

Report on the outcomes of a Virtual Mobility¹

Action number: CA21119

Grantee name: Pavla Dagsson-Waldhauserova

Virtual Mobility Details

Title: Harmonia grant reporting and organization

Start and end date: 05/4/2025 to 05/05/2025

Description of the work carried out during the VM

This VM was based on preparation of the third report to evaluate the management system for Harmonia grants. 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. HARMONIA COST grants have been used to establish and broaden a sustainable network for such improvement and homogenization. In particular, the status of the Harmonia grant reporting was checked, including the grant applications and reports organization, and the real and potential outreach of the conducted grants.

The current system of grant application and report approvals was evaluated and members of the Core Group asked about their satisfaction. The Core Group meets once a month where all the grant applications and reports for the previous period are evaluated. However, sometimes faster action is needed, especially for the Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) and Young Researcher and Innovator (YRI) conference grants, submitted close to the date of the conferences. In such cases, the voting system in the shared table for the Core Group has to be activated. The Core Group agreed that this system is the most comfortable for all the members.

The online grant application form has been also updated and new questions on links to Harmonia's concrete deliverable(s) and working group(s) added. This provides valuable information on grants evaluation and their direct impacts towards fulfilling successfully the Action's deliverables, engaging as many working group members as possible. This is in addition to current career stage-, gender- and geography evaluation rules for better Harmonia COST Action evaluation and outreach analysis. The online

¹ 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.

submission form not only smoothens the evaluation process for the Core Group members, but it also identifies the real and potential outreach of the conducted grants, eg. identification of the most targeted conferences.

The current status of the Harmonia grant reporting was checked to provide updated info for this third report. The Core Group agreed that the quality of the reports is high and only a minimum of reports had to be returned for revision. Small issues arose with the e-cost system for applications as some students claimed that YRI conference grants were not visible in their e-cost system and they applied repeatedly for dissemination grant instead. These applications had to be declined and we believe that they should not be included in the statistics on the grant application success rate.

In 2025, a new updated version of the Annotated rules for COST Actions has been published. Harmonia's materials had to be updated accordingly for:

1. Open grant calls (including new rules for existing grants, such as Short Term Scientific Mission, Virtual Mobility, ITC- and Dissemination conference grants, and introducing new grant, such as YRI conference grant)
2. New updated presentation on Harmonia's grants for students, working group members and Action's stakeholders.

The Harmonia COST Action 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 third report on the status of the Harmonia grant reporting, the applications and reports organization, and the real and potential outreach of the conducted grants.

HARMONIA COST grant management was revised with the Core Group members and small improvements suggested. It confirmed that 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, preparing and updating 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. Recommendations for improvements in Harmonia grant management were identified and implemented.

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 third report on Harmonia Action grant management based on identification of quality and satisfaction of current application and report submission system and their evaluation with Core Group members. Improvements were identified in addition of monthly Core Group meetings and implemented to the selection and approval system.

Several materials for smoother grant management were prepared and updated to be summarized in this VM report:

1. The online grant application form has been updated with new questions on links to Harmonia's concrete deliverable(s) and working group(s) added.

2. Open grant calls documents for all the grants (including new rules for existing grants, such as Short Term Scientific Mission, Virtual Mobility, ITC- and Dissemination conference grants, and introducing new grant, such as YRI conference grant)

3. New updated presentation on Harmonia's grants for students, working group members and Action's stakeholders.

As a follow up activity, this new-updated presentation on Harmonia COST Action Grant tools was introduced and later presented to the Young Researchers and students of the Harmonia Summer School 'Above the clouds' at the Izana Observatory in Tenerife on 26-28 May 2025. There were nearly 30 students and early career scientists taking part in the summer school. Future presentations are expected at the next Management Committee meeting and other Harmonia-related meetings.

Until the May 2025, the Core Group has evaluated 63 grant applications, and 62 applicants were granted. The success rate to receive a grant was 98%. In total, we granted 12 STSMs, 11 ITCs, 2 DCGs, 32 VMs, and 1 VNS. There are 3 newly opened YRI conference grants approved at the moment. HARMONIA has been presented by 16 grantees at 12 international conferences in Europe and United States of America.

