

HARMONIA CA21119

Virtual Mobility Grant

Extended final report

Harmonia grant summary 2024-2025 and materials for the open calls in 2025

(19/09/2025 - 15/10/2025)

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Date	21 October 2025

1. Introduction

COST grants are important tools to achieve the main objective of HARMONIA 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. These grants have been well used for research coordination, capacity building and outreach of the Action. Harmonia has successfully concluded three years of the Action's activities and here we summarize the activities and outcomes in terms of grant success of the third year of the Action compared to the first half of the COST Action's life time. One of the measures of COST Action success is the usage of tools such as COST Action grants to disseminate the results of the action and to fulfil the Action's deliverables. Additionally, COST Actions grants are a powerful tool to expand the actions network as well as interconnection with other existing, past or future COST Actions. COST Action grants are an important step in many Early Career Researcher (ECR) careers and crucially needed motivation during different stages of their career.

There had been a significant increase in the number of applications for Harmonia's grants between the 1st and 3rd call of the Action's first two years. Effective grant tools advertisement and selection management of the best fitting applicants with the most profound outreach and contribution to deliverables has been established by the Core Group straight after the Action's start. Forty-eight grantees were awarded during the first two years of the Action showing a high interest in the Action's results dissemination. Here an evaluation is provided analyzing if the number of grants and their effective outreach and contribution to deliverables has been continuously increasing during the third Action's year, in 2024-2025.

This report is based on summarizing, quantifying, and providing basic statistics on how Harmonia Action's grants have been conducted in 2024-2025 and compared to the overall Action's grant period. In addition, analytical information is provided on the grants, and in turn also Harmonia's, outreach and progress. Discussions with the Harmonia's ECRs using the grants also helped to understand better a need of such tools for their career development. Expected outcome of this Virtual Mobility (VM) report is 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. In addition, revised documents for the open calls in 2025-2026 are elaborated according to the new COST rules published in 2025.

2. Description of the work carried out during the VM

All Harmonia grants for the grant period 2024-2025 were analyzed for basic statistics and compared/added to the grants from the previous Harmonia years. New documents for open calls in 2025-2026 were prepared according to the new COST rules in 2025. Outreach of the conference grants is also investigated including the main geographical areas of dissemination, and the audience and stakeholders involved. Contributions of conducted grants to Harmonia's deliverables and generally to working groups (WG) was quantified. The main outcomes are:

- Report with annual statistics on the grant utilization according to Harmonia objectives and working groups for the grant period 2024-2025, including applicants gender and career stage statistics
- New documents of all grants open calls in late 2025 for the grant budget period 2025-2026
- Comparison and implementation of the 2024-2025 statistics with the previous budget years
- Strategic document with statistical information for the HARMONIA Working Group 5 deliverable D5.3: Annual review of progress/achievements towards deliverables during MC meetings

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 and Actions director. After the execution of the grants, reports are prepared and evaluated by selected CG

members as a peer re-view according to their expertise. The grant evaluation management has been proved clear and transparent with no new recommendations needed.

3. HARMONIA COST grants in 2023-2025

There are five main grants available to apply for in Harmonia COST Action: Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM), conference grant for individuals from the Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC), Virtual Mobility grant (VM), Young Researcher and Innovator (YRI), and Dissemination Conference grant (DCG). Additionally, Virtual Networking Support grant (VNS), can be allocated. Four grant calls have been opened since Harmonia's start in November 2022, showing gradual increase in grant applications as well as grantees over the first three calls and slight decrease in the last call 2024-2025 (Figure 1). There was a grantee increase of 425% between the 1st and 2nd grant calls and over 150% increase in grantees between 2nd and 3rd call. It is possible that the exceptional gradual increase in grantees of 150 % between 2nd and 3rd call was too high and with the 4th call last year, we have experienced a grant applicant saturation of approximately 2-3 applicants per month. This is, however, great number and success for a COST Action given the allocated budget.

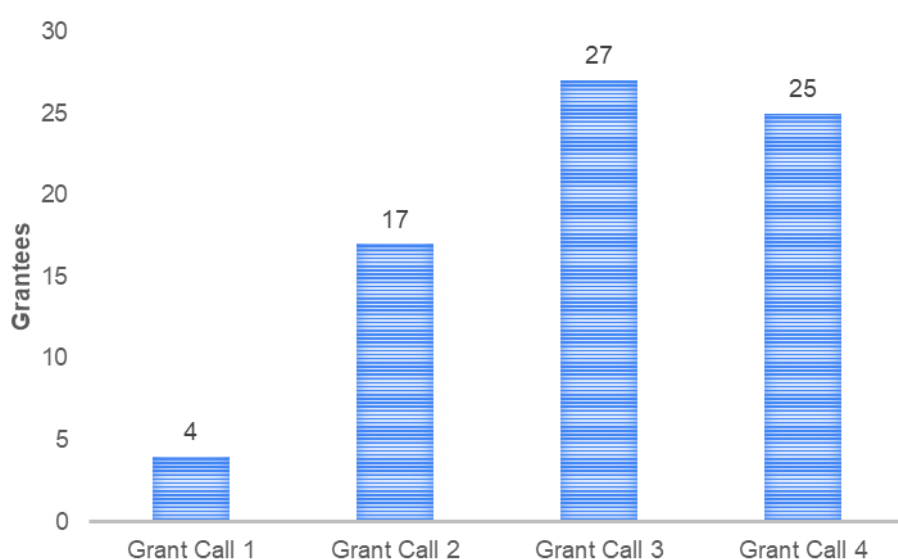


Figure 1. Number of grantees during the first three grant calls of Harmonia.

