



UNDERGROUND4VALUE

#costCA18110

Underground Built Heritage as catalyser for Community Valorisation

Call for 4 Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants

Dear Underground4value partners,

We would like to announce the opening of a new opportunity of grant, the Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants, aiming to answer to the rising need of digital tools during pandemic period and ensure continuity of COST Actions' work activities. This first call is a pilot scheme until 31 October 2021 to build capacity and spread the uptake of virtual collaboration. Our Cost Action is going to experiment with the Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants and we would be very happy to receive your proposals for virtual activities.

Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants should strength the existing network by allowing individual participants to foster collaboration, to exchange knowledge, to learn new techniques, etc. The successful applicants will be selected by the MC to perform activities that do not necessarily require in-person presence.

The expected granted activities could be:

- To support the harmonisation and standardisation of methods and procedures within the Action networking activities:
 - 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:
 - computational or modelling activities.
 - 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:
 - 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.

For more information about these grants, please read the [VADEMECUM](#) and the [FAQ document](#).

U4V's strategy for VM over the 1st Grant Period

Given the limited time to develop virtual networking strategies until the end of the 1st Grant Period (31 October 2021), we have decided to narrow down the scope and want to align all virtual activities with the overall objectives of the Action. We are concentrating this year's efforts on four VM grants. Your activity will be supported by the Virtual Networking Manager (VNM) Bahanur Nasya (AT) of Wonderlands, and each grant applicant is invited to send their drafted proposals to her within the next weeks for a better coordination.

The program of the virtual activity must consider the diversity of areas covered in this Action, the differences among members expertise (i.e., from experienced researchers to early-career investigators), and should be helpful to support objectives' achievement and outcomes' production for this grant period. The typology is flexible: can be any format you find useful for our Action (i.e., recorded events, smart apps or web interfaces, invited talks, MOOCs, demonstrations, and short courses that would be publicly disseminated among the Action stakeholders over the event and beyond...). All contents created will be available on our website and social media channels, at least for the duration of the COST Action. Additionally, all members of the COST Action CA18110, activities' participants can use these digital activities and display on their websites (with clear reference to creators and to the COST Action).

The call is open to all individuals with a primary affiliation to an institution located in a COST Full or Cooperating Member country or a COST Near Neighbour Country participating in the Action.

The applicant(s) shall inform the MC about the aim of the VM Grant and how its outcomes will generate benefits to the Action, actively contribute to the overall objectives and relevant deliverables of the Action and submit an activity report at the end, to be approved by the VN manager on behalf of the MC.



Grant Amount

A financial contribution of EUR 1 500 will be awarded to four proposals, as defined by the MC. The grant does not necessarily cover all expenses related to undertaking the virtual mobility activity.

Deadline

The application deadline is July 30th, 2021.

Apply procedure

1. The applicant must carefully read the funding rules detailed in Section 10.1 in the COST  [Vademecum-28-April-2021.pdf](#) and consult the  [VNT-userguide.pdf](#).
2. The applicant will need to encode an application by logging into [e-COST](#) and [click on the VNT Application tab](#). To encode a new application, you will need to click on 'Apply for grant' and select our COST Action CA18110. If you do not already have an e-COST account, you will first need to 'create an account' - which will include providing the details of the bank account into which a grant would be made if an application is approved and the grant completed successfully.
3. Applicants must also send their application form ([Annex I](#)) and the relevant supporting documents for evaluation to: office@wonderland.cx
4. Granted persons need to send their quality report latest within October 2021.

Evaluation process

The evaluation of each submitted VM grant application is performed by a VM Committee appointed by the Action's MC. The person responsible for performing the related tasks is referred to as Virtual Networking Support (VNS) Manager as defined under Section 10.1. The evaluation criteria defined by the Committee shall be communicated to all potential applicants. In general, the selection of successful grantee shall be based on contributions to the overall objectives of the Action and the implementation of the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy.

Implementation of activities

The successful applicant(s) shall implement the workplan approved in their application within the time frame also there defined and always within one single Grant Period.