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 2022-2025 has been successful.

The Core Group agreed on applying slightly modified selection criteria and both grant applications and reports evaluation methods in the Action's future. The cooperation between the Agricultural University of Iceland, University of Evora in Portugal, Grant Holder, and HARMONIA Core Group assures efficiency of the grant management with the Action's development and needs for the future deliverables and outreach.

HARMONIA COST grant management evaluation as an outcome of this VM's 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.

New grant documents are part of the extended version of this VM report.

Above the clouds – Izana Observatory

International network for harmonization of
atmospheric aerosol retrievals from ground
based photometers

**HARMONIA grants to enhance networking
and research collaboration**

Pavla Dagsson-Waldhauserova

Harmonia grant coordinator, pavla@lbhi.is

<https://harmonia-cost.eu/>



• COST Membership



40 Members

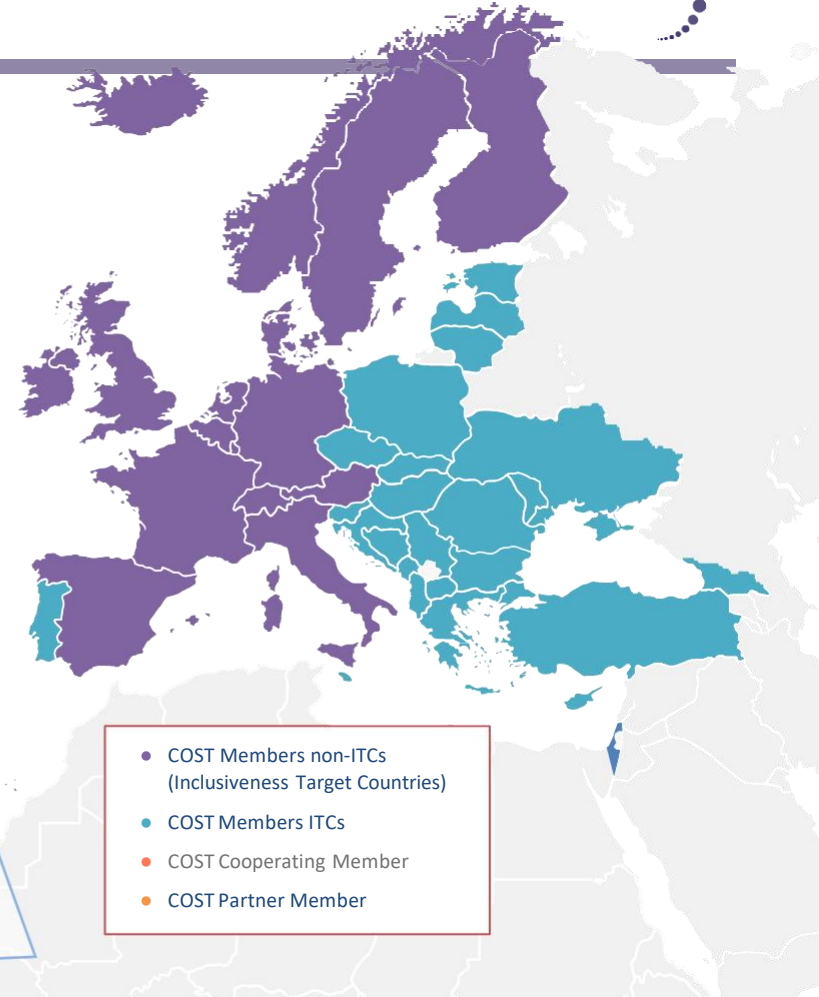
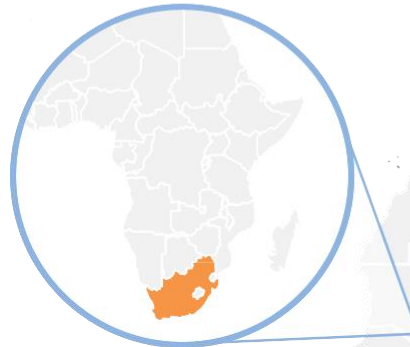
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- Montenegro
- The Netherlands
- The Republic of North Macedonia
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom

