

COST Action CA21107

Work Inequalities in Later Life redefined by Digitalisation (DIGI-net)

1st Call for Virtual Mobilities (VM)

Grant period no 2

Applications for Missions occurring between

1st April 2024 and 8th September 2024

The aim of the *COST Action 21107: Work Inequalities in Later Life redefined by Digitalisation (DIGI-net)* is to overcome critical gaps in conceptual innovation on the influence of digitalisation on work inequalities in later life, in order to address the research-policy disconnect and tackle work inequalities in later life redefined by digitalisation. The Action will enhance scientific knowledge by integrating the different disciplines and schools of thought, by developing collaborations with public policy officials, international policy bodies, non-academic professionals, civil society NGOs, trade unions, management of organisations and older workers themselves.

The Action is an innovative participatory, interdisciplinary, and cross-European. The first area concerns social inequalities in cases where some groups are privileged, and other groups are marginalised. The second knowledge gap concerns organisational age culture in which stereotypes and discrimination are known to strongly shape organisational life for older workers in terms of hiring, training and retirement. A third largely unexplored central area concerns the complex interplay and connection between digitalisation of work and older workers' health, which is a vital condition for extending working life. A fourth directions envisage policies and practices dealing with digitalisation and who are implemented by national governments as well

as by European institutions and organisations. The fifth dimension of the CA21107 is focused on the social, corporate and news media reflecting and propelling stereotypes of older workers and digitalisation.

Purpose of a Virtual Mobility

Virtual Mobilities (VMs) are very flexible and inclusive networking activities crucial to establish new collaborations or reinforce existing collaborations across disciplines and different sectors with possible impact on career development. Virtual Mobility consists of a collaboration in a virtual setting among researchers or innovators within the COST Action, to exchange knowledge and to learn new techniques. These virtual mobilities are done by researchers or innovators for specific work aiming the capacity building and transfer of knowledge through bilateral/multilateral collaborations, and the specific / general topic that can help achieving the Action MoU objectives and deliverables (research coordination);

Eligible activities for a virtual mobility

According to the [Annotated Rules for COST Actions - COST](#), the eligible activities for a virtual mobility may be as:

- 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); all VM activities must occur in their entirety within the following dates: **1st April 2024 and 8th September 2024**.
- 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).

Who can apply?

- Any individual affiliated to a Legal entity according to the Annotated Rules for COST Actions - COST aiming to develop the capacity in virtual collaboration and networking in a pan-European framework.
- VM applicants shall be engaged in an official research programme as a PhD student or postdoctoral fellow or can be employed by, or affiliated to, an institution, organisation or legal entity which has within its remit a clear association with performing research. The institutions / organisation or legal entity where applicants pursue their main strand of research are considered as Home Institutions.
- Previous successful applicants are not precluded from applying, but preference and priority will be given to the applicants who have not been awarded a DIGI-net VM before.

Amount of grants

- The financial support on offer is a contribution to for the overall effort, not necessarily covered by an employer or by a Grant Holder institution.
- The virtual mobility needs to be carried out in their entirety within a single Grant Period and always within the Action's lifetime.

Financial issue

- Grants are usually processed only after the VM has taken place and the reporting requirements have been satisfied and approved by the MC Action.
- VM Grants do not necessarily cover all expenses related to undertaking a given mission.
- The maximum amounts granted for each individual VM will be determined during the evaluation process by the Grant Evaluation Committee. The selection of applicants is based on the scientific scope of the VM application which must clearly compliment the overall objectives of the Action and be related to a specific Working Group.

The following funding conditions apply and must be respected:

- For this call, a grantee can be afforded up to a maximum of EUR 1500;
- VM activities must occur in their entirety within the dates specified in this call;
- VM activities must not overlap across two consecutive Grant Periods;
- For this call, the Management Committee of COST Action CA21107 has allocated the budget for a maximum of 2 VMs.

Note:

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

Please note that reimbursements will be done in compliance with the COST Annotated Rules. The application follows the steps in e-COST. In case of questions, please contact the Administrative Manager.

The application steps and responsibilities

- All applicants must carefully read the funding rules detailed in Annex 2 of the COST Annotated Rules.
- All applicants must register for an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu>
- The applicants must make sure that information about their bank account is added to their profile.
- The application templates for grants can be found on the COST website: www.cost.eu/grants_userguide
- The applicant must complete and submit their VM application online at: https://www.cost.eu/virtual_mobility_grant_application
- The applicants must also submit to the Grant Evaluation Committee before the deadline is expired, the following documents:
 - CV - short format of Europass (see [Home | Europass](#))
 - The budget requested by the VM applicant;

- Application form (template available on e-COST) describing:
 - Main Objective,
 - description of the work to be carried out by the applicant,
 - plan for participation,
 - expected outcomes and
 - description of the contribution to the Action MoU objectives and grant period;
- Motivation letter, highlighting the importance of the mission for this COST Action, and for the applicants training and career.
- A ppt presentation of results for a CA21107 meeting or webinar (after the VM has taken place);
- A short brief for website and social media (after the VM has taken place)

The selection of applicants is based on the following criteria:

- A. Contribution to achievement of the COST Action 21107 MoU objectives and deliverables
- B. Inclusiveness criteria
- C. The applicants having or being involved in any type of ongoing grants under CA 21107 and not being approved yet, cannot be considered for funding.

When to apply?

The current call is open until **1st of March 2024**.

For this call, the VMs may take place within the period: **1st April 2024 and 8th September 2024**.

After the VM has taken place

The VM Grantee has 15 calendar days from the end date of the VM to send the report to the Grant Awarding Coordinator: daniela.soitu@uaic.ro and upload it and other relevant documents in the eCOST.

In the Report, the VM grantee have to detail the work developed, main outcomes and achieved outputs of the Virtual Mobility, and description of the future follow up collaboration.

Payment of the Grant is subject to a VM scientific report being pre-approved on behalf of the Action's MC by the delegated Grant Evaluation Committee.

Written approval of the VM scientific report by the aforementioned persons shall be uploaded in eCOST for archiving purposes.

Failure to submit the scientific report within 15 days from the end date of the VM will effectively cancel the Grant.

NOTICE OF COMPLETION:

The MC Action will approve the final report and send the completion notice to the Grant Holder. The Grant Holder will then execute the payment of the grant directly to the grantee.

For additional info, please contact:

Grant awarding Coordinator -Professor Daniela Şoitu. University of Iaşi

Email: daniela.soitu@uaic.ro

Grant Evaluation Committee

It consists of Grant awarding coordinator and the Vice-chair of the Action

Grant awarding Coordinator -Professor Daniela Şoitu. University of Iaşi

Email: daniela.soitu@uaic.ro

Vice-Chair of CA 21107: Professor Clary Krekula, University of Linnaeus

Email: clary.krekula@lnu.se