Harmonia's 1st call resulted with four applicants and four grantees. The 2nd call was largely advertised through HARMONIA Action's media including the first video on HARMONIA, during meetings and at international conferences, via HARMONIA's Newsletter, resulting with 18 applicants and 17 grantees. That means that HARMONIA awarded 21 grantees during its 1st year, which can be considered as great success. In total, we granted 4 STSMs, 4 ITCs, 1 DCG, and 12 VMs. We would like to emphasize that almost 60 % of the grants were utilized by female researchers and majority was early career investigators. HARMONIA was introduced and presented by five grantees at three international conferences. The list of grantees including links to their work is available at the website <https://harmonia-cost.eu/grantees/>.

The 3rd call from November 2023 – November 2024 was gradually increasing in number of applications, resulting with 27 applicants and 27 grantees. In total, 5 STSMs, 6 ITCs, 1 DCG, 14 VMs, and 1 VNS, were granted. HARMONIA was introduced and presented by seven grantees at six international conferences in Europe and United States of America. The list of grantees including links to their work is available at the website <https://harmonia-cost.eu/grantees/>.

The 4th call from November 2024 – October 2025 continued with high number of applications, resulting with 25 applicants and 23 grantees. In total, 6 STSMs, 1 ITCs, 5 YRIs, 0 DCG, 10 VMs, and 1 VNS, were granted. There was slight increase in STSMs from the previous year and significant decrease in ITC grants. The decrease in ITC grants was substituted by the new YRI grants, showing high interest of young researchers to use the opportunity to present their works, linked to Harmonia's objectives and deliverables, at international conferences. One grant was rejected based on poor final report and one grant application was cancelled by the applicant. Figure 2 shows that almost a half of the grants were virtual mobilities (44%) and 26% short term scientific missions, while 26% were ITC and YRI conference grants combined, and 4% VNS grants. Similarly to previous calls, about 61% of the grants were utilized by female researchers and about 52 % were early career investigators. HARMONIA was introduced and presented by six grantees at three international

conferences in Europe. The list of grantees including links to their work is available at the website <https://harmonia-cost.eu/grantees/>.

THE 4TH CALL GRANT TYPE

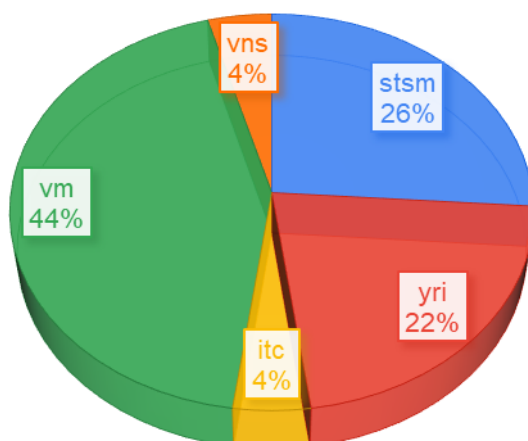


Figure 2. Type of grants allocated during the 4th Harmonia grant call.

Summary of all Harmonia´s grants during three calls in 2023-2025

The Core Group has evaluated 74 grant applications, and 71 applicants were granted during the three years of the Action. The success rate to receive a grant was 96%. In total, we granted 15 STSMs, 11 ITCs, 5 YRIs, 2 DCGs, 36 VMs, and 2 VNS. About half of all the grants, 51%, were virtual mobilities and 21% short term scientific missions, while 22% were ITC and YRI conference grants, and 3% DC and VNS grants (Figure 3). Figure 4 depicts that there is a general increase in the grants utilized by female researchers and slight decrease in grants by early career investigators resulting in the same percentage for all the 71 utilized grants: About 59 % of the grants were utilized by female researchers and early career investigators.

