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COST Action CA21143 “Transnational Family Dynamics in Europe”  
Virtual Mobility grant - CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2022 – 2023

Terms and abbreviations used in this document: Check the full list [here](https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/10/Annex-II-level-A-Glossary-REVISION.pdf) (including definitions)

The **COST Action** CA21143 “Transnational Family Dynamics in Europe” (“TraFaDy”) objective is to deepen and broaden the scientific understanding of transnational families through international and multidisciplinary knowledge exchange, enable further multidisciplinary approaches and stimulate innovation in research, policy and practice.

As part of this aim, the Action encourages and supports Virtual Mobility (VM). VMs consists of a collaboration in a virtual setting among researchers or innovators within the COST Action to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, aiming at strengthening (the existing) networks and contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST Action CA21143.

Until 31st October 2023, there is at least **one VM** to be awarded and conducted. Applicants are invited to apply for one of proposed topics related to specific Working Group (WG) objectives or propose their individual research theme **up to 6th of January 2023**. Note that all VMs must be in line with the general COST Action CA21143 goals and objectives ([https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA21143/](https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA20133/)).

Please remember that the applicant should get in touch with a proposed institution individually.

###### PROPOSED TOPICS / IDEAS

**WG 1 Kinkeeping within transnational families in a global and digital era:** *We invite applicants to examine the questions related to the conceptualisation of “family” and the way family ties are shaped, acknowledging the complexity of the terms and social realities of transnational family life in digital and super-diverse societies.*

**WG 4 Health and well-being of transnational families**: *Send us an example (your own research or a research question) to show how the group's topic relates to their research interests.*

**WG 5 Talking across disciplines: Methodological issues in TNF research and data collection”:** *Exploring the complexity of everyday migrant lives: possibilities and challenges in biographical research*

**WG 6 Practices and policy impact group:** *To what extent do EU social policies cover the reality of transnational families?*

For *WG 2 Integrating the perspective of vulnerable children and youth in welfare and policy* and *WG 3 Social rights and social protection of transnational families* no themes are proposed. For these, but also apart from above mentioned topics, *applicants may propose their own research theme as long as it is also of interest for COST CA21143*.

VMs offer a possibility to get involved in this international, multidisciplinary project, to learn new methods and techniques, gain new knowledge and experience in working abroad.

###### WHAT IS A VM?

VMs consists of a collaboration in a virtual setting among researchers or innovators within the COST Action to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, aiming at strengthening (the existing) networks, etc. A VM should specifically contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST Action CA21143. To learn about aims of COST Action CA21143, please look at Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) available on the COST website: [https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA21143/](https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA20133/)

More information about the COST rules on the VM is available at the COST Annotated Rules for COST Actions (<https://www.cost.eu/Annotated_Rules_for_COST_Actions_C>).

###### RULES

* The VM applicant must be a PhD candidate or be engaged in a research programme as a postdoctoral fellow or be employed by an institution of a COST Country that has signed the MoU of the Action. Applications from **Young Researchers** (under 40 years) **are privileged**. The host institution should be actively participating in the COST Action CA21143. For the period of the VM neither the Management Committee (MC), nor the COST Office nor the Grant Holder (GH) may be considered as an employer. The grantees must make their own arrangements for all health, social, personal security, and pension matters.
* The selection of VM applicants is based on the scientific scope of the VM application that must be in line with the COST Action CA21143 objectives. The selection of successful candidates is made by the Action Core Group (CG), based on a proposal of the Grant Awarding Coordinator (further: VM Coordinator) following the recommendations of the WG Leaders and the MC Chair. The VM Coordinator informs the GH about successful candidate and then the GH sends a grant letter generated from e-COST system to the approved applicant. The grant letter must be signed by the applicant and returned to the GH.
* A VM grant is a fixed contribution - up to **a maximum total budget of €1 500 -** based on the requested budget. The requested budget is evaluated by the CG on proposal of the VM coordinator and should reflect the duration, scope and complexity of the task and activities to be covered via the VM grant. It does not necessarily cover all such expenses.
* After the VM, the VM participant must submit a **scientific report** to the Host and to the VM Coordinator within **30 days after** the end of his/her stays.
* The VM grant will be paid after the VM exchange (acceptance of the scientific report and a letter from the Host are required). The VM candidates must therefore pre-finance costs related to the VM.

###### APPLICATION

If you are interested in applying, complete the **on-line application** available at your e-COST account (<https://e-services.cost.eu/grants>), after selecting COST Action CA21143 (Grant Applications, left menu) up to **6th of January 2023**. Or go directly to <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants/add?type=VM>.

The application form will describe: Main Objective, description of the work to be carried out by the applicant, plan for participation, expected outcomes and description of the contribution to the Action MoU objectives;

More information on the procedures is available in the COST Annotated Rules for COST Actions (<https://www.cost.eu/Annotated_Rules_for_COST_Actions_C>)

All applicants will be informed about the result of the call by end of January 2023.

###### SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed by the Cost Action CA21143 WG leaders, the Core Group and the VM Coordinator according to the following criteria:

* Scientific quality and relevance of the work plan. Namely, how well it addresses the proposed topics and the COST Action CA21143 objectives;
* Anticipated outcomes in respect of COST Action CA21143 objectives;
* Contribution to personal development of the candidate;
* Other criteria include early career, gender balance and geographical inclusiveness;
* The application of the ‘[Rules and Principles for COST activities’](https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/07/COST-088-21-Level-A-Rules-and-Principles-for-COST-Activities.pdf) by the applicant.

###### After the VM

The grantee is obliged to submit a short scientific report to the VM Coordinator or MC Core Group (for approval) within 30 days after the end date of the VM. The report must contain the following information:

* the work developed
* main outcomes and achieved outputs of the Virtual Mobility
* description of the future follow up collaboration.

Please note that failure to submit the scientific report on time will effectively cancel the grant.

The VM Coordinator will inform the GH about the acceptance of the report. Afterwards, the GH will execute the payment of the fixed grant directly to the grantee or to home institution as stated in the application form.

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