Virtual Mobility (VM) Grant Applications

4th Call for Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants Applications

Application Period: November 20th, 2026 – December 20th, 2026

Period of benefit: January 15th, 2027 – September 20th, 2027

COST Action Precision-BTC-Network opens a call for applications for **VM Grants** to be developed **under the scope of the referred Action**, in the terms described in this document.

The main procedures/regulations concerning VM Grants can be found in the *COST Annotated Rules*, here: COST Annotated Rules (see A2-1.1 MOBILITY OF RESEARCHERS AND INNOVATORS)

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1. Scope of Precision-BTC-Network COST Action

For details and specific objectives, please read the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU): https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA22125/

2. Purpose of VM Grants

A **VM Grant** consists of a **collaboration in a virtual setting** among researchers or innovators within the COST Action, to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, disseminate activities of the COST action, etc.

VMs **benefit** to:

- 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 a pan-European framework.

Examples of activities that can be performed by the VM grantee are:

- Virtual mentoring scheme, with special focus on activities and exchanges that can generate capacity building and new skills, particularly for Young Researchers and Innovators (e.g. managerial skills, methodological skills, communication skills, etc.).
- 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 coordination related activities that do not necessarily require in person presence, e.g. computational or modelling activities, meta-analysis or other data analysis of the Action for a specific report or activity.

Overall, VM 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).
- be 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.
- contribute to outcomes, such as spin-off publications and (funded) projects, that contribute to the visibility and impact of the COST Actions, encouraging other researchers to join.

3. Eligibility criteria

1. VM Grants are exclusively reserved for **Action participants** with a primary affiliation to a legal entity located in a COST Full or Cooperating Member country, a COST Near Neighbour Country or a European RTD Organization (see Article 4.1.1.1.1 in the *Annotated Rules for COST Actions*).

2. The COST Association and the Grant Holder of the Action are not considered as being a VM grantee's employer, i.e. the VM Grants cannot be considered a salary.

4. Application deadlines

Applications will be welcomed between **November 20th – December 20th, 2026**. Additional VM calls may be opened during the 2025-2026 Grant Period of the Precision-BTC-Network COST Action, depending on the availability of funds. In any case, all VMs must be completed by September 20th, 2027.

5. Funding

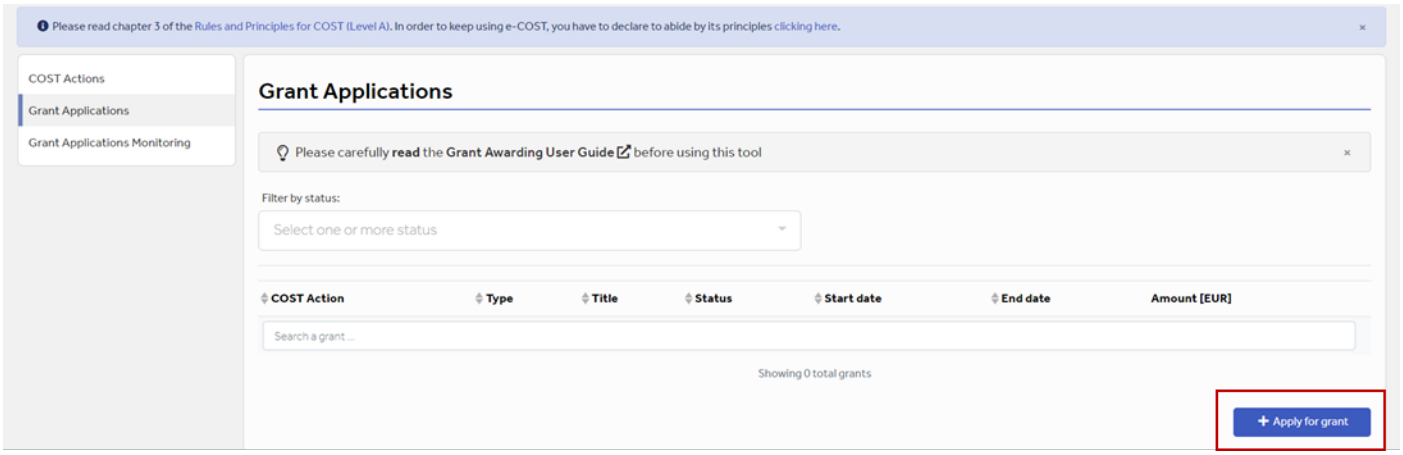
Up to a **maximum of 1,500 € in total** will be allocated to each successful VM Grant applicant. The Grant Awarding Coordinator or the evaluation committee shall define the exact amount of each successful grant reflecting the scope and complexity of the task and activities. The grant does not necessarily cover all expenses related to undertaking the VM activity and may be lower than requested.

