

VIRTUAL NETWORKING SUPPORT (VNS) GRANT APPLICATION TEMPLATE

This application is submitted by the VNS grant applicant for evaluation to the Action MC.

Action number: CA18117

Applicant name: Prof Jean Calleja-Agius

Describe how the COST Action can benefit from developing virtual networking activities

GYNO CARE COST Action has benefited greatly from the virtual mobility grants initiative which has been launched by COST during 2021. GYNO CARE been reborn in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and together we have managed to restart the Action with 9 members in the kick-off meeting in October 2020 to 80+ participants with 30 participating countries. Also, solely through virtual networking, we have managed to publish 9 collaborative open access scientific publication and held a series of very fruitful meetings and online discussions.

Therefore, on this excellent track record of on-going virtual networking, GYNO CARE will continue to benefit from developing virtual networking activities through:

- Progress towards the Action 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 near neighbouring countries (NNC) and international partner countries (IPC).

Outline of the strategy on virtual networking

I propose that we continue building on the strategy on virtual networking which I had written during the previous grant period, which was approved by the MC Vote on the 11th September 2021. This annotated MC decision included:

- Approval of the position of the VNS Manager, allocation of funds of the grant and delegation for the processing of the VM applications.
- The VNS Manager will manage the evaluation process for awarding Virtual Mobility Grants, with close discussion with the Action-Vice Chair.
- The VNS Manager will provide continuous and ongoing support and advise beneficiaries of the Virtual Mobility Grants.

During this Grant Period, there are a total of ten Virtual mobility Grants, each of 1500 Euros. I will advertise these on the GYNO CARE webiste (<https://gynocare.net/uncategorized/new-call-for-virtual->

mobility-grants-in-2022/) and will encourage potential applicants to apply and to facilitate virtual mobilities.