

# context

## **COST Action “European Network to connect research and innovation efforts on Advanced Smart Textiles” (CONTEXT) CA17107**



Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme of the European Union

### **CALL FOR VIRTUAL MOBILITY (VM) GRANT**

PERIOD: September – October 2021

Deadline for applications (**September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021**)

**We are pleased to announce the opening of the Call for Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants of the COST Action CONTEXT (CA17107)**

(<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA17107>)

([https://e-services.cost.eu/files/domain\\_files/CA/Action\\_CA17107/mou/CA17107-e.pdf](https://e-services.cost.eu/files/domain_files/CA/Action_CA17107/mou/CA17107-e.pdf))

### **WHAT IS A VIRTUAL MOBILITY GRANT?**

COST has launched new types of Grants to build capacity and spread the uptake of virtual collaboration across different research communities, in the form of a pilot scheme running until 31 October 2021.

Virtual Mobility Grants aim at strengthening the existing networks by allowing scientists to foster collaboration in a virtual setting, to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, disseminate the Action results, etc.

To learn more about COST rules and about the Virtual Mobility Grants, please check the COST Vademecum that can be downloaded at: [www.cost.eu/Vademecum](http://www.cost.eu/Vademecum).

6 grants are available with a maximum financial contribution of 1.500 € awarded per grant.

## ELIGIBILITY RULES

The following eligibility criteria apply:

- Applicant(s) are Action participants 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.
- 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 activities and overall objectives of the Action and submit a report at the end, to be approved by the VNS manager on behalf of the MC.
- Examples of activities to be granted can be as follows: thematic webinars, preparation of professional reports, preparation of the scientific papers, short market studies, short feasibility study, etc.

## EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF APPLICANTS

The evaluation of each received VM grant application is performed by the Virtual Networking Support (VNS) Manager.

The selection of successful grantee will be based on contributions to the overall objectives of the Action, the approved strategy on the virtual networking for the Action and the implementation of the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy.

The application shall be submitted in e-COST and include the following information:

- Main objective of the Virtual Mobility Grant.
- Working Plan: Description of the collaborative initiative to be implemented.
- Plan for Participation: List of participants in the collaborative initiative (short description of their expertise and contribution).
- Main expected outputs: results and contribution to the progress towards the MoU objectives (either research coordination and/or capacity building objectives can be tackled) and delivery of the MoU objectives.
- Contribution to the COST Action Strategy: How will the Virtual Mobility contribute to the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy and plans for stakeholder engagement and promoting participation of researchers from NNC and IPC (COST Global Networking) and to the approved virtual networking strategy, if available.
- Applicant's CV including the professional references.

## 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 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 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 related activities that do not necessarily require in-person presence, e.g.
  - 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, e.g.
    - 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.

The grantee has 30 calendar days from the completion of the Virtual Mobility Grant to submit a report 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.

## **FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND PAYMENT**

A maximum of 6 Virtual Mobility Grants will be awarded. Each Virtual Mobility Grant cannot exceed EUR 1.500.

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

## DEADLINE AND APPLICATION

The regular call application is open from **August 6<sup>th</sup> to September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021**. The evaluation results will be communicated shortly after the submission.

If the 6 grants are not taken or the total budget is not spent after this regular call, applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 (until the 6 grants are awarded or the total budget is spent).

**The period of the grant comprises from 8<sup>th</sup> September to 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021.**

**The application shall be submitted in e-COST:** <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>

The evaluation of applications will be performed by the VNS Manager, on behalf of the MC.

The selection criteria will consider:

- The quality of the application (working plan) (35%)
- Relevance to proposed topic for the CONTEXT Cost Action; estimated plan for participation and expected outcomes (40%)
- Contribution to personal development of the candidate (15%)
- Curriculum vitae of the applicant (10%)

If you have any questions, do not hesitate contact to us:

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