



COST Action 20135 - Improving biomedical research by automated behaviour monitoring in the animal home-cage (TEATIME)

Open Call for Virtual Mobility Grants

For virtual mobility undertaken between 05 September 2025 & 05 October 2025

Important Dates

Call closes: 10 September 2025 – applications will be reviewed as soon as they are received and funded before the closing date

Mobility dates: 05 September 2025 – 05 October 2025

Application note: This is an open call. You can apply any time up to 10 September 2025 for your Virtual Mobility to start and last for a minimum of 5 days or from start date to the end of period, 05 October 2025. Early application is recommended as, subject to passing review, grants will be awarded on a first-come basis. This will also allow maximum time to complete the grant given the deadline for completion and reporting.

About this Action

COST-TEATIME aims to improve biomedical research by bringing together European organizations developing automated home-cage monitoring technologies. They allow 24/7 data collection of experimental animals in their home-cage, but assessing physiology as well as the full behavioural repertoire still presents many challenges. This Action combines experts in mouse behaviour, laboratory animal science and data science, to critically and transparently assess the potential of these emerging technologies. More information can be found in the Action's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) available in the following web page: www.cost.eu/actions/CA20135.

General information

TEATIME is offering up to 6 Virtual Mobility (VM) grants (of up to €1,500 each) for VM to be completed by 05 October 2025. The VM can range from a minimum of 5 calendar day 1 month (but end no later than 05 Oct). VM consists of a collaboration in a virtual setting among researchers or innovators within the COST Action, to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, etc. Virtual Mobility benefit to:

- **COST Action:** uses a flexible tool to implement virtual activities inside the network, achieve the MoU objectives and significantly increase their impact and reach. Contributes to European leadership in knowledge creation and increasing its innovation potential;
- **VM grantee:** develop(s) capacity in virtual collaboration and networking in a pan-European framework.

Examples of activities that can be performed by the VM grantee are:

- Virtual mentoring scheme, with special focus on activities and exchanges that can generate capacity building and new skills, particularly for Young Researchers and Innovators (e.g. managerial skills, methodological skills, communication skills, etc);
- 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 coordination 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.

*The researcher must be affiliated to a legal entity in a [COST Full/Cooperating Member, NNC](#) or European RTD. We particularly encourage Young Researchers (under 40 years old) to apply.

Eligibility Rules

In order to apply for a Virtual Mobility grant, the following criteria must be fulfilled:

- The Applicant must
 - set up an e-COST profile
 - be based within a research institution in a legal entity in a COST Full/Cooperating Member, Near Neighbour Country (NNC) or European RTD
 - be engaged in an official research programme as a PhD Student or postdoctoral fellow or can be employed by, or affiliated to, an institution, organisation or legal entity which has within its remit a clear association with performing research.
- The application needs to be submitted before the deadline of a Virtual Mobility call.
- The Virtual Mobility must have a minimum duration of 5 calendar days. Virtual Mobility of longer duration are encouraged.
- Virtual Mobility need to be carried out in their entirety before 05 October 2025.

Financial Rules

- The maximum of each grant is €1,500.
- Applicants from ITC can request a pre-payment of up to 50% of the total grant in advance.
- This is payable under 2 conditions: that the GH has sufficient funds to cover 50% of the grant in advance and that the host confirms to the GH that the mission has started
- The remainder will be refunded after the mission and on approval of a report on the mission from the applicant.
- The Action cannot fund salaries.
- Note: The Grant Awarding Committee (on behalf of the Action Management Committee) can decide to approve the grant with a lower amount than requested

Evaluation and awarding of a Virtual Mobility Grant

- The evaluation of mobility applications and selection of Grantees is performed by the Action's Grant Awarding Coordinator and TEATIME's Grant Evaluation Committee, on behalf of the Management Committee (MC) of the TEATIME COST Action.
- The selection of applicants is based on the scientific scope of the mobility application, which must clearly fit in the Action's scientific objectives.
- The selection also takes into account the COST policies on promoting gender balance, enabling Young Researchers (under 40 years old) and broadening geographical inclusiveness. As well as the suitability of the proposed budget.
- The applicants will be notified of the application results within 5 working days of receipt of the application.



- In some cases the Committee may ask for more information or ask the candidate to re-submit with further information or a revised budget.

