

Deliverable 4.1 for the COST Action EUPopLink CA23102

Stakeholder Mapping Outline and Involvement Strategy

VERSIONS AND HISTORY OF CHANGES

| Version | Date of adoption by MC | Notes (e.g. changes from previous versions) | Lead author(s) |
|---------|------------------------|---|--|
| 1.0 | 26/06/2025 | | Angelos Chrysosogelos, Ioannis Andreadis, Eleni Maria Papachristou, Nikoletta Sivenou, Styliani Tseliou, Vasileios Simpseris |
| | | | |
| | | | |

This document is based upon work from COST Action Linking euroscepticism and populism: causes and consequences, CA23102, supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology).

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation.

www.cost.eu

1.

1. SUMMARY

In line with WG4 “Outreach and Dissemination” and the overall goals of the Action, a comprehensive stakeholder identification and engagement strategy will be implemented to ensure widespread dissemination, policy relevance, and societal impact. A particular focus will be placed on reaching new stakeholders, especially researchers from Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs), while also engaging actors from media, consultancy, civic engagement, and policy-making sectors.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK OF STAKEHOLDER THEORY

The process of disseminating and communicating a project to a wide range of stakeholders has gained interest throughout the academic community, as well as across a wide range of disciplines. However, it is of notable interest to understand when and why the process of finding the right stakeholders was initiated. It is also important to look at the evolution of this process over time and to understand the steps that have been taken in the methods and techniques used by researchers to organise and implement their strategy.

Stakeholder Theory is a theory mainly rooted in the business world and organizational management (Schaltegger et al., 2019). The theory is now widely recognised as a fundamental concept in business ethics, strategic management and participatory research. It challenges the prevailing shareholder-centric model by suggesting that companies should consider the interests and welfare of all stakeholders impacted by their operations. While the theory acquired a formal structure in the 1980s, its intellectual roots can be traced back much further. Over time, stakeholder theory has evolved alongside broader social transformations, including the rise of corporate social responsibility, environmental sustainability and participatory governance. According to Mahajan et al. (2023), stakeholder theory helps organisations to see that they are connected to many different people and groups, both inside and outside the organisation. It encourages them to listen to what these people need, want or expect. Rather than focusing only on making money for their owners or investors, this approach looks at the big picture. In this way, organisations can make better decisions, create more value for all stakeholders and ensure they remain strong and successful in the long term.

Historically, it was in this context that R. Edward Freeman, a philosopher and professor of business administration, formalized stakeholder theory in his influential book *Strategic Management: A Stakeholder Approach* (1984). Freeman (1984) defined stakeholders as “any group or individual who can affect or is affected by the achievement of an organization’s objectives.”

3. METHODOLOGY- IDENTIFICATION STRATEGY

After the creation of the communication tools, the next move is to identify and engage with key stakeholders who can amplify the visibility and impact of the project. Mapping these stakeholders enables the research team to not only reach the intended audiences but also to establish long-lasting

relationships that support knowledge exchange, policy relevance, and societal engagement. To begin this process, it is crucial to define the objectives of dissemination.

These objectives may include raising awareness about research findings, informing policy and practice, encouraging public dialogue, and strengthening academic collaborations. Clearly articulating these goals provides the necessary direction for identifying stakeholders who are best positioned to support each aspect of the project's communication strategy.

An effective way to map stakeholders is by using the Stakeholder Salience Model developed by Mitchell et al. (1997). This framework classifies stakeholders based on three key attributes: power, legitimacy, and urgency. Power refers to the ability of the stakeholder to influence outcomes or decisions. Legitimacy involves the stakeholder's appropriate connection to the issue or question, and urgency refers to the immediacy or priority of the stakeholder's interest in the research. Stakeholders who possess all three characteristics are considered particularly important and should be prioritized in outreach and engagement efforts; at this point it is important to provide an example of a stakeholder who meets the above characteristics accurately. In short, a stakeholder researcher can be seen as someone who has the ability to activate a research network or team in order to make a direct impact on project communication and dissemination, i.e. having the power to influence things. In terms of legitimacy, this researcher must be strongly involved in the topic, in this case Euroscepticism and Populism. Finally, the urgency of the researcher involved is determined by the willingness and initiative to engage in research on the COST Action topic. By using this model, COST Action researchers and the whole network can systematically identify who is most important for the success of dissemination activities.