The grantee has 15 calendar days (and not after end-October 2021) from the completion of the Virtual Mobility to submit a report (Annex II) to 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 report shall consider only virtual activities carried out in their entirety within a single Grant Period. The MC must be informed at the end of the respective activity of the main results of each Virtual Mobility Grant. Also, the grantee will have the obligation to actively contribute to the activities of the Action WG relevant to those findings.

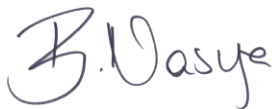
Payment procedure

The Grant Holder shall pay the approved grant to the grantee after the MC has approved the grantee's report and no later than 15 days after the end of Grant Period.

The COST Association and the Grant Holder of the Action cannot be considered as being the grantee's employer who shall make their own arrangements for all provisions related to personal security, health, taxation, social security, and pension matters.

The grantee must also ensure they have the required technical material/equipment and infrastructure to carry out the activities proposed in their application to the grant.

Bahanur Nasya
CA18110 Virtual Networking Tools Manager



Giuseppe Pace
C18110 Action Chair



VIRTUAL MOBILITY (VM) GRANT APPLICATION TEMPLATE

This application is submitted by the VM grant applicant to the Virtual Networking Support Manager, who coordinates the evaluation on behalf of the Action MC.

Action number:

VM grant title:

VM grant start and end date: DD/MM/YYYY to DD/MM/YYYY

Grantee name:

Main objective of the Virtual Mobility Grant

(max.200 word)

Applicant enters max. 200 words summary here.

Main scope of the Virtual Mobility Grant

(max.200 word)

Applicant enters max. 200 words summary here.

Main added value of the Virtual Mobility Grant

(max.200 word)

Applicant enters max. 200 words summary here.

Working Plan:

Description of the collaborative initiative to be implemented. Please indicate how and when you will implement the action.

(max.500 word)

Applicant enters max. 500 words summary here.

Plan for Participation:

Indicative list of participants in the collaborative initiative (short description of their expertise and envisaged contribution).

(max.500 words)

Applicant enters max. 500 words summary here.

Plan for inclusion of Action members:

Indicative how you will include the members of this action or their work in your event(s) (short description).

(max.500 words)

Applicant enters max. 500 words summary here.

Plan for Action input/feedback:

Indicative how you will inform and feedback the members of this action (short description).

(max.500 words)

Applicant enters max. 500 word summary here.

Main expected outputs:

Main expected results and their contribution to the progress towards the Action objectives (either research coordination and/or capacity building objectives) and deliverables.

(max.500 words)

Applicant enters max. 500 word summary here.

Contribution to the COST Action Strategy:

How will the Virtual Mobility contribute to the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy¹ and to the Action plans for stakeholder engagement and promoting participation of researchers from Near Neighbour Country (NNC) and International Partner Country (IPC)², and to the approved virtual networking strategy, if available.

(max.500 words)

Applicant enters max. 500 word summary here.

¹ <https://www.cost.eu/who-we-are/cost-strategy/excellence-and-inclusiveness>

² As described in the Action Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

VIRTUAL MOBILITY (VM) GRANT REPORT TEMPLATE

This report is submitted by the VM grantee to VNS Manager, who will coordinate the approval on behalf of the Action MC.

Action number:

VM grant title:

VM grant start and end date: DD/MM/YYYY to DD/MM/YYYY

Grantee name:

Description of the outcomes and achieved outputs (including any specific Action objective and deliverables, or publications resulting from the Virtual Mobility).

(max. 500 words)

Grantee enters max 500 words summary here.

Description of the benefits to the COST Action Strategy (what and how).

(max. 500 words)

Grantee enters max 500 words summary here.

Description of the main emerging topics, ideas, challenges and solutions.

(max. 500 words)

Grantee enters max 500 words summary here.

Description of the highlights of the activity.

(max. 500 words)

Grantee enters max 500 words summary here.

Description of the outreach of the activity.

(max. 500 words)

Grantee enters max 500 wordss summary here.

Ideas and recommendations for further improvement.

(max. 500 words)

Grantee enters max 500 words summary here.

Description of the virtual collaboration (including constructive reflection on activities undertaken, identified successful practices and lessons learned).

(max.500 words)

Grantee enters max 500 words summary here.