

ADVANCE-TB VIRTUAL MOBILITY GRANT CALL For Grant Period 3

ADVANCE-TB COST Action 21164 opens a call for Virtual Mobility Grants, for the Grant Period 3 (1st November 2024 - 31st October 2025). Before applying for the Grant please see [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#) that govern all activities of COST Actions.

A. PURPOSE OF VIRTUAL MOBILITY GRANT

Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants are grants awarded to individual members for supporting activities aiming at capacity building and transfer of knowledge through bilateral/multilateral collaborations in a virtual setting.

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

- Virtual mentoring scheme, with a 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 harmonization and standardization of methods and procedures within the ADVANCE-TB COST Action networking activities.
- To support the implementation of research coordination-related activities that do not necessarily require in-person presence.

B. IMPORTANT DATES

The ADVANCE-TB Virtual Mobility Grant Call will receive proposals according to the following timetable:

	1st Round	2nd Round
Open Application Round	9 th Dec 2024	1st June 2025
Deadline for submitting application	3rd March 2025	30th June 2025
Notification of decision applicants until	17th March 2025	15th July 2025
Start of VM	Within 6 months after approval notification*	

*Please note that all Virtual Mobility should be completed before **30th September 2025**.

C. VIRTUAL MOBILITY ELIGIBILITY RULES

Call applicants should be:

- ✓ Action Member of the ADVANCE-TB COST Action 21164
- ✓ ADVANCE-TB Member with a primary affiliation to a legal entity located in a COST Full or Cooperating Member country, a COST Near Neighbor Country, or a European RTD Organization (please see the [Country Organization Table](#) for details).
- ✓ The applicant and/or home research group might have previous experience in projects related to the Action focused on tuberculosis, non-tuberculous mycobacteria infections, or any other related aspects.
- ✓ First-time GP applicants will be prioritized.
- ✗ Virtual Mobility proposals received out to the timetable will automatically be discarded.

D. HOW TO APPLY

Eligible applicants shall follow these steps, according to the corresponding timetable:

1. Obtain an **Authorization Letter** from the **Working Group Leader** under which the virtual mobility will be developed, describing:
 - Working Group responsible
 - Main objective of the virtual mobility
 - Plan for participation and work to be carried out by the applicant with specific dates
 - Expected outcomes and description of the contribution to the Action MoU objectives*

* Please list the expected outputs and note that this field is in the selection criteria.

2. Download and complete all the fields of the Virtual Mobility application template, available here: https://www.cost.eu/VM_GrantApplication
3. Complete the Virtual Mobility application online at <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>
 - Select the Action of interest (CA21164) and **Apply for New Grant**
 - Select **Virtual Mobility grant**
 - Fill in all the sections directly on the platform
 - Add the **supporting documents**:
 - i. Virtual Mobility application template completed (step 2)
 - ii. CV (including a list of academic publications - if applicable).
 - iii. Motivation letter including contribution to the Advance TB COST Action MoU objectives (1.000-3.000 words)
 - iv. Authorization Letter of the Working Group Leader responsible.
 - v. Budget requested. More details on Section E-Financial Support
 - Click on **Submit application**

The eligible applicants will receive a confirmation e-mail for the successful reception of their application from the e-COST platform.

E. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Financial support for networking activities organized through a Grant Awarding Process is a grant awarded to individuals, not intended to cover employment costs. The scope will be to contribute to the overall effort, not necessarily covered by an employer or by a Grant Holder institution.

- The maximum amount allowed for a Virtual Mobility Grant is up to €1,500 per grant.

F. EVALUATION PROCEDURE AND SELECTION OF APPLICANTS

The applications will be evaluated within 15 working days and according to the above timetable in Section B and the results will be communicated to the applicants through the e-COST platform.

The system of evaluation assigns points to each item base on the criteria defined on a 1 to 20 points scale.

The Grant Awarding Coordinator is responsible for the coordination process and final approval of grants.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA (up 100 points)

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	POINTS
1	Quality and feasibility of the work plan	1 to 20
2	Quality and feasibility of the planned outcomes	1 to 20
3	Suitability of the applicant to work plan objectives	1 to 20
4	Benefits of the VM for the applicant	1 to 20
5	Suitability of the VM for the selected Working Group objectives	1 to 20

Please make sure to provide the required information for each of the evaluated items.

TOTAL POINT RATE	EVALUATION DECISION
1 – 50	Low recommendation application
51 - 80	Medium recommendation application
81 - 100	High recommendation application

In case the Grant Awarding Coordinator and the Grant Evaluation Committee (if appointed), detects that requested documents are missing and/or needs additional information during the evaluation process, the applicant will be contacted and missing details will be requested. In order to include

missing files, the application will be rejected and afterwards, the applicant will be able to edit the application and re-submit with the corresponding documentation. This process can modify the date of notification of the final decision.

Please note that high priority will be given to proposals that strongly promote the ADVANCE-TB COST Action, either by pushing forward the current initiatives or by leading to new initiatives.

G. REPORTING AND REIMBURSEMENT

Once the activity has ended and within 30 days after the end date of the activity, the grantee submits the required reports and relevant documentation in e-COST:

1. Download and complete all the fields of the Virtual Mobility Report template, available here:
→ https://www.cost.eu/VM_Report
2. Upload the **report** on e-COST:
3. Send the Grant Holder Manager by email a copy of your ID Card or Passport on advance_tb@igtp.cat

In addition to the scientific report, the grantee will be put in contact with WG4 Leader and Co-Leader for dissemination purposes. Please note that Grants funded by ADVANCE-TB will be posted on the official website and social media.

Payment of the Grant is subject to the Virtual Mobility report being approved by the Grant Awarding Coordinator and the Grant Evaluation Committee, if appointed.

The Grant Holder Institution will proceed with the final payment once the activity is completed and all required reports and documentation are approved.

More information can be found in the [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#) and [Funding Documents & Guidelines](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further information (advance_tb@igtp.cat).

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