The next step involves compiling a comprehensive list of potential stakeholders across several categories relevant to political science research. These typically include EU and national policy actors (such as Directorate-Generals of the European Commission, Members of the European Parliament, and national ministries), academic institutions (research centres, individual scholars, and Jean Monnet networks), civil society organizations (advocacy groups, NGOs, and citizen organisations), media and influencers (journalists, bloggers, and content creators), the general public (through citizens' forums and grassroots movements), the education sector (schools and civic education programs), and even actors in the private sector like polling firms.

To better visualize and understand the relationships between these stakeholders, the Power–Interest Grid is another valuable tool. This grid helps classify stakeholders based on their level of power and interest in the project (Zhu et al., 2024). Stakeholders with high power and high interest, such as EU policymakers or influential think tanks, should be closely engaged and involved in communication activities. Those with high power but lower interest, like national-level bureaucracies, should be kept satisfied and informed about major outcomes. Conversely, stakeholders with lower power but high interest - such as activist groups or educators - should be encouraged to participate in project discussions and dissemination. Finally, those with low power and low interest can be monitored with occasional updates.

To better understand stakeholder needs and preferences, the team could consider potential short calls with selected stakeholders, such as NGO or EU agency representatives, to explore preferred communication formats and relevant topics (Reed et al., 2009).

Once stakeholders are identified and their preferences understood, the research team can align them with the most appropriate communication tools. For example, the project website serves as a central hub of information and is ideal for general public access, policy professionals, and journalists looking for background materials or summaries. A newsletter is well-suited for academics, civil society actors, and policymakers who seek regular, curated updates. Social media platforms, on the other hand, offer space

for real-time engagement and are most effective for reaching youth, activists, and media influencers through digestible, shareable content. Additionally, targeted workshops or policy briefings can be organized for more intensive engagement with stakeholders like Members of the European Parliament, public officials, and research collaborators.

Throughout the process, it is important to adjust to the changes and transformations of the stakeholders' interests. Regular monitoring of key performance indicators (KPIs) - such as website traffic, newsletter subscriptions, social media reach, and participation in events allows the team to assess the success of dissemination activities and adjust strategies where needed. Stakeholder interests, influence, and roles may evolve over time, especially in response to political developments, new research outputs, or shifts in public discourse. Therefore, the stakeholder map should be periodically reviewed and updated to reflect these changes.

By following this structured and evidence-based approach to stakeholder mapping, the research team ensures that dissemination efforts are strategic, inclusive, and impactful. The process not only strengthens the visibility of the project's tools and outputs but also fosters meaningful relationships between researchers and broader society. Ultimately, this supports the goals of the COST Action by enhancing its contribution to contemporary political debates, public policy, and democratic engagement.

4. KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The identification of external stakeholders will be structured around three main categories:

1. **Scientific Community** – including researchers, early-career academics, and students working in relevant fields such as political science, sociology, communication, education, and European studies. Particular attention will be paid to involving researchers from ITCs, ensuring geographic diversity, capacity building and gender balance.
2. **Policy Makers** – representatives at EU, national, and local levels, working on policies related to democracy, civil society, education, governance, and social cohesion.
3. **Civil Society, Media** – including NGOs, journalists, media companies, consultancy firms, think tanks, and organizations involved in mobilising citizens or formulating public policies.

In order to ensure effective dissemination and maximize the societal impact of the Action, a diverse group of stakeholders must be identified and strategically engaged. The following categories of stakeholders are expected to play a unique role in supporting, amplifying and disseminating the findings of the Action.

1. **Academic and Research Communities**

This group can include researchers affiliated with research institutions and universities that can offer analytical expertise, develop methodologies and contribute to the theoretical advancement of the study of populism and Euroscepticism. Engaging with this community enables the establishment of research collaborations, joint publications, peer reviews and participation in activities as Short Term Missions (STSM's), conferences and academic seminars. Their involvement is essential for ensuring academic rigor, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and facilitating the dissemination of research findings through established channels. As a primary stakeholder group, they will be among the first to be engaged, with the network of academics continuously expanded through the duration of the Action. Their sustained participation will be critical in maintaining the scientific relevance and long – term impact of the project. A special consideration will be given to younger academics, gender balance and scholars at risk.

