

SOUND control

COST Action CA17110

**COST Action: Standardizing output-based surveillance
to control non-regulated diseases of cattle in the EU**

Call For

Virtual mobility grant candidates

June 2021 – October 2021

www.sound-control.eu

info@sound-control.eu

Call for Virtual mobility grant candidates

The COST Action CA17110 'Standardizing output-based surveillance to control non-regulated diseases of cattle in the EU' (SOUND control) encourages and supports networking of researchers between countries and institutes. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, travel restrictions are in place which prevents face-to-face meetings and exchange visits, which are very important to achieve the goals set by COST Actions. COST now offers the possibility to implement two new virtual networking tools. The management committee from SOUND control has decided to reallocate some of the budget for this cause which means that we are looking for candidates to apply for the two grants:

- The virtual networking support grant (VNS)
- The virtual mobility grant (VM)

These grants are addressed to all Action participants with a primary affiliation to an institution located in a COST Full or Cooperating Member country or Management Committee (MC) Observers from a COST Near Neighbor Country.

One VNS and 6 VM grants will be awarded between June and September and all activities have to be finalized before 15 October.

The deadline for applications is 8 July 2021.

VIRTUAL NETWORKING SUPPORT (VNS) GRANT MANAGER

The tasks for the candidate include:

- The applicant will develop a virtual networking strategy, which will be up for approval to the MC.
- Coordinate the call for expression of interest for the VM grants.
- Support the Action in the discussions and planning of virtual events and collaboration activities.
- Assist in the selection of hosts for the virtual networking events and assist the selected hosts in preparation and coordination of online events.
- Oversee the selection of the most appropriate virtual tools for each specific virtual activity.
- Write a virtual networking report at the end of the grant period to be approved by the MC.

More details on this can be found in the COST Vademecum, section 10.1.3.

Possible interested candidates can submit their application in e-COST before the deadline. The Core Group will subsequently select the best candidate while taking the following selection criteria into account:

- Contribution to the overall objectives of the SOUND control Action,
- The implementation of the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy,
- The availability: will the person be available throughout the GP to take care of the different tasks, be present at all the online events and be able to provide all the support needed,
- Good understanding of the English language,
- Organizational skills: capable to follow a schedule and send e-mails/info in time for the events,
- Experience in coordination of (online) events,
- Technical skills, not afraid to try new online tools and search for solutions to technical problems,
- Presence of the required technical materials (such as online platforms).

The application should be submitted in e-COST and include the following information:

1. A description of how the COST Action can benefit from developing virtual networking activities, with a focus on:
 - a. Progress towards the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) objectives and deliverables.
 - b. COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy, specially towards the support of researchers in COST Inclusiveness Target Countries.
 - c. Stakeholder engagement and promoting the participation of researchers from NNC and IPC (COST Global Networking).
2. A proposal for the strategy outline on virtual networking, including an approach for coordinating VM grants by:
 - a. Managing the evaluation process for awarding the VM grants.
 - b. Supporting and advising beneficiaries of the VM grant.

Additionally, the proposal shall include a plan on coordinating and reporting any planned COST Action events that will be held online (e.g. annual meeting or conference) and how they fit the overall Action strategy. The grantee must also ensure they have the required technical material/equipment and infrastructure to carry out the activities proposed in their application to the grant.

A financial contribution of up to EUR 4 000 can be awarded to the VNS manager for this grant period. The grant does not necessarily cover all expenses related to undertaking the virtual networking coordination role.

VIRTUAL MOBILITY (VM) GRANTS

A VM grant can be awarded for any virtual activity that benefits the objectives defined by the Action. The applicant(s) will submit a proposal that includes the aim of the VM grant and how its outcomes will generate benefits to the Action, actively contribute to the activities and overall objectives of the Action. At the end of the VM grant period the successful applicant will submit a report to be approved by the VNS manager on behalf of the Core Group and MC.

More details on VMs can be found in the COST Vademecum, section 10.2.