The COST Association and the Grant Holder of the Action cannot be considered as being the grantee's employer.

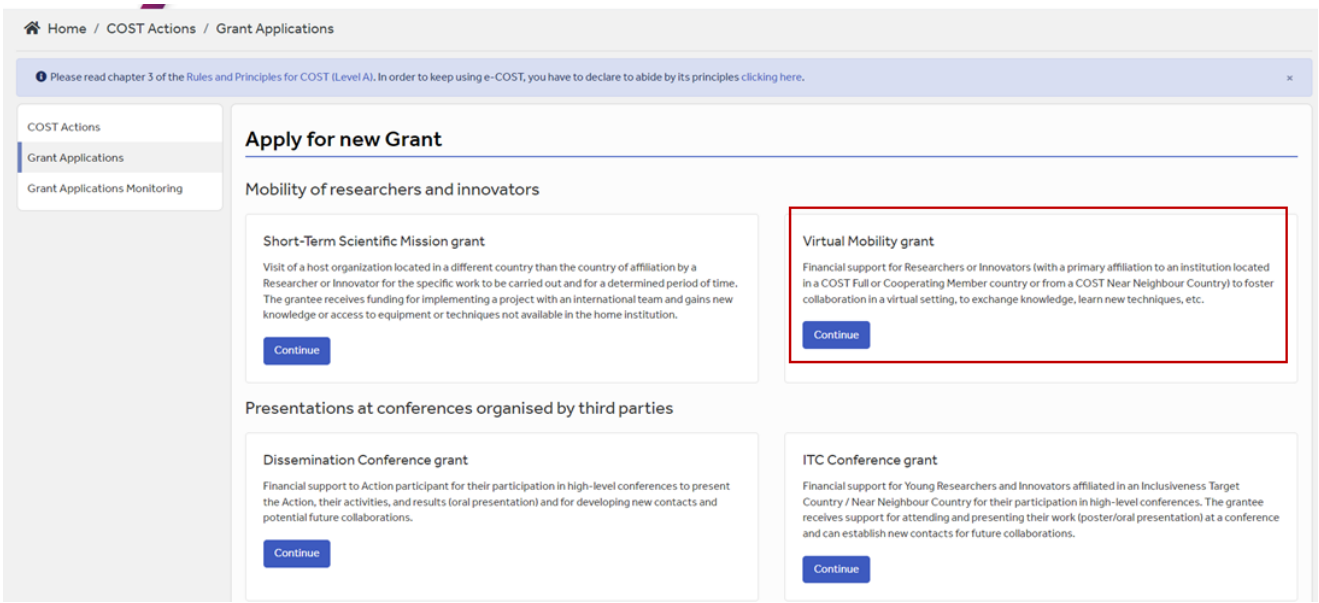
Grants are paid by the Grant Holder Institution after the completion of the activity and approval of all required report/documentation.

6. Application Procedure

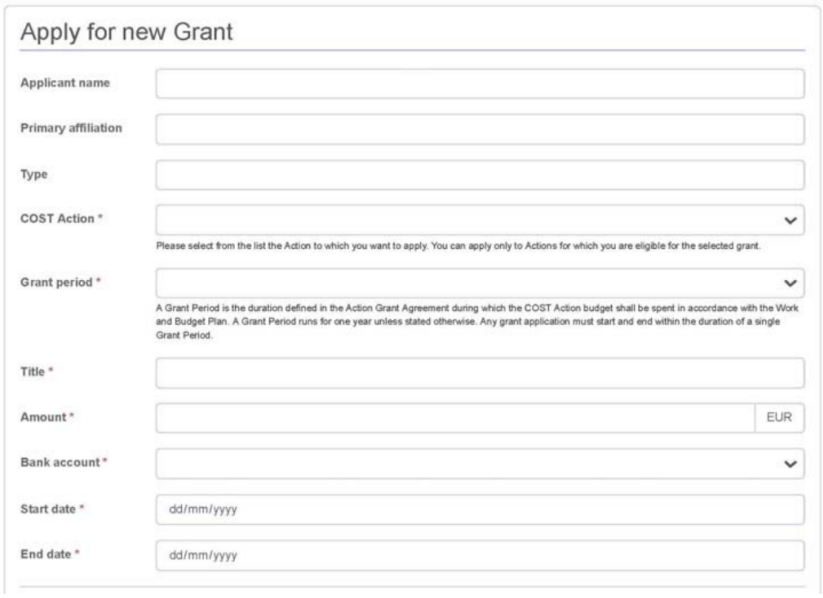
The application procedure is legally bound to the Rules for COST Actions. Eligible STSM applicants must submit their STSM applications online by logging into e-COST (https://e-services.cost.eu), navigating to "Grant Applications" and clicking on "Apply for a grant".



