

## **GRANT EVALUATION BedBenPhar**

### **GRANT TYPES**

#### **1. Mobility of researchers and innovators**

##### **1.1 STSM**

Eligible candidates:

**All members of the action and their associated PhD students and other researchers working on the topic closely related to BedBenPhar Action goals (<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA20121/>).**

**The relation and importance towards the action goals is decided by the grant awarding committee evaluation.**

Applicants should check their eligibility also in the current Rules for COST Actions (<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/10/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-2021-11-01-1.pdf>).

**The general aims of the STSM** are the following:

- Support capacity building and transfer of knowledge through bilateral/multilateral collaborations.
- Support specific / general topics that can help achieving the Action MoU objectives and deliverables (research coordination).
- Foster flexible and inclusive networking activities crucial to establish new collaborations or reinforce collaborations across disciplines and different sectors (e.g., academia and industry /SMEs) with possible impact on career development.

Regarding the **expected outcomes**, these include typically spin-offs, publications, contribution to (funded) projects and generation of preliminary data for future joint proposals.

#### **Applications:**

Candidates should refer to the approved budget for the Grant Period. Applications are submitted only through the eCOST (<https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>).

The information required includes title, start and end date (within an active Grant Period), budget requested by the applicant, information about the host institution and contact person.

Additional documents to be included in the Applications (see also Section 3):

a) Application form (template from eCOST), describing goals, description of the work to be carried out by the applicant, expected outcomes, description of the contribution to the Action's MoU objectives.

b) Agreement of the host institution in receiving the applicant.

c) One recommendation letter from the applicant's supervisor supported by one MC member.

- d) A CV of the applicant.<sup>2</sup>
- e) A research organization affiliation statement, i.e. a letter signed by an official that the candidate is a PhD Student or postdoctoral fellow or is employed by, or affiliated to, an institution, organization or legal entity which has within its remit a clear association with the performing research.
- f) Specific working plan with a timetable
- g) Budget justification.

### **Selection guidelines:**

The committee will rank the candidates from the STSM working plan and candidate qualification. The following criteria will be used when there are more candidates than available positions.

#### 1. Scientific interest:

Contribution to BenBedPhar Action's goals (fitting the topic, NRF2-related), feasibility/soundness of proposed work, expected outcomes (qualitative and quantitative such as publications, data generation for project applications), benefit for the applicant's career (i.e. PhD students preferred), CV of the applicant, training offered/support possibilities by the visited institution.

2. Applications from PhD students and Young Researchers (under the age of 40) will be prioritized.

#### 3. Gender balance:

The number of available positions will be divided into 2 groups. The number of positions allocated to each group will reflect the gender ratio of the applicants. It is calculated as the ratio between the male and female applicants (for example, if there were 5 positions and 6 male and 4 female candidates, the highest ranked 3 males and 2 females would be awarded). If there are not enough candidates to fill the available positions, the candidates from the other gender could be offered the positions.

#### 4. Country balance:

A country balance will be considered for equally graded candidates. At least 30% of the number of available positions will be initially reserved for trainees from ITC and NCC countries. If there are not enough suitable candidates from ITC and NCC countries, the available positions could be offered to candidates from other countries.

#### 5. Budget:

The total budget requested may be reconsidered in the case of equally ranked STSMs.

### **Outcomes and deliverables**

A **report** (minimum 2, maximum 5 pages) is required within 30 days after the last day of the STSM. It must summarize the main results of the STSM in the context of the originally planned work and any deviations from that. It should also highlight the impact on the COST Action.

Although it may take another year or more until a joint paper is submitted/published, it is important that grantees and their teams **acknowledge the BenBedPhar Action funding** in the appropriate section of the publication and inform Grant Evaluation Manager and Action Chair when the paper is published.

The candidates should also produce a **layman abstract** - a note for the BedBenPhar website/newsletter.

The final report must be approved by the evaluation committee.

## 1.2 Virtual mobility (VM)

In the case that a physical re-location is not possible, a virtual mobility could be envisioned.

All rules that apply to the STSM also apply to virtual mobility, except that the time is limited to 1.5 months, and the requested budget to 1500 Euro. The chair of the action, together with the MC members, will decide exactly on the aim of the virtual mobility.

For a description of application documents, outcomes and deliverables and selection guidelines please refer also to the STSM section (Section 1 and Section 3).

## 2. Presentations at Conferences organized by third parties

### 2.1 ITC Conference

Aim: presentation of own work by young researchers and innovators (younger than 40 years) affiliated with ITC/NNC, for their participation at high-level conferences (to be defined by CORE group and approved by the MC). Prioritized candidates will present at the conferences that are evaluated as the most important ones regarding fulfilling the BedBenPhar Action's goal.

