

CA19101 Determinants of Physical Activities in Settings (DE-PASS)

**DE-PASS Virtual Networking Strategy (VNS)
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1.0 Purpose of DE-PASS VNS

The aim of the DE-PASS Virtual Networking Strategy (VNS) is to support a number of specific objectives relating to capacity building and research co-ordination of the Action in Grant Period 1 (*specifically from 15th July to 31st October 2021*) by awarding six Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants to action participants.

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.

The strategy will be implemented through the support of the VNS Manager to the successful six VM grantees.

2.0 Strategic Goals of DE-PASS VNS

2.1 Scope of Strategy

After consultation with the DE-PASS Core Group Board (CGB) it is proposed to narrow down the scope of the Virtual Networking Strategy (VNS) for Grant Period 1 to a number of specific deliverables that are currently a focus of the first grant period in DE-PASS, specifically, deliverables relating to Work Group 2: **2.3, 2.5** and Work Group 3: **3.1**.

WG2 To prepare consensus statements and guidelines regarding key determinants of Physical Activity Behaviours (PABs) and their prioritisation and utilisation within public policies and interventions.

- 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).

WG3 To provide a valid online PABs determinant profile measurement toolkit that optimally predicts PABs across gender, life course, socio-economic groups and different settings.

- D3.1 To 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.

This approach ensures that outcomes of the VNS align well with the overall objectives of the DE-PASS Action. 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).

2.2 Nature of DE-PASS Virtual Mobility Activities

The format for VM Grants is flexible and applications should propose a specific activity or activities that do not necessarily require in-person presence. Suggested activities expected to be performed by the successful DE-PASS applicants, but not limited to, are to support the harmonisation and standardisation of methods and procedures within DE-PASS networking activities, virtual research related activities, or content preparation and coordination of science communication activities.

DE-PASS will aim to implement some of the following VM activities:

- Online events to support collaboration activities and knowledge exchange, delivered through Zoom, supported by the VNSM, e.g. invited talks, webinar, forum that will be disseminated among the Action stakeholders
- Coordination of discussions to create agreement on protocols/tools for DE-PASS methodologies
- Survey of WG participants/ Deliverable participants to facilitate important collaboration and knowledge exchange amongst members with outcomes disseminated to Action stakeholders and members
- Preparation of questionnaires to be used by Action members
- Demonstration of a technique or methodology
- Short course
- Virtual mentoring scheme with special focus on activities and exchanges that will generate capacity building and new skills, particularly for ECIs researchers.

Applications are not limited to a minimum or maximum number of attendees at a virtual event, but upper limits can be set to ensure meaningful collaboration and engagement. The VM Grant applications must contribute to the scientific objectives of a WG or a specific WG deliverable. Detailed information regarding the objectives and activities of each DE-PASS WG are presented in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA19101/>

3.0 Implementation of the VNS Strategy

3.1 Support of the VNS Manager

The Virtual Networking Support Manager will support the VNS through the following activities:

- Open the rolling VM call through announcement on DE-PASS channels (DE-PASS website, DE-PASS Blog, DE-PASS Twitter, DE-PASS Slack Channel) from the 15th July 2021. *A rolling call was deemed preferable in this instance due to the time period time of year that the call was being made when many members of the COST Action are planning summer Annual Leave.*
- Promote the call periodically to ensure maximum applications.

- Define the evaluation criteria for the VM grants and communicate same to all Action participants.
- Manage the evaluation process (see 3.2) for awarding the DE-PASS Virtual Mobility Grants.
- Support recipients of VM Grants with their virtual networking event as required. Activities should have expected deliverables and desired outcomes and use suitable virtual tools and digital platforms.
- Support the DE-PASS Action in discussions and planning of virtual events.
- Coordinate the reporting of DE-PASS virtual events and ensure reports are submitted using the e-COST template.
- Assist successful grantees in the selection/identification of hosts for virtual networking events and collaboration activities, advise on appropriate tools for virtual activities as required.
- Ensure that any virtual networking activity adheres to GDPR requirements.
- Submit a report to the DE-PASS Action Chair and Science Officer no later than 15 days after the end of the first grant period (31st October 2021).
- Inform the MC of the main results of each Virtual Mobility Grant.

3.2 Evaluation and Granting of the VM Grant

The evaluation of the VM applications and selection of VM Grantees will be performed by the DE-PASS Action's Chairs and VNS Manager on behalf of the Management Committee of the DE-PASS COST Action. The evaluation criteria will be communicated to all potential applicants by the VNS Manager.

The selection of successful grantees will be based on contributions to the overall objectives of the DE-PASS Action, contributions to deliverables 2.3, 2.5 and 3.1.

- The selection will take into account the COST policies on promoting gender balance, enabling Early Career Investigators (ECIs; defined as within 8 years of being awarded a PhD) and COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy (broadening geographical inclusiveness).

3.3 Eligibility Rules

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

- The 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
- Applications must be submitted through the e-COST platform