The applicant then selects "Continue" on the "Virtual Mobility grant" section.

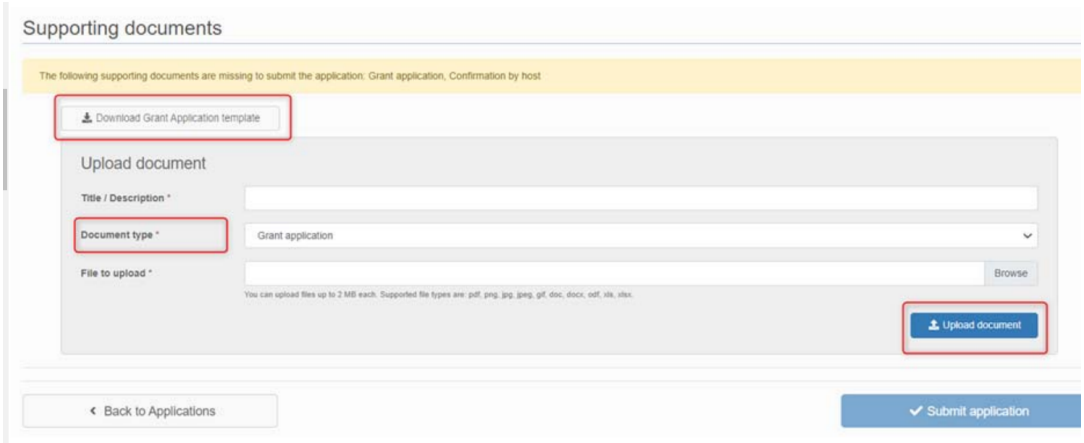


The application form contains different sections, some are pre-filled by e-COST, such as the applicant's name and primary affiliation. Other mandatory sections to be filled by the applicant include the title of the activity, the activity's start and end dates within the active Grant Period (i.e., no overlap across two consecutive Grant Periods), and the requested grant amount.

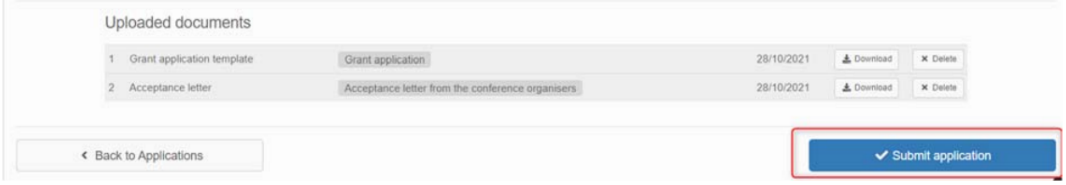


After encoding the Grant application form by filling all above-mentioned sections, the applicant uploads:

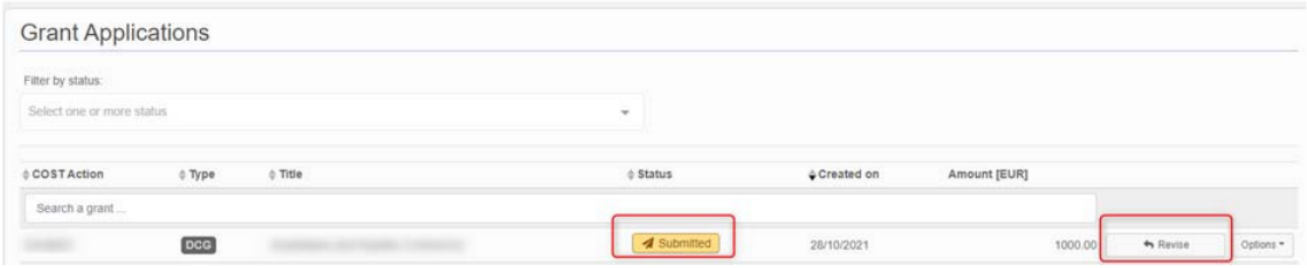
- The completed **VM Grant Application Template** (https://www.cost.eu/virtual_mobility_grant_application), which should be prepared beforehand. This document describes the main objective (max. 200 words), working plan (max. 500 words), plan for participation (max. 500 words), main expected outputs (max. 500 words) and contribution to the COST Action Strategy (max. 500 words).
- **Apllicant's CV**: a short CV should be submitted (max. 3 pages). A list of academic publications can be added on separate pages.



