

Virtual Mobility (VM) Grant Applications

2nd Call for Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants Applications

Application Period: November 15th, 2024 – December 31st, 2024

Period of benefit: January 15th, 2025 – September 30th, 2025

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 here:
<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2024/11/COST-094-21-V2.0-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C.pdf> (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** 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:

- i) 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).
- ii) 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.
- iii) 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:

- i) support capacity building and transfer of knowledge through bilateral/multilateral collaborations;
- ii) support specific/general topic that can help achieving the Action MoU objectives and deliverables (research coordination);
- iii) 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;
- iv) 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. The Grant applicant(s) are 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 of the *Annotated Rules for COST Actions*).
2. The COST Association and the Grant Holder of the Action cannot be considered as being an VM grantee's employer, i.e. the VM Grants cannot be considered as a salary.

4. Application deadlines

Applications will be welcomed between **November 15th and December 31st 2024**. Additional VM calls may be opened during the 2024-2025 Grant Period of the Precision-BTC-COST Action, contingent upon the full utilization of allocated funds in this call. Still, all VMs must be completed by September 30th, 2025.

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

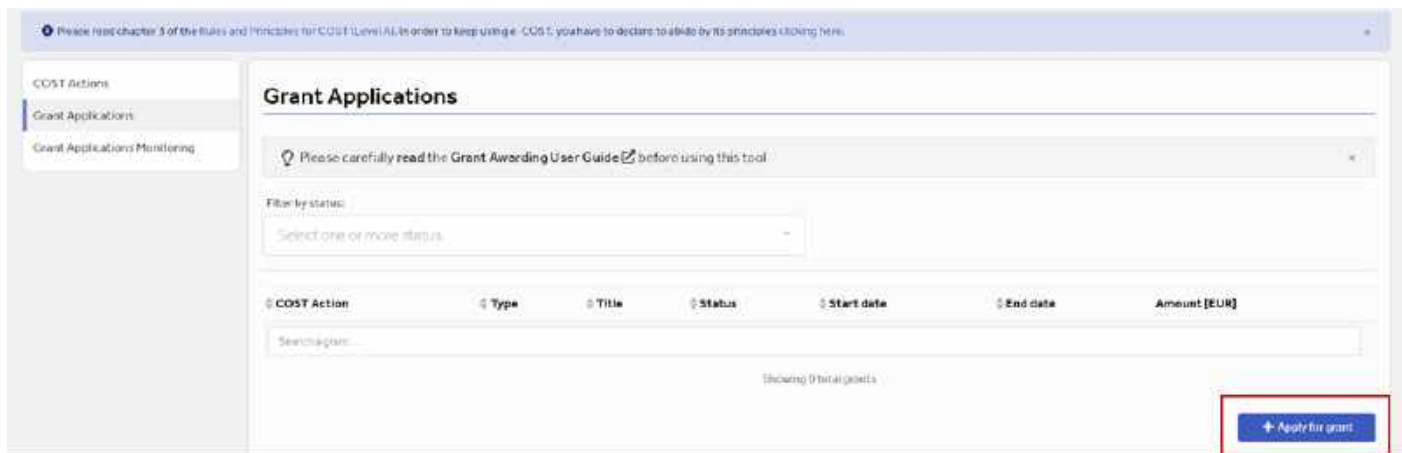
reflecting the scope and complexity of the task and activities. The grant does not necessarily cover all expenses related to undertaking the VM activity and may be lower than requested.