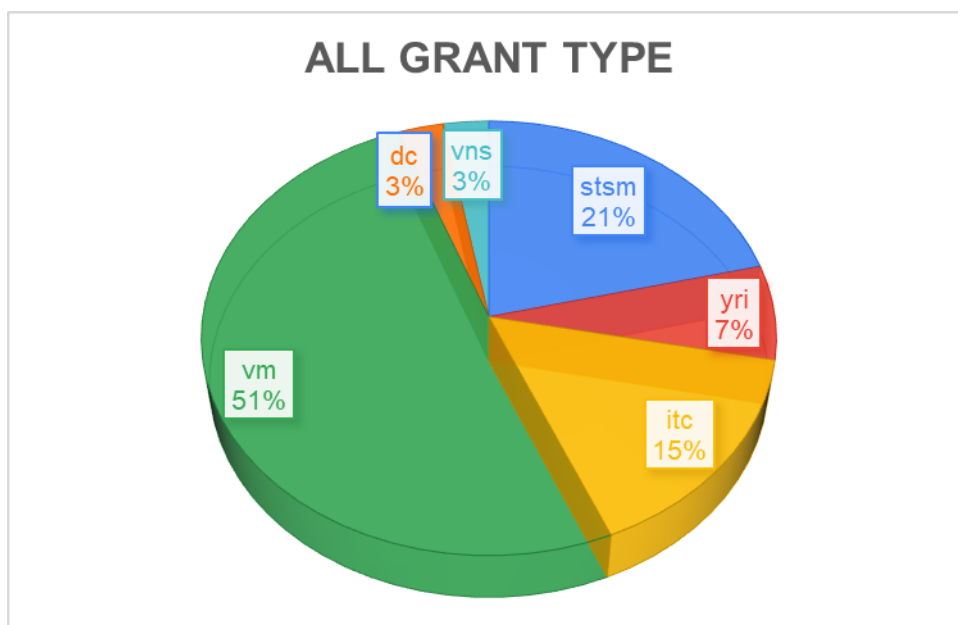


Figure 3. Type of grants allocated during three years of the Harmonia COST Action.

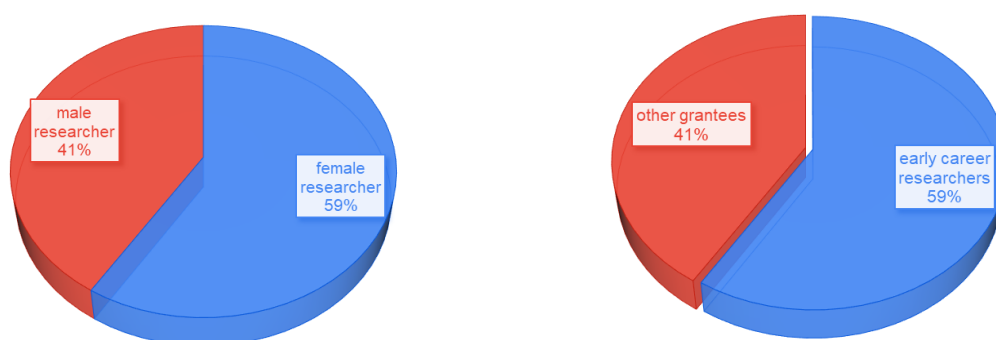


Figure 4. Left: Grants allocation according to the gender. Right: Proportion of Early Career Scientists in grants.

In total, HARMONIA has been presented by 17 grantees at 12 international conferences in Europe and United States of America. Table 1 shows the countries in Europe where Harmonia's grantees contributed the most. Summarizing the average number of attendees of the conferences, the audience and stakeholders exceeded 95000.

Conferences of Harmonia's grantees in 2023-2025	
European Geosciences Union (EGU) GA 2023-2025/Austria	5
European Aerosol Conference, Italy	2
DUST Conference, Italy	2
ACTRIS Science Conference 2024, France	1
International Laser Radar Conference (ILRC), Germany	1
The 2024 Quadrennial Ozone Symposium, Boulder, CO, USA	1
AERONET Science and Application Exchange, USA	1
20th Electromagnetic and Light Scattering Conference, Spain	1
European Meteorological Society Annual Meeting, Slovakia	2
31st International Laser Radar Conference (ILRC), Germany	1

Table 1. Conferences with contributions on Harmonia COST Action or contributions by Harmonia ITC and YRI grantees.

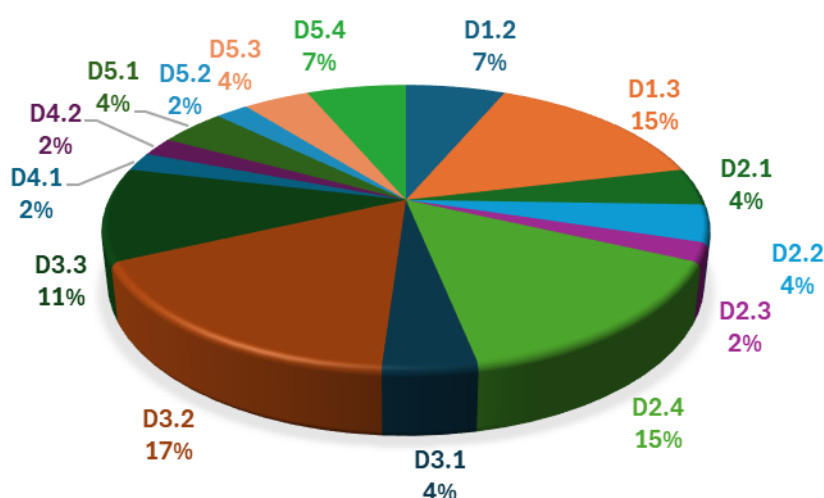
The majority of allocated grants was conducted in relation to specific deliverables of the Harmonia COST Action. A total of 15 deliverables was targeted by the grants adding three new deliverables (marked in italics) to existing deliverables from previous years as described in table 2. This increased the number of total targeted deliverables to 17. In 2024-2025, the highest number of grants contributed to the deliverables D3.2, D2.4 and D1.3, with about 47% (Figure 5). The highest contribution went to the deliverable 3.2: Report on the requirements of different user communities on the accuracy, uncertainty and spatiotemporal resolution of aerosol measurements needed for their activities. As emphasized in the previous report on the grant statistics for 2022-2024 that the most needed contributions in future grants would be needed to the deliverable D1.3: Report on the cross validation experiments of synergies with co-located solar, lunar and stellar photometers on white and review papers, it has been fulfilled with the second highest contributions of grants in 2024-2025. Similarly, the emphasis was given on the deliverable D2.4: Report on uncertainties for optimized and homogenized products and suggestions for improving already existing products, as suggested in previous report.

