



MICROBIOME



Grants



Grants

- **COST Actions support different type of grants to researchers from the participating countries:**
 - Dissemination conference grants (DG)
 - Inclusiveness target country conference grants (CG)
 - Short term scientific missions (STSM)
 - Virtual mobility grants (VM)
- **This presentation will introduce these grants and instruct the participants on what is expected from a successful application and how to avoid common mistakes**



Dissemination conference

Presentation of the work of the Action by the Action participant

- Significantly increase visibility of the Action in the research community, can contribute to increasing visibility of the presenter;
- Attract additional participants and stakeholders and disseminate Action results to relevant end-users at high profile Conferences in the field on a topic relevant to the Action.

Dissemination Conference benefit to:

- Dissemination Conference Grantee: receives support for attending and **presenting the Action, their activities, and results (oral presentation)** at a conference and/or for developing new contacts and potential future collaborations;
- COST Action: receives increased visibility and awareness, new contacts with potential stakeholders.



DG Application

To be filled in e-COST:

- Title of the presentation
- Conference title, date (within the active Grant Period) and venue;
- Budget requested;
- Attendance Type (face to face or virtual)

To be uploaded to e-COST:

- Application form (template available on e-COST) describing: Alignment with the Action Science Communication plan and Expected impact to the COST Action.
- Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral presentation focused on promoting the scientific achievements and activities being performed by the COST Action;
- Acceptance (or invitation) letter from the conference organisers;
- Other documents required by the Action (e.g. recommendation letter, etc...)



DG Financial contribution

- Providing contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, registration fee, printing of scientific poster and overall effort.
- Grantee can ask up to:
 - EUR 2 000 per grant for face to-face conferences
 - EUR 500 for virtual conferences
- The amount awarded is decided by the Action MC or Core Group on proposal of the evaluators and should reflect the duration and location of the Conference and the actual conference fee.
- 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



DG Outcomes and Payment

- 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 **Dissemination Conference Grant** are:
 - Report to the Action MC on the outcome of presentation, the contacts made and potential for future collaborations;
 - The certificate of attendance,
 - the programme of the conference or book of abstracts / proceedings indicating the oral presentation of the grantee
 - copy of the given presentation
- Grants are paid by the Grant Holder after the completion of the activity and approval of all required report/documentation.



ITC countries & grants

ITC Conference Grant - grant awarded by the Management Committee to

- a young researcher or innovator affiliated in an ITC or a NNC to present their own work at an international well recognized conference organized by third parties.

INCLUSIVENESS TARGET COUNTRIES

Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Reunion Island and Saint-Martin (France), Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey

NEAR NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES

Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, [Russia]*, Syria, Tunisia, and Ukraine.

* Subject to confirmation by the EC



ITC Application

- To be filled in e-COST:

- Title of the presentation
- Conference title, date (within the active Grant Period) and country;
- Budget requested;
- Attendance Type (face to face or virtual)

- To be uploaded to e-COST:

- Application form (template available on e-COST) describing: Relevance of the conference topic to the Action and Motivation describing the potential for impact on the applicant's career.
- **Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral or poster presentation;**
- Acceptance letter from the conference organisers;
- Other documents required by the Action (recommendation letter from home institution, CV with bibliography acknowledgment to the COST Action in the contribution)



ITC Financial Support

- Providing contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, registration fee, printing of scientific poster and overall effort.
- Grantee can ask up to :
 - EUR 2 000 per grant for face to-face conferences
 - EUR 500 for virtual conferences
- The amount awarded is decided by the Action MC or Core Group on proposal of the evaluators and should reflect the duration and location of the Conference and the actual conference fee.
- 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



ITC Outcomes and Payment

- 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 an ITC Conference Grant is:**
 1. Report to the Action MC on the outcomes of the presentation of the accepted contribution in terms of grantee's visibility including establishments of the new contacts for future collaborations.
 2. The certificate of attendance,
 3. the programme of the conference or book of abstracts / proceedings indicating the presentation (oral or poster) of the grantee
 4. copy of the given presentation (oral or poster);
- Grants are paid by the Grant Holder after the completion of the activity and approval of all required report/documentation.



What is a STSM?