1 Cooperating Member

- Israel

1 Partner Member

- South Africa



- COST Members non-ITCs (Inclusiveness Target Countries)
- COST Members ITCs
- COST Cooperating Member
- COST Partner Member

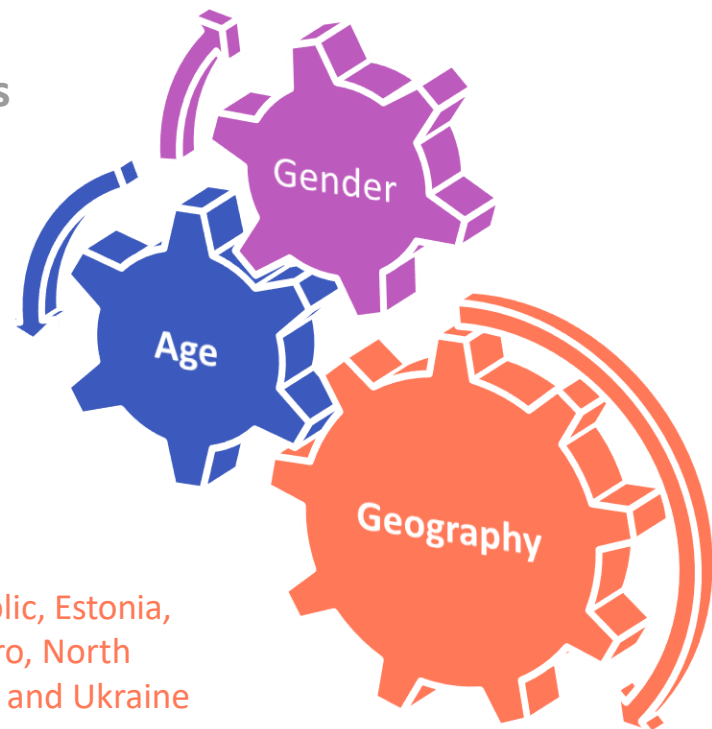


Special measures to Young researchers and Innovators

A researcher or innovator under the **age of 40**

Special measures to **Inclusiveness Target Countries** in Horizon Europe

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine
+ Outermost regions from Portugal, Spain and France



- Memberships Harmonia



MC members: 56

MC Countries: 37

ITC: 24

WG members: **146 approved, from 44 countries**

Cost Harmonia Tools:

Mobilities:

- *Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM)*
- *Virtual Mobility (VM)*

Conference grants:

- *IT Countries Conference Grants (ITC)*
- *Young Researcher and Innovater Conference Grants (YRIC)*
- *Action's Dissemination Grants*



<https://harmonia-cost.eu/what-we-fund/>

Harmonia tools - mobilities

Short-term scientific missions (STSM)

WHERE:

To a host organization located in a **different** country than the country of affiliation

Grant AMOUNT:

Up to 4000 EUR
Paid after report approval (after the STSM)

Based on the Harmonia objectives

Who: everyone from a COST country

Min duration: Five days

Virtual mobility grant

WHAT:

A collaboration in a virtual setting among Action researchers or innovators to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, etc.

Grant AMOUNT:

Up to 1500 EUR
Paid after report approval from Core group

Based on the Harmonia objectives

Who: everyone

Min duration: Five days



Outcomes should be directly linked to selected Harmonia deliverable(s) – ask the WG leaders what is needed.

Outcomes summarized in a scientific paper are desirable.