Application documents are listed in Section 3, additional required documents are the same as under 1.1., except for the letter of invitation and working plan. Successful candidates will be selected by the meaningful application of the Selection guidelines described in section 1.

ITC Countries:

Full Members that are EU Member States	EU Member States Outermost Regions	Full Members that are not EU Member States
Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia	French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Reunion Island and Saint-Martin (France), Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain)	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey.

COST Near Neighbour Countries:

Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Kosovo<sup>2</sup>, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine<sup>3</sup>, [Russia]<sup>4</sup>, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine.

<sup>2</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

<sup>3</sup> This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

<sup>4</sup> Subject to confirmation by the EC

## **2.2 Dissemination conference**

**Aim:** Presentation of the work of the Action at high-level conferences by an Action participant. Grantee delivers the approved oral presentation, actively networks with other participants and promotes the COST Action to the potential stakeholders.

**Required documents** are listed in Section 3 and are the same as under 1.1. except for a letter of invitation and working plan.

**3. COST APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS** – see below:

Networking Activity	Information to be provided in the application
STSM	<p><u>To be filled in e-COST:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Title</li> <li>• Start and end date (within the active Grant Period);</li> <li>• Budget requested by the applicant;</li> <li>• Information about the host institution and contact person.</li> </ul> <p><u>To be uploaded to e-COST:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application form (template available on e-COST) describing: Goals, description of the work to be carried out by the applicant, expected outcomes and description of the contribution to the Action MoU objectives;</li> <li>• Confirmation of the host on the agreement from the host institution in receiving the applicant;</li> <li>• Other documents required by the Action (e.g. recommendation letter, etc...)</li> </ul>
Virtual Mobility	<p><b><u>To be filled in e-COST:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Title</b></li> <li>• <b>Start and end date (within the active Grant Period);</b></li> <li>• <b>Budget requested by the applicant</b></li> </ul> <p><b><u>To be uploaded to e-COST:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Application form (template available on e-COST) describing: Main Objective, description of the work to be carried out by the applicant, plan for participation, expected outcomes and description of the contribution to the Action MoU objectives;</b></li> <li>• <b>Other documents required by the Action (e.g. recommendation letter, etc...)</b></li> </ul>
ITC Conference	<p><u>To be filled in e-COST:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Title of the presentation</li> <li>• Conference title, date (within the active Grant Period) and country;</li> <li>• Budget requested;</li> <li>• Attendance Type (face to face or virtual)</li> </ul> <p><u>To be uploaded to e-COST:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application form (template available on e-COST) describing: Relevance of the conference topic to the Action and Motivation describing the potential for impact on the applicant's career.</li> <li>• Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral or poster presentation;</li> <li>• Acceptance letter from the conference organisers;</li> <li>• Other documents required by the Action (e.g. recommendation letter, etc...)</li> </ul>
Dissemination Conference	<p><u>To be filled in e-COST:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Title of the presentation</li> <li>• Conference title, date (within the active Grant Period) and venue;</li> <li>• Budget requested;</li> <li>• Attendance Type (face to face or virtual)</li> </ul> <p><u>To be uploaded to e-COST:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application form (template available on e-COST) describing: Alignment with the Action Science Communication plan and Expected impact to the COST Action.</li> <li>• Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral presentation focused on promoting the scientific achievements and activities being performed by the COST Action;</li> <li>• Acceptance (or invitation) letter from the conference organisers;</li> <li>• Other documents required by the Action (e.g. recommendation letter, etc...)</li> </ul>

• Upon approval of the application, the Grantee receives a Grant Letter from the Grant Holder stating the approved amount and the conditions for receiving the grant.

### **3.1 IMPLEMENTATION**

The Action MC is supported by the Grant Awarding Committee.

1. Opening calls for grant awarding: 1 per year
2. Grant awarding out of opening calls: Will be decided by the Grant Evaluation Committee, within 4 weeks of the submission.

### **3.2 COST GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Excellence and inclusiveness**

1. Participation in COST activities should be open to all: from all actors, such as academics, non-academics, SMEs, international organizations and public authorities and civil society organizations.
2. Value everyone and treat them equally and fairly, regardless of their gender, age, religious beliefs, ethnicity, political convictions, disabilities, or any other aspects.
3. Value diversity as an asset to its pan-European, multi-cultural and interdisciplinary character.
4. Promote Open Science, including through Open Access to the outputs of COST activities.
5. Ensure inclusiveness in COST activities through COST Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) representation, geographical diversity, gender balance and empowerment of young researchers.

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Based on Annotated Rules for COST Actions, COST 094/21 (Brussels, 27 July 2021)