



## **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 its activities.

Working Group 3 focuses on analysing the evolution and support of core EU values across Europe, including how these values are defined, interpreted, and contested in response to ongoing political, economic, and social transformations. In particular, WG3 aims to investigate patterns of support for EU core values and to contribute to a better understanding of their role in shaping European cohesion and identity.

The STSM will contribute directly to WG3 deliverables by supporting the review and analysis of EU documents and related sources on EU core values.

### **2) STSM aim and expected contribution**

The successful applicant will work with the host institution – Department of Political Sciences, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore - and WG3 team - to:

- Conduct a systematic review of the jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) relevant to the interpretation of EU core values (e.g. rule of law, fundamental rights, democracy, equality);
- Identify and analyse how EU core values are defined, operationalised, and justified across key rulings, including tensions, evolutions, and interpretative trends over time;
- Perform a critical literature review of the existing academic debate on EU values, with particular attention to legal scholarship and interdisciplinary contributions;

- Develop a structured analytical framework to synthesise jurisprudence and literature in a way that is accessible also to non-legal scholars;
- Liaise with WG3 members to ensure consistency with ongoing work on EU documents and value framing.

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

1) A comprehensive review report (approx. 20–30 pages) including:

- Mapping and critical analysis of selected CJEU case law on EU core values
- Review of relevant academic literature
- Identification of key interpretative patterns and debates
- A methodological note outlining criteria for case selection, review approach, and analytical framework adopted;
- A set of recommendations or guidelines to support WG3 activities (e.g. for coding EU documents, interpreting value references, or integrating legal sources into broader analysis);

2) A synthesis of the comprehensive review tailored to a non-legal audience (approx. 10 pages)

3) A short summary document (2–3 pages) highlighting main findings and policy-relevant insights for dissemination.

### 3) Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Meet the STSM eligibility rules of the COST Action
- Be affiliated in Countries different from Italy
- Be available to complete the mission within the stated timeframe
- Have demonstrated ability to work with legal and policy documents

### 4) Preferred applicant profile

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

- Knowledge of EU institutions, case law, policy documents, and/or value-related framing
- Strong analytical writing skills in English and ability to produce clear documentation
- Capacity to work collaboratively with an international team

### 5) Host institution and duration

- **Host institution:** Department of Political Sciences, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan (Italy)
- **Host supervisor:** Prof. Andrea Santini
- **STSM duration:** from 3 weeks to 2 months
- **Planned period:** by agreement – to end no later than September 15, 2026

### 6) 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 15<sup>th</sup> September.

## **7) 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, law and EU values
- 3. Proposed work plan (max 2 pages)**
  - Tasks, timeline, and intended outputs
  - 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

## **8) Selection criteria**

Applications will be evaluated by the Grant Awarding Committee together with the host institution using the following criteria:

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

Evidence that the proposed mission directly contributes to WG3 outputs.
- 2. Scientific quality and originality – 30%**

Quality of proposed analytical approach, conceptual clarity, and ability to contribute substantively to the WG3 activities.
- 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.

**9) Submission procedure and deadline**

- **Submission:** <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>

**Select:** Apply for new Grant ->

- “STSM application – WG3 REVIEW OF EU DOCUMENTS ON VALUES”

- **Deadline:** 7 June 2026

- **Notification of results:** 18 June 2026

**Contact for questions:**

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**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>