D1.1	List of existing and foreseen campaigns or experiments and report on the data collection and analysis of the data/measurements.
D1.2	Report on the differences and uncertainties related to standard products provided from already existing analysis algorithms.
D1.3	<i>Report on the cross validation experiments of synergies with co-located solar, lunar and stellar photometers on white and review papers.</i>
D2.1	Report on synergistic approaches towards better quality products.
D2.2	List of possible improvements on the quality of solar lunar and stellar photometry instrumentation.
D2.3	Collaborate and report on the links of metrology/MAPP project results and measurement accuracy and uncertainty improvements and ML and CC use for data harmonization.
D2.4	<i>Report on uncertainties for optimized and homogenized products and suggestions for improving already existing products.</i>
D3.1	<i>Share the recordings and the presentations of two Workshops, with potential users from different interested communities, dealing with climate effects of aerosols, etc.</i>
D3.2	Report on the requirements of different user communities on the accuracy, uncertainty and spatiotemporal resolution of aerosol measurements needed for their activities.
D3.3	Publish a white paper on sun-photometric aerosol accuracy and uncertainty for different applications.
D4.1	Share the recordings and the presentations of two Workshops that will be organized, with industrial users related with technological needs and innovation actions.
D4.2	Report on hardware and software evolution needs according to WG3 results.
D5.1	Share the recordings and the presentations of the training School on solar, lunar, stellar radiation-based techniques.
D5.2	Share the recordings and the presentations of the training School to aerosol measurement scientists and operators.
D5.3	Annual review of progress and achievements towards deliverables during Management Committee meetings.
D5.4	Report on the dissemination of HARMONIA results to major stakeholder conferences.
D5.5	Communication, Dissemination and Valorisation strategy.

Table 2: List of deliverables with Harmonia´s grants contribution. Deliverables in *italics* were newly added in 2024-2025.

Updating the grants contribution to specific deliverables with data from 2024-2025, the overall highest number of grants contributed to the deliverables D3.2, D3.3 and D2.1, with about 38% (Figure 5).

GRANTS CONTRIBUTIONS TO HARMONIA ´S DELIVERABLES IN 2024-2025



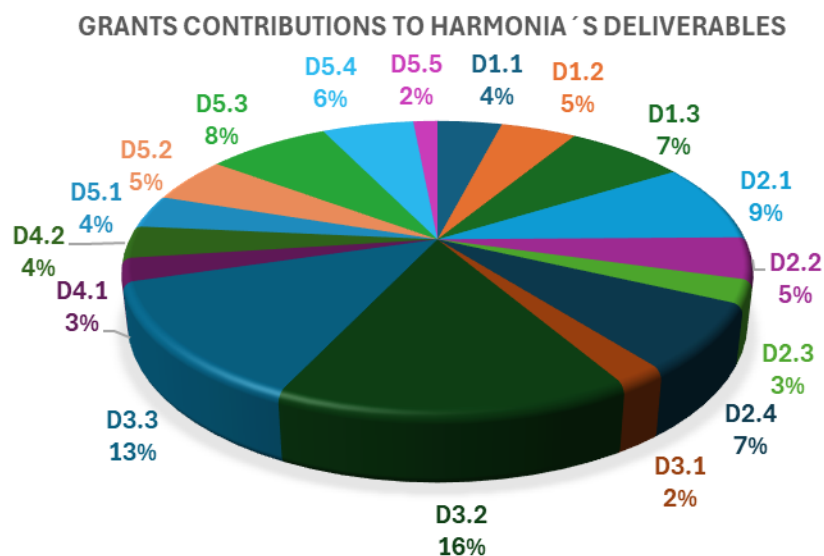


Figure 5. Contribution of grants to specific deliverables of Harmonia in 2024-2025 (top) and for the whole grant period (2022-2025).

