

# Open Call for Virtual Mobility Grants

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The COST Action Decolonising Development: Research, Teaching, and Practice (CA19129 - DecolDEV) is accepting applications on a rolling but first-come-first-serve basis from **9<sup>th</sup> of September to 17<sup>th</sup> of October** for their Virtual Mobility Grants (virtual STSMs – VM Grants).

## About the Action

The Action DecolDEV takes on the challenge to reconstruct the concept and practice of development after its deconstruction. It aims for a resetting and diversification of the actors, structures, institutions and spaces in which knowledge about and for development is produced, shared, contested and put into practice. The Action will progress beyond the state-of-the-art through exploring and formulating alternatives in three areas: Research, Teaching and Practice. The Action CA19129 has three working groups focusing on Decolonising Research, Teaching and Practice. Applicants for virtual STSMs can contact with whom they would like to work in the line of the Action Objectives. The details about the Action and Working Groups can be found in the Action's website (<https://decolonise.eu/about-us-cost-action-decolonising-development/>).

## About the Virtual Mobility Grants

The COST Association has created a new instrument consisting of a new mode of Virtual Mobility grants (Virtual STSMs) that allows for researchers (junior or senior) to undertake a collaboration in the context of the COST Action objectives.

## Eligibility

All action participants, as well as any researcher from participating countries in our COST Action, are eligible to apply for one of these VM Grants.

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 applicant(s) shall inform the Core Group (CG) 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 and submit a report at the end, to be approved by the VNS manager on behalf of the MC.

Detailed information about the Virtual Mobility Grants can be found at <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/04/Vademecum-28-April-2021.pdf> . It is highly recommended for the applicants to review the COST Vademecum Section 10.2.

## Application and Implementation of Activities

The applicant of VM Grants should identify a host, come to an agreement with the host about the focus and the outcomes of the VM Grants. The focus of VM Grants can be in the following areas but not limited to these listed below. The activities expected to be performed by the successful applicant, but not limited to, are:

- To develop a mapping exercise:
  - Mapping exercise of decolonizing development, decolonizing theories, research methodologies, current issues, concerns, and so other
  - Mapping exercise of pedagogies, current curriculum, teaching practices, learning environments, teaching and learning strategies
  - Mapping exercise of decolonizing practice within or across disciplines
- To support the implementation of research related activities that do not necessarily require in-person presence

- Virtual mentoring scheme, with special focus on activities and exchanges that can generate capacity building and new skills, particularly for ECIs researchers (e.g. managerial skills, methodological skills, communication skills, etc).
- Content preparation and coordination of science communication activities
  - Online workshops like 'webinar series' or 'tv series'-like format.
  - Online COST Action workshops in external international conferences or events, when the applicant can demonstrate a role in the organising committee, that could help in the promotion of the Action activities.

The applicants are highly encouraged to get inspiration from STSMs and propose the activities that can be adapted virtually within VM Grants period.

The applicant of VM Grant should use the following template ([http://www.cost.eu/virtual\\_mobility\\_grant\\_application](http://www.cost.eu/virtual_mobility_grant_application)) to submit the application. Applications should be submitted through the e-COST platform (<https://e-services.cost.eu/>).

The application shall be submitted in e-COST and include the following information:

- Main objective of the Virtual Mobility 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.

The application should include the following documents:

- VM Grant application document
- CV
- List of publications
- Letter of support from the host

The applicant should also email the application materials to Julia Schöneberg (Julia.Schoeneberg@uni-kassel.de), Juan Telleria (juan.telleria@ehu.eus) and Muruvvet Demiral Uzan (muruwetdemiral@gmail.com).

### **Evaluation and Selection of the Applicants**

VM Grant application materials should show a clear evidence of how the proposed VM Grant's objectives, working plan and the expected outputs will benefit to both The COST Action CA 19129 and the applicant.

The applications will be reviewed by following the procedure below.

- The Virtual Networking Support Manager reviews the application documents as they come. If the application fulfills the requirements for the funding and gets the point as Good or Excellent based on the following rubric, the Virtual Networking Support Manager open the application for voting.
- The Core Group of the action (including the chair and co-chair of the Management Committee of the Action, WG leaders and MC members) votes the application.
- After voting is completed, the Virtual Networking Support Manager informs the applicant about the results.

Applications will be evaluated by the following rubric.

**Very poor:** Proposal is illogical, not understandable and not clearly linked to the COST Action objectives. (1-20)

**Poor:** Proposal is with the limited understanding, planning and no clear objectives. The proposal is weakly linked to the COST Action objectives. (21-40)

**Fair:** Proposal is with some understanding, planning and objectives. The proposal is moderately linked to the COST Action objectives.(41-60)

**Good:** Proposal is good understanding, planning and clear objectives. The proposal is linked to the COST Action objectives but needs development for feasible implementation. (61-80)

**Excellent:** Proposal is very well understood, planned and excellent objectives. The proposal is strongly linked to the COST Action objectives. (81-100)

Based on the first-come-first-serve criteria, the proposals with Good or Excellent will be financed if CG approves the application and the proposals with Fair, Poor or Very Poor will not be financed, subject to the duration of the VM Grants and the available budget. The VM Grant Committee will inform the applicants in case of acceptance or rejection. To accept the grant, the application has to return the Grant letter with his/her signature.

### **Financial Support**

The Management Committee of COST Action 19129-DecolDEV has approved the allocation of up to 6 VM Grants of 1,500 EUR/each (9,000 EUR in total). All VM Grants need to be completed by **31<sup>st</sup> of October 2021**.

### **After completion of the Virtual Mobility Grant**

The grantee has 30 calendar days from the completion of the Virtual Mobility Grant to submit a report to the Action Chair/ the VNS Manager and to the Science Officer of the Action including:

- Description of the outcomes and achieved outputs (including any specific MoU deliverables, or publications resulting from the Virtual Mobility).
- Description of the benefits to the COST Action Strategy (what and how).
- Description of the virtual collaboration (including constructive reflection on activities undertaken, identified successful practices and lessons learned).

The report shall consider only virtual activities carried out in their entirety within a single Grant Period.