

Call for Virtual Mobility Grant (VM)

Purpose of the Virtual Mobility Grant

The Virtual Mobility Grants aim to strengthening the existing networks by allowing scientists to foster collaboration in a virtual setting, to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, disseminate the Action results, etc.

VM Grant Activities

The successful applicant(s) shall implement the workplan approved in their application within the time frame also there defined and always within one single Grant Period. The activities expected to be performed by the successful applicant, but not limited to, are:

- Support the harmonization and standardization of methods and procedures within the Action networking activities,
- To support the implementation of research related activities that do not necessarily require in-person presence,
- Virtual mentoring scheme, with special focus on activities and exchanges that can generate capacity and build new skills, particularly for ECIs researchers,
- Content preparation and coordination of science communication activities

Financial Support

Maximum of 6 VM Grants (maximum EUR 1.500 each) per Action per Grant Period. The Grant Holder shall pay the approved grant to the grantee after the MC has approved the grantee's report and no later than 15 days from the end of Grant Period.

Who can apply

All individuals from participating COST countries and MC observers from NNCs are eligible to apply for these grant. The applicant(s) shall inform the MC about the aim of the VM Grant and how its outcomes will generate benefits to the Action, actively contribute to the activities and overall objectives of the Action and submit a report at the end, to be approved by the VNS manager on behalf of the MC.

How to apply

The application must be submitted via e-cost. Please refer to the Virtual Networking Tools User guide (<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/06/VNT-userguide.pdf>)

The grantee should submit a report of the Virtual Mobility Grant to the Action Chair/ the VNS Manager and to the Science Officer of the Action by the 26th of October including:

- Description of the outcomes and achieved outputs (including any specific MoU deliverables, or publications resulting from the Virtual Mobility).
- Description of the benefits to the COST Action Strategy (what and how).
- Description of the virtual collaboration (including constructive reflection on activities undertaken, identified successful practices and lessons learned).
- The report shall consider only virtual activities carried out in their entirety within a single Grant Period.

When submitting an application the applicant should include the following information in the report:

- Main objective of the Virtual Mobility Grant.
- Working Plan: Description of the collaborative initiative to be implemented.
- Plan for Participation: List of participants in the collaborative initiative (short description of their expertise and contribution).
- Main expected outputs: results and contribution to the progress towards the MoU objectives (either research coordination and/or capacity building objectives can be tackled) and delivery of the MoU objectives.
- Contribution to the COST Action Strategy: How will the Virtual Mobility contribute to the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy and plans for stakeholder engagement and promoting participation of researchers from NNC and IPC (COST Global Networking) and to the approved virtual networking strategy, if available.

Non-Eligible Expenses

- Expenses already covered under other networking tools (e.g. LOS, STSM, ITC Conference Grants).
- Expenses considered non-eligible under any other networking tool (e.g. LOS, Dissemination, etc)
- Expenses related to licence fees for virtual communication tools beyond the permitted amount for the Action for a Grant Period.
- Expenses related to the participation in a conference.
- Translation or interpretation expenses.
- Purchase of software and technical equipment or electronic devices such as mobile phones, computers, printers, etc.

Call till 12th of October