

**CALL FOR VMG (Virtual Mobility Grant) APPLICATIONS IN THE CA19145 EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR ASSURING FOOD INTEGRITY USING NON-DESTRUCTIVE SPECTRAL SENSORS (SENSORFINT)**

**GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS ON VMG**

**Introduction**

Virtual Mobility Grants (VMG) are grants awarded to individual WG members for supporting activities aiming at capacity building and transfer of knowledge through bilateral or multilateral collaborations in a virtual setting (to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, etc.)

Full details on VM Grants are available in:

<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/uploads/2021/06/FAQ-VNTs-Final-Version-1.pdf>

<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/06/VNT-userguide.pdf>

**Scope of the VM Grants**

The activities expected to be performed by the successful applicant, but not limited to, are:

- Virtual mentoring schemes, with special focus on activities and exchanges that can generate capacity building and new skills, particularly for Young Researchers and Investigators (e.g. managerial skills, methodological skills, communication skills, etc.).
- Course attendance.
- To support 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.
- To support 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.

VM Grants should contribute to the scientific objectives of SENSORFINT Action, and respect COST policies with particular attention on inclusiveness and excellence. Please refer to the Action aims and objectives for further details.

Unless specifically identified as relevant, any VMG application of candidates to SENSORFINT must contribute to one or more of the following themes related to the scope of the Working Groups of the Action:

- WG1: The application of Non Destructive Spectral Sensors (NDSS) to process control and labelling within the food industry.
- WG2: Research looking at integrating several NDSS signals for food integrity applications.
- WG3: Developing novel algorithms and methods for processing NDSS in real time.
- WG4: The use of information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in building decision support systems for the industrial implementation of NDSS.
- WG5: Dissemination and exploitation.

### Eligibility criteria

The VMG applicant(s) are Action participants with a primary affiliation to an institution located in a COST Full or Cooperating Member country or a COST Near Neighbour Country participating in the Action. The applicant(s) shall inform the MC about the aim of the VM Grant and how its outcomes will generate benefits to the Action, actively contribute to the overall objectives and relevant deliverables of the Action, and submit an activity report at the end, to be approved by the Chair or the VNS manager on behalf of the MC.

### Financial support

SENSORFINT offers **5 VMG with a financial support of up to 650 EUR per Grant**. Since the financial support comes as a grant, no invoices or other justification of the expenses will be requested.

The VM Grants cannot be used to attend virtual conferences or to purchase software license or set up a database.

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

### Final report of VM Grant

After the VM Grant activity is finished, the grantee is required to submit a short scientific report to the Action Chair or VNS Manager, no later than 30 days after the end date of the VM Grant activity.

A template for the VM Grant report is available via [www.cost.eu/virtual\\_mobility\\_grant\\_report](http://www.cost.eu/virtual_mobility_grant_report).

Failure to submit the scientific report within 30 days will effectively cancel the grant. The Action Chair or VNS Manager is responsible for approving the scientific report and informing the Grant Holder that the VM Grant has been successfully accomplished. After receipt of the approval by email, the Grant Holder will execute the payment of the grant.

Please note that the reimbursement of VM grantees will be done after the activity is over and the final report is submitted by the VM grantee. Exceptions to this rule cannot be granted.

The final report will be submitted on e-COST platform.

### How to apply for a VM Grant

1. All applicants must carefully read the funding and eligibility rules detailed in the COST Annotated Rules document <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2023/11/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V1.4-Final-.pdf> and in the FAQ document (<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/06/FAQ-VNTs-Final-Version-1.pdf>).
2. All applicants must register for an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/> - adding their bank account details to their profile.
3. Applications need to be submitted through e-COST via <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>. Detailed instructions on how to submit your application can be found in the e-cost user guide.
4. Successful applicants need to complete and submit a VM Grant report, within 30 days from the end date of the activity. A template is available via [www.cost.eu/virtual\\_mobility\\_grant\\_report](http://www.cost.eu/virtual_mobility_grant_report).
5. The Action Chair or VNS manager approves/rejects the report. Upon approval, the VM Grant will be transferred to the applicant.

### Important dates

**Call launched:** November 8<sup>st</sup> 2023

**Application deadline:** November 22<sup>th</sup> 2023

**Decision by:** December 25<sup>th</sup> 2023

**The timeframe for realisation of WM:** until September 4<sup>th</sup> 2024.

This call is open to all participants, but priority will be given to Young Researchers and Innovators – YRI (less than 8 years of experience from obtaining PhD). A balance between Working Groups, gender and geographical range will also be considered.

**Evaluation criteria**

• Scientific quality excellence	<u>20 %</u>
• Benefit to SensorFint objectives	<u>20 %</u>
• Training benefit for the applicant	<u>20 %</u>
• Experience of the applicant: priority will be given to YRI (young researchers investigators), post docs or PhD students employed by or affiliated to legal entities with a remit for performing research.	<u>20 %</u>
• Inter-disciplinarity of the research area	<u>10 %</u>
• ITC countries	<u>10 %</u>