

R6.V1.0 – Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants

10.09.2026

- According to the COST Annotated Rules, a Virtual Mobility Grant “consists of a **collaboration** in an online setting among researchers or innovators within the COST Action, to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, etc.” Full details are available in the [COST Annotated Rules](#) for COST Actions, p. 97.
- As Collaborations are funded, a team of at least two members need to be formed, a name given to the project, and each applicant needs to apply individually using the name of the project to clearly assign them together.
- These rules apply to VM activities scheduled to start and end within the period from 25 Sep 2026 to 25th of October 2026 (inclusive) of the first Grant Period.
- The evaluation will be documented and stored for the duration of the Action.
- The grant might be lower than the requested amount but will clearly specify which costs shall be covered.
- These rules are subject to change. Grantees should verify the latest version at paneucopt.eu.

1. Scope | Applications are invited for VM that contribute to:

- Applications are invited for VM projects that make a clear and documented contribution to PanEuCOPT’s objectives and to the work of at least one Working Group.

Eligible activities include:

- Developing a PanEuCOPT brochure and promotional poster. Final materials must be provided in editable format, preferably PowerPoint (.pptx) and/or Canva, and must use high-resolution photographs and/or vector graphics. Any AI-supported content must be disclosed transparently.
- Preparing a publication arising from an STSM or completing an ongoing publication, involving participants from at least two COST Member States and, where feasible, three or more COST Member States.
- Producing vector graphics that complement PanEuCOPT’s visual identity and existing logo.
- Establishing a national stakeholder database in close coordination with the WG5 Leader.
- Conducting a literature review or preparing a survey where this has been requested by a Working Group and agreed in advance with the relevant WG Leader.
- Delivering virtual mentoring schemes focused on capacity building and skill acquisition, with priority though not exclusively for Young Researchers and Innovators (YRIs), addressing standardized PDI testing protocols, the correct handling and reporting of illumination parameters (irradiance/ fluence rate, wavelength, etc.), and transversal methodological, data-reporting and science-communication competences.

- Transferring knowledge through bilateral or multilateral virtual collaborations involving participants from at least two COST Member States, to align photoantimicrobial testing procedures and harmonize methods and terminology.
- Applicants are encouraged to contact the relevant WG Leader, WG Co-Leader, or Sub-WG Leader before submission to discuss the proposed activity and confirm its relevance to the Working Group's plans.
- The proposed Activities and their Outputs are subject to funding, under the consideration of their unique production under the VM scheme. Activities must not duplicate work already funded through another COST grant, EU grant, national grant, or other source of public funding.

2. Duration and Timing | Please be aware that

- These rules apply to VM activities that both start and end during the first Grant Period, between 25 September 2026 and 25 October 2026, inclusive.
- Each VM activity must:
 - i. Have a minimum duration of eight hours of documented collaborative work.
 - ii. Have a maximum duration of five consecutive calendar days.
 - iii. Be completed no later than 25 October 2026.
- Applicants must plan their activity and reporting schedule so that all required documents can be submitted and approved before the end of GP1.

3. Eligibility | Applicants must:

- be participants of the PanEuCOPT Action
- align with at least one WG
- contribute to PanEuCOPT objectives

Priority will be given to:

- a group consisting of participants out of three or more COST member states
- Young Researchers and Innovators (YRI)
- applicants from ITC countries
- 1st time applicants

4. Financial Support | up to EUR 1500 per VM

- The maximum financial support available is **€1,500 per VM applicant**, subject to the approved WBP and the availability of funds.
- The requested contribution must be proportionate to the planned workload, the number of participating applicants, and the expected outputs. As a general guide, the financial support should not exceed **€300 per applicant per equivalent full working day** of documented collaborative work, while remaining within the overall limit of €1,500 per applicant.
- The final awarded amount may be lower than the amount requested. The grant-award decision will specify the approved amount, the beneficiaries, and the activities or costs covered.