2. Civil Society and NGOs

Civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are essential for public outreach and grassroots mobilization, serving as a bridge between academic research and society. Their involvement broadens the societal impact of the Action and ensures that its outcomes are communicated in accessible and meaningful ways. By collaborating with civil society stakeholders through awareness-raising initiatives, the Action will foster dialogue with diverse audiences and amplify its outreach. Their participation guarantees that the Action remains inclusive, relevant, and responsive to the broader challenges facing European societies in the context of populism and Euroscepticism. A list of NGOs can be found in the Annex.

3. Policy Makers and Institutions

Engagement with European Institutions (European Parliament, European Commission), national and regional authorities is crucial for policy impact. Policymakers can offer real – world perspectives that can inform research. Their input will be critical in shaping policy briefs and translating research outcomes into concrete, evidence based policy recommendations. Sustained collaboration with this group will increase the Action’s visibility and its real world influence.

4. Media and Journalists

A key part of the dissemination of the Project's activities and deliverables is communication with various traditional media and journalists, who will be interested both in covering certain events or activities, presenting the results of the project's activities and disseminating them to civil society and other stakeholders.

5. Political Actors

After the creation of the main deliverables of the project and the presentation and interpretation of the key results, to connect the project’s findings with policy-making, the team will prepare targeted policy briefs and share them with relevant political actors. This outreach will be supported by tailored dissemination through existing networks and channels aligned with policy agendas.

6. General Public and Citizens

Engaging with the general public and citizens is crucial, as their perceptions, attitudes, and responses directly influence the spread and impact of populist and Eurosceptic narratives. Interaction with this audience is expected to provide valuable insights into societal concerns and political sentiments. This engagement will help the Action better understand how populism and Euroscepticism are viewed at the grassroots level, informing the development of more grounded and socially responsive outreach outputs. At the same time, it will foster public participation, encourage civic engagement, and strengthen trust between citizens and institutions. Engagement activities with this group will take place throughout the duration of the Action, primarily through the project’s website, which will serve as a central platform for communication, updates, interactive content, and public outreach.

7. Educational Institutions

The educational activities of the project will serve as a crucial final stage in the broader process of dissemination and communication of results. These activities will be designed not only to present the project’s findings in detail but also to enhance understanding and foster informed dialogue among diverse audiences. By translating research outcomes into engaging and pedagogically sound formats, the educational component will contribute to the long-term impact and visibility of the project beyond its immediate network.

5. CONCLUDING REMARKS

In general, outreach efforts will include personalized invitations to participate in the Action, especially in activities such as Working Groups, Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs), Training Schools, and dissemination events. The Action will promote opportunities for engagement through online resources, academic conferences, social media, newsletters, and targeted communication materials. More specifically, to actively involve stakeholders beyond academia, the Action will cooperate with businesses active in the mass media industry, consultancy firms, and organizations engaged in policy and citizen outreach. These partners will be encouraged to incorporate Action outputs and promote the adoption of proposed solutions. Press releases, seminars, dedicated meetings, collaborative workspaces, and face-to-face or virtual exchanges will serve as key tools for this engagement. At the same time, this COST Action is focused on strengthening the COST Inclusiveness Policy by developing sustainable relationships and working practices that foster greater access and integration of researchers from less research-intensive countries. By adopting a design-led, problem-oriented approach, the Action will cultivate relationships that are less traditional and will produce innovative knowledge and methodologies for all COST members, benefiting both academic and policy-oriented communities. This approach is intended to ensure that researchers from ITC countries are not just participants, but also contributors who actively shape the research direction and outcomes, further strengthening European research collaboration. The inclusive approach will ensure the active participation of diverse stakeholder groups, the successful dissemination of scientific results, and the overall maximisation of the Action's impact.

6. LITERATURE REVIEW

Freeman, R. E. (1984). *Strategic Management: A Stakeholder Approach*. Cambridge University Press.