To summarize the contribution of the grants to specific working groups, the deliverables were separated according to their working group scope. It is important to emphasize that some of the grants contributed to more than one deliverable. As result as depicted in figure 6, the grants were contributing most to the topics and deliverables related to the WG3, WG5 and WG2 (WG3: End user engagement towards maximizing aerosol measurement use; WG5: Project Dissemination; and WG2: Aerosol measurement improvement). This is a similar trend as in previous years, but more grants have also contributed to WG4: Industry engagement towards innovative hardware, software products.

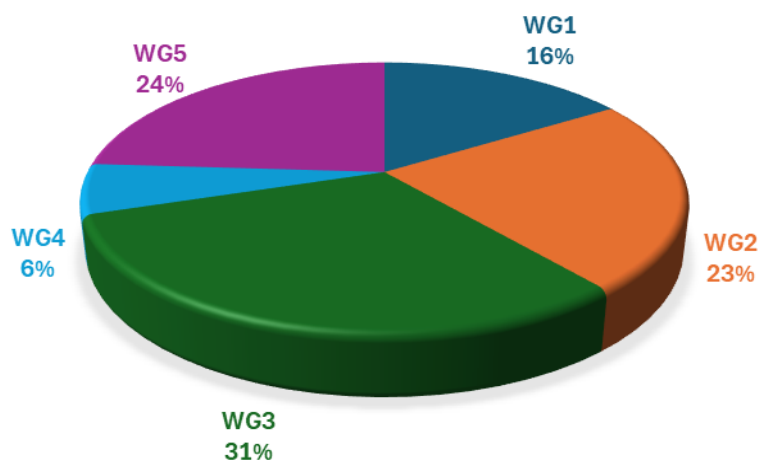


Figure 6. Contribution of grants to specific working groups of Harmonia.

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, 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 2024-2025 has been successful. The Core Group will continue its work using the approved selection criteria and evaluation methods in the Action's future. It is also important to emphasize the great impact of the grants on the grantee's professional careers as well as general motivated and enthusiastic environment and networking between the Harmonia's members.

4. Conclusion and future implementation

Proposed VM was successfully executed and planned goals with expected outcomes were achieved. Here we provided a detailed analysis of grant applicant and grantee characteristics, conducted grant linkages to Harmonia's deliverables and working groups, evaluated grant outreach and dissemination, and summarized the effectiveness of grant evaluations and management system for Harmonia grants in 2024-2025. The analysis was compared to the statistics for the first half of Harmonia's period. In addition, revised documents for the open calls in 2025-2026 were elaborated according to the new COST rules published in 2025.

HARMONIA COST grant management including 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.

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 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 2024-2025 has been

successful. The Core Group will continue its work using the well adopted 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.

ITC Conference Grants, 2025-26 CALL

International network for harmonization of atmospheric aerosol retrievals from ground based photometers (Harmonia, COST Action CA21119) is opening the 4th year ITC Conference Grant Call.

Objectives / description

Conference Grants are aimed at supporting **oral presentations** of:

- their own work **linked to HARMONIA Objectives**,
- given by an **Action Participant Action Participant**
- affiliated to a legal entity located in **an Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC) / Near Neighbour Country (NNC)**
- for their participation in **high-level conferences fully organized by a third party**, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action.

Relevant dates:

Deadline for applications: **opens in November 2025 and remains open until the capacity is filled**

Outcomes: **Every month starting November 10th, 2025**

Conferences dates: must take place before **15th of October 2026**

The successful applicant must submit a scientific report and relevant documentation within 30 days of the end of the conference and before 15 October 2026, whichever takes place earlier.

Eligibility criteria

The eligibility criteria are:

Applicants must be Action Participants with a primary affiliation in an institution located in a CA21119 participating ITC (**currently Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary** (Exceptions for certain institutes apply), **Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Malta, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine**) or NNC, for their participation in high-level conferences.

The main subject of the presentation must be a topic relevant to the main objectives of Harmonia.

Applicants must be **corresponding authors of an oral presentation** at the conference in question and be listed in the official event/conference program.

COST Action CA21119 should be acknowledged both in the book of abstracts and in the oral presentation following COST guidelines (Pages 98-100 in the Annotated rules for COST actions, <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/02/COST-094-21-V2.0-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C.pdf>).

The participation must be pre-approved by the Action MC (i.e. the Grant is for future conferences and not for conferences which already took place).

Selection of applicants

The evaluation of applications will be performed by the Core Group, on behalf of the MC. The selection of applicants is based on the following criteria:

The scientific scope of the conference contribution must clearly be coherent and contribute to the overall objectives of the Action.

Only oral contributions (face to face or online) can be considered.

Attendance at European conferences is preferred, although conferences held elsewhere can also be considered.

Further aspects of the proposal, such as originality of the presentation topic, clear relation to Harmonia, and gender, age and geographical distribution equality, are considered.

Financial support

The financial support on offer is a fixed financial contribution to the overall expenses incurred during the participation in a given conference and may not necessarily cover all of the associated expenses.