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

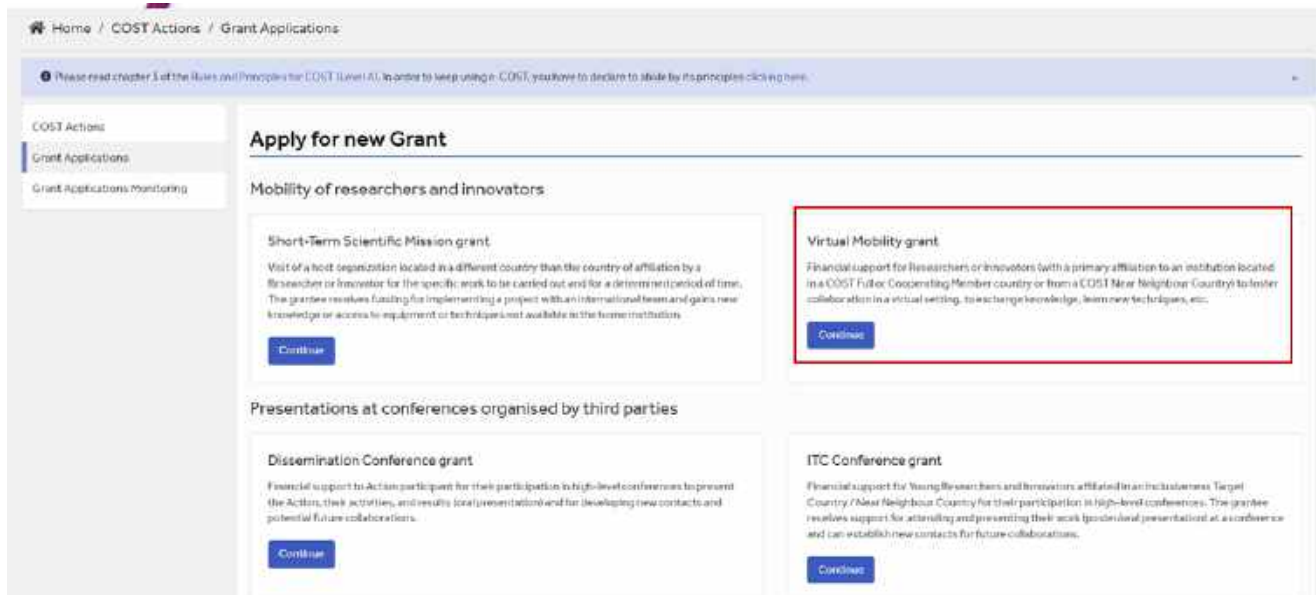
Grants are paid by the Grant Holder Institution after the completion of the activity and approval of all required report/documentation.

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>), going to “Grant Applications” and clicking on “Apply for a grant”.



The applicant may then select “Continue” on the “Virtual Mobility grant” section.



The application form contains different sections, some are pre-filled by e-COST, such as Application name or Primary affiliation. Other mandatory sections to be filled by the applicant include: “Title”, “Start and end date” (within the active Grant Period, i.e., no overlap across two consecutive Grant Periods), “Amount” requested.

Apply for new Grant

Applicant name	<input type="text"/>
Primary affiliation	<input type="text"/>
Type	<input type="text"/>
COST Action *	<input type="text"/> ▼
<small>Please select from the list the Action to which you want to apply. You can apply only to Actions for which you are eligible for the selected grant.</small>	
Grant period *	<input type="text"/> ▼
<small>A Grant Period is the duration defined in the Action Grant Agreement during which the COST Action budget shall be spent in accordance with the Work and Budget Plan. A Grant Period runs for one year unless stated otherwise. Any grant application must start and end within the duration of a single Grant Period.</small>	
Title *	<input type="text"/>
Amount *	<input type="text"/> EUR
Bank account *	<input type="text"/> ▼
Start date *	<input type="text" value="dd/mm/yyyy"/>
End date *	<input type="text" value="dd/mm/yyyy"/>

The applicant should also upload:

- the **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).
- **Candidate CV**: a short CV should be submitted (max. 3 pages). A list of academic publications can be added on separate pages.
- National Identity Card for Spanish residents, while non-Spanish residents are required to provide a copy of their **passport**.¹

¹ This does not apply to those Action Participants who have submitted an ID for any previous Action Events or Grants

Supporting documents

The following supporting documents are missing to submit the application: Grant application, Confirmation by host

Download Grant Application template

Upload document

Title / Description *

Document type * Grant application

File to upload *

After adding the supporting documents, the applicant may submit the grant application.

Supporting documents

Download Grant Application template

Upload another document

Title / Description *

Document type * Grant application

File to upload *

Uploaded documents

1	Grant application template	Grant application	29/10/2021	<input type="button" value="Download"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
2	Acceptance letter	Acceptance letter from the conference organizers	28/10/2021	<input type="button" value="Download"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>

The application status will change from draft to submitted. Before the application is approved, the applicant will be able to revise the application if needed.

Grant Applications

Filter by status:

COST Action	Type	Title	Status	Created on	Amount [EUR]	
1000	1000	1000	Submitted	28/10/2021	1000.00	<input type="button" value="Revise"/> <input type="button" value="Options"/>

For more information, please consult section 2.1. of the Grant Awarding user guide (<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/12/Grant-Awarding-userguide.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, Dr. Marta Afonso, (mbafonso@ff.ulisboa.pt) and Dr. 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 (www.cost.eu/virtual_mobility_grant_report), describing 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 accomplished. 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.

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/info/participants>.

- The grantee credentials on social media (if applicable) for the purpose of tagging in the publication of their post.

The materials should be uploaded in e-COST and sent directly to the Management Holder Samuel Kocsis (samuel.v.kocsis@usal.es), adding in CC the Grant awarding coordinator, Dr. Marta Afonso (mbafonso@ff.ulisboa.pt) and the Science Communication Manager Dr. Constantinos Athanassopoulos (kath@upatras.gr).

Failure to submit the requested documentation with the above 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 Grants contacts

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