Evaluation criteria for Virtual Mobility Grant applications

The TEATIME Virtual Mobility Grant evaluation criteria (listed below) are based on the relevance of the mission to the aims and objectives of TEATIME, the scope and quality of the project, the background and quality of the applicant and the suitability of the host research environment. They also consider COST Policy and Rules on promoting gender balance, enabling Young Researchers and broadening geographical inclusiveness.

- A minimum score of 75 is required for funding. With a minimum threshold of 15 required for “Relevance to the aims and objective of TEATIME”
- Applicants will be notified of the application results within 5 working days of receipt of the application.
- Applicants may be asked to provide additional information.
- Applicants may resubmit once in the same call if not successful.
- Applicants may apply for and be awarded more than one grant of any type during the call period, but in the case of restricted funds or applications of equal merit, the grant may be awarded in preference to an applicant that has not held a grant before.

Evaluation criteria	Max points
Relevance to TEATIME aims and objectives: demonstrates an understanding of the aims of TEATIME; shows relevance to TEATIME Objectives and the scientific objectives and tasks within at least one of the Working Groups	20*
Quality of the project: feasibility, originality, achievability and potential impact	20
Experience of the applicant: skills and experience of the applicant, CV	20
Suitability of the budget requested: a plausible and well-planned budget that is sufficient to cover expenses while demonstrating value for money	20
Relevance to COST policies: promoting gender balance, enabling Young Researchers and broadening geographical inclusiveness	20

*A minimum score of 15 points is required to be eligible for funding

Equal weighting is given to the scientific quality of the project and its relevance to the aims and objectives to TEATIME, as the Action will only fund applications that are relevant to the objectives of TEATIME including training and development of skills and outreach.

Application Procedure

For information and a guide on how to apply on-line see the “Grant Awarding user guide” in [COST Documents & Guidelines](#) in the section “Documents for running a COST Action”.

The application must be completed via e-COST.

To start the application, you must have an e-COST profile or create one. Do this by logging into the e-COST platform (<https://e-services.cost.eu/>). You will also need to add your bank details and a CV to your profile before you can start the application.

Instructions and screen shots on how to do this are given in the “Grant Awarding user guide” in [COST Documents & Guidelines](#) in the section “Documents for running a COST Action”.

In summary: go to the COST website and select COST Actions and then “Grant applications” from the menu on the left. This will take you to <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants/add>



Select our Action “CA20135 Improving biomedical research by automated behaviour monitoring in the animal home-cage” by typing CA20135 in the search box under COST Action.

Then click on the blue box to “Apply for a Grant”, select Virtual Mobility grant by clicking “continue” and complete the information which includes:

- A title for your Virtual mobility (limit 128 character limit, including spaces)
- Start and end date (maximum to 05 October 2025)
- Budget requested by the applicant
- Information about the host institution and contact person

DO NOT SUBMIT at this stage, just save the draft.

You will then return to the application page where you can select “upload documents” from the “options” drop-down box. This will take you to a page where you can download the COST template for the application form.

You will then need to complete this and upload the following documents:

- **CV** (including a list of academic publications – if applicable)
- **Application form** (template available on e-COST) describing:
 - **Details** - Title, start and end dates
 - **Goals** - Purpose and summary of the (max 200 words)
 - **Working Plan** - description of the work to be carried out by the applicant (max 500 words)
 - **Expected outcomes and contribution to the Action MoU objectives and deliverables** - Main expected results and their contribution to the progress towards the Action objectives (either research coordination and/or capacity building objectives) and deliverables (max 500 words).

After completing the Virtual Mobility

- Due to the approaching end of the Grant Period, we request that grantees submit a report within 7 days from the end date of the grant (and at the latest 05 October 2025)
- The report should be submitted using the template provided on e-COST, to include the work developed, main outcomes and achieved outputs of the Virtual Mobility, and description of the future follow up collaboration
- The applicant is also responsible for acquiring and uploading an official letter from the host institution formally accepting the scientific report.
- Failure to submit the scientific report within 7 days from the end date of the grant or by 05 October 2025 will cancel the Grant and funding will be withdrawn.

We look forward to receiving your application and are here to help with any questions you have

Please send any questions to: iheinla@ut.ee

Copied to: COST-TEATIME@har.mrc.ac.uk

Acknowledgement

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COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation.

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