



COST Actions such as DE-PASS offer grants to members to support researcher and innovator mobility, capacity building and transfer of knowledge through bilateral/multilateral collaborations.

Two specific grants exist: 1) Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) and 2) Virtual Mobility (VM) and some characteristics are:

- Support specific / general topics that can help progress Action, Work Group and Deliverable objectives
- Are very flexible and inclusive and can establish new or reinforce existing collaborations across disciplines and sectors (e.g., academia and industry / SMEs);
- Typical outcomes are spin-off publications and (funded) projects that contribute to the visibility and impact of DEPASS, encouraging other researchers to join.
- Grant topics can be proposed by any DEPASS participant to a WG/Deliverable leader – we strongly encourage you to do so.
- Grant topics can be proposed by Work group and Deliverables leaders
- Invitations/calls for grant applications will be announced on the DEPASS website and via other communication channels i.e. Slack and Twitter

STSMs involve the grant applicant travelling to and collaborating with a host organisation located in a different country. The host may be an individual at an academic/research institution, a research or laboratory group, an industry/SME partner, a non-governmental or governmental organisation etc. STSMs can be for any duration and a **maximum of 4,000 EUR** can be awarded per grant. It is possible that a number of individuals can become involved in STSMs, which are related to different foci within a single topic/task.

Number of STSM Grants: There are 8 STSM grants available for the remainder of Grant Period 2 which must be completed by 31st October 2022.

Examples of activities that can be performed by the STSM grantee are:

The STSM must contribute to progressing the objectives and deliverables of DEPASS in some fashion e.g. specific task/s completion, new skills and competencies gained, progress or complete publication or other intellectual output, data extraction, collection and/or analysis, communication and preparing dissemination related to DEPASS etc. This is not an exhaustive list and STSMs are very flexible in focus.

Benefits are:

- STSM Grantee: receives funding for implementing a project with an international team and gains new knowledge or access to equipment or techniques not available in the home institution; adds weight to a grantee's track record/CV as it denotes substantial contribution to a deliverable.
- STSM Host: receives an international partner in their institution and can develop long lasting collaboration.

VM consists of a collaboration in a **virtual setting** among researchers or innovators within the COST Action, to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, etc. VM Grants will strengthen the DE-PASS network by allowing individual participants to foster collaboration, to exchange knowledge, and learn new techniques/methodologies, etc. VM grants can be for any duration and a **maximum of 1,500 EUR** can be awarded per grant.

Number of VM Grants: There are 8 -10 VM grants available for the remainder of Grant Period 2 which must be completed by 31st October 2022.

Examples of activities that can be performed by the VM grantee are:

- 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);
- 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.
- To support the implementation of research coordination related activities that do not necessarily require in-person presence, e.g.
 - ⇒ computational or modelling activities;
 - ⇒ data analysis of the Action for a specific report or activity.

Benefits are:

- 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.

Grant Eligibility:

- Open to all DEPASS Participants (except International Partner Countries) including those with a leadership role in the Action.
- If there are two applicants for a specific grant, which includes a number of aspects, individual grant applications must be made for each aspect.
- No minimum duration however, grant report must be submitted within 30 days after the end date of the activity or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period (31.10.22), whichever date comes first.

Grant Application: Open Call(s) for Applications will be published on the DEPASS website and disseminated via other channels, slack, twitter etc. Application details:

- Applications must be submitted through the e-COST platform using the dedicated forms available. Please access your e-COST profile cost.eu/user/login. To make application, you need an e-COST profile, to set up e-COST profile access <https://e-services.cost.eu/user/login>.
- For online application guidance see: https://www.cost.eu/grants_userguide . **All relevant links to application forms and reports are provided in the userguide.**
- Please make the application before the deadline of grant call.
- Applicants must upload their CV in their e-COST profile. This information will be visible to the holders of leadership positions and any evaluation committees in the Action for evaluation purposes.
- The content of the STSM and VM application depends on the activity and includes the following:
 - ⇒ Title
 - ⇒ Start and end date (within the active Grant Period);
- **Budget** requested by the applicant; (The grantee estimates the grant amount (maximum and can consider the following: duration of activity (no minimum duration), complexity of activity, if data is to be processed, number of contributors etc.) Budget should be estimated based on the activity and duration required to complete activity.
 - ⇒ Information about the host institution and contact person.
 - ⇒ Application form (template available on e-COST) describing: Goals, description of the work to be carried out by the applicant, expected outcomes and description of the contribution to the Action MoU objectives;
 - ⇒ Confirmation of the host on the agreement from the host institution in receiving/working with the applicant;
 - ⇒ Other documents required by the Action (e.g. recommendation letter, etc...)
- Upon approval of the application, the Grantee receives a Grant Letter from the Grant Holder stating the approved amount and the conditions for receiving the grant.
- Once the activity has ended, the grantee submits the required report and relevant documentation in e-COST within 30 days after the end date of the activity or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period, whichever date comes first.
- The required report for claiming a Grant will be sent to the Grantee once the activity has ended. Report includes, main achievements/outcomes/outputs of the grant and planned future follow up activities/collaboration. **Failure to submit the scientific report/documentation within 30 days from the end date of the STSM will cancel the Grant.**
- Grantee then claims the payment of the grant via e-COST. As this is a grant, submission of receipts is not a requirement.
- The grant is paid to the applicant.
- STSMs grantees may request up to 50% pre-payment of the approved grant. This amount is subject to availability of funds and approval by the Grant Holder Institution.
- Participant grants are non-commercial transactions, therefore, claims as such are not subject to V.A.T deduction. Taxes normally due or applicable with respect to the payment of the grant are not to be deducted from amounts payable to participants. It is the responsibility of each participant to ensure that all amounts that they receive from COST funding are compliant with their national tax rules and obligations.

