

Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants

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 in an online setting. 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 have 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 WG2, WG4 and WG 5 leaders to facilitate the objectives of these WGs.

More specifically,

- i. For a **virtual mentoring/collaboration proposal**, the applicant chooses her/his own project (which needs to be relevant to the general objectives of the Action and should focus on activities and exchanges that can generate capacity building and new skills) 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, the applicant could contribute to **one of the missions related to WG2, WG4 or WG5**, which are as follows:

WG2

- Mentoring and international collaboration on data synthesis (including responses of the Actions' surveys, focus groups, and medical education literature review) supporting specific statements on geriatric curriculum for non-geriatricians working in ambulatory care of older persons.
- Mentoring and international collaboration for the generation and conduction of a two-stage Delphi survey and analysis, for the generation of a geriatric curriculum for non-geriatricians working in ambulatory care of older persons.

WG4

- Conducting the “Preparation and conduct of critical appraisal/risk of bias assessment” step of the planned systematic review by WG4
- Conducting the “Data analysis and synthesis” step of the planned systematic review by WG4

WG5

- **Collaborating on a communication campaign** to disseminate PROGRAMMING activities, opportunities, and results, effectively engaging a wide range of meaningful stakeholders.

This activity includes:

- Operationalizing a communication strategy, including tailoring messages to specific audiences for maximum engagement.
- Planning and overseeing the execution of a dissemination campaign.
- Identifying and promoting building relationships with relevant stakeholders, policymakers, associations, healthcare organizations, patient advocacy groups, and scientific groups.
- Fostering partnerships with scientific and professional associations to amplify reach.
- Drafting official documents such as press releases, policy briefs, and endorsement letters.
- Supervising outreach campaigns to engage these groups and encourage endorsements.
- Conceptualizing materials for dissemination, such as visuals, infographics, videos, and other multimedia resources (professional help is available to produce idealized outputs)
- Monitoring and reporting on the campaign’s reach and impact using analytics tools.

PROGRAMMING members are encouraged to work in small teams, where these tasks are divided and managed collaboratively, under the supervision of the WG5 leaders. Different roles can be assumed, such as Communication Contributor, Stakeholder Engagement Contributor, Content Creation Contributor, Dissemination Campaign Contributor.

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 platform in [e-COST](#) via their e-COST account to submit their applications. (If the candidate does not already have an e-COST account, could 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.
- Letter of confirmation from the researcher/expert who agrees on the proposed virtual mentorship/collaboration OR Letter of confirmation from the related WG Leader for special tasks of WGs.
- Support/recommendation letter
- An updated CV of the applicant which clearly includes the information of **the country of current affiliation** and **the applicant's date of birth**

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 30/11/2022) to prioritize the Action's objectives on the basis of the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness principle.

VM Evaluation Criteria (Validated by the MC on 30/11/22)

- 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.

Required documents to be submitted in e-COST:

- Grant Report

Required supporting material(s) to be sent to Grant Awarding Coordinator:

- A short video showcasing your project, and/or a blog post preferentially enriched with photographs and/or illustrations describing your project

These materials will be used for promotional purposes on our website, social media platforms, and other communication channels to highlight the valuable work being done through PROGRAMMING grant opportunities.

The grant will be paid only after the approval of the submitted grant report and receiving required supporting promotional materials (short video and/or blog post).

1.6.Important Dates

Deadline for applications: **28 February 2025, Friday (23.59 Central European Time)**

Deadline of for the end date of the missions: **30th September 2025**

NOTES

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

- 1- Mentoring and international collaboration on data synthesis supporting specific statements on geriatric curriculum for non-geriatricians working in ambulatory care of older persons (WG2).
- 2- Mentoring and international collaboration for the generation and conduction of a two-stage Delphi survey and analysis, for the generation of a geriatric curriculum for non-geriatricians working in ambulatory care of older persons (WG2).
- 3- Conducting the "Preparation and conduct of critical appraisal/risk of bias assessment" step of the planned systematic review by WG4
- 4- Conducting the "Data analysis and synthesis" step of the planned systematic review by WG4
- 5- **Collaborating on a communication campaign** to disseminate PROGRAMMING activities, opportunities, and results, effectively engaging a wide range of meaningful stakeholders (WG5).