Mahajan, R., Lim, W. M., Sareen, M., Kumar, S., & Panwar, R. (2023). Stakeholder theory. *Journal of Business Research*, 166, 114104. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbusres.2023.114104>

Mitchell, R. K., Agle, B. R., & Wood, D. J. (1997). Toward a Theory of Stakeholder Identification and Salience: Defining the Principle of Who and What Really Counts. *The Academy of Management Review*, 22(4), 853–886. <https://doi.org/10.2307/259247>

Reed, M. S., Graves, A., Dandy, N., Posthumus, H., Hubacek, K., Morris, J., Prell, C., Quinn, C. H., & Stringer, L. C. (2009). Who's in and why? A typology of stakeholder analysis methods for natural resource management. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 90(5), 1933–1949.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2009.01.001>

Schaltegger, S., Hörisch, J., & Freeman, R. E. (2019). Business Cases for Sustainability: A Stakeholder Theory Perspective. *Organization & Environment*, 32(3), 191–212.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/1086026617722882>

Zhu, Q., Xi, J., Hu, X., Chong, H.-Y., Zhou, Y., & Lyu, S. (2024). Stakeholder Mapping and Analysis of Off-Site Construction Projects: Utilizing a Power–Interest Matrix and the Fuzzy Logic Theory. *Buildings*, 14(9), Article 9. <https://doi.org/10.3390/buildings14092865>

2. ANNEX 1

Table 1: Key Stakeholders

| Stakeholder Group | Examples | Relevance/Interest |
|---|--|---|
| Academic & Research | Universities, think tanks (e.g., CEPS, ECFR, Bruegel), scholars | Research production, analysis, theory development |
| Policy Makers & Institutions | EU institutions (EP, EC), national parliaments, regional bodies | Policy impact, regulation, public response |
| Political Actors | Political parties (pro/anti-EU, populist), MEPs | Direct influence on political direction |
| Civil Society & NGOs | Pro-democracy NGOs, civic platforms, media literacy initiatives | Countering disinformation, promoting engagement |
| Media & Journalists | European news outlets (Euractiv, Politico EU), national broadcasters | Narrative building, framing public discourse |
| Educational Institutions | High schools, civic education projects, Erasmus+ networks | Youth engagement, awareness-building |
| General Public & Citizens | Focus groups, online communities, youth organizations | Public perception, grassroots movements |

Potential MC members for Countries which are not part of our Action

| Country | Potential MC member |
|----------------|---|
| Armenia | Dr. Yevgenya Jenny Paturyan American University of Armenia ypaturyan@aua.am |
| Denmark | Gregory Eady |

| | |
|------------|--|
| | University of Copenhagen-Department of Political Science-Associate Professor gregory.eady@ifs.ku.dk |
| France | Gilles Ivaldi Chargé de recherche CNRS Centre de recherches politiques de Sciences Po (CEVIPOF) gilles.ivaldi@sciencespo.fr |
| Italy | Luca Carrieri University of Rome luca.carrieri@unitelmasapienza.it |
| Israel | Dr Abraham Weinberg AI-WEINBERG, AI Experts aviw2010@gmail.com |
| Latvia | Kārlis Bukovskis Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences Leading Researcher, Rīga Stradiņš University karlis.bukovskis@rsu.lv |
| Luxembourg | 1. Ms Lisa Verhasselt University of Luxembourg, Faculty of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences lisa.verhasselt@uni.lu |
| Malta | 2. Prof. Mario Thomas Vassallo University of Malta mario.t.vassallo@um.edu.mt |
| Ukraine | Vitaliy Lytvyn Ivan Franko National University Of Lviv - Ukraine (UA) lytvyn.vitaliy@gmail.com |
| Türkiye | Sedef Eylemer Izmir Katip Çelebi University - Türkiye (TR) seylemer@yahoo.com |