Harmonia tools – conference grants

ITC Conference Grants

WHERE:

To high-level conference
**not organised by the
Action itself**

Grant AMOUNT:

Up to 2500 EUR or 500 EUR
(virtual CG)
Paid after report approval (after
the conference)

Based on the Harmonia objectives and specific deliverable(s)

Who: everyone from ITC or NNC countries

Presenetation type: only ORAL

Young Researcher and Innovator Conference Grants

WHERE:

To high-level conference
**not organised by the
Action itself**

Grant AMOUNT:

Up to 2500 EUR or 500 EUR
(virtual CG)
Paid after report approval (after
the conference)

Based on the Harmonia objectives and specific deliverable(s)

Who: young researchers < 40 years from a COST country

Presenetation type: oral/poster presentation

ITC: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine + Outermost regions from Portugal, Spain and France

NNC: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine

Your presentation must contain at least one acknowledgement slide to promote the Action and the funding organization including the logos

Harmonia - Deliverables



		Year 1 Month	Year 2 Month	Year 3 Month	Year 4 Month
DEL 3.2	Report on the requirements of different user communities on the accuracy, uncertainty and spatiotemporal resolution of aerosol measurements needed for their activities			36	
DEL 3.3	Publish a white paper on sun-photometric aerosol accuracy and uncertainty for different applications				44
DEL 4.1	Share the recordings and the presentations of two Workshops that will be organized, with industrial users related with: technological needs and innovation actions		24		
DEL 4.2	Report on hardware and software evolution needs according to WG3 results			36	
DEL 5.1	Share the recordings and the presentations of the training School on solar, lunar, stellar radiation-based techniques.		18		
DEL 5.2	Share the recordings and the presentations of the training School to aerosol measurement scientists and operators		24		
DEL 5.3	Annual review of progress and achievements towards deliverables during Management Committee meetings			30	
DEL 5.4	Report on the dissemination of HARMONIA results to major stakeholder conferences				46
DEL 5.5	Communication, Dissemination and Valorisation strategy including yearly updates based on the Action's progress	6			

Harmonia – bring your ideas

Working groups act as networking hubs:

- Bring your ideas
- Get engaged in some of the existing ideas
- Work with a group of people towards a goal

We encourage diversity in the community:

Young researchers and non experienced scientists

More “experienced groups”

ITC and NNC countries

Measurement technology, models, state of the art ..

Wide range of networking:

Common publications

Experience and knowledge transfer
through STSMs and VMs

Present your work in conferences

Collaboration (measurements, analysis)

Proposals-projects

Reports-databases

Harmonia deliverables

Harmonia tools

**For successful grantees overview ->
Visit our website:**

<https://harmonia-cost.eu/grantees/>





Use the Harmonia community for your career development!

Thank you for your attention!
Further questions: pavla@lbhi.is



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 2024 and remains open until the capacity is filled**

Outcomes: **Every month starting November 4th, 2024**

Conferences dates: must take place before **15th October 2025**

The successful applicant must submit a scientific report and relevant documentation within 30 days of the end of the conference and before 15 October 2025, 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 2025, 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)

ITC Conference Grants, 2024-25 CALL

International network for harmonization of atmospheric aerosol retrievals from ground based photometers (Harmonia, COST Action CA21119) is opening the 3rd 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**
- 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 2024 and remains open until the capacity is filled**

Outcomes: **Every month starting November 4th, 2024**

Conferences dates: must take place before **15th of October 2025**

The successful applicant must submit a scientific report and relevant documentation within 30 days of the end of the conference and before 15 October 2025, 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, 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 2025, 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, 2024-25 CALL

International network for harmonization of atmospheric aerosol retrievals from ground based photometers (Harmonia, COST Action CA21119) is opening the 3rd 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 2024 and remains open until the capacity is filled**

Outcomes: **Every month starting November 4th, 2024**

STSM dates: must take place before October 15th 2025

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 2025, 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 2025.

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 2025, 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)

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Virtual Mobility (VM) GRANTS, 2024-25 call

International network for harmonization of atmospheric aerosol retrievals from ground based photometers (Harmonia, COST Action CA21119) is opening the 3rd 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 2024** and remains open until the capacity is filled
- Outcomes: Every month starting **November 4th, 2024**
- VM dates: **must take place before October 15th, 2025**

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 2025, 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, 2025.

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:

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Young Researcher and Innovator (YRI) Conference Grants, 2023-24 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 2024 and remains open until the capacity is filled**

Outcomes: **Every month starting November 4th, 2024**

Conferences dates: must take place before **15th of October 2025**

The successful applicant must submit a scientific report and relevant documentation within 30 days of the end of the conference and before 15 October 2025, 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 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 2025, 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)