Virtual Mobility (VM)

Virtual Mobility (VM) is one of the networking activities which is organized through a Grant Awarding Process in a COST Action.

1.1.   What is VM?

VM is a special type of networking activity which enables a professional collaboration of the grantee with other researchers and innovators or organizations. This collaboration might be in the form of (but not limited to) a virtual mentoring, designing or performing a scientific study (e.g. data collection, statistical analysis etc.) or coordination of a project which benefit the Action's objectives. The VM grant candidate should take over a specific task to be completed in a determined period of time.

The aim of VMs is, basically to contribute to the research coordination and capacity building objectives of COST Action CA21122, PROmoting GeRiAtric Medicine in countries where it is still eMergING (PROGRAMMING) via establishing new collaborations or strengthening existing ones. The VM grantee individually may benefit gaining new knowledge, techniques, abilities and/or improving personal experience in cooperative project management.

The amount of the grant which has a maximum limit of EUR 1500,00 (per grant) is to be decided by the Action's Core Group considering the complexity of the task and activities to be covered via the VM grant. This funding aims to contribute for the overall effort given during the completion of the special work.

1.2.   What types of VM grants can I apply for?

For the present call the VM grant candidates has two possibilities:

  i.   Either they should propose a specific task/project of their choice to be completed in a determined period of time OR
  ii. They could choose one of the missions proposed by the Working Group 5 (WG5) leaders to facilitate the objectives of this WG.

More specifically,

  I.   For a **virtual mentoring proposal**, the applicant choices her/his own project (which needs to be relevant to the general objectives of the Action) and can indicate the Action member who she/he wishes to mentor her/him, having confirmed her/his availability in advance. You can find here the list of the Action's participants who expressed their willingness to assist in a VM mission. In case the applicant has not already identified her/his intended virtual mentor the Grant Award Coordinator (GAC) can provide aid to find her/him an appropriate match among the Actions' participants. In order to help the GAC to find you a suitable match, please fill out this form and the GAC (Dr Meltem Koca) will get in contact with you.

II.   Alternatively, you could contribute to **one of the missions related to WG5**, which are as follows:

1. Design and editing of Digital Newsletter – 2 issues per year
2. Design and Management of Social Media content
3. Organization of Focus groups and report of results through the format of a scientific paper to be published
4. Post-production of PROGRAMMING promotional videos

In that case you may contact the WG5 leaders, Dr Sofia Duque (sofia.b.duque@gmail.com) and Dr Karolina Piotrowicz (karolina.piotrowicz@uj.edu.pl), with Dr Meltem Koc (meltem.koca@outlook.com) in cc. No specific mentoring match is required for these tasks, but you will receive guidance and support by WG5 leaders and participants.

1.3.   How to apply?

Open Calls for VMs are periodically published in the Action's website.

During an Active Grant Period, candidates will be able to reach online application e-COST platform via their e-COST account to submit their applications. If the candidate does not already have an e-COST account, they should create one here.

The information to be filled regarding the VM proposal in e-COST consists of
- Title
- Start and end date (within the active Grant Period)
- Budget requested by the applicant

The supporting documentation to be uploaded to e-COST:
- VM grant Application form (template available on e-COST)
  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 MoU objectives.
- Motivation letter
  The statement explaining the candidate's motivation by relating it to the personal professional background, experience, field(s) of interest and the potential benefits that the realization of the mission will provide for the evolution of their own career and, most importantly, for their national community and working environment. The motivation letter should also include the confirmation statement that the candidate speaks English at least at B2 level.
- Support/recommendation letter
- An updated CV

1.4.   Evaluation of the applications

The submitted applications will be evaluated and ranked by the Grant Awarding Coordinator of the Action PROGRAMMING, and the Core Group on behalf of the Action Management Committee (MC) and according to the VM Evaluation Criteria which are determined and approved by the Action MC (on the 30/11/22) to prioritize the Action's objectives on the basis of the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness principle.

VM grant Evaluation Criteria

- Main criterion: Active participation in the Action's _specific tasks_ [1] → (0/1/2 points)
- Motivation letter _The statement explaining the candidate's motivation by relating it to the personal professional background, experience, field(s) of interest and the potential benefits that realization of the project will provide for the self and his/her community_ → (0/1/2 points)
- Young researchers and innovators → (<40yo) (0/1 points)

Upon approval of the VM Grant Application, the grantee will be notified with a letter.

1.5.   Outcomes

The grantee is required to submit the Grant Report following the template provided on e-COST within 30 days from the end date of the VM or within 15 days from the end date of the Grant Period, whichever date comes first.

The grant will be paid only after the approval of the submitted report.

1.6.   Important Dates

Deadline for applications: 30th April 2023 (23.59 Central European Time)

Deadline for evaluation of the applications: 20th May April 2023

Deadline of for the end date of the missions: 31st October 2023

NOTES

[1] Action's specific tasks are tasks and missions serving the Action's objectives, that are defined by the Core Group according to the Action's evolving needs. For the first Grant Period these tasks are:

1. Participation in collection and analysis of data about educational needs assessment by various qualitative research methods
2. Participation in the finalization of WG1 questionnaires, including translation in native languages of the questionnaires and other Action's material
3. Creation of content for the digital newsletter of the Action
4. Organization of internal focus group online sessions (among WG members) to brainstorm, discuss and synthesize conclusions on topics and strategies related to WG5 activities.