

# Virtual Mobility Grants

4<sup>th</sup> call for applicants – Fourth Grant Period 2024

## COST Action CA19115

### HyperChildNET - Network for blood pressure research in children and adolescents

#### Introduction

“Virtual Networking Tools” is a very effective instrument of the COST Programme, which includes two types of grants:

- Virtual Networking Support (VNS) Grant: aims at promoting a virtual alternative to in-person collaboration. This grant intends to stimulate virtual collaboration by designating a Virtual Networking Support Manager.
- Virtual Mobility (VM) Grant: aims at strengthening the existing networks by allowing researchers and innovators to carry out collaboration in a virtual setting, to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, disseminate Action results, etc. performing activities that do not necessarily require in-person presence.

The HyperChildNET call for applicants for the **second tool, the VM grant**, is now being announced in this document.

#### Eligibility criteria to apply for a Virtual Mobility (VM) Grant

##### VM applicant

1. The VM applicants are Action participants with a primary affiliation to an institution **located in a country considered COST Full Member, COST Cooperating Member or COST Partner Member** (full list: <https://www.cost.eu/about/members/>).
2. The applicants shall present an application form which demonstrates the outcomes that generate benefits to the Action, **actively contribute** to the overall **objectives and relevant deliverables of HyperChildNET** and its WGs; and submit an activity report at the end, to be approved by HyperChildNET.
3. Award to **Young Researchers** will be prioritised.

Other criteria of the candidates that can be valuable:

- Experience and qualification in the topics of the corresponding HyperChildNET Working Groups
- Capacity to provide an added value to the actions planned in the HyperChildNET Working Groups as reflected in their application forms.
- Experience in team management and virtual collaboration in the framework of research projects.

## Duration

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The grant duration depends on the activities foreseen in each Virtual Mobility action (no minimum length).

The **duration** is **proposed by the applicant**, and it **must be implemented** within the following period: **from its official appointment up to September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.

## Grant amount and payment

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A financial contribution of **up to EUR 1,500** can be awarded for **each of Virtual Mobility grant**, as defined by the Management Committee (MC) of HyperChildNET.

The grant does not necessarily cover all expenses related to undertaking the virtual mobility role.

The COST Association and the Grant Holder of the Action cannot be considered as being the grantee's employer who shall make their own arrangements for all provisions related to personal security, health, taxation, social security, and pension matters. The grantee must also ensure they have the required technical material/equipment and infrastructure to carry out the activities proposed in their application to the grant.

The Grant Holder shall pay the approved grant to the grantee after the MC has approved the grantee's final report and no later than 15 days after the end of each Grant Period.

## Deadline

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The deadline for the applicants to send their application forms is **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**.

## Application procedure

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The application shall be submitted through the e-COST and include the following information:

1. Main objective of the Virtual Mobility Grant
2. Working Plan: Description of the collaborative initiative to be implemented.
3. Plan for Participation: Indicative list of participants in the collaborative initiative (short description of their expertise and envisaged contribution).
4. Main expected outputs: Main expected results and their contribution to the progress towards the Action objectives (either research coordination and/or capacity building objectives) and deliverables.

5. Contribution to the COST Action Strategy: How will the Virtual Mobility contribute to the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy<sup>1</sup> and to the Action plans for stakeholder engagement and promoting participation of researchers from COST Cooperating Member or COST Partner Member, and to the approved virtual networking strategy, if available.

Furthermore, applicants have to **demonstrate** in their applications forms how they will provide an **added value to one or several HyperChildNET Working Groups** in connection to the proposed Virtual Mobility. **WGs objectives** for the fourth Grant Period:

- WG1: To analyse the criteria for validation and the clinical issues affecting the validation procedure.
- WG2: To develop reference values using tables with European data based on age, sex and height percentiles.
- WG3: To define methods to assess hypertension-induced organ damage, cardiac and renal parameters in terms of sensitivity, reproducibility, predictive value, cost and potential prognostic value.
- WG4: To generate policy action recommendations, elaborate and propose prevention actions and review eHealth best practices regarding high BP prevention.
- WG5: To disseminate, communicate and connect with the stakeholders through all kind of communication channels.

Applicant must use the official template to apply for a Virtual Mobility. This template has to be uploaded by the applicant when filling in the online application form within eCOST platform.

**Link to the application form to be submitted through the eCOST platform:**

<https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants/add?type=VM>

## **Evaluation process**

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The evaluation of each submitted application is performed through the process agreed by the HyperChildNET Management Committee. The above-mentioned evaluation criteria are the same to all potential applicants.

The evaluation of the applications will be performed according to the following procedure:

- HyperChildNET **Chair and the Vice-Chair** will carry out a **first assessment** of the candidates and will present the eligible ones to the Core Group.
- This management body, the **Core Group**, will study the candidates and **will make a decision** for the most appropriate candidates.
- This decision will be **presented to the Management Committee for its final approval**. In case of denial, another decision shall be made by the Core Group until getting the approval of the MC.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cost.eu/about/cost-strategy/excellence-and-inclusiveness/>

The selection of successful grantee shall be based on contributions to the overall objectives of the Action and the implementation of the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy.

### **Implementation of activities**

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The successful applicants shall take the Virtual Mobility (VM) role in the COST Action. The **activities expected to be performed** by the successful applicants, but not limited to, are:

- To support the implementation of research related activities that do not require in-person presence.
- Content preparation and coordination of science and/or communication activities.
- To strengthen the existing networks by allowing individual participants to foster collaboration, exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, etc., performing activities that do not necessarily require in-person presence.
- To support the harmonisation and standardisation of methods and procedures within the Action networking activities.
- Virtual mentoring scheme, with special focus on activities and exchanges that can generate capacity and build new skills, particularly for Young Researchers.

At the **end of the grant**, the grantee will have to **submit a report** to justify his/her work by using the official template included in the eCOST platform.

### **More information**

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For more information on specific terms and conditions set in this call, please follow the COST Association guidelines described more in detailed in COST **Annotated Rules** and Virtual Networking Tools (VNT) User Guide.

<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2023/11/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V1.4-Final-.pdf>

<https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/VNT-userguide.pdf>

In case of contradiction between the current call for applicants and the official documents generated by the COST Association, the latter shall prevail.

Email to contact in case of any questions: [info@hyperchildnet.eu](mailto:info@hyperchildnet.eu)