Virtual Mobility Grants

(Cost Action CA18138)

August 2021

A. GENERAL INFO

The main goal of Riseup-PPD COST Action is to establish a Pan-European multidisciplinary network of researchers dedicated to the understanding of Peripartum Depression Disorder (PPD), from its prevention and assessment to its treatment and global impact (https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA18138).

Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants aim at strengthening the existing networks by allowing scientists to foster collaboration in a virtual setting, to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, disseminate the Action results, etc.

According to Riseup-PPD's Work and Budget Plan, **6 VMs** will be funded in the second grant period (01.05.2020-31.10.2021). There is no minimum or maximum duration for VM Grants; however, the VM grants for this period must end prior to **31st October 2021**.

B. ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE

PARTICIPANTS

VM Grants applicant(s) must be Action participants with a primary affiliation to an institution located in a COST Full or Cooperating Member country or MC Observers from a COST Near Neighbour Country.

Applicant(s) will be required to inform the Core Group about the aim of the VM Grant and how its outcomes will generate benefits to the Action, actively contribute to the activities and overall objectives of the Action and submit a report at the end, to be approved by the VNS manager on behalf of the Management Committee.

Applicants are also requested to consult the COST Vademecum Chapter 10 (http://www.cost.eu/Vademecum) for the updated information about VM Grants.

IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES

The successful applicant(s) shall implement the workplan approved in their application within the timeframe also there defined and always within one single Grant Period.

The Management Committee and Core Group must be informed at the end of the respective activity of the main results of each Virtual Mobility Grant. Also, the grantee will have the obligation to actively contribute to the activities of the Action Working Group relevant to those findings.

Priority will be given to already undergoing activities, such as:

- Preparation of content or other tasks related to Riseup-PPD events that require collaboration from two or more members (e.g., Training Schools, Workshops/Seminars, Scientific Meetings);

- Tasks related to the development and implementation of the Riseup-PPD Guidelines Group;

- Systematic reviews or other publications;

- Development of questionnaires or surveys directly related to the work by Working Groups or Action deliverables.

It is important to note that the VM grants are not meant to cover activities already covered by other networking tools (e.g., production of a dissemination video). For content creation, the VM application must clarify how this would contribute to Riseup-PPD's MoU objectives and deliverables.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

A template for the application can be found at http://www.cost.eu/virtual_mobility_grant_application and the user Guide at https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/VNT-userguide.pdf. The application shall be submitted in e-COST (https://e-services.cost.eu/) and include the following information:

– Main objective of the Virtual Mobility Grant.

– Working Plan: Description of the collaborative initiative to be implemented.

– Plan for Participation: List of participants in the collaborative initiative (short description of their expertise and contribution).

– Main expected outputs: results and contribution to the progress towards the MoU objectives (either research coordination and/or capacity building objectives can be tackled) and delivery of the MoU objectives.

– Contribution to the COST Action Strategy: How will the Virtual Mobility contribute to the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy and plans for stakeholder engagement and promoting participation of researchers from NNC and IPC (COST Global Networking) and to the approved virtual networking strategy, if available.

Applications will be forwarded to the Core Group, which will evaluate all submitted applications. The final evaluations and approval will occur during the next Core Group Meeting (14 September 2021).

C.   EVALUATION CRITERIA

Eligible individuals must fulfil the requirements stated in the Vademecum. The evaluation of the submitted VM Grant applications will be performed by the Action's Core Group and Virtual Networking Support Manager (as per MC vote).

The selection of successful grantees will be based on contributions to the overall objectives of the Action, the approved strategy on the virtual networking for the Action and the implementation of the

COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy.

Priority will be given for Working Group leaders/co-leaders / Task leaders in their applications. Applicants will be further ranked based on the quality and feasibility (i.e., being able to complete all proposed activities before 31 October 2021) of the VM Plan; and how the latter is related to Riseup-PPD objectives and deliverables according to the Memorandum of Understanding.

In order to support COST Policy and Rules (particularly Inclusiveness and Excellence), the attribution of the grant will also take into account:
- The geographical, age and gender balance among applicants;
- The promotion of activities relevant to several Riseup-PPD Working Groups.

To avoid conflict of interest when evaluating the applications, applicants who are from the same institution of a Core Group member will not be evaluated by that member.

D.   FUNDING

According to COST rules and to Riseup-PPD's Work and Budget Plan, a maximum of 6 grants of 1500 EUR each will be funded for the current Grant Period.

The Core Group shall define the exact amount of each grant reflecting the scope and complexity of the task and activities. The grant does not necessarily cover all expenses related to undertaking the virtual mobility activity.

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

E.   FINAL REPORT

The grantee has 30 calendar days from the completion of the VM Grant to submit a report to the VNS Manager and to the Science Officer of the Action, including: description of the outcomes and achieved outputs (including any specific MoU deliverables, or publications resulting from the Virtual Mobility); description of the benefits to the COST Action Strategy (what and how); description of the virtual collaboration (including constructive reflection on activities undertaken, identified successful practices and lessons learned). The report shall consider only virtual activities carried out in their entirety within a single Grant Period. A template for the report can be found at http://www.cost.eu/virtual_mobility_grant_report.

F. APPLICATION DEADLINES

VM Grant Period: 01.05.2020-15.10.2021

Exceptionally, VM applications may be carried out until 31.10.2021, subject the final reports are submitted, approved, and recorded in e-COST by 10 November 2021.

VM Grant Application Period: 02.08.2021-01.09.2021

Applications will be assessed between the 1st and the 14th of September 2021 and results made available on the **15th of September 2021**.