ADVANCE-TB VIRTUAL MOBILITY CALL
For the 2nd Grant Period

ADVANCE-TB Cost Action 21164 opens the Virtual Mobility Call to be performed for the Second Grant Period (GP) (1st November 2023 - 31st October 2024)

A. PURPOSE OF VIRTUAL MOBILITY

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 Call will receive proposals according to the following timetable:

	1st Round	2nd Round	3rd Round	4rd Round
Open Application Round	24th Oct 2023	01st Jan 2024	01st Apr 2024	01st Jul 2024
Deadline for application	24th Nov 2023	31st Jan 2024	30th Apr 2024	31st Jul 2024
Notification of decision applicants until	15th Dec 2023	15th Feb 2024	15th May 2024	15th Aug 2024
Start of Virtual Mobility	Within 6 months after approval notification			

Please note that all Virtual Mobility should be completed before 30th September 2024

C. VIRTUAL MOBILITY ELIGIBILITY RULES

Call applicants should be:

- ✓ Action Member of the ADVANCE-TB Cost Action 21164
- ✓ Action 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.
- ✓ 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.
- X 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
   - → Title of activity
   - → Goals and purpose of the Virtual Mobility

→ Budget requested (Top of 1500€, Details on Financial Support section)

→ Dates

→ Contribution to the ADVANCE-TB Cost Action according to MoU objectives

3. Complete the Virtual Mobility application online at
   https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants
   → Select the Action of interest (21164) 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. Copy of your 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 get 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 the overall effort, not necessarily covered by an employer or by a Grant Holder institution.

Virtual Mobility may be combined with other funding sources; these must be acknowledged in the application with a declaration of non-double financing.

- Virtual Mobility Maximum amount allowed is up to 1,500 € per grant.

F. EVALUATION PROCEDURE AND SELECTION OF APPLICANTS

The applications will be evaluated within two weeks after the submission deadline and the results will be communicated to the applicants by 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 coordinate process and final approval grants are in charge of the Grant Awarding Coordinator according to the 2nd Grant Period Budget Plan and the number of applications submitted in every round:

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 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.

Special considerations concerning supporting COST policies on promoting gender balance, enabling Young Researchers and Investigators (YRI), and broadening geographical inclusiveness will be taken into account.

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 on e-cost:
   → Virtual Mobility Report template completed
   → Report to the Action MC on the work developed, main outcomes, and achieved outputs of the Virtual

Payment of the Grant is subject to the Virtual Mobility report being approved by the Grant Awarding Coordinator. Written approval of the report will be uploaded in e-COST for archiving purposes.

Grant Holder Institution will proceed with the final payment once the completion of the activity and approval of all required reports and documentation (including bank account details and ID number)

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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Badalona (Spain), 01st of Oct of 2023