

COST Action CA 23114 RELINK²
<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA23114>
<https://relink2.eu/calls-and-grants/>

OPEN CALL GRANT PERIOD 2 (01.11.2025 – 31.10.2026)

Virtual Mobility Grant (VM)

This call is based upon work from COST Action RELINK² (CA23114), supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology).

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation.

1. Important dates

Deadline for submission of application: continuous submission, until GP funds are no longer available. Outcome notification date: up to 4 weeks after submission.

Period within which the VM must occur: Grant Period 2 (up to September 30, 2026, final report no later than October 15, 2026)

2. General information

RELINK² expects to fund activities such as the following:

- virtual mentoring schemes, with special focus on activities and exchanges that can generate capacity building and new skills, particularly for Young Researchers and Innovators.
- the harmonisation and standardisation of methods used within the Action.
- the implementation of research coordination related activities that do not necessarily require in person presence.

There is neither a minimum nor a maximum period for the activity to take place within.

3. Eligibility

Any researcher affiliated to a legal entity located in a COST Full/Cooperating Member, a Near Neighbour Country (NNC) can apply for a VM. Priority, in this order, will be given to Applicants: from Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs)/Near Neighbour Countries (NNCs), of underrepresented genders and less than 40 years old (Young Researchers and Innovators).

4. Scope of funding

Successful Applicants will receive a contribution of up to 1500€ (subject to availability of funds and Grant Holder approval) towards their costs of undertaking the collaborative work, not necessarily covered by an employer or other source.

Please note:

In their application Applicants must provide a justified estimation of the costs to be covered. The Grant Awarding Committee can decide to approve the grant with a lower amount than initially requested by the Applicant.

5. Application process

Following registration on [e-COST](#), the Applicant must develop the proposal jointly with a research team/task coordinator participating in the Action, before submitting it via the dedicated [COST online tool](#). It shall include:

- The [COST VM application form](#), within which the Applicant must clearly describe the goal of the proposed VM and how the expected outputs contribute to the objectives of the Relink² COST Action, the description of work to be carried out, as well as the exact dates of the VM
- A motivation letter
- A letter of invitation/agreement or acceptance letter or letter of intent of the Host* institution or Collaborating Institution(s)* stating that the VM can be performed within the given dates should the application be approved.
- A justification for the requested budget.

* Host institution or collaborating institution(s) must not be located in the same country as the Applicants Institution of affiliation.

Additional documents

- Applicant's Curriculum Vitae with a list of relevant research or publications (max 3 pages, font: 12 pt. Times New Roman, page borders: 1.2 inches)

6. Grant Approval Process

Applications will be evaluated by the Grant Evaluation Committee (GEC), which consists of the Grant Awarding Coordinator and three selected members of the Management Committee, according to the following criteria:

- 1) Excellence of the application promoting the direct contribution to the RELINK² Objectives and Grant Period, which are outlined in detail in the [Memorandum of Understanding](#) of the Action.
- 2) Relevance of the Applicant's research area to the VMG topic.
- 3) 1st-time participant in RELINK² VMG.

6. Grant Implementation

Successful Applicant(s) / VM Grantee(s) are required:

- to present the results of the VM during internal meetings or events organized by Relink² (e.g. Working Group meetings).
- to submit within 30 days after the VM ends, or 15 days after the end of the Grant period, whichever is the sooner, a report to the Action MC, appropriate Working Group Leader and Grant Awarding Coordinator on the work developed. Failure to do so will effectively cancel the grant. The report should contain:
 - A scientific report using the [COST template](#), describing the work carried out, its main outcomes, achieved outputs and planned follow up activities.
 - An official confirmation letter by the Host or Collaborating Institutions(s) of the successful execution of the VM.

Once the report is approved and the payment claim submitted, the payment of the VM grant will be carried out by bank transfer to the Grantee's bank.

It is the responsibility of Grantees to acknowledge the results obtained from the VM in any scientific publication, conference (whether oral or poster), presentation, or other output where these results are disseminated, the support of the COST Action CA23114 Relink² according to the [COST guidelines on visual identity](#), as follows: "This article/publication/contribution is based upon work from the COST Action CA23114 Relink2 - Regaining linkage? Digital technologies improving civic engagement, political organisations and democracy, supported by the COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology)". Posters should also include the COST and EU logos as specified in the guidelines on visual identity (see COST visual identity).

Relevant documents/links:

[ANNOTATED RULES FOR COST ACTIONS](#) (see sections 6.4 Eligibility and Process Description A2-2.3)
[Grant Awarding User guide](#)

For additional information please contact Grant Awarding Coordinator Prof. Petia Gueorguieva (petiagueorguieva@gmail.com).