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 max of EUR 2500 in total per grant for face-to-face conferences, or EUR 500 for virtual conferences, can be afforded to each successful applicant, including:

In addition, when meal and accommodation expenses are supported by the hosting institution as part of the provisions offered in their conference package, the amount for subsistence afforded to each eligible participant must be deducted from the Grant.

For this call, the Harmonia Management Committee has allocated a total budget of **max 4000 EUR for 3-4 ITC Conference Grants**. The amount granted will be determined during the evaluation process.

How to apply

Interested researchers should:

- Register for an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/>
- Apply filling the information by logging into e-COST and clicking on the Grant Applications tab and uploading the supporting documentation (ITC Conference grant application based on [e-COST template](#);
- Provide (upload in the e-cost system) a copy of the abstract of the accepted oral presentation;
- Provide (upload in the e-cost system) the acceptance (or invitation) letter or e-mail from the conference organizers.
- **!Must** fill the information also in the following link: <https://forms.gle/vQfKbbUPb3vPiFfx8>
- Carefully read the funding rules on pages 98-100 in the Annotated Rules for COST Actions (<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/02/COST-094-21-V2.0-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C.pdf>) and Grant Awarding User guide (<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/01/COST-Grant-Awarding-user-guide.pdf>)
- Your presentation must contain one acknowledgement slide to promote the Action and the funding organization

After the conference

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 conference and before 10 October 2026, whichever takes place earlier:

The scientific report based on [e-cost template](#), which should include any relevant discussion or feedback for the talk given by the Grantee, information on relevant talks attended at the conference, interesting discussions and how Harmonia is linked to the grant. Pictures can be included.

Certificate of attendance

Program of the conference or book of abstracts / proceedings indicating the oral presentation (face to face or online)

Copy of the given presentation (oral)

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

Contact persons

ITC Grant Conference Coordinators:

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

Dr Maria João Costa (mjcosta@uevora.pt)

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

STSM GRANTS, 2025-26 CALL

International network for harmonization of atmospheric aerosol retrievals from ground based photometers (Harmonia, COST Action CA21119) is opening the 4th year Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) Call.

OBJECTIVES / DESCRIPTION

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) are institutional visits aimed at supporting individual mobility of researchers or Innovators for the specific work to be carried out and for a determined period of time, fostering collaboration between individuals. A STSM should:

- specifically contribute to the Harmonia objectives.
- 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 2025 and remains open until the capacity is filled**

Outcomes: **Every month starting November 10th, 2025**

STSM dates: must take place before October 15th 2026

After the STSM: The successful applicant must submit a scientific report and relevant documentation within 30 days of the end of the STSM and before 15 October 2026, whichever takes place earlier.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

STSM applicants must be a researcher or innovator affiliated to an institution, organisation or legal entity that has within its remit a clear association with performing research. 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 Organisation institutions within Harmonia can be found at <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA21119/>.

SELECTION OF APPLICANTS

The evaluation of each received STSM 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 linked to specific deliverables of the Action (feel free to ask if your subject is within the Action's objective/deliverable).

Outputs and benefits foreseen for Harmonia as a result of the STSM (scientific publication)

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 is a fixed financial contribution to the overall expenses incurred during the STSM and may not necessarily cover all the associated expenses. A STSM Grant is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses, as well as overall effort of the Grantee related with the project.

Applicants should provide an estimated budget that includes: travel expenses and daily allowance (altogether accommodation, meals, and short-distance transport expenses; table for The Daily Allowance rate available at http://www.cost.eu/daily_allowance, based on the country where the event takes place). The estimated budget should be included in the first part of the E-COST Application Form.

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 4000 EUR in total can be afforded to each successful applicant.

For this call, the Harmonia Management Committee has allocated a total budget of max 14000 EUR. The amount granted will be determined during the evaluation process. Annotated rules for COST actions (<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/02/COST-094-21-V2.0-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C.pdf>).

HOW TO APPLY

Interested researchers should:

- Eligible STSM applicants must submit their STSM applications online at the following web address: <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>
- Carefully read the funding rules detailed in the annotated rules for COST actions (pages 95-100, <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/02/COST-094-21-V2.0-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C.pdf>)
- **! Must** fill the information also in the following link: <https://forms.gle/vQfKbbUPb3vPiFfx8>
- In order to complete the application, applicants are required to upload in the online system the following documents:

- Short work plan (1-2 pages, including contact details; a project title; proposed start and end of the STSM; 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 hosting institution, using the [e-COST template](#));
- Written agreement from the host institution (stating name of applicant, time period of the STSM, and acceptance of the work plan, which has to be performed on the agreed dates);
- Letter of support from the home institution;
- CV (1-page), including publications and previous visiting fellowships.

NOTE: Remember that STSM dates must take place before 30 September 2026.

BEFORE THE STSM

Please note that you can start your STSM after:

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

AFTER THE STSM

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 STSM in question and **before 15 October 2026, whichever takes place earlier**. It is expected:

A short report, based on [e-cost template](#), which should include the following:

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

A more extensive scientific report on the achievements within the STSM.

