COST Action CA19126 - Positive Energy Districts European Network (PED-EU-NET)

Open Call for Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants

Important Dates:
Application: open continuously
Notification of Results: 14 working days after application submission
Mission Period: 01 February 2023 – 15 September 2023

Virtual Mobility Grants (VMGs) is part of the new Virtual Networking Tools, which aim to develop skills and capacities through virtual collaboration between researchers across Europe. VMGs foster the establishment of existing networks through virtual collaborations by sharing knowledge, learning new skills and techniques, co-producing deliverables, and disseminating the Action results.

VMG Applicants

The VMG applicants are Action participants with a primary affiliation to a legal entity located in a COST Full or Cooperating Member country, a COST Near Neighbour Country or a European RTD Organisation. The applicants shall explain the aim of the VMG and how its outcomes will generate benefits to the Action, actively contribute to the overall objectives and relevant deliverables of the Action. The VMG is a fixed financial contribution of EUR 1500. The applicants are required to submit an activity report at the end, to be approved by the Grant Awarding Coordinator on behalf of the Action.

How to Apply?

✓ First contact the Working Group (WG) leaders, which the VMG is linked to. A list of WG priority topics can be found at the end of the document.

A list of VM Proposals, with specific Topics of Interest to the Action can be found on Action's website, but potential applicants should have in mind they can initiate a VM mission themselves. In this case, they should discuss the possibilities with relevant WG Leader and identify a supervisor for the mission before submitting an applicaiton. . It is important that eligibility rules for VMs are met, and in accordance with the Annotated Rules for COST Actions. Before making an application it is recommended that the interested applicants read all the rules that apply for VMs specified by COST, in the following two documents:

https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2022/12/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V1.3.pdf

https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/12/Grant-Awarding-userguide.pdf

✓ After the agreement is reached, complete an online VMG application in e-COST and include the following information:

To be filled in e-COST:
• Title
• Start and end date;
• Budget requested by the applicant;

To be uploaded to e-COST:
• Application form (download here) describing: Main Objective, description of the work to be carried out, plan for participation, expected outcomes and description of the contribution to the Action MoU objectives
• CV (2 pages), including list of publications.

Evaluation

The applications will be assessed by the VMG Committee, which will perform the scientific assessment of the applications based on the perceived contribution that the proposed VMG will make against the scientific objectives outlined in the Action's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The criteria for evaluation include:

1. Aim & Motivation

Does the VMG contribute to the objectives of the Action, and benefit the applicant (and the host if any)?

| 5 Excellent | 4 Very Good | 3 Satisfactory | 2 Deficient | 1 Poor | 0 Failed |

2. Relevance & Excellence

How appropriate is the VMG, considering the quality, scope, and feasibility of the outcomes?

| 5 Excellent | 4 Very Good | 3 Satisfactory | 2 Deficient | 1 Poor | 0 Failed |

How aligned is the VMG with the selected Working Group and objectives?

| 5 Excellent | 4 Very Good | 3 Satisfactory | 2 Deficient | 1 Poor | 0 Failed |

3. Methods & Techniques

How practical and feasible are the candidate's selected methods to answer the research questions or meet the objectives? Does the VMG add value to the Action and contribute to innovative solution, method, or theory?

| 5 Excellent | 4 Very Good | 3 Satisfactory | 2 Deficient | 1 Poor | 0 Failed |

4. Planning

Is the quality and feasibility of the work plan reasonable and satisfying? Are the VMG objectives, questions, methods, plan, and desired outcomes coherent, balanced and compelling?

| 5 Excellent | 4 Very Good | 3 Satisfactory | 2 Deficient | 1 Poor | 0 Failed |

5. Diversity and Inclusiveness

Does the applicant promote gender equality? (0-1)
Is the applicant an Early Career Investigator? (0-1)
Is the applicant or the host based in an Inclusiveness Target Country? (0-1)
Does the applicant have a publication plan after the mission? (0-1)

After the VM Grant

The VM grantee is required to submit a Report to the Grant Awarding Coordinator for formal approval within 30 days after the end date of the VM or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period, whichever date comes first. A template of the report can be downloaded here. The Report should contain the following information:

- Description of the work carried out and achieved outcomes (including any specific MoU deliverables, or publications resulting from the Virtual Mobility).
- Plan for future follow-up collaboration activities.

For more information on the VMG, please contact the Grant Awarding Coordinator Jelena Brajković (jelena.brajkovic@arh.bg.ac.rs).

WG Overview

WG overview is given below. If you are interested in undertaking a research mission please contact the WG leaders or proposed supervisor(s) for further discussion.

WG1- PED Mapping, Characterisation and Learning

WG1 aims at mapping existing concepts, strategies, projects, socio-technical innovations related to PEDs in Europe. It will identify the main PED characteristics and key performance indicators (KPIs), scientifically validate PED definition, advance understanding on socio-technical measures and devise roadmap for the implementation of PEDs.

Contacts: Michal Kuzmic (Michal.Kuzmic@cvut.cz) and Paolo Civiero (Paolo.CIVIERO@uniroma3.it)

WG2- PED Guides and Tools

WG2 aims at developing guides and tools to support the implementation of PEDs. It will synthesise existing knowledge in a coordinated manner across traditionally technical domains (digital planning, building information management, etc.) and acknowledged crucial governance concerns (e.g., institutional structure, funding and business models) and generate insights into new guides and tools for optimizing the design, operation, financing and opportunities of PEDs.

Contacts: Nienke Maas (nienke.maas@tno.nl) and Savis Gohari Krangsås (savisgk@oslomet.no)

WG3- PED Laboratories, Monitoring and Replication

WG3 aims at developing common protocols for monitoring and evaluation of PEDs and PED Labs across Europe to track progress and provide feedback on improvement and adaptation in the PED demonstration projects. For this we will review the existing monitoring concepts, demonstration projects and facilities relevant for monitoring PED Labs. Based on this review we will identify and evaluate current methods applied in the monitoring, evaluation, and replication of PEDs/PED Labs.

Contacts: Ghazal Etminan (ghazal.etminan@ait.ac.at) and Oscar Seco (oscar.seco@ciemat.es)

WG4- Dissemination, Outreach and Exploitation

WG4 aims at broadening the impacts and outreach of the COST Action, raising the awareness of PEDs and highlighting their relevance to different stakeholders so as to ensure the transfer of knowledge and translation of experience within and beyond the network Leaders/contact people:

Contacts: M-Beatrice Andreucci (mbeatrice.andreucci@uniroma1.it) and Mari Hukkalainen (mari.hukkalainen@vtt.fi)

Interconnection between WGs

One of the objectives of the Action is to increase synergy, inter- and intra- disciplinary collaboration between different aspects of PEDs. Thus, this call encourages those candidates that want to contribute to development of the conceptual and operational interconnection between PEDs topics.

Contacts: Laura Aelenei (laura.aelenei@lneg.pt) and the Grant Awarding Coordinator Jelena Brajković (jelena.brajkovic@arh.bg.ac.rs).