

CALL FOR VIRTUAL MOBILITY GRANTS

The CA19136 - NET4Age-Friendly | International interdisciplinary network on health and wellbeing in an age-friendly digital world is opening a call for 6 VIRTUAL NETWORKING MOBILITY GRANTS.

RATIONALE

The COST Programme implemented a pilot action that will run until October 2021, mainly due to the COVID19 pandemic and its consequent restrictive measures, aiming to build capacity and spread the uptake of virtual collaboration across different research communities. It includes two new types of grants:

- A **Virtual Networking Support (VNS) Grant**, for appointing an individual as Virtual Networking Support Manager, to promote virtual collaboration, such as developing a virtual networking strategy for the Action, taking overall responsibility for Virtual Mobility Grants (see below), and supporting the MC in the discussions and planning of virtual events and collaboration activities.
- **Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants** aim at strengthening the existing networks by allowing scientists to foster collaboration in a virtual setting, exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, disseminate Action results, etc. The maximum amount per VM Grant is EUR 1.500, with a maximum of 6 VM Grants per Action per Grant Period

As a result of a previous call, the VNS Manager for the 1st Grant Period will be Carina Dantas | carinadantas@shine2.eu and she will be the main contact person for any aspect related to this call.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE VM GRANTS

Applicants are CA19136 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.

Applicants shall provide information 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.

NOTE: As stated by the Vademecum, an Action participant is any person being an Action MC member, an Action MC substitute, an Action MC Observer, a Working Group member or an ad-hoc participant.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND GUIDELINES

The application shall be submitted via your e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu>, using this [template](#), comprising the following information:

- 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 of NET4Age-Friendly.

Additional information can be found in the Vademecum, The FAQ for VNTs and the VNT user guide, all available in: <https://www.cost.eu/funding/how-to-get-funding/documents-and-guidelines/>.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF APPLICANTS

The evaluation of applications is performed by the Action's Virtual Networking Support (VNS) Manager with the support of the Core Group, if necessary, on behalf of the MC. The selection of successful grantees shall be based on contributions to the criteria below:

- Alignment of the proposal with the COST and Action aims and objectives
- Alignment with the objectives listed in the section "Implementation of Activities" below in this document.
- Adequate implementation of the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy, especially towards the support of researchers in ITCs and NNCs, as well as the approved strategy on virtual networking for the NET4Age-Friendly Action.
- In case of equally ranked applications underrepresented persons, ECI and applicants from ITC will be privileged.

The applications shall be submitted in e-COST and include required information detailed in the [Vademecum](#), section 10.2.2. More information available in the [FAQ document](#).

IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES

Each VM applicant can define their scope within the 5 Working Group (WG) themes, as long as they directly contribute to the work being actually developed within the WG during this Grant period. This should be made explicit in the application and coordination with WG Leaders and members is valued.

Each applicant shall develop one video recording summarising the outcomes, discussion and lessons learned in the VM, in any format (e.g. presentation, lecture, panel discussion, learning tool, etc.) as long as it is possible to upload this in NET4 website – webinar repository (<https://www.net4age.eu/net4-webinars>), to be used as a learning material and allowing for future networking, knowledge exchange and upscale.

All of the videos shall be ready and available at the MC meeting in 6-7 October, where a summary presentation of the 6 VM outcomes will be included in the agenda, with room for discussion between the Action members and grantees.

The requirements on activities expected to be performed by the successful applicant are listed in section 10.2.3 of the Vademecum, as potential examples:

- 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 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 related activities that do not necessarily require in-person presence, e.g.
 - Desk search on relevant items.
 - Data analysis of the Action for a specific report or activity.
- Virtual mentoring scheme, with special focus on activities and exchanges that can generate capacity building and new skills, particularly for ECIs researchers (e.g. managerial skills, methodological skills, communication skills, etc).
- 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, when the applicant can demonstrate a role in the organising committee, that could help in the promotion of the Action activities.

TIME SCHEDULE

Deadline for applications submission: The call will be open in continuum until the 6 grants are awarded, as long as sufficient time is ensured for a quality delivery.

With the provision that the submission and grant implementation will be within the Grant Period lasting until October 31, 2021, taking into account application evaluation processing time – up to 7 days.

The grantee has 30 calendar days from the completion of the Virtual Mobility Grant to submit a report to the VNS Manager and to the Science Officer of the Action.

FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

A maximum of 6 Virtual Mobility Grants will be awarded. Each Virtual Mobility Grant cannot exceed 1.500€.

NET4Age-Friendly Action information

[Action website](#)

[Action page on COST website](#)

[Memorandum of Understanding](#)