Potential Members for Countries which already have 1 MC member

| Country | Potential MC member |
|----------------|---|
| Cyprus | Dr Konstantinos Kouroupis Frederick University kkouroupis@protonmail.com |
| Czech Republic | 1. Prof Monika Brusenbauch Meislova Masarykova univerzita brusenbauch.meislova@email.cz |
| Estonia | Holger Molder Tallinn University of Technology |

| | |
|-------------|--|
| | hmolder62@gmail.com |
| Finland | Dr Alessandro Indelicato University of Eastern Finland alessandro.indelicato@ulpgc.es |
| Georgia | Nino Machurishvili Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University - Georgia (GE) nino.machurishvili@tsu.ge |
| Ireland | Prof. William Phelan Trinity College Dublin phelanw@tcd.ie |
| Norway | Dr Elena Baro Norwegian University of Science and Technology elena.baro@ntnu.no |
| Serbia | Dr Dejana Vukasović Institute of Social Sciences dvukcevic@yahoo.fr |
| Slovakia | Dr Aneta Vilagi Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Arts aneta.vilagi@uniba.sk |
| Sweden | Rikard Bengtsson Faculty of Social Sciences, Lund University rikard.bengtsson@svet.lu.se |
| Switzerland | Prof. Stefanie Walter Institute for Political Science University of Zurich walter@ipz.uzh.ch |

Potential Members from Near Neighbour Countries

| Country | Potential member |
|---------------|--|
| Algeria | Loukmane Meghraoui National Higher School of Political Science (ENSSP), Algiers meghraoui.loukmane@enssp.dz |
| Azerbaijan | Vasila Hajiyeva Khazar University vhajiyeva@khazar.org |
| Belarus | Prof.Larissa Titarenko, Belarus State University larisa166@hotmail.com |
| Faroe Islands | Ingibjörg Berg University of the Feroe Islands |

| | |
|-----------|---|
| | ingibjorgb@setur.fo |
| Jordan | Dr. Ayman Al-Barasneh University of Jordan a.albarasneh@ju.edu.jo |
| Lebanon | Dr. Imad Salamey Lebanese American University imad.salamey@lau.edu.lb |
| Libya | Prof. Ali Saeid Ali Al-Barghathi University of Benghazi, Libya alisaidali@limu.edu.ly |
| Morocco | Dr. Massimo Ramaioli Assistant Professor and Coordinator School of Humanities and Social Sciences Al-Akawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco M.Ramaioli@aui.ma |
| Palestine | Prof. Khalil Shikaki An-Najah National University, Palestine Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research Co-Founder and Member of Steering Committee, Arab Barometer kshikaki@pcpsr.org |
| Russia | Dr. Kirill Telin Associate Professor Faculty of Political Science Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia kirill.telin@gmail.com |
| Syria | Prof. Hussein Maklad Al-Sham Private University, Damascus, Syria h.m.foir.aspu.edu.sy |
| Tunisia | Asma Bisma Noura Political Science Associate Professor Chair of Political Science Department Faculty of law and political science, Tunis El Manar University asmanouira@fdspt.utm.tn |

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's)

| Name | Website |
|--|---|
| Union of European Federalists | https://federalists.eu/ |
| European Social Network | https://www.esn-eu.org/ |
| FIDE (Federation for Innovation in Democracy-Europe) | https://www.fide.eu/ |
| European Movement | https://europeanmovement.eu/ |
| European Center for Populism Studies | https://www.populismstudies.org/ |
| Transparency International | https://transparency.eu/ |
| European Foundation for Democracy | https://www.europeandemocracy.eu/ |
| European Citizen Action Service (ECAS) | https://ecas.org/ |
| European Youth Forum | https://www.youthforum.org/ |
| European Women's Lobby | https://womenlobby.org/ |
| European Network Against Racism | https://www.enar-eu.org/ |
| European Endowment for Democracy | https://www.democracyendowment.eu/ |
| Debating Europe | https://debatingeurope.eu/ |

