

## Report on the outcomes of a Virtual Mobility<sup>1</sup>

Action number: CA21119

Grantee name: Pavla Dagsson-Waldhauserova

### **Virtual Mobility Details**

Title: Summary and basic statistics of awarded Harmonia grants in 2023-2024

Start and end date: 30/09/2024 to 10/10/2024

### **Description of the work carried out during the VM**

The main aim of HARMONIA COST grants is to achieve the main objective of HARMONIA COST Action to establish a sustainable network to improve and homogenize aerosol retrievals using mainly solar and sky but also lunar and star photometers from different networks. The COST Actions grants are an excellent tool for research coordination, capacity building and outreach of the Action. The main task of this report was to elaborate a detailed analysis of grant applicants and their characteristics. In addition, research themes of the grants were categorized according to the scope of different Working Groups (WG) in terms to evaluate the most and least targeted research scopes. A contribution of these grants to different Harmonia's deliverables was also analysed and deliverables with the most needed contributions in future grants identified.

Outreach of the conference grants is also investigated including the main geographical areas of dissemination, what were the audience and stakeholders involved, how many papers have been linked to the grants, what grants focused on the dissemination materials for public and stakeholders, etc. Effectiveness of grant evaluations and management system for Harmonia grants in 2022-2024 will be also investigated and possible improvements recommended.

HARMONIA COST grant management is based on transparent and well-defined selection system of the grant applicants carried by the Core Group. HARMONIA grant coordinator Pavla Dagsson-Waldhauserova from the Agricultural University of Iceland and grant co-coordinator Maria João Costa from the University of Evora in Portugal work together evaluating carefully each application and preparing the material for the evaluation of the Core Group. After the execution of the grants, reports are prepared and evaluated by selected CG members as a peer re-view according to their expertise.

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<sup>1</sup> This report is submitted by the grantee to the Action MC for approval and for claiming payment of the awarded grant. The Grant Awarding Coordinator coordinates the evaluation of this report on behalf of the Action MC and instructs the GH for payment of the Grant.

**Description of the VM main achievements and planned follow-up activities**

Proposed VM was successfully executed and planned goals with expected outcomes were achieved. Here we provided a detailed analysis of grant applicants and their characteristics, detailed analysis on categorization of the research themes of the grants and their linkages to Harmonia’s deliverables, evaluated grant outreach and dissemination, and summarized the effectiveness of grant evaluations and management system for Harmonia grants in 2022-2024. The main results of the analyses of Harmonia’s grants are as follows:

The Core Group has evaluated 49 grant applications, and 48 applicants were granted during the first half of the Action. The success rate to receive a grant was 98%. In total, we granted 9 STSMs, 10 ITCs, 2 DCGs, 26 VMs, and 1 VNS. It means that 54% of the grants were virtual mobilities and 19% short term scientific missions, while 21% were ITC conference grants, and 6% DC and VNS grants (Figure 1). Figure 2 depicts that over 57 % of the grants were utilized by female researchers and 65 % of all grants were early career investigators.

**ALL HARMONIA’S CALL GRANT TYPES**

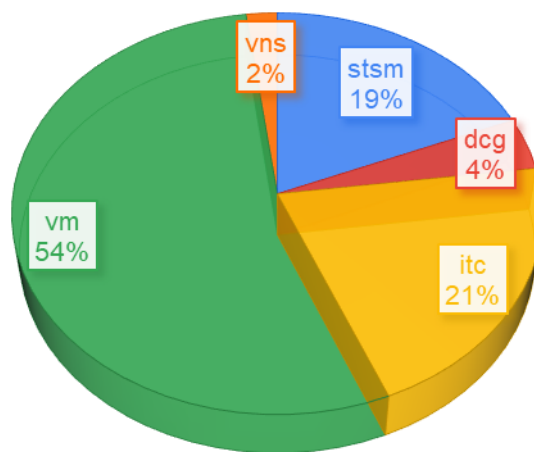


Figure 1. Type of grants allocated during the first half of the Harmonia COST Action.

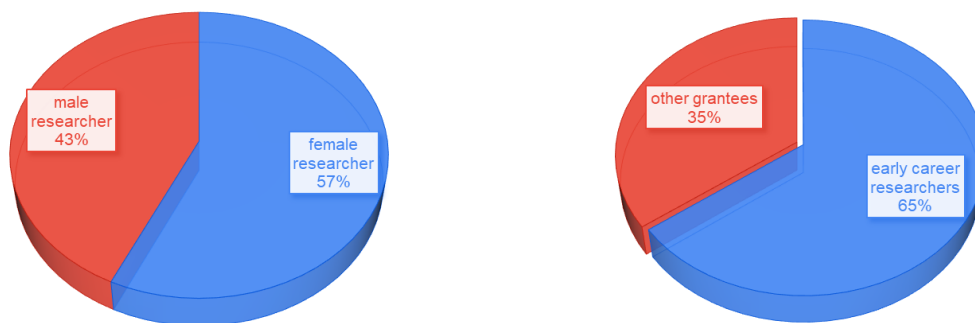


Figure 2. Left: Grants allocation according to the gender. Right: Proportion of Early Career Scientists in grants.

HARMONIA has been presented by 12 grantees at 9 international conferences in Europe and United States of America. The majority of allocated grants was conducted in relation to specific deliverables of the Harmonia COST Action. A total of 14 deliverables was targeted by the grants. The highest number of grants contributed to the deliverables D3.3, D3.2 and D2.1. The grants were contributing mainly to the topics and deliverables related to the WG3, WG5 and WG2 (Figure 3).

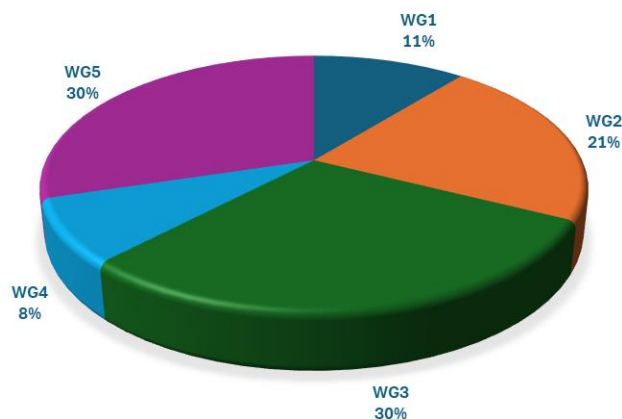


Figure 3. Contribution of grants to specific working groups of Harmonia.

The results of the Harmonia's grant projects have been successful in terms of involving majority of female researchers and ECRs, promoting EU COST Action Harmonia, related research and activities at many conferences with active networking, high number of published papers, high contribution to the Action's deliverables, and other dissemination and outreach. Therefore, it can be concluded that the effectiveness of grant evaluations and management system for Harmonia grants in 2022-2024 has been successful. The Core Group will continue its work using the approved selection criteria and evaluation methods in the Action's future. The cooperation between the Agricultural University of Iceland, University of Evora in Portugal and HARMONIA Core Group will assure efficiency of the grant management with the Action's development and needs for the future deliverables and outreach.

HARMONIA COST grant management including this VM's detailed analysis of the grants are linked to the deliverables D5.3: Annual review of progress/achievements towards deliverables during MC meetings and D5.4: Report on the dissemination of HARMONIA results to major stakeholder conferences.