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 STSM 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 STSM Coordinator and the Action Chair and Vice-Chair.

CONTACT PERSONS

STMS Coordinators:

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

Dr Maria João Costa (mjcosta@uevora.pt)

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

Virtual Mobility (VM) GRANTS, 2025-26 call

International network for harmonization of atmospheric aerosol retrievals from ground based photometers (Harmonia, COST Action CA21119) is opening the 4th Virtual Mobility (VM) grant Call.

OBJECTIVES / DESCRIPTION

Virtual Mobility (VM) consists of a collaboration in an online 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 2025** and remains open until the capacity is filled
- Outcomes: Every month starting **November 10th, 2025**
- VM dates: **must take place before October 15th, 2026**

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 2026, 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 (<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/02/COST-094-21-V2.0-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C.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>
- **Must fill** the information also in the following link: <https://forms.gle/vQfKbbUPb3vPiFfx8>
- Carefully read the funding rules detailed in the annotated rules for COST actions (<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/02/COST-094-21-V2.0-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C.pdf>) and Grant Awarding User guide (<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/01/COST-Grant-Awarding-user-guide.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, 2026.

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 2026, 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)

Young Researcher and Innovator (YRI) Conference Grants, 2025-26 CALL

International network for harmonization of atmospheric aerosol retrievals from ground based photometers (Harmonia, COST Action CA21119) is opening the YRI Conference Grant Call.

Objectives / description

Conference Grants are aimed at supporting presentation of:

- their own work **linked to HARMONIA Objectives**,
- given by a **Young Researcher and Innovator (age < 40 years)**
- for their participation in **high-level conferences fully organized by a third party**, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action.

Relevant dates:

Deadline for applications: **opens in November 2025 and remains open until the capacity is filled**

Outcomes: **Every month starting November 10th, 2025**

Conferences dates: must take place before **15th of October 2026**

The successful applicant must submit a scientific report and relevant documentation within 30 days of the end of the conference and before 15 October 2026, whichever takes place earlier.

Eligibility criteria

The eligibility criteria are:

Applicants must be a **Young Researcher or Innovator (under the age of 40)** for their participation in high-level conferences. The main subject of the presentation must be on a topic **relevant to the main objectives of Harmonia**.

Applicants must be **corresponding authors of oral/poster presentation** at the conference in question and be listed in the official event/conference program.

COST Action CA21119 should be acknowledged both in the book of abstracts and in the oral/poster presentation following COST guidelines (Pages 99-102 in the Annotated rules for COST actions, <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/02/COST-094-21-V2.0-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C.pdf>).

The participation must be pre-approved by the Action MC (i.e. the Grant is for future conferences and not for conferences which already took place).

Selection of applicants

The evaluation of applications will be performed by the Core Group, on behalf of the MC. The selection of applicants is based on the following criteria:

The scientific scope of the conference contribution must clearly be coherent and contribute to the overall objectives of the Action.

Oral contributions will be given priority over poster contributions.

Attendance at European conferences is preferred, although conferences held elsewhere can also be considered.

Further aspects of the proposal, such as originality of the presentation topic, clear relation to Harmonia, and gender, age and geographical distribution equality, are considered.

Financial support

The financial support on offer is a fixed financial contribution to the overall expenses incurred during the participation in a given conference and may not necessarily cover all of the associated expenses.

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 max of EUR 2500 in total per grant for face-to-face conferences, or EUR 500 for virtual conferences, can be afforded to each successful applicant, including:

In addition, when meal and accommodation expenses are supported by the hosting institution as part of the provisions offered in their conference package, the amount for subsistence afforded to each eligible participant must be deducted from the Grant.

For this call, the Harmonia Management Committee has allocated a total budget of **max 4500 EUR for 4-6 YRI Conference Grants**. The amount granted will be determined during the evaluation process.

How to apply

Interested researchers should:

- Register for an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/>
- Apply filling the information by logging into e-COST and clicking on the Grant Applications tab and uploading the supporting documentation (ITC Conference grant application based on [e-COST template](#);
- Provide (upload in the e-cost system) a copy of the abstract of the accepted oral or poster presentation;
- Provide (upload in the e-cost system) the acceptance letter or e-mail from the conference organizers.
- **Must fill** the information also in the following link: <https://forms.gle/vQfKbbUPb3vPiFfx8>
- Carefully read the funding rules on pages 98-100 in the Annotated Rules for COST Actions (<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/02/COST-094-21-V2.0-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C.pdf>) and Grant Awarding User guide (<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/01/COST-Grant-Awarding-user-guide.pdf>)
- Your presentation/poster must contain one acknowledgement slide/poster section with logos of the Action and COST to promote the Action and the funding organization

After the conference

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 conference and before 10 October 2026, whichever takes place earlier:

The scientific report based on [e-cost template](#), which should include any relevant discussion or feedback for the talk given by the Grantee, information on relevant talks attended at the conference, interesting discussions and how Harmonia is linked to the grant. Pictures can be included.

