

3rd Call for Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants for activities occurring between November 1st 2023 and April 1st, 2024.

COST Action 18234: “Computational materials sciences for efficient water splitting with nanocrystals from abundant elements” is financed by COST, an EU-funded intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology. COST Actions offer an open space for collaboration among scientists across Europe (and beyond) and thereby give impetus to research advancements and innovation.

For more information about the Action, please visit the Action’s webpage:
<https://comp-h2o-split.eu>

COST Action CA18234 invites applications for Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants

Virtual Mobility consists of a collaboration in a virtual setting among researchers, innovators within the COST Action, to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, etc. Virtual Mobility benefit to:

- COST Action: uses a flexible tool to implement virtual activities inside the network, achieve the MoU objectives and significantly increase their impact and reach. Contributes to European leadership in knowledge creation and increasing its innovation potential.
- VM grantee: develop(s) capacity in virtual collaboration and networking in pan-European framework.

Example of activities that can be performed by VM grantee are:

- Virtual mentoring scheme, with special focus on activities and exchanges that can generate capacity building and new skills, particularly for Young Researchers and Innovators (e.g. managerial skills, methodological skills, communication skills, etc).
- To support the harmonisation and standardisation of methods and procedures within the Action networking activities, e.g:
 - ✓ Setting up a survey amongst all Action members to collect different results and outcomes from experiments done in their respective labs and research groups.
 - ✓ Coordinating the discussions to create common protocols to be used by the network afterwards.
 - ✓ Preparing questionnaires and response scales to be used by the Action members as part of virtual networking activities.
- To support the implementation of research coordination related activities that do not necessarily require in-person presence, e.g.
 - ✓ Computational or modelling activities.
 - ✓ Data analysis of the Action for a specific report or activity.

Applicants for VM Grants can be individuals affiliated to a legal entity in:

- A COST Full/Cooperating Member
- An European RTD
- A NNC

Eligible VM Grant applicants must submit their VM Grant applications online at the following web address: <https://e-services.cost.eu/grants>

Financial support

A VM Grant is a fixed financial contribution which takes into consideration the budget request of the applicant and the evaluation of the outcomes of the VM Grant.

The maximum amount per VM Grant is up to 1,500 €. Each VM Grant sum will be decided by the Core Group, based on the request of the applicant.

Grants are paid by the Grant Holder after the completion of the activity and approval of all required report/documentation¹.

Scientific report

The grantee will perform the tasks in line with the approved application.

Once the activity has ended, the grantee will submit the required reports and relevant documentation in e-COST including: the work developed, main outcomes and achieved outputs of the Virtual Mobility, and description of the future follow up collaboration.

The report will be submitted within 30 days after the end date of the activity or 15 days after the end date of the Grant Period, whichever comes first.

The VM Grants must be aligned with the general objectives of the COST Action 18234, which targets the understanding, design and fine tuning of material properties for energy conversion processes using computer simulation approaches toward a multi-scale strategy.

How to apply

VM activities must occur in their entirety within the dates specified in this call.

The applications are to be submitted no later than February 1st, 2024.

1. All applicants must register for an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/>

¹ Financial support for networking activities organised through a Grant Awarding Process is a grant awarded to individuals, not intended to cover employment costs.

- adding their CV and bank account details to their profile.
2. All applicants must complete and submit their VM Grant application online at: <https://e-services.cost.eu/grants> using dedicated forms available
 3. The application shall include:
 - Title of the activity
 - Start and end dates (within the current Grant Period)
 - Budget requested by the applicant.
 - The application form (available at the e-COST website) describing: (main) objective(s), description of the work to be carried out by the applicant, plan for participation, expected outcomes and description of the contribution to the MoU objectives.

The applications will be then assessed by the Grant Awarding Coordinator and the Core Group, against the perceived contribution that the proposed grant will make in accordance to the scientific objectives outlined in the Action Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Please note that COST can request additional information to substantiate the information contained within the documents submitted by VM Grant applicants.

Evaluation results will be communicated to the applicants within two weeks after the application submission.

Upon approval of the application, the Grantee receives a Grant Letter from the Grant Holder stating the approved amount and the conditions for receiving the grant.

COST Action reserves the right for justified reasons to leave the position open, to extend the application period and to consider candidates who have not submitted applications during the application period.

For further details, please contact:

Dr. Jose Gomes, Grant Awarding Coordinator jrgomes@ua.pt

Smadar Amir, Grant Manager smadaram@technion.ac.il

- ✓ **Deadline for applications to be submitted: 1.2.2024.**
- ✓ **You can apply any time until February 1st (Notification of application outcome will be sent two weeks after submission)**
- ✓ **Period of Virtual Mobility Grants: 1.11.2023 - 1.04.2024**