Virtual Mobility Grants

What is VM?

Virtual mobility (VM) consists of a collaboration in virtual setting among researchers or innovators within the COST Action, to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, etc.

VM should:

- Support capacity building and transfer of knowledge through bilateral/multilateral collaborations
- Support specific/general topic that can help achieving the Action MoU objectives and deliverables (research coordination)
- Include flexible and inclusive networking activities crucial to establish new collaborations or reinforce existing collaborations across disciplines and different sectors (e.g., academia and   industry / SMEs) with possible impact on career development

Who can benefit from VM?

The COST Action:
- Uses a flexible tool to implement virtual activities inside the network, achieve the MoU objectives and significantly increase their impact and reach
- Contributes to European leadership in knowledge creation and increasing its innovation potential.

The VM grantee:
- develop(s) capacity in virtual collaboration and networking in pan-European framework.

Who can apply?

VM applicants must be researchers or innovators affiliated to a legal entity in:

- Full or Cooperating COST Member country
- NNC country
- European RTD Organisation

Types of activities that can be performed by the VM grantee:

- **Virtual mentoring scheme, with special focus on activities and exchanges that can generate capacity building and new skills, particularly for Young Researchers and Innovators** (managerial and communication skills, methodological skills, etc).

- **Support the harmonisation and standardisation of methods and procedure within the Action networking activities**, e.g:
  - *setting up a survey amongst all Action members to collect different results and outcomes from experiments done in their respective labs an research groups*
  - *coordinating the discussions to create common protocols to be used by the network afterwards*
  - *preparing questionnaires and response scales to be used by the Action members as part of virtual networking activities*

- **Support the implementation of research coordination related activities that do not necessarily require in-person presence:** e.g. *computational or modeling activities, data analysis of the Action for a specific report or activity.*

Application

To be filled in e-COST:

- Title

- Start and end date (within the active Grant Period)

- Budget requested by the applicant

- To be uploaded to e-COST:

    - Application form (template available on e-COST) describing: main objective, description of the work to be carried out by the applicant, plan for participation, expected outcomes and description of the contribution to the Action, expected outcomes and description of the contribution to the Action MoU objectives

    - Other documents required by the Action (recommendation letter, CV with bibliography, etc.)

SELECTION and EVALUATION criteria

- <u>Grant Awarding Committee</u>: organises Open Calls for applications, coordinates the collection and evaluation of the applications, guides the applicants, and communicates with the Grant Holder

- <u>Grant Holder:</u> verify the funds availability, check against the approved grant application and issue the grant letter

- <u>Grant Awarding Committee</u> takes into the consideration the quality and **the scientific scope** of the proposed participation and **how it will support the Action** in achieving its scientific objectives

VM financial contribution

VMs and financial contribution follow the following criteria:

- VM Grant provides a contribution for the overall effort (there are no categories of expenses)
- VM need to be carried out in their entirety **within a single Grant Period** and **always within the Action's lifetime**
- Max total contribution per grant: up to **1,500 €**

Amount granted:

Decided by the Action MC or Core Group on proposal of the evaluators, based on the request of the applicant. It should reflect the duration, scope and complexity of the task and activities to be covered via the VM grant

Upon approval of the application the Grantee receives **a Grant Letter** from the Grant Holder stating the approved amount and the conditions for receiving the grant

Reporting and claim for payment of the grant

- VM grantee performs the tasks in line with the approved application

- Once the activity has ended, the grantee submits the required reports and relevant documentation in e-COST within **30 days after the end date of the activity or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period whichever comes first**.

- Grantee claims the payment of the grant via e-COST

- The required report/documentation for claiming a **VM Grant** is:
  - Report to the Action MC on the work developed, main outcomes and achieved outputs of the VM and description if the future follow up collaboration (template available in e-COST).
  - Short report ca. up to 300 word for the Action website on the work developed (the Action requirement)