



# Virtual Mobility Grants

CA18134 G-BiKE

## *The Third Call for Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants*

Applications for VMs taking place between **1st February – 7th September 2023**

**CALL DEADLINE:** February 15th, 17:00 CEST

**ANNOUNCEMENT DATE:** five working days upon receipt of the applications or February 22nd, 17:00 CEST at the latest

### BACKGROUND

Connecting people needs a strong focus on developing available resources and enabling participants to interact closely. However, during the pandemic in the previous two years, close in-person interaction was halted. The pandemic circumstances, coupled with restrictions on public gatherings and events, hampered achieving some G-Bike's objectives and deliverables. The possibilities of virtual networking could overcome these shortcomings. To mitigate this, The COST Association supports the funding schemes of Virtual Mobility (VM) grants.

### THE PURPOSE OF THE VIRTUAL MOBILITY (VM) GRANT

VM Grants aim at strengthening the existing networks by allowing scientists and practitioners to foster collaboration in a virtual setting, to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, disseminate the Action activities, etc. to directly contribute to the goals and needs of G-BiKE.

### EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES FOR VMGs

Some of the examples of VM activities ([ANNOTATED RULES FOR COST ACTIONS](#) A2-1.1.2):

1) To support the harmonisation and standardisation of methods and procedures within the Action networking activities, e.g.

- Setting up a survey amongst all Action members to collect different information regarding the research performed by Action participants.
- Coordinating the discussions to create common protocols to be used by the network afterwards.
- Preparing questionnaires and response scales.

2) To support the implementation of research related activities that do not necessarily require in-person

presence, e.g.

- Computational or modelling activities.
- Data analysis of the Action for a specific report or activity.

3) Virtual mentoring scheme, with special focus on activities and exchanges that can generate capacity building and new skills (e.g., managerial skills, methodological skills, communication skills, etc.).

4) Content preparation and coordination of science communication activities, e.g.

- Massive Online Open Courses (MOOC).
- Online workshops like 'webinar series' or 'TV series'-like format.
- Online COST Action workshops in external international conferences or events.

### Non-eligible activities

All activities that are covered by other networking tools, licenses of programmes or online tools, conference fees, translations, purchase of any software and technical equipment.

## ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS

The following eligibility criteria apply:

- Applicant(s) are **Action participants** with a primary affiliation to an institution located in a [COST Full or Cooperating Member country](#) or **MC Observers** from a [COST Near Neighbour Country](#).
- The successful applicant(s) shall:
  - inform the MC and the Core Group 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,
  - submit a report at the end, to be approved by the Virtual Networking Support (VNS) manager on behalf of the MC.

## FUNDING

The maximum amount for one VM grant is **1500 Euros**. However, please note that requested amount can be decreased or increased as Core Group will define the exact amount of each grant reflecting the scope and complexity of the task and activities.

**No in advance payments are foreseen.** Approved VM Grant will be paid to the grantee after the Core Group has approved the grantee's report and no later than 15 days from the end of Grant Period.

VM grantee has **30 calendar days\*** from the completion of the VM Grant to submit a report to the Action Chair/ the VNS Manager and to the Science Officer of the Action 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 template of the report is provided in the e-COST and in [the User Guide of Virtual networking Tools \(VNT\)](#) (page 4).

\* Due to administrative tasks related to the approval of the report, it is strongly recommended that reports of the VM grants are completed as soon as possible after the completion of VM grant.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

VM Grant applications must be submitted using [the e-COST system](#). The applicants should use [the VM Grant application template](#) that are provided in the e-COST and in [the User Guide of Virtual networking Tools \(VNT\)](#) (page 3). VM Grant applications submitted in any other way (email, post etc.) will not be evaluated. Detailed application procedure is described [in the User Guide of Virtual networking Tools \(VNT\)](#).

### Obligatory documents

VM Grant applicant must submit:

- VM Grant application template (template is provided in the e-COST and in the User Guide of Virtual networking Tools (VNT) (page 3). The final document will be generated by e-COST system after filling in all requested information).

If needed, VM Grant Applicant can submit other supporting documents. Number of supporting documents is not limited, while the size of each file is limited to 2 MB. VM Grant applicant is allowed to submit various formats of the files, but applicant must ensure that VNS manager will be able to download and check the document.

### Application content

Each VM Grant Application must include following information that are also provided in the application template:

- Main objective of the VM 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.

### EVALUATION PROCEDURE

The evaluation procedure will follow the decision of the Core Group (following the mandate given by MCs) and the Grant Awarding Manager will process each received VM Grant application.

#### Evaluation criteria

Each VM Grant Application will be evaluated according to contribution to the:

- Overall objectives of the Action.
- Implementation of the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy.

#### Notification about the call's results

Successful VM Grant Applicants will be informed by email automatically generated by e-COST. **The results of the evaluation are expected to be known five working days upon receipt of the applications or February 22nd, 17:00 CEST at the latest.**

**If you have any questions related to the VM Grants and the application procedure, please contact G-BiKE's Grant Awarding Manager Belma Kalamujić Stroil (email: [belma.k@gmail.com](mailto:belma.k@gmail.com)).**

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