

Deliverables in a nutshell

- ✓ Reports about the identification of different typologies and manifestations of populism and Euroscepticism in different countries
- ✓ Report about data processing, cleaning and harmonisation
- ✓ Database and documentation
- ✓ Report on the development of a comprehensive mapping of the relationship between populism and Euroscepticism
- ✓ Science Communication Plan
- ✓ Report on policy briefs to EU and national parliaments
- ✓ Joint edited volumes, conference presentations and joint articles

Grant Holder

Aristotle University Thessaloniki

Chair of the Action

Professor Ioannis Andreadis, Aristotle University Thessaloniki

Vice-Chair of the Action

Professor Sofia Vasilopoulou, King's College London, UK



Linking Euroscepticism & Populism Causes & Consequences

October 2024 to October 2028

Join us!

Apply to join your Working Groups of interest
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EUPopLink

LINKING EUROSCEPTICISM & POPULISM



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the European Union

Contact information

Address:

School of Political Sciences,
Aristotle University Thessaloniki
Vasileos Irakleiou 12, Room E4, Thessaloniki, Greece

Email: eupoplink@polsci.auth.gr

Tel: +30 2310 991 917
+30 2310 991 992

Web: www.eupoplink.eu

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Main objectives of the Action

The **EUPopLink COST Action** seeks to deepen our understanding of the complex relationship between populism and Euroscepticism—two political phenomena that have increasingly shaped the landscape of contemporary European politics and often appear closely intertwined. The aim is the collection of new, original data and a systematic re-evaluation of existing datasets. The objectives of the Action are pursued through the coordinated efforts of four Working Groups.

We build upon previous research projects, and we aim to:

UPDATE
Longitudinally



EXPAND
Comparatively across different
EU-member states and between
EU and domestic levels



INNOVATE
Conceptually,
methodologically,
and empirically



The **EUPopLink COST Action** promotes collaboration with policymakers, civil society organizations, and other non-academic actors to ensure that the research is both relevant and impactful. In addition, our Action places a strong emphasis on capacity-building for early-career researchers, offering a range of opportunities such as training workshops, short-term scientific missions, and conference grants with a particular focus on supporting COST Inclusiveness Target Countries.

The broader aim of the project is to produce cutting-edge, policy-relevant research that explores the causes and consequences of the populism–Euroscepticism nexus. Special attention is given to understanding how this interplay affects democratic resilience in the context of multiple crises—including the Eurozone crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, migration and refugee challenges, the war in Ukraine, and the recent Israel–Gaza conflict.

Ultimately, the **EUPopLink COST Action** aims to inform evidence-based policy recommendations designed to mitigate the negative effects of populism and Euroscepticism, and to support democratic governance in Europe during times of uncertainty.

Comparative Design

Comparison of country case studies with attention to variation across regions in Europe and different party systems.

Interdisciplinary Approach

Political science, sociology, communication studies and data science.

Working Groups of the Action

WG1 Conceptualising populism and Euroscepticism

This Working Group focuses on developing a comprehensive conceptual framework for understanding populism and Euroscepticism across Europe. It undertakes an extensive literature review—including sources in languages other than English—covering both the supply side (political parties and leaders) and the demand side (voters). The aim is to identify national and cross-national typologies and to map the diverse manifestations of these phenomena in different political and cultural contexts.

WG2 Data collection

This Working Group is responsible for coordinating the collection, harmonization, and analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data related to populism and Euroscepticism. It draws on a wide range of sources—including parliamentary debates, political speeches, media content, and survey data—to support robust empirical research across the Action. On the quantitative side, WG2 will utilize existing datasets such as candidate surveys, national election studies, and social surveys from participating countries. A key objective is to develop standardized indices to measure populism and Euroscepticism, enabling cross-national comparison and longitudinal analysis.

WG3 Studying the linkage between populism and Euroscepticism

This Working Group focuses on analyzing the relationship between populism and Euroscepticism by utilizing the data collected by WG2. The aim is to develop a comprehensive mapping of the interaction between populism and Euroscepticism, exploring how this relationship manifests across different political systems and how it has evolved over time. Emphasis will be placed on uncovering the mechanisms and causal pathways that link the two. WG3 will employ a multi-method approach which will help to generate a nuanced and empirically grounded understanding of this complex interplay.

WG4 Outreach and Dissemination

This Working Group is dedicated to ensuring the wide dissemination of the Action's findings to both academic and non-academic audiences. Its primary goal is to communicate research results to stakeholders, policymakers, civil society actors, and the broader public through a diverse range of channels. These include academic publications, policy briefs, conferences, seminars, workshops, tutorials, blogs, online platforms, social media, and face-to-face meetings.

Capacity Building

Training for young scholars, scientific missions, promotion of gender-balance and inclusive participation from COST Inclusiveness Target Countries.

Longitudinal Perspective

Tracking changes in populist and Eurosceptic dynamics over time.

Methodological innovation
Compiling data sources and ensuring
consistent methodology across datasets

