

LAND4FLOOD (CA16209)

Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants - Call for contributions

Deadline for applications: 10 June 2021

About the COST-Action LAND4FLOOD

The Action addresses flood protection measures, that go along grey infrastructure, i.e. dikes. As a complement to them, nature-based green infrastructure solutions such as Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM) are promising options to mitigate flood – but claim more land than traditional methods. Mobilizing private land for temporary flood storage means coordinating different actors and institutions in water management, essentially including landowners in management plans. Agreements which include new forms of temporal and spatial land use need to be supported, and also embedded in communication and negotiation strategies. To foster the implementation of green infrastructure options on private land, there is a need to find and implement ways to better connect academic interdisciplinary knowledge with real world policy formulation and decision-making. The focus lies on the promotion of an inter- and transdisciplinary understanding of land for flood risk management and an increased actor involvement. **Three working groups** focus on different aspect of the topic (learn more here: <http://www.land4flood.eu/working-groups/>). To learn more about aims and the key questions of COST Action LAND4FLOOD, please look at the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) here: <http://www.land4flood.eu/land4flood-project/>.

Virtual Mobility Grants (VM): application and formal criteria

The role of digital tools to support and ensure continuity of our activities for Land4Flood is increasing rapidly. The COST-Office designed new virtual networking tools, to build capacity and spread the uptake of virtual collaboration across different research communities. It goes without saying that face-to-face meetings bring value and impact that cannot be entirely replaced by digital platforms – but the virtual tools and supporting grants will provide our COST-Action with the needed support.

Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants allow scientists to foster collaboration in a virtual setting, to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, disseminate Action results, etc. You can perform activities that do not necessarily require in-person presence - these activities may include surveys, questionnaires or preparation of protocols, virtual mentoring of activities that can generate capacity, build new skills, etc. These grants are like “virtual STSMs” and can take place independently.

Applicant(s) can 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.

The maximum amount per VM Grant is **EUR 1.500**, depending on the **quality of the delivered output**. Up to **6 VM Grants** will be supported. The Core group of the COST-Action decide about the individual grant compensation!

The activities for VM Grants have to be **finished until the 20 September 2021**.

Activities with a clear output will be funded:

- * supporting the harmonisation and standardisation of methods and procedures within the Action networking activities, e.g.
 - setting up a survey amongst all Action members to collect different results and outcomes from experiments done in their respective labs and research groups.
 - coordinating the discussions to create common protocols to be used by the network afterwards.
 - preparing questionnaires and response scales to be used by the Action members as part of virtual networking activities.
- * supporting the implementation of research related activities that do not necessarily require in-person presence, e.g.
 - computational or modelling activities.
 - data analysis of the Action for a specific report or activity.

* Virtual mentoring scheme, with special focus on activities and exchanges that can generate capacity building and new skills, particularly for ECIs researchers (e.g. managerial skills, methodological skills, communication skills, etc).

* Content preparation and coordination of science communication activities, e.g.

- Massive Online Open Courses (MOOC).
- Online workshops like 'webinar series' or 'tv series'-like format.
- Online COST Action workshops in external international conferences or events, when the applicant can demonstrate a role in the organising committee, that could help in the promotion of the Action activities.

How to apply?

1. Please inform the VM-Coordinator (Dr. Barbara Warner → warner@arl-net.de) about the aim of your VM Grant and how its outcomes will generate benefits to the COST-Action. Important is an active contribution to the activities and overall objectives of the Action. The short application must be filled in an **application form**, available here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17VlxeDvZ2YX7eAegSINApBSiAt6rCprX?usp=sharing>. The application includes 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.

2. You need to **fill in an application form in e-COST** with all required dates, including the template mentioned above. By logging into e-COST and clicking on the VNT Application tab you can chose the VM-Grant and follow the instructions in the form.

Reporting and Financing

A **report** at the end of the VM Grant is required to be approved by the Management Committee. A **template for the report** is available here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17VlxeDvZ2YX7eAegSINApBSiAt6rCprX?usp=sharing>.

The VM Grants have to be **finished until the 20 September 2021**. **Financial resources** are given in a form of a grant after submitting the final report proving that promised outcomes have been achieved. The template for the final report is here: www.cost.eu/virtual_mobility_grant_report

The final report must be send to the MC within 30 calendar days from the completion of the Virtual Mobility Grant!

For more information see the COST-Vademecum (Version April 2021): <https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Vademecum-28-April-2021.pdf> (from page 38)

Evaluation Criteria

The key will be the scientific focus of the mission (in line with the LAND4FLOOD objectives and the objectives of the working groups). Please point out, how your work could contribute to at least one working group (<http://www.land4flood.eu/working-groups/>). The attention will be put to expected outputs (see “Activities to be founded”).

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Please contact the **VM-coordinator**, Dr. Barbara Warner, via email if any queries occur: Dr. Barbara Warner, warner@arl-net.de