Virtual Mobility (VM) GRANTS, 2023-24 call

International network for harmonization of atmospheric aerosol retrievals from ground based photometers (Harmonia, COST Action CA21119) is opening the 2nd Virtual Mobility (VM) grant Call.

OBJECTIVES / DESCRIPTION

Virtual Mobility (VM) consists of a collaboration in a virtual setting among researchers or innovators within the COST Action, to exchange knowledge and carry out specific work for a determined period. A VM should specifically contribute to the Harmonia objectives. VMs can have a minimum duration of 5 days and need to be carried out entirely within a single Grant Period.

Relevant dates:

- Deadline for applications: opens in November 2023 and remains open until the capacity is filled
- Outcomes: Every month starting November 3rd, 2024
- VM dates: must take place before October 15th, 2024

After the VM: The successful applicant must submit a scientific report and relevant documentation within 30 days of the end of the VM and before 15 October 2024, whichever takes place earlier.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

VM applicants must be researchers or innovators. The institution, organisation or legal entity where applicants pursue their main strand of research is considered as Home institutions. The Host institution is the institution / organisation that will host the successful applicant.

Eligibility can be determined by adhering to the stipulations in the following 3 categories depending on **Applicant in a Home Institution:**

- Researchers holding their primary affiliation at an institution located in a Participating **COST Country** (i.e. COST Full Member and COST Cooperating Member countries) that signed the Action's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) are eligible.
- Researchers holding their primary affiliation in a **Near Neighbour Country (NNC)** institution formally approved on the Action are eligible.
- Researchers holding their primary affiliation at a **European RTD Organisation** formally approved onto the Action are eligible.

A list of COST Countries and approved NNC and European RTD institutions within Harmonia can be found at https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA21119/.

SELECTION OF APPLICANTS

The evaluation of each received VM application is performed by the Core Group, on behalf of the Management Committee. The selection of applicants is based on the following criteria:

- The scientific scope of the proposed contribution must be coherent and contribute to the overall objectives of Harmonia, as well as and linked to specific deliverables of the Action.
- Strategy used and plan for the virtual collaborative initiative to be undertaken

- Outputs and benefits foreseen for Harmonia as a result of the VM (e.g. scientific publication, conference presentation)
- There should be special considerations with respect to supporting COST policies on promoting gender balance, enabling Young Researchers and Innovators, broadening geographical inclusiveness, and involving ITC countries.
- In case of even scoring, the number of applications from each institution will be considered to ensure a fair spread across the network

The resolution of the call will be communicated to the applicants after the final decision.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The financial support on offer provides a contribution for the overall effort, and it should reflect the duration, scope and complexity of the task and activities to be covered via the VM grant. It takes into consideration the budget request of the applicant and the outcome of the evaluation of the application. The following funding conditions apply and must be respected:

Up to a maximum of EUR 1500 in total can be attributed to each successful applicant.

For this call, the Harmonia Management Committee has allocated a total budget of **max 14500 EUR** aiming to fund 10-14 VM proposals. The amount granted will be determined during the evaluation process. Annotated rules for COST actions, (pages 98-100, https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2022/12/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V1.3.pdf).

HOW TO APPLY

Interested researchers should:

- Eligible applicants must submit their VM applications online at the following web address: https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants
- Apply filling the information also in the following link: https://forms.gle/vQfKbbUPb3vPiFfx8
- Carefully read the funding rules detailed in the annotated rules for COST actions (pages 98-100, https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2022/12/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V1.3.pdf) and Grant Awarding User guide (https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/12/Grant-Awarding-userguide.pdf)
- In order to complete the application, applicants are required to upload in the online system the following documents:
  - Application form (including contact details; ***proposed start and end of the VM; contribution to the objectives of Harmonia COST Action, working plan, expected outputs and contribution to the Action MoU objectives and deliverables, and clear justification for choosing the participating institution(s)***, using the e-COST template);
  - CV (1-page), including publications and previous visiting fellowships.

NOTE: Remember that VM dates must take place before the 15th of October, 2024.

BEFORE THE VM

Please note that you can start your VM after:

- The VM coordinators assessed your request,
- The VM coordinator informed the Grant Holder that the proposed VM has been approved,
- The Grant Holder sent you a formal Grant Notification letter.

AFTER THE VM

The Grantee must submit the supporting documentation through the e-COST system (https://e-services.cost.eu/) within 30 calendar days from the end date of the VM in question and before 15 October 2024, whichever takes place earlier. Two reports are expected – 1. e-cost template based report and 2. internal Harmonia report (an extended version of the e-cost report, 5-10 pages, with detailed info on challenges and linkage to deliverables). The report, based on e-cost template, should include the following:

- Aims of the VM; work undertaken; main results; future plans (e.g. further cooperation with the host-institution, potential future publications etc.), how are the results linked to HARMONIA specific deliverables;
- Outputs (e.g. academic paper, funding application, new dataset etc.);

Payment of the Grant is subject to the submitted scientific report being approved by the Action Chair and Vice-Chair.

If the results from a VM are published in a journal or conference, please add the following acknowledgement in your paper/presentation:

"Part of this work was supported by the COST Action Harmonia (CA21119) supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology)."

It would be highly appreciated that a copy of the paper/article, abstract or other flyer is sent to the VM Coordinator and the Action Chair and Vice-Chair.

CONTACT PERSONS

VM Coordinators:

Dr Pavla Dagsson-Waldhauserova (pavla@lbhi.is)

Dr Maria João Costa (mjcosta@uevora.pt)

Grant Holder Manager: Eliane Tobler (eliane.tobler@pmodwrc.ch)