



CA19110

Plasma applications for smart and sustainable agriculture

CALL “VIRTUAL NETWORKING SUPPORT GRANT”

PERIOD JANUARY 2024 – OCTOBER 2024

Deadline for applications (**JANUARY 10th, 2024**)

We are pleased to announce the opening of a Call for Virtual Networking Support of the COST Action [PlAgri](#) (CA19110)

(<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA19110/#tabs|Name:overview>)

WHAT IS A VIRTUAL NETWORKING SUPPORT (VNS) GRANT?

VNS grant aims to promote virtual networking as a complement to traditional ways of collaboration in the COST Actions and to support continuity and alleviate challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. The future grantee has a task to develop collaboration, transfer knowledge, stimulate, and implement virtual and hybrid activities inside the network and spread the uptake of virtual collaboration across different research communities. The grant aims to achieve the MoU objectives and significantly increase their impact and reach.

More details and the COST rules about the Virtual Networking Support Grants can be found in the Annotated rules for COST actions that can be downloaded from:

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

A financial contribution of 4.000 € will be awarded to the VNS grantee per Grant Period.



ELIGIBILITY

The following eligibility criteria apply:

- Applicant(s) is(are) Action participant(s) with a primary affiliation to an institution located in a COST Full or Cooperating Member country or from a COST Near Neighbour Country.
- The applicant(s) shall be prepared to develop a virtual networking strategy, coordinate the call for expression of interest for the Virtual Mobility Grants, and draft a report to be approved by the MC at the end of the grant period.
- The applicant(s) should demonstrate experience in the field of the PIAgri Cost Action and the capability to involve major stakeholders in the proposed virtual networking strategy: researchers, industry, and end-users.

DEADLINE AND APPLICATION

The VNS call application is open from **December 22nd, 2023** to **January 10th, 2024**. The evaluation results will be communicated shortly after submission.

Grant Period: January 20th, 2024 to October 5th, 2024.

The application is to be submitted in the e-COST system (<https://e-services.cost.eu>) and needs to include the following:

1. Virtual Networking Support Grant Application (based on an e-COST template previously downloaded from the application page)

The application should contain a description of how the COST Action will benefit from developing virtual networking activities, with a focus on:

- Progress towards the MoU objectives and deliverables,
- COST Excellence and inclusiveness Policy, especially towards the support of researchers in COST Inclusiveness Target Countries,
- Stakeholder engagement and promoting the participation of researchers from NNC and IPC (COST Global Networking).

Also, a proposal for the strategy outline on virtual networking, including an approach for coordinating Virtual Mobility Grants by:

- Opening calls and managing the evaluation process for awarding the Virtual Mobility Grants,
- Supporting and advising beneficiaries of the Virtual Mobility Grant.
- Strategy on formulating 2 press releases and content for online posts from the upcoming virtual mobility grants



Examples of previously approved Virtual Mobility Grants are available on the PIAgri official webpage: <https://plagri.eu/reports-and-media/>

Additionally, the proposal shall include a plan for coordinating and reporting any planned COST Action events held online (e.g., Annual Meeting or Conference) and how they fit the overall Action strategy.

2. **Applicants CV** with the list of 10 most important references in PIAgri field of research (pdf document max 2 pages)

The applicants are encouraged to list a membership/participation in associations dedicated to networking and cooperation between researchers and the society, experience in scientific communication and dissemination strategies, and completed training to develop practical skills related to communications, media and/or social platforms etc. For each of the mentioned roles, official proof is required.

SELECTION

The evaluation of applications will be performed by the Core Group on behalf of the MC. The selection of a grantee will be based on contributions to the overall objectives of the Action and the implementation of the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy.

The selection criteria will consider:

- Quality of the application (40%),
- Curriculum vitae of the applicant with demonstrated experience (40%),
- Active involvement of the applicant in the Action (20%).

If you have any questions, do not hesitate contact to us:

Dr. Nevena Puač (Action Chair) (nevena@ipb.ac.rs)

Dr. Gregor Primc (Science Communication Coordinator) (gregor.primc@ijs.si)