



VM Grants WG5 “Communication and Collaboration”

CA23121 GENOA

The Call for Virtual Mobility Grant (VMG)

Work on VMG taking place between **6th –20thOctober2025**

CALL DEADLINE: October 3rd, 00:00 CEST

ANNOUNCEMENT DATE: one day upon receipt of the applications or October 6, 17:00 CEST at the latest

BACKGROUND

Working Group 5’s primary goal is to foster multifaceted networking and effective communication within the biodiversity monitoring community. We achieve this by coordinating with major external organisations to promote collaboration across the three biodiversity pillars (genes, species, ecosystems). Internally, WG5 manages all communication and handles the Action’s website, social media, news, and reports. WG5 specifically works to overcome language barriers by engaging local communicators, ensuring information is consistent and clear across all channels.

THE PURPOSE OF THE VM GRANT FOR WG5

The Virtual Mobility (VM) grant directly supports the WG5 mandate by developing high-impact visual content. The required deliverable is a stand-alone cartoon or a comics series focused on simplifying and widely disseminating a key message related to the Action's objectives.

Eligibility

Individuals affiliated to a legal entity in a COST Full/Cooperating Member, in a European RTD, or in a Near Neighbour Country (NNC) institution can apply for a STSM.

Non-eligible activities

All activities that are covered by other networking tools, licenses of programmes or online tools, conference fees, translations, purchase of any software and technical equipment.



ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS

The following eligibility criteria apply:

- Applicant(s) are **Action participants** with a primary affiliation to an institution located in a [COST Full or Cooperating Member country](#) or **MC Observers** from a [COST Near Neighbour Country](#).

The successful applicant(s) shall:

- inform the MC and the Core Group about the aim of the VM Grant and how its outcomes will generate benefits to the Action,
- actively contribute to the activities and overall objectives of the Action,
- submit a report at the end, to be approved by the Grant Awarding Coordinator on behalf of the MC.

FUNDING

The maximum amount for one STSM grant is **€1,500**. However, please note that the requested amount can be decreased or increased as Core Group ~~will define the exact amount for each grant reflecting the scope and complexity of the task and activities.~~

No in advance payments are foreseen. Approved VM Grant will be paid to the grantee after the Core Group has approved the grantee's report and no later than 15 days from the end of Grant Period.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

VM Grant applications must be submitted using [the e-COST system](#). The applicants should use VM templates provided by e-COST in [the Grant Awarding User Guide](#) (page 4). VM Grant applications submitted in any other way (email, post etc.) will not be evaluated. Details of application procedure are described in the [Grant Awarding User Guide](#) (page 7).

1. Applicants are encouraged to contact respective WG5 leaders Belma Kalamujić Stroil and Alexander Kopatz, as well as EDC coordinator Peter Galbusera, prior to submitting their application to ensure that the proposed outcome of their VMG agrees with the objectives of this action.
2. All applicants must complete, submit and download their VMG applications online within their e- COST profile at: <https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm/apply/new>.
3. All applicants must send their submitted VMG application form and the relevant supporting documents through the e-COST platform <https://e-services.cost.eu/user/login> for evaluation by the Grant Awarding Coordinator. VM Grant applicant must submit:
 - VM Grant application template (template is provided in the e-COST and in the Grant Awarding User Guide (page 4). The final document will be generated by e-COST system after filling in all requested information).
 - If needed, VM Grant Applicant can submit other supporting documents. Number of supporting documents is not limited, while the size of each file is limited to 2 MB. VM Grant

applicant is allowed to submit various formats of the files, but applicant must ensure that VNS manager will be able to download and check the document.

4. The evaluation procedure will follow the decision of the Core Group (following the mandate given by MCs) and the Grant Awarding Manager will process each received VM Grant application against the perceived contribution that the virtual mobility will make against the deliverables outlined in the Action's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of GENOA (but see also Annex to this document).

5. The applicant will be formally notified of the outcome of their VM application by the Grant Awarding Coordinator **not later than October 6th**.

Report

Due to administrative tasks related to the approval of the report, successful applicants are required to submit their report **not later than October 22nd 2025**.

Application content

Each VM Grant Application must include following information that are also provided in the application template:

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

Notification about the call's results

Successful VM Grant Applicant will be informed by an email automatically generated by the e-COST platform.

If you have any questions related to this VM Grant and the application procedure, please contact WG5 leader Belma Kalamujić Stroil (belma.kalamujic@ingeb.unsa.ba) or write to genoa.costaction@gmail.com.

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation.

www.cost.eu