

EDEM CONFERENCE

Call for Abstracts

Scientific and Artwork-Based Submissions

Conference dates 16-17 September 2026	Location Faculty of Medical Technical Sciences University of Elbasan "Aleksander Xhuvani" Elbasan, Albania
Presentation slots 10 external presentations	Conference fee No conference fee

About the conference

The concluding conference of the COST Action on Ethics in Dementia (EDEM) will serve as a focal point for presenting and critically reflecting on the network's achievements, scientific outputs, and broader societal contributions. Following four years of international collaboration, the conference will bring together EDEM members and external scholars, clinicians, and practitioners engaged with ethical challenges in dementia care.

Important dates

Abstract submission deadline	31 May 2026
Notification of acceptance	30 June 2026
Submission email	ethicsindementia@gmail.com

Conference focus

The EDEM Conference will focus on advancing ethical dementia care beyond the current situation. The programme is designed to explore how ethical values, specifically dignity, autonomy, and quality of life for people living with dementia can be promoted; how moral distress and burnout among formal and family caregivers can be reduced; and how quality and greater consistency of dementia care can be strengthened across Europe and beyond.

The conference will include few keynotes, external presentations and working group sessions that will introduce empirical findings, conceptual analyses, and practice-oriented perspectives, all of which engage directly with the ethical dimensions of dementia care and the translation of ethical principles into practice and policy.

Indicative thematic areas

- Ethical challenges in dementia care across various care settings (home care, nursing homes, hospitals, community care)
- Discussion of specific values such as dignity, autonomy, personhood, and quality of life for people living with dementia
- Moral distress, burnout, and ethical support for formal and informal caregivers
- Mapping ethical problems, principles, and values in dementia care across European contexts

- Development and implementation of ethical frameworks for dementia care
- Policy recommendations and governance approaches for integrating ethics into dementia care systems
- Educational approaches, training tools, and ethical decision-making support for caregivers
- Cross-national, comparative, and interdisciplinary perspectives, including experiences from Central and Eastern European countries
- Societal and systemic implications of ethics in dementia care, including the use of AI, diagnostics, and resource allocation-based technologies.

Submission categories

Scientific abstracts

Presentations will be scheduled alongside the main scientific programme and followed by structured discussion to foster exchange between presenters and participants.

- Abstract length: Up to 300 words
- Language: English
- Abstracts should clearly outline the topic or research question, approach or methodology (where relevant), and key arguments or findings
- Please include author name(s), institutional affiliation(s), and contact details

Artwork-based abstracts

The conference also invites artwork-based abstracts that explore ethical dimensions of dementia care through creative and practice-based approaches, recognizing that many ethical challenges cannot be fully captured through traditional academic methods. These may include works of visual art/painting, photography, performance, music, etc.

- Maximum 300 words
- Include: title, background/concept, description of the artwork, creative process (if applicable), relevance to EDEM themes
- Please include a link to visual/audio material where relevant
- Selected contributions may be presented as an exhibition, short artist talk, or interactive/participatory session

Artwork scope and suggested themes

- Ethical challenges in dementia care
- Autonomy, dignity, and person-centered care
- Caregiver burden, burnout, and moral distress
- Lived experiences of people with dementia and their families
- Communication, identity, and memory
- Cultural and societal perspectives on dementia

Review and participation

All submissions will be peer-reviewed by the conference scientific committee for external contributions. Selection will be based on relevance to the conference focus, scientific quality, and contribution to the overall programme. There is no conference fee for participation in the EDEM Conference. The 10 external presenters will be reimbursed, subject to budget availability, in accordance with COST



UNIVERSITY of
ELBASAN
"Aleksandër Xhuvani"

reimbursement rules. Presenters already invited to the conference by COST are not eligible for additional reimbursement. All registered participants will receive an official certificate of participation issued by the organizing committee.

Presentation Format

Selected contributions will be presented as:

- Exhibition (physical or digital)
- Short oral presentation or artist talk (10 to 15 min)
- Interactive or participatory session (where applicable)

On behalf of the Organizing Committee

Prof. Sigurd Lauridsen

Prof. Kate Irving

Prof. Daniel Sperling

Assoc. Prof. Elona Gaxhja

Prof. Esra Dogru-Huzmeli

Lucca-Mathilde Thorup Ferm