After adding the supporting documents, the applicant submits the grant application.



The application status changes from draft to submitted. The applicant may revise the application at any time between submission and approval.



For more information, please consult the Grant Awarding user guide: (https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/01/COST-Grant-Awarding-user-guide.pdf).

7. Intellectual property rights concerns

In case of potential intellectual property concern on the part of participants, this must be mentioned in the application and managed by the applicant and the rest of participants. In this case the reviewers of the application may be requested to sign a confidentiality agreement.

8. Selection committee

The VM Grant Selection Committee is composed of the Grant Awarding Coordinator, Prof. Anca Zgura, (medicanca@gmail.com) and Prof. Rocio IR Macias (rociorm@usal.es). In case of conflict of interest (e.g., applicant belonging to a representative's research group), the member will be replaced by representatives of the working groups related to the application.

9. Evaluation criteria and communication of the results

The VM Grant Selection Committee will carry out the evaluation of applications taking into account an efficient and cost-effective use of funds, focusing on activities and resources that directly contribute to the Precision-BTC-Network objectives, as well as the potential for enhancing the research interaction between the parties involved, measured by the impact of the exchange expected by the applicants and collaborators. Specifically, the evaluation of the application is based on the following criteria:

- **Objective alignment:** How well the proposal aligns with the objectives of the Precision-BTC-Network.
- **Working plan:** The quality and feasibility of the proposed VM, based on the working plan. This should include innovation, reflecting the extent to which the proposal introduces novel approaches or ideas.
- **Collaborative impact:** The potential to foster collaboration among members of the COST Action and beyond, and contribution to the BTC-Network strategy.
- **Merit of the applicant:** The experience and qualifications of the applicant.

Other general criteria for evaluation of VM Grants proposal are:

- Priority to PhD students/residents and post-docs until 2 years after the completion of the PhD.
- Priority to applicants from Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs).

- Gender balance.

Each applicant will be formally notified of the outcome of their VM Grant application no later than 2 weeks after the application period ends.

The Grant Awarding Coordinator (or the Action Chair/Vice-Chair, in case of conflict of interest) will inform the Grant Holder of the approved VMs. The Grant Holder will inform each approved applicant by sending a Grant Letter via e-COST.

10. VM Grant reporting and payment

Within 30 days from the end date of the VM Grant (or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period, whichever date comes first), the successful applicant must submit the VM report (A) and the dissemination materials (B). These documents must be uploaded to e-COST to proceed with the request for payment.

A) **VM Grant report on e-COST**:

- A template for the report can be found in e-COST (https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/04/VM-grant-report-template-1.docx). Report describes the outcomes and achieved outputs (max. 500 words), the benefits to the Precision-BTC-Network strategy (max. 500 words) and a reflection about the virtual collaboration (max. 500 words). The VM Grant report for COST is a **public document**. Please take this into account in terms of Intellectual Property Rights.

The VM Grant Coordinator will be responsible for approving the report and informing the Action Chair and the Grant Holder that the VM Grant has been successfully completed. Please note that the COST Association can request additional information to substantiate the information contained within the documents submitted by VM Grant applicants.

B) **Dissemination materials to Science Communication Team**:

- A poster/short video/success story describing the subject of the collaborative VM activities.
- A strong, short advertising sentence summarizing the VM experience that will be used for promotion of the above material.
- The grantee credentials on social media (if applicable) for the purpose of tagging in the publication of their post.

It is recommended that the materials introduce the participants and convey enthusiasm for the scientific topic of the Precision-BTC-Network, supported by attractive illustrations or pictures. Clarity and accessibility should be prioritized in language use, with an emphasis on avoiding overly abstract concepts and scientific jargon and employing short sentences. The material is intended to promote the Precision-BTC-Network research, highlight contributions, and will be disseminated on social media for a public audience. You can find examples from previous applicants here: https://precision-btc.eu/repository/entry/mob3participation.

The materials should be uploaded in e-COST and sent directly to the Grant Holder Manager Samuel Kocsis (samuel.v.kocsis@VictorAcCon.com), or the Grant awarding coordinator, Prof. Anca Zgura (medicanca@gmail.com).

Failure to submit the requested documentation within the specified timeframe will effectively cancel the VM Grant. The grantee shall be aware that the COST Association reserves the right to postpone or cancel all payments and to recover the amounts paid to the grantee in case the grantee does not fulfil their obligations.

11. VM Grant contacts

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medicanca@gmail.com

Prof. Rocio Macias
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