



A European Network to Leverage the Multi-Age Workforce (LeverAge)

COST Action CA22120: VNS Grant Call

Virtual Networking Support (VNS) Grant

Europe faces one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century – an aging, age-diverse workforce. In response, many projects, including several other COST Actions, addressed aspects of work and/or aging. However, so far no Action has yet tackled the essential psychological and managerial aspects of work and aging. The LeverAge COST Action aims to expand science and practice on work and organizational practices for an age-diverse workforce, successful aging at work for workers of different demographics, knowledge transfer between generations, the integration of age-diverse workers at work, aging and technology at work, and late-careers and retirement.

The virtual networking support (VNS) grant aims at assessing and supporting the new forms of collaboration in online and hybrid settings as a complement to traditional ways of collaboration within the research and innovation communities and among the members of a given Action. Virtual Networking Support **benefits to:**

- **COST Action:** develops collaboration by having a dedicated person transferring knowledge, stimulating, and implementing online and hybrid activities inside the network, achieving the MoU objectives, and significantly increasing their impact and reach. Contributes to European leadership in knowledge creation and increasing its innovation potential.
- **VNS Grantee:** develops capacity in online and hybrid collaboration and networking in a pan-European framework, thus supporting the Action.

For more details on the VNS grant, please see “Annex 4.2” of the [Annotated Rules](#) and the [Grant Awarding Guide](#).

What is the aim of the VNS grant?

As specified in the COST Action CA22120, [LeverAge MoU](#), the VNS grantee will be responsible for helping the Action achieve 3 key deliverables in GP 3 (2026) and GP 4 (2027):

- Help build content on the [Action website](#) to share ongoing research projects and publications and a scientist-practitioner database (D5 Platform/database created; GP 3).
- Help collate an educational video library covering the five key topic areas (i.e., collect existing videos on missing topics; D6 Video library published; GP 4).
- Coordinate the creation of an online practitioner toolbox together with the five WGs (D7 Practitioner toolbox published; GP 4).

How much is the VNS Grant award worth?

The VNS grant award is set at 4000 Euros per grant period, for a total of 8000 Euros over the Action lifetime (4000 Euros in GP 3 & 4000 Euros in GP 4). In each grant period, award monies will be transferred to the recipient after delivery of the contracted work. The VNS grant award is not intended to cover employment costs but providing a contribution for the overall effort, not necessarily covered by an employer or by the Grant Holder institution. Participant grants are non-commercial transactions, therefore, claims as such are not subject to V.A.T deduction. Taxes normally due or applicable with respect to the payment of the grant are not to be deducted from amounts payable to participants. It is the responsibility of each participant to ensure that all amounts that they receive from COST funding are compliant with their national tax rules and obligations.

Who can apply?

Applicants must be employed by or affiliated with an Institution or legal entity, that has within its remit a clear association with creating website- or social media-based scientific communication, located in any [COST Full or Cooperating Member](#) or [Near Neighbor Country](#).

When to apply?

Applications for the VNS Grant must be sent in by March 16 2026. We anticipate that the recipient of the VNS Grant award in GP 3 will also receive the award in GP 4.

How to apply?

Applications should be submitted via the e-COST website: [Application Template](#).

To create an e-COST account and apply [register](#) here. You may then apply [here](#).

The grant application consists of:

- Applicant name, Action number (CA22120), and project title.
- The applicant determines the start date. The end date is by default two weeks before the grant end period (October 15 of the given year).
- Details of expected Action benefits (max 500 words).
- Outline of the strategy (max. 500 words).
- Plan of activities to be performed (max. 500 words).
- Interest letter delineating the applicant's merits for the grant selection (max 500 words)
- CV of the applicant.

Grant awarding criteria

All incoming grants will be evaluated by the grant awarding committee (consisting of the grant awarding officer and three further members of the Action's core group) based on:

1. The applicant fulfills all eligibility criteria (see above).
2. The merits of the application.
3. In case of conflicts of interest, for example, if a grant evaluation committee member is also a grant applicant for a given call, other member(s) of the Action leadership with no conflict of interest will step in as a replacement(s) to ensure no conflict of interest in the grant awarding process.

Reporting and claiming:

After the STSM, make sure that the bank details logged into the e-COST system are correct before proceeding to the report submission.

Then, the grantee must submit a VNS grant report (using the COST [VNS grant template](#)).

All documents must be uploaded to e-COST within 15 days of the activity's end. The grant will be paid only after approval of the report.