Possible interested people can submit their application in e-COST before the deadline. The Core Group will subsequently select the best candidate while taking the following selection criteria into account:

- The contribution of the proposed VM to the overall objectives of the Action,
- Implementation of the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy,
- Whether the proposed activities warrant the requested budget,
- Balance in topics related to the different working groups (WG),
- Collaboration with organizations in other COST countries for the activities for which the grant is requested,
- The timing of the foreseen VM falls completely in this grant period (01-05-2020 to 30-10-2021),
- A recommendation of the people within the Action that you are planning to work with and of the working group leader the topic of the VM is related to are preferred (not mandatory).

The application should be submitted in e-COST and include the following information:

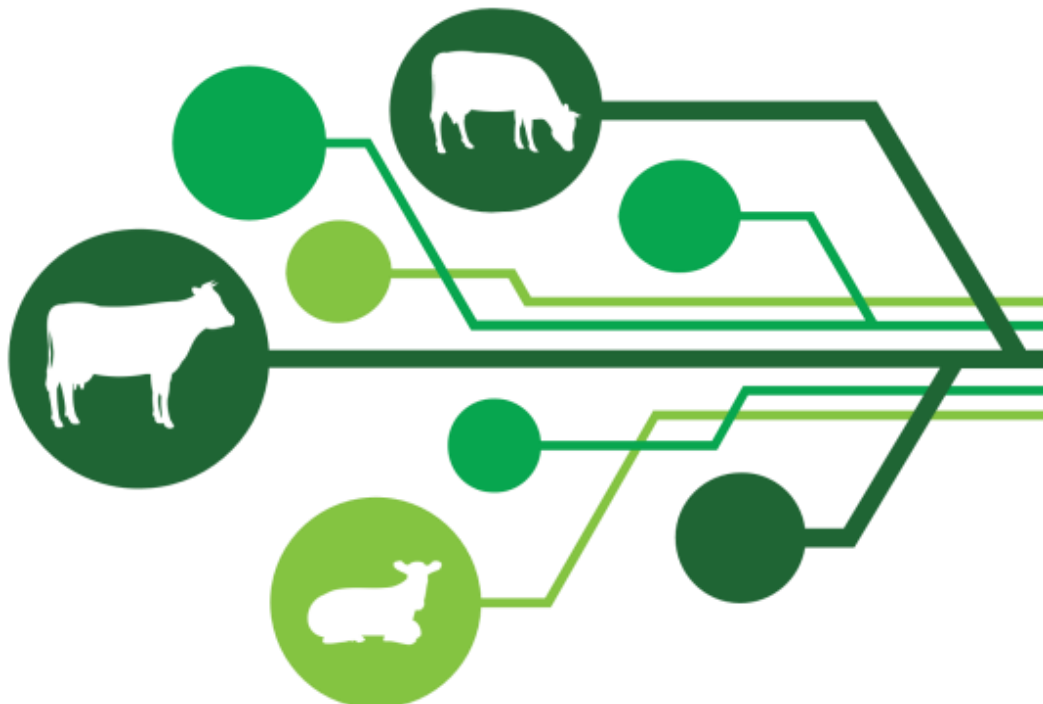
1. Main objective of the VM grant.
2. Working plan: Description of the collaborative initiative to be implemented.
3. Plan for Participation: List of participants in the collaborative initiative (short description of their expertise and contribution).
4. Main expected outputs: Results and contribution to the progress towards the MoU objectives.

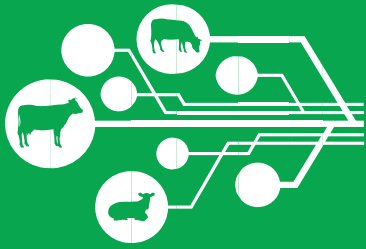
5. Contribution to the COST Action strategy: How will the VM contribute to the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy and plans for stakeholder engagement and promoting participation of researchers from NNC and IPC.
6. Timeframe.

The successful applicant(s) shall implement