



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)



Dissemination conference grants

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 Financial contribution

- 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
- Upon approval of the application, the Grantee receives a Grant Letter from the Grant Holder



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 Financial Support

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 - EUR 2 000 per grant for face to-face conferences
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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 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



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.



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.



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.



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.



Awarded grants

- Total spent/reserved 14.200 EUR from 15000 EUR available

Applicant	Type	Title	Status	Amount	Dates
					dd/mm/yyyy
					dd/mm/yyyy
Eliana Ibrahim	STSM	Generalized linear models with LASSO, and sparse group LASSO regularization to find bacteria associated with colorectal cancer	Grant letter sent	2700.00	12/09/2022 04/10/2022
Ainhoa García	STSM	Capturing different microbiome insights using NGS technologies and ML techniques	Grant letter sent	4000.00	15/08/2022 22/10/2022
Rajesh Shigdel	STSM	Optimization and standardization of microbiome data and to support dissemination and training	Grant letter sent	4000.00	15/07/2022 15/09/2022
Andrea Mihajlović	STSM	Multi-view semi-supervised prediction on incomplete microbiome data	Report approved	3500.00	05/06/2022 03/07/2022



Dissemination for DREAM challenge

- Microbiome Forum: <https://www.microbiome-vif.org/>
- A recurring bite-sized alternative to multi-day microbiome conference:
- Regular short-format (~2 hours) conferences that provide all the key elements of a traditional conference!
- The MVIF conference is free: **everyone is welcome!**
Submit an abstract **any time of the year** for an opportunity to present and discuss your work with a large, international community of scientists!