

## Call for Virtual Mobility Grants CA19101 Determinants of Physical Activities in Settings (DE-PASS)

To respond to the rising need of digital tools in the context of the pandemic and to ensure continuity of COST Actions' work activities, the COST Association has launched a new tool called Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants. The purpose of the VM grant is to support capacity building and research co-ordination objectives of the Action through virtual collaboration. VM Grants will strengthen the existing DE-PASS network by allowing individual participants to foster collaboration, to exchange knowledge, and learn new techniques/methodologies, etc.

A Virtual Networking Support (VNS) manager (Ms. Rhoda Sohun) has recently been appointed to the DE-PASS Action. The VNS manager will promote virtual collaboration, such as developing a virtual networking strategy for the Action, taking overall responsibility for VM Grants and supporting the DE-PASS action in the discussions and planning of virtual events and collaboration activities.

### Number of Grants

There are 6 VM grants available for the remainder of Grant Period 1 ending 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

### Eligibility

In order to apply for a DE-PASS Virtual Mobility Grant, the following criteria must be fulfilled:

- The VM applicant(s) are DE-PASS Action members with a primary affiliation to an institution located in a COST Full or Cooperating Member country or MC Observers from a COST Near Neighbour Country.
- All Action participants, including those with a leadership role in the Action, are eligible to apply for a VM grant.
- STSM and ITC Grant Grantees can apply for VM grants, **but the grants cannot run in parallel.**
- If there are two applicants for a specific virtual collaboration, there should be two individual grant applications.
- Applications must be submitted through the [e-COST platform](#). ([Application Form Template](#)).

### Financial Rules & Requirements

- Up to a maximum of EUR 1,500 in total can be afforded to each successful VM applicant.
- The payment of the grant is made to the grantee once the grantee's report is approved by the Co-Chairs and VNS Manager (on behalf of the MC). The report must be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> October (i.e. no later than 15 days from the end of Grant Period). ([Report Template](#))
- As this is a grant, submission of receipts is not a requirement.
- The grantee estimates the grant amount (maximum EUR 1,500) and can consider the following: duration of activity (no minimum duration), complexity of activity, if data is to be processed, number of contributors etc
- The grant is paid to the applicant who submits the application on e-COST.

## VM Grant Activity

The format for VM Grants is flexible and applications should propose a specific activity or activities **that do not necessarily require in-person presence but are collaborative in nature (i.e. working with other DE-PASS Action participants)**. The VM Grant applications should contribute to the stated Research Coordination and Capacity Building objectives of DE-PASS (P5 DE-PASS MoU - <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA19101/>) and/or the stated WG (1-4) objectives or deliverables (See DE-PASS Website - <https://depass.eu>).

Suggested activities expected to be performed by the successful applicant, but not limited to, are to:

- Support the harmonisation and standardisation of methods and procedures within DE-PASS networking activities
- Collaborative virtual research related activities, or content preparation
- Coordination of science communication activities

Virtual tools/activities used should be appropriate to encourage interaction between DE-PASS members or to answer a specific question that would benefit the DE-PASS Action. E.g.

- Online events/discussions to increase participation and support collaboration activities and knowledge exchange, especially of ECI and International Inclusiveness Countries (ITCs)
- Surveys / Focus groups
- Virtual mentoring scheme to generate capacity building and new skills, particularly for ECIs researchers.

## Priority Areas

Deliverables 2.3, 2.5 and 3.1 are a current priority focus for DE-PASS. Applicants should consider how a VM Grant could contribute towards achieving these deliverables. **VM grants are not limited to activities relating to only these deliverables and applications related to all aspects of DE-PASS are welcomed and encouraged.**

- **D2.3** Provide a new and updated European Physical Activity Determinants (EN-PAD) consensus framework (Publication).
- **D2.5** Prepare Best Evidence Statement of high-quality research on the determinants of physical activity behaviours (PABs) (Publication).
- **D3.1** Provide a valid online PABs determinant profile measurement toolkit that optimally predicts PABs across the life course, socio-economic groups and in different countries and settings.
- In addition, we are interested in finding out about the experiences of Early Career Researchers in ITC and non-ITC countries and to find out how the DE-PASS Action can engage with them in a meaningful way.

## Evaluation of VM Grant Applications

- The evaluation of the VM applications and selection of VM Grantees is performed by the DE-PASS Action's Co-Chairs and VNS Manager on behalf of the MC.

- Evaluation of applications received will be on a rolling basis. Those applications of a high standard and that meet the criteria will be approved.
- The selection of VM grants will consider the diversity of areas covered in the DE-PASS objectives of the Working Groups and the differences among members expertise (i.e., from experienced researchers to early-career investigators).
- Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
  - Objective of VM Grant
  - Description of collaborative initiative to be implemented
  - Plan for participant involvement in collaborative initiative
  - Expected outputs/contribution/benefits towards DE-PASS Action objectives and deliverables (either research coordination and/or capacity building objectives)
  - Appropriate consideration of the inclusiveness Policy (geographical inclusiveness, gender balance and ECIs), especially towards the support of researchers in ITCs and NNCs. (See page 17 of "[Guidelines for COST Action Management, Monitoring and Final Assessment](#)" for description of the pillars of the Cost Excellence and Inclusiveness policy.

<b>Rolling Call Window</b>	Rolling Call Opens: Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> July, 2021 Final Deadline: 27 <sup>th</sup> August 2021, 17.00. Note: If 6 VM grants are awarded before the 27 <sup>th</sup> August, the call will be closed.
<b>Notification to Grantees</b>	Rolling. If an application is of high standard and meets the criteria, applicant will be notified. Final notification to all applicants will be 1 week after final deadline, (3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2021).
<b>Application procedure</b>	Please use the online form available via your e-COST profile at <a href="https://e-services.cost.eu">https://e-services.cost.eu</a> . A link to the 'Virtual Mobility Grant' application form is available under the Virtual Networking Tools. ( <a href="#">VM grant application template</a> ).

### Next Steps

- Set up e-COST profile if you do not have one. <https://e-services.cost.eu/user/login>
- If the VM grant application relates to a WG, we would encourage applicants to make contact with a WG Leader/Deliverable Leader to discuss ideas for the VM Grant application, however, this is not a requirement.

For more information on the VM Grant Application Process please contact Rhoda Sohun, VNS Manager ([Rhoda.Sohun@ul.ie](mailto:Rhoda.Sohun@ul.ie))

Additional information can be found in the [Vademecum \(Section 10.2\)](#). Please consult the [COST Virtual Networking Tools User Guide](#) for additional information on the submission process on e-COST. The [Virtual Networking Tools FAQ](#) may also be of use.