VIRTUAL MOBILITY GRANTS (VIRTUAL STSMs)
Call for applications

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis from Friday 25th June and until Wednesday 22nd September, for Virtual STSMs that can take any time until Wednesday 20th October 2021.
Applications will be reviewed on a first come first served basis and approved or rejected depending on the fit with the GP objectives

The COST Association has created a new instrument consisting of a new mode of Virtual Networking Mobility grants (VN STSMs) that allows for researchers (junior or senior) to undertake a collaboration in the context of the COST Action goals and priorities of any specific duration (no minimum, no maximum imposed by COST).

The Management Committee of COST Action 16111 - EthmigSurveyData has approved the allocation of up to 6 VN STSMs of 1,500 EUR/each (9,000 EUR in total). It is not possible to reduce the amounts in order to allocate more than 6 VN STSMs, as both the total maximum budget and the number of grants are fixed.

All VN STSMs need to finish by the end date of our Action (20 October 2021), so to be on the safe side of processing their reports in time, we would prefer VN STSMs that are completed prior 15 October 2021.

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

What type of networking activities are eligible for the VN STSMs?

The COST Association is flexible around the content, as long as the activities involve direct collaboration between teams located in different participating countries and that the activities can be fully undertaken virtually/remotely without the need to undertake geographical mobility. The COST Association provides the following examples:
- Supporting the harmonisation and standardization of methods and procedures within the Action teams;
- Supporting the implementation of research related activities that do not require in-person presence;
- Virtual mentoring scheme, with special focus on activities and exchanges that can generate capacity and build new skills, particularly for Early Career Investigators;
- Content preparation and coordination of science communication activities.

For our specific COST Action, some additional examples of activities to undertake in collaboration with at least one team in a different participating country are:
- Preparing with another team the content for one of the academic journal research notes or policy briefs/leaflets directed at a participating country audience (as per the VNS Manager grant call);
- Contributing to the Quality Control or the completion of the survey metadata for the EMM Survey Registry for the countries that are still not completed, in collaboration with the Sciences Po team at France;

- Contributing a complete batch of new surveys to the EMM Survey Registry, particularly from cross-national studies or new/recent COVID-19 surveys, in collaboration with the Sciences Po team at France:
- Contributing to the pilots on the new Question Data Bank tool for the Survey Data Hub, in collaboration with the Sciences Po team at France;
- Contributing to the post-harmonisation pilots for the Survey Data Hub, in collaboration with the Sciences Po team at France, or Natalia Malancu in Switzerland, or Katia Pilati in Trento;
- Contributing to the design and development of the EthmigSurveyData online Data Playground, in collaboration with the Sciences Po team at France;
- Supporting the preparation of a grant funding application led by any Action member that includes a reasonable number of COST Action participants (at least from 3 different countries).

These are just some examples of suitable activities for a VN STSM application. All applicants are encouraged to consider the fit of their proposed activities with the Grant Period goals which (by way of reminder) are:

1. Continue to showcase and disseminate the survey metadata inventory (EMM Survey Metadata Registry)
2. Publish findings on knowledge gaps in EMM integration research using the survey metadata
3. Continue discussions on data collection guidelines and 'core' questionnaires or questionnaire modules for future research
4. Jointly with H2020 infrastructure project SSHOC, promote the sharing of EMM survey data currently not shared
5. Continue the pilots on the creation of the question data bank on three topics
6. Promote participation in H2020 and in bilateral/multilateral project calls on migration in 2021
7. Continue to engage non-academic audiences through policy-relevant dissemination
8. Attract and train new scholars working on EMM integration with survey data

Applications should be submitted through the e-COST platform:
https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants/add
The application will require uploading a Word document in a pre-established template format provided by the COST Association here:
https://www.cost.eu/virtual_mobility_grant_application

The applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and reviewed on a first come first served basis by the Chair (Laura Morales), the VNS manager (whoever will be appointed) and the WG4 STSM coordinator (Marie-Laure Mallet).

The decisions of what amounts to award up to the 1,500 EUR maximum for each will be based on the type and magnitude of the activities proposed and the estimated time required to complete them. As a general indication, for the maximum award of 1,500 EUR the activity is expected to require time dedication equivalent to 60-100 hours of work (depending on the skill level required). Applications that propose activities that are substantially inferior to such

dedication may be rejected completely or awarded only for smaller amounts than initially requested.

The 6 VN STSMs will be paid to the grantees after they have submitted their respective reports for the initially proposed activity and the evidence of the outputs/results of the STSM activity are provided, and this report will be evaluated by the VNS manager.