- VM Grants are intended to support collaboration and Action-related outputs. They are not intended to cover travel, accommodation, subsistence, conference registration, or costs that fall under another COST funding scheme.
- VM Grants must not be used to compensate tasks that constitute the regular duties of a COST Action leadership position.
- No expenditure may be claimed or reimbursed twice from COST or any other funding source.

5. Application Procedure | Applications must be submitted via e-COST.

Each individual application must include:

1. The completed online application form.
2. A work plan of no more than one page, including the project title, team composition, objectives, timetable, division of tasks, planned online collaboration arrangements, and expected outputs.
3. A motivation statement of no more than half a page.
4. A short curriculum vitae of no more than two pages, including the applicant's ORCID iD, where available.
5. Confirmation from the relevant WG Leader, WG Co-Leader, or Sub-WG Leader that the activity is relevant to the Working Group, where the proposal concerns a WG-specific output.
6. For projects producing communication materials, confirmation that the applicants will comply with PanEuCOPT's visual identity and applicable COST/EU acknowledgement requirements.
7. Incomplete applications may be declared ineligible. Where the timeline allows, applicants may be invited to correct minor administrative omissions. Applications that do not fall within the scope of the Action will not be evaluated further.

6. Application deadlines |

Applications will be accepted between 18th of September and 16th of October. Please note that the VM need to be concluded by October 25th, 2026.

7. Evaluation Criteria | Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Applications will be assessed accordingly to the following criteria:
 - Scientific and/or technical quality of the proposed work.
 - Relevance to PanEuCOPT's objectives and the relevant Working Group(s).
 - Feasibility of the work plan, timetable, and team arrangements.
 - Clarity, usefulness, and expected impact of the proposed outputs.
 - Added value of the collaboration and profile/complementarity of the project team.
 - Contribution to COST Excellence and Inclusiveness objectives.
- Applications will be evaluated on a rolling, first-come, first-served basis in order of submission date. Each of the six criteria will be scored from 1 to 6, with 1 representing the lowest score and 6 the highest, giving a maximum total of 36 points. Only applications reaching a minimum total score of 24 out of 36 should be considered for funding. Eligible applications meeting this threshold will be funded in order of submission until the available budget for the Grant Period is exhausted

- The Grant Awarding Coordinator will conduct an initial eligibility and completeness check. Eligible applications will be evaluated independently by two Action participants appointed by the Grant Awarding Coordinator. A third evaluator may be appointed where the first two assessments differ substantially or do not allow a clear recommendation.
- Any person involved in eligibility checking, evaluation or selection who is an applicant or has an actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest shall take no part in the assessment or decision concerning that application.
- The evaluation and selection records will be documented and retained for the duration of the Action, in accordance with applicable data-protection and record-retention requirements.

8. Reporting

- Within **three** calendar days after the end of the VM activity, each grantee must submit:
 - The required grant report through e-COST, including a concise description of the work performed, collaboration undertaken, outputs achieved and future follow-up collaboration, if any.
 - The agreed project deliverables, where applicable.
 - The required dissemination form: [PanEuCOPT dissemination form](#).
- For communication materials, the grantee must submit the final editable source files and confirm that:
 - The materials comply with the PanEuCOPT visual identity requirements.
 - Any third-party content, including photographs, graphics, fonts, or software elements, is used under appropriate permissions or licences.
 - Any AI-supported content is identified transparently.
- PanEuCOPT may use, reproduce, adapt, and disseminate the final materials for non-commercial Action-related purposes, subject to applicable intellectual-property rights.

9. Payment

- Payment will be made by the Grant Holder Institution after the activity has been completed and all required reports and deliverables have been submitted and approved, in accordance with the applicable COST and Grant Holder procedures.
- Failure to submit the required report and deliverables within the prescribed time frame may result in non-payment of the grant. An exception may be considered only where the grantee has notified the Grant Awarding Coordinator of a justified delay before the reporting deadline expires.

Document change log

Version	Date	Author	Description of change
1.0	2026-09-17	PanEuCOPT MC	Initial version