Associations

| Name | Website |
|--|---|
| European Political Science Association | Website: https://epsanet.org/ Email: info@epsanet.org |
| International Political Science Association | Website: https://www.ipsa.org/ Email: info@ipsa.org |
| International Studies Association | https://www.isanet.org/ |
| Political Studies Association | Website: https://www.psa.ac.uk/ Email: info@psa.ac.uk |
| European Consortium for Political Research | https://ecpr.eu/ |
| Armenian Association of Political Scientists | Email: aapscinfo@gmail.com Website: https://www.aapsc.info/en |
| Association belge francophone de science politique (ABSP)- Belgium | Website: https://absp.be/ Email: info@absp.be |
| Czech Political Science Association | Website: cspv.cz Email: nemecj@vse.cz |
| Finnish Political Science Association (FPSA) | Website: vty.fi |

| | |
|--|--|
| | Email: valtiotieteellinen.yhdistys@gmail.com . samuel.j.lindholm@jyu.fi |
| The Danish Political Science Association | Website: http://www.dpsa.dk Email: michaelklitgaard@dps.aau.dk |
| Georgia Political Science Association (GPSA) | Website: gpsa-online.org Email: andrew.smith@abac.edu |
| Political Studies Association of Ireland (PSAI) | Website: psai.ie Email: psaisecretary@gmail.com |
| Norwegian Political Science Association | Website: nopsa.net Email: nopsa@nopsa.net |
| Serbian Political Science Association (UPNS) | Website: upns.rs Email: politicke.nauke.srbije@gmail.com |
| Swedish Political Science Association (SWEPSA) | Website: swepsa.org Email: Roxanna.Sjostedt@svet.lu.se |
| Turkish Political Science Association (SİTD) | Website: siyasiilimler.org.tr Email: bilgi@sitd.org.tr |
| ACPSS - Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies | Website: https://acpss.ahram.org.eg/ Email: acpss1@ahram.org.eg |
| Association Française de Science Politique (AFSP) | Website: https://www.afsp.info/ Email: afsp@sciencespo.fr |
| Portuguese Political Science Association (APCP) | Website: http://www.apcp.pt Email: info@apcp.pt |
| Società Italiana di Scienza Politica (SISP) | Website: https://www.sisp.it/ Email: segreteria@sisp.it |
| Asociación Española de Ciencia Política y de la Administración (AECPA) | Website: https://www.aecpa.es/ Email: info@aecpa.es |
| South African Association of Political Studies | Website: https://saaps.org.za/ Email: MadonselaS@ufs.ac.za |
| Jordanian Political Sciences Association | Website: https://www.psajo.org/ Email: info@psajo.org |
| Luxembourg Political Science Association | Website: http://luxpol.unblog.fr/association-de-science-politique-du-luxembourg/ |
| Russian Political Science Association | Website: http://www.rapn.ru/ Email: rapn@rapn.ru |
| Slovak Political Science Association | Email: ipa@ivo.sk |
| Romanian Association of Political Science | Website: https://ispri.ro/ Email: OFFICE@ISPRI.RO |
| Swiss Political Science Association | Website: https://www.svpw-assp.ch Email: office.assp@bluewin.ch |

| | |
|---|---|
| Bulgarian Political Science Association | Website: http://bpsa-bg.org |
| Slovenian Political Science Association | Website: http://www.politolosko-drustvo.si |
| Ukrainian Political Science Association | Website: https://ipiend.gov.ua/ Email: office@ipiend.gov.ua |
| Croatian Political Science Association | Website: http://www.politologija.hr Email: hpd@politologija.hr |
| Polish Political Science Association | Website: http://www.ptnp.org.pl/ |
| Dutch Political Science Association | Website: http://www.politicologie.nl/ |
| Icelandic Political Science Association | Website: http://stjornmalafraedingar.is/ |
| The Political Studies Association, United Kingdom | Website: http://www.psa.ac.uk/ |
| Hungarian Political Science Association | Website: http://www.mptt.hu |
| Israel Political Science Association | Website: https://www.eng.ispsa.org/ Email: ispsa.mail@gmail.com |
| German Political Science Association | Website: http://www.dvpw.de |

Table 2: Invitation Email template for accepted Working Group Members from a country not represented in the MC

| |
|--|
| <p>Subject: Working Group Membership Confirmation</p> <p>Dear [Name],</p> <p>We are pleased to welcome you to the COST Action, "Linking euroscepticism and populism: causes and consequences (EUPopLink, CA23102)," and to confirm your membership in our Working Group(s).</p> <p>Your next step is to contact your National Coordinator to become a member of the EUPopLink Management Committee. You can find their contact details here:</p> <p>https://www.cost.eu/about/who-is-who/#tabs+Name:National%20Coordinators</p> <p>You may forward this email as confirmation of your membership. If your National Coordinator requires a formal invitation letter, please contact the Action Chair, who will provide one.</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information or assistance.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p> |
|--|

Table 3: Invitation Email template for Potential MC members for Countries which are not part of EUPopLink

Subject: Invitation to join the COST Action CA23102 - EUPopLink

Dear [Name],

We are pleased to invite you to join the COST Action CA23102 – Linking Euroscepticism and Populism: Causes and Consequences (EUPopLink), a European research network funded by the COST Action (European Cooperation in Science and Technology).