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) are (face to face) exchange visits aimed to:

- 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);
- Are very 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;
- Typical outcomes are spin-off publications and (funded) projects that contribute to the visibility and impact of the COST Actions, encouraging other researchers to join.



STSM - Eligibility Rules: Who can apply?

STSM applicants must **be researchers or innovators from**

- an legal entity in the Full or Cooperating COST Member country,
- an legal entity in the NNC country or
- European RTD Organisation

STSM HOSTS

- Any legal entity anywhere in the world (academy, institutes, industry, private companies, etc.); across disciplines and sectors.



STSM - Application

To be filled in e-COST:

- Title
- Start and end date (within the active Grant Period);
- Budget requested by the applicant;
- Information about the host institution and contact person.

• To be uploaded to e-COST:

- Application form (template available on e-COST) describing: Goals, description of the work to be carried out by the applicant, expected outcomes and description of the contribution to the Action MoU objectives;
- Confirmation of the host on the agreement from the host institution in receiving the applicant;
- **Other documents required by the Action (recommendation letter from home institution, CV with bibliography)**



STSM Financial Contribution

- An STSM grant is a **fixed financial contribution** that takes into consideration
 - the budget request of the applicant and
 - the outcome of the evaluation of the STSM application.
- STSM Grants do not necessarily cover all expenses related to undertaking a given mission (**travel, accommodation and meal expenses should be covered**).
- The COST Association and the Grant Holder of the Action are not to be considered as being an STSM Grantee's employer.
- STSM Grantees must make their own arrangements for all provisions related to visas, personal security, health, taxation, social security and pension matters.
- The STSM Committee can approve differentiated country rates to cover accommodation and meal expenses based on the perceived cost of living in the host country.



STSM financial contribution

STSMs and financial contribution follow the following criteria:

- STSM 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: **4000 €**

Amount granted:

Decided by the Action MC or Core Group on proposal of the evaluators, based on the request of the applicant and should reflect the duration and location of the STSM.

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



STSM financial contribution

- ITC (Inclusiveness target countries) candidates can request a pre-payment of 50% of their STSM Grant. This amount is subject to availability of the funds and approval by the Grant holder institution.
- If the prepayment is approved, the amount is paid by the Grant Holder at any moment before or during the STSM. The Grant holder needs to ensure adequate tracking of any amount pre-paid and record in the e-COST the total final grant after the mission has been fulfilled.
- Grant holder supports the grantee in case of force majeure by informing the applicant about the necessary documents (invoices, tickets, etc) that may be exceptionally required for the reimbursement of the grant or actual expenses



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.**

VMs 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?

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

Eligibility Rules: Who can apply?

VM applicant must be researcher or innovator affiliated to a legal entity in:

- Full or Cooperating COST Member country,
- NNC country or
- 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).
- **Harmonisation and standardisation of methods and procedure within 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 and 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.
- **To 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.)



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: fixed amount, 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 and 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.



GRANTS - Selection and Evaluation Criteria

- **The calls are always open** 😊
- Grant Awarding Committee: coordinates the collection and evaluation of the applications, guides the applicants, and communicates with the Grant Holder
- Grant Holder: verify the funds availability, check against the approved grant application and issue the grant letter
- Grant Awarding Committee 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.



GRANTS - Reporting and claim for payment of the grant

- 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.
 - **Short report ca. up to 300 word for the Action website on the work developed. (Action requirement)**



Important notes

- **PLEASE note: 31.10. is the end of Grant period**
- All activities (including conferences, VM, and STSM) should preferably end by 10.10. and report immediately so that:
 - The report can be submitted timely (asap after the end of the activity)
 - The Grant awarding committee has time to evaluate the report
 - The Grant holder has time to refund the participant
- Please do not plan application to any activities between 10.10 and 30.11.2022. The reasons is that with the start of a new GP, the rules might change, and the applicant may not be eligible anymore for the planned activity.



Dream Challenge and STSMs

- We are seeking for 1-2 STSM candidates for a research visit at the University of Turku, Finland, for 1-3 months to be ended before October 13.
- The STSM will contribute to data science workflows to support a ML4microbiome COST action DREAM challenge that focuses on the prediction of incident heart failure events based on fecal microbiome profiles.
- The STSM will contribute to the testing, documentation, reporting, and analysis of the microbiome workflows to support these activities.