



COST Action CA18102 The European Aquatic Animal Tracking Network (ETN)

Call for Applications – Virtual Mobility Grants

This is a first Call for applications for Virtual Mobility Grants of the COST Action CA18102 and will be open **from 28th June 2021**.

Purpose of Virtual Mobility Grants (VMG)

The role of digital tools to support the activities of the ETN in the spasms of the COVID 19 pandemic is indispensable. The COST organization designed new virtual networking tools in order to build capacity and spread the uptake of virtual collaboration across different research communities. While the benefits of face-to-face meetings can never be replaced by digital platforms, the virtual tools and supporting grants will provide our COST action the needed support and incentive to make the extra mile.

Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants allow scientists to continue and expand cooperation in a virtual setting. These activities may include surveys, courses, workshops, preparation of protocols, virtual mentoring and a range of other activities that do not necessarily require personal presence. These grants are like “virtual STSMs” and also offer the opportunity to perform at least part of a potentially cancelled STSM virtually.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicant(s) must be ETN CA 18102 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 activities for VM Grants have to be finished until the **20th September 2021**.

How to apply

The applicant(s) shall submit an application containing:

- the objectives of the VM Grant;
- a short description of the virtual mobility actions planned;
- the main expected outputs/results and their contribution to the activities and overall objectives of the ETN CA 18102 and
- the planned timeline of the virtual mobility.

The application template is available here: www.cost.eu/virtual_mobility_grant_application. It should be printed to **pdf format** and submitted through <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants> and sent to the VNS Coordinator, dr. Polona Pengal, to the email address etn-stsm@lifewatch.be.

Application deadline

Due to the time constraints the applications will be evaluated on a first-come-first-served basis until the funds are finished or until the end of the GP, whichever occurs first.

Evaluation



The evaluation is based on the contribution of the virtual mobility application to the overall objectives of the Action. The applications will be assessed by the STSM/ITC-CG Committee, which will evaluate the application against the perceived contribution that the proposed VMG will make to the scientific objectives outlined in the Action's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Applicants should expect to receive a response **within 2 weeks** after submission.

Unless specifically requested by the applicant, all received materials or parts of them, including personal information and the final report (or parts of it) of the VMG may be published on the Action website. Applicants can ask for (and justify) an embargo on information linked to their application if they wish.

Approval of the application and grant amount.

Based on the outcome of the evaluation and the proposal of the STSM/ITC-CG Committee, the Core Group of ETN (COST Action CA18102) will approve the application and the grant amount. The maximum amount per VM Grant is **EUR 1.500**. A maximum of 6 Virtual Mobility Grants can be awarded per GP.

The VM Grants have to be concluded until **the 20th September 2021** and the report submitted within 30 calendar days from the completion of the VMG. The grant is paid in full once the final report has been submitted and approved by the Core Group (COST Action CA18102). The template for the final report can be found here: www.cost.eu/virtual_mobility_grant_report.

For more information see the COST-Vademecum (Version April 2021): <https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Vademecum-28-April-2021.pdf> (p. 38)

For any questions about the VMG, please write to VNS Coordinator dr. Polona Pengal at etn-stsm@lifewatch.be.