What is COST Action?

COST Action is the longest-running European framework supporting transnational cooperation among researchers, scientists, and innovators. It funds networking activities such as meetings, short-term scientific missions, training schools, and dissemination efforts. COST Actions do not fund research directly, but they offer unique opportunities to collaborate, exchange knowledge, and build capacity across Europe and beyond.

About EUPopLink

The EUPopLink Action explores the relationship between Euroscepticism and populism, aiming to better understand their causes, consequences, and variations across countries. It brings together a diverse community of scholars and practitioners from political science, sociology, communication studies, and related fields.

Although your country is not currently represented in the Action, we would be delighted to facilitate your involvement. Participation is open to:

- **Working Group (WG) members**, who contribute to research, publications, events, and training
- **Management Committee (MC) members**, who formally represent their country and take part in decision-making processes

To become an MC member, please contact your COST National Coordinator to request that your country joins the Action and nominates you as MC member. You can find their contact details here:

<https://www.cost.eu/about/who-is-who/#tabs+Name:National%20Coordinators>

You may forward this email as confirmation of your invitation. If your National Coordinator requires a formal invitation letter, please contact the Action Chair, who will provide one.

You can learn more about EUPopLink here:

<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA23102>.

Why join EUPopLink?

- Become part of a dynamic European research community
- Gain access to funding for travel, collaboration, and training
- Increase the visibility and impact of your work
- Connect with scholars and professionals across disciplines
- Contribute to evidence-based recommendations and public engagement

Please feel free to reach out if you need any support or further information. We would be happy to assist you with the application process or provide additional material.

We look forward to welcoming you to the EUPopLink COST Action.

Kind regards,

Table 4: Invitation Email Template for Potential Members for Countries which already have 1 MC member

Subject: Invitation to Join the COST Action CA23102 – EUPopLink

Dear [Name],

We hope this message finds you well.

We are reaching out to invite you to become involved in the **COST Action CA23102 – Linking Euroscepticism and Populism: Causes and Consequences (EUPopLink)**, a dynamic and interdisciplinary research network funded by the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST).

Your expertise and interest in the topics of populism, euroscepticism, or related areas would be a valuable addition to our growing international network. Although your country currently has one Management Committee (MC) member, COST Actions can have **two MC members** per country, and we are seeking to expand and diversify participation.

What is COST Action?

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a long-standing EU-funded framework that supports the collaboration of researchers and innovators across Europe and beyond. COST Actions provide networking opportunities through **Working Groups, Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs), Training Schools, Workshops, and Conferences**. Learn more about the COST framework: <https://www.cost.eu>

About EUPopLink

EUPopLink brings together scholars and practitioners to explore the interplay between **euroscepticism and populism**, assess their causes and consequences, and foster dialogue across disciplines and countries. You can learn more about the Action, its goals, and working structure on our official website: <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA23102/>

Why join EUPopLink?

By joining EUPopLink, you will:

- Collaborate with an international network of researchers.
- Access COST-funded activities and opportunities for mobility.
- Contribute to cutting-edge research and policy discussions.

- Expand your visibility and professional profile in your field.

How to Join:

There are two main ways to become involved:

1. As an MC Member (Management Committee)

If you're interested in representing your country at the management level, please contact your **COST National Coordinator (CNC)** to request your nomination as the second MC member. You can find their contact details at: <https://www.cost.eu/about/who-is-who/#tabs+Name:National%20Coordinators> You may forward this email as confirmation of your invitation. If your National Coordinator requires a formal invitation letter, please contact the Action Chair, who will provide one.

