarity of the research question and soundness of the theoretical and/or methodological approach.
- Originality and relevance to the conference theme: original contribution to understanding social cohesion and collective identification in Europe.
- Appropriateness of the evidence: suitability of the data, approach or research materials and embeddedness in the relevant discourse. Use of EVS data is a plus, but not a requirement.

Additional strengths, where relevant, include:

- Comparative or temporal perspective: insights across countries, social groups, or periods.
- Societal implications: relevance to society beyond the scientific contribution.

Submissions will receive a score of 1-5 on all criteria, reviewed anonymously and independently by two members of the selection committee. The first three criteria are twice as important as the last two. The sum of scores will results in a ranking of all submissions. Among submissions of comparable quality, selection will also consider the overall balance of the programme in terms of geographical coverage, disciplinary and methodological approaches, and career stages.

Acceptance decisions will be communicated by the selection committee: Simona Guglielmi, Josip Ježovita, Veronica Riniolo, Katarina Strapcova, Bogdan Voicu and Quita Muis.

Reimbursement

Applicants can indicate in the submission form whether they wish to be considered for reimbursement under COST Action VISTA.

Financial support may be available through COST Action VISTA to a limited number of participants. Acceptance of an abstract does not automatically guarantee financial support. Applicants requesting reimbursement will be ranked according to the scientific quality of their proposed contribution.

Applicants selected for financial support will receive an official invitation through the e-COST platform, together with specific reimbursement guidelines.

Participants receiving financial support will need to pay their travel and accommodation costs in advance. They can then submit a reimbursement claim through the e-COST platform, within 15 days after the conference, providing the required documentation. Reimbursement covers eligible travel costs and a daily allowance of EUR 229 to contribute to accommodation and subsistence expenses. The number of eligible days will be calculated based on travel arrangements and the applicable COST rules.