Certificate of attendance

Program of the conference or book of abstracts / proceedings indicating the presentation (oral or poster)

Copy of the given presentation (oral or poster)

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

Contact persons

ITC Grant Conference Coordinators:

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

Dr Maria João Costa (mjcosta@uevora.pt)

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

Dissemination Conference Grants

International network for harmonization of atmospheric aerosol retrievals from ground based photometers (Harmonia, COST Action CA21119) is opening the Dissemination Conference Grant Call.

Objectives / description

Dissemination Conference Grants are aimed at supporting oral presentation by an Action Participant of the work of the Action in high-level conferences fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action. The Grantee delivers the approved oral presentation, actively networks with other participants and promotes the COST Action to the potential stakeholders.

Dissemination Conference:

- Significantly increase visibility of the Action in the research community, can contribute to increasing visibility of the presenter;
- Attract additional participants and stakeholders and disseminate Action results to relevant end-users at high-profile conferences in the field on a topic relevant to the HARMONIA Action.

Relevant dates:

Deadline for applications: **opens in November 2025 and remains open until the capacity is filled**

Outcomes: **Every month starting November 10th, 2025**

Conferences dates: must take place before **15th October 2026**

The successful applicant must submit a scientific report and relevant documentation within 30 days of the end of the conference and before 15 October 2026, whichever takes place earlier.

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must be an Action Participant of the HARMONIA Action, and the grant is aimed at their participation in high-level conferences, to promote the COST Action to the potential stakeholders and actively network with other participants. The main subject of the presentation must be on a topic relevant to the main objectives and deliverables of HARMONIA.

Applicants must be corresponding authors of oral presentation at the conference in question and be listed in the official event/conference programme.

COST Action CA21119 should be acknowledged both in the book of abstracts and in the oral presentation following COST guidelines (Pages 98-100 in the Annotated rules for COST actions, <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/02/COST-094-21-V2.0-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C.pdf>).

The participation must be pre-approved by the Action MC (i.e. the Grant is for future conferences and not for conferences which already took place).

Selection of applicants

The evaluation of applications will be performed by the Core Group, on behalf of the MC. The selection of applicants is based on the following criteria:

The scientific scope and importance of the conference contribution must clearly be coherent and contribute to the overall objectives and deliverables of the Action.

Only oral contributions (face to face or online) are considered.

Attendance at European conferences is preferred, conferences elsewhere can be considered.

Further aspects of the proposal evaluation are: high quality presentation focusing on the dissemination of HARMONIA outcomes, clear strategy to approach stakeholders (identify at least 3 stakeholders) and plan to promote the COST Action. Gender/geographical equality are considered.

Financial support

The financial support on offer is a fixed financial contribution to the overall expenses incurred during the participation in a given conference and may not necessarily cover all of the associated expenses.

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 max of EUR 2000 in total per grant for face-to-face conferences, or EUR 500 for virtual conferences, can be afforded to each successful applicant. Applicants should provide an estimated budget that includes: registration fee, travel expenses and daily allowance (altogether accommodation, meals, and short-distance transport expenses; table for The Daily Allowance rate available at http://www.cost.eu/daily_allowance, based on the country where the event takes place). The estimated budget should be included in the first part of the E-COST Application Form.

In addition, when meal and accommodation expenses are supported by the hosting institution as part of the provisions offered in their conference package, the amount for subsistence afforded to each eligible participant must be deducted from the Grant.

For this call, the Harmonia MC has allocated a total budget of **max 2000 EUR for Dissemination Conference Grants**. The amount granted will be determined during the evaluation process.

How to apply

Interested researchers should:

Register for an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/>

Apply filling the information by logging into e-COST and clicking on the Grant Applications tab and uploading the supporting documentation (Dissemination Conference grant application based on [e-COST template](#);

Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral or poster presentation; Acceptance letter from the conference organizers.

!Must fill the information also in the following link: <https://forms.gle/vQfKbbUPb3vPiFfx8>

Carefully read the funding rules on pages 98-100 in the Annotated Rules for COST Actions (<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/02/COST-094-21-V2.0-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C.pdf>) and Grant Awarding User guide (<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/01/COST-Grant-Awarding-user-guide.pdf>)

Your presentation must contain one acknowledgement slide to promote the Action and the funding organization

After the conference

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 conference and before 15 October 2026, whichever takes place earlier:

The scientific report based on [e-cost template](#), which should include any relevant discussion or feedback for the talk given by the Grantee, information on relevant talks attended at the conference, interesting discussions and how the grant is linked to HARMONIA specific deliverables. Summary of the approach to the stakeholders with their identification, as well as promotion of HARMONIA should be detailed. Pictures and link to the Program of the conference or book of abstracts / proceedings should be included.

Certificate of attendance

Copy of the given presentation

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

Contact persons

Grant Conference Coordinators:

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

Dr Maria João Costa (mjcosta@uevora.pt)

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