2. As a WG Member (Working Group)

You may also join one or more of our Working Groups (WGs) to contribute to ongoing research and activities. You can apply directly through the EUPopLink COST Action website <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA23102/> or contact us for guidance.

Please feel free to reach out if you need any support or further information. We would be happy to assist you with the application process or provide additional material.

We look forward to welcoming you to the EUPopLink COST Action.

Kind regards,

Table 5: Invitation email template for Potential Members from Near Neighbour Countries

Subject: Invitation to Join the COST Action CA23102 – EUPopLink

Dear [Name],

We hope this message finds you well.

We are reaching out to invite you to become involved in the **COST Action CA23102 – Linking Euroscepticism and Populism: Causes and Consequences (EUPopLink)**, a dynamic and interdisciplinary research network funded by the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST).

What is COST Action?

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a long-standing EU-funded framework that supports the collaboration of researchers and innovators across Europe and beyond. COST Actions provide networking opportunities through **Working Groups, Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs), Training Schools, Workshops, and Conferences**. Learn more about the COST framework: <https://www.cost.eu>

About EUPopLink

EUPopLink brings together scholars and practitioners to explore the interplay between **eurocepticism and populism**, assess their causes and consequences, and foster dialogue across disciplines and countries. You can learn more about the Action, its goals, and working structure on our official website: <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA23102/>

Why join EUPopLink?

By joining EUPopLink, you will:

- Collaborate with an international network of researchers.
- Access COST-funded activities and opportunities for mobility.
- Contribute to cutting-edge research and policy discussions.
- Expand your visibility and professional profile in your field.

How to Join as a WG Member (Working Group):

You may also join one or more of our Working Groups (WGs) to contribute to ongoing research and activities. You can apply directly through the EUPopLink COST Action website or contact us for guidance.

Please feel free to reach out if you need any support or further information. We would be happy to assist you with the application process or provide additional material.

We look forward to welcoming you to the EUPopLink COST Action.

Kind regards,

Table 6: Invitation email template for Associations/ NGO's and the forwarded message to the members

Subject: Invitation to Join the COST Action CA23102 – EUPopLink

Dear [Name of Contact / NGO Representative],

I hope this message finds you well.

We are reaching out to kindly invite your organization to **share this invitation with your members** regarding an exciting opportunity to participate in **COST Action CA23102 – Linking Eurocepticism and Populism: Causes and Consequences (EUPopLink)**.

As part of the wider COST initiative (European Cooperation in Science and Technology), our Action aims to explore the interplay between eurocepticism and populism, assess their causes and consequences, and foster dialogue across disciplines and countries. COST Actions offer a valuable platform for networking, knowledge exchange, and collaborative research across Europe and beyond. You can learn more about the Action, its goals, and working structure on our official website: <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA23102/>

We believe that your members would benefit greatly from participating in our network, especially through active roles such as Management Committee (MC) and Working Group (WG) members.

Please find below the message we would appreciate you forwarding to your members:

Message to be Forwarded to Members

Subject: Join the EUPopLink COST Network

Dear [Member's Name],

We are pleased to invite you to join **COST Action CA23102 – Linking Euroscepticism and Populism: Causes and Consequences (EUPopLink)**, an international network supported by the COST Programme. This Action brings together experts, researchers, practitioners, and civil society organizations to address the relationship between Euroscepticism and populism, aiming to better understand their causes, consequences, and variations across countries. It connects a diverse community of scholars and practitioners from political science, sociology, communication studies, and related fields.

Benefits of joining the COST Action include:

- Access to a European network of professionals and experts
- Participation in Working Groups (WGs) and scientific meetings
- Opportunities for Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) and Training Schools
- Eligibility to become a Management Committee (MC) or WG member and help shape the Action's direction

How to Join:

1. Learn more about the Action here: <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA23102/>
2. If you are interested in becoming a WG member, please fill out this form or contact us: <https://e-services.cost.eu/action/CA23102/working-groups/apply>
3. For MC membership, please contact the COST National Coordinator (CNC) in your country. You can find the contact information of your CNC at: <https://www.cost.eu/about/who-is-who/#tabs+Name:National%20Coordinators>

We would be delighted to have you on board and collaborate in shaping innovative, impactful dialogue and activities within our network.

Kind regards,