Grant Evaluation:

- The evaluation of the grant applications and selection of Grantees is performed by the DE-PASS Action's Co-Chairs, Grant Awarding Co-ordinator and the STSM coordinator 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.
- Applicants will be notified of the evaluation outcome within 10 working days of the application submission.

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR STSM/VM APPLICATIONS	WEIGHT
Main expected outputs: results and contribution to the progress towards the MoU/WG objectives (either research coordination and/or capacity building objectives can be tackled) and delivery of the MoU/WG objectives.	35 points
Working Plan: Description of the collaborative initiative to be implemented.	15 points
Scientific quality of the project: feasibility, originality, potential impact	20 points
Scientific quality of the applicant and Host institution: skills of the applicant, academic CV, or for PhD students, promoter's opinion	15 points
COST policies: Contribute to the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy see pages 6-9 of COST Annotated Rules: https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2022/02/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-2022-02-15.pdf	15 points

DEPASS Specific STSMs and VM Topics and Deadlines for 2022

- The tables below describes proposed STSM and VM opportunities, which are relevant for **June to October 2022 and thereafter. We now request expressions of interest for opportunities for June to October 2022 See Table 1 below.** Please submit expressions of interest stating what STSM/VM topic that you are interested in to info@depass.eu and we will provide you further details and guidance.
- Deadline for Expression of Interest in STSM/VM opportunities is Monday June 6th 2022. Candidates will be asked to formally submit on online application via e-COST prior to the deadline of Monday June 20th, 2022. Notification to all applicants will be 2 weeks after final deadline.
- **We also greatly welcome and encourage additional suggestions from all DEPASS participants on call topics** relevant to the DEPASS Network, Workgroups and Deliverables. **Please submit your suggestions to info@depass.eu**

Table 1 June to October 2022 DE-PASS STSM & VM Opportunities

WG/Deliverable*	Topic/Aim	Grant Type/Period
Network level	DE-PASS are interested in finding out about the experiences of Young Researcher and Innovators in ITC and non-ITC countries and to find out how the DE-PASS Action can engage with them in a meaningful way.	VM June to Oct 2022 (x 1 place)
2.3	Relevant language translation from English of concept mapping information and materials – those with strengths/fluency in a number of European languages or experience in translation should please apply.	VM June to Oct 2022 (x 2 places)
2.5	Preparation of Covidence and Risk of Bias Training and Assessment for adult and older adult populations.	VM June to Oct 2022 (x 1 place)

2.5	Development of Protocol - Best evidence statement (BEST) of determinants of physical activity behaviours in adults and older adults.	STSM June to Oct 2022 (x 1 place)
2.5	Literature Searching/Screening for Best Evidence Statement/s PAB & Determinants Adult or Older Adults	VM June to Oct 2022 (x4 places)
3.1	<p>Identification of validated methodologies to measure identified Physical Activity Behaviour (PAB) determinants in children aged 9-19 yrs old e.g. in the individual/biological, psychological, behavioural, socio-cultural, environmental domain. This will involve identifying methodologies which are best suited and most valid for young children and for adolescents, in some cases the methodologies used may involve the parents of young children. Methodologies to measure a range of potential determinants (see below) are required and thus a significant team of DEPASS participants is required to complete this task.</p> <p>Individual (n=12): age; sex; socioeconomic status; education; setting; income; health/wellbeing status; stress; life events; physical fitness; heart rate; body fat,</p> <p>Biological (n=1):Genetic profile and regulation</p> <p>Psychological (n=5): perceived competency; self-regulation; mental fatigue; goal setting/planning; perceived behavioral control</p> <p>Behavioural (n=7):PABs history and patterns; sedentary behaviour; phone usage; independent active mobility; sleep; participation in community sports; active transport</p> <p>Environmental (n=6): backyard access/size; green space access; PA provision and ethos in setting; access to sport/recreational facilities; time outdoors; availability of physical activity programs and equipment within schools</p> <p>Socio-Cultural (n=3): cultural perspective; group, family and peer support; social contact.</p>	STSM/VM June to Oct 2022. 6-week duration, 4-6 places available.
3.3	Screening of scientific documents for definition of the determinants that require consensus definition in the Individual-	VM, June 2022, complete by Aug 2022 (x 1 place)

	Biological / Psychological categories. Preparation and distribution of online surveys to establish consensus, data collection and analysis.	
3.3	Screening of scientific documents for definition of the determinants that require consensus definition in the Socio-cultural and Environmental categories. Preparation and distribution of online surveys to establish consensus, data collection and analysis.	VM, June 2022, complete by Aug 2022 (x 1)
CDE	General and specific promotional material and avenues for DE-PASS e.g. development of infographics, targeted Work Group and Deliverable promotional material and social media content.	VM, to be completed by 31 st October 2022 (x1)

* Please see **WG Implementation plans** for additional detail regarding [each Deliverable](#).

Table 2 Future STSM and VM Opportunities – November 2022 Onwards

WG/Deliverable	Topic/Aim	Grant Type/Period
2.3	Progressing new concept mapping exercise for adults and or older adults	STSM/VM/Nov 2022 to Oct 2023
2.3	Publication preparation	STSM/VM – appropriate time
2.5	Data Extraction for Best Evidence Statement/s PAB & Determinants Adult/Older Adults	
2.5	Publication/s Preparation	STSM/VM – appropriate time
2.6	Formulate a Proof of Concept (POC) for the development of an mHealth app measuring the individual PAB determinant profile, categorising associated health risk and suggesting determinant profile and behaviour change intervention.	STSM/VM/Nov 23 to Oct 24
4.5	Data collection on physical activity behaviours and their determinants in 5-10 European nations.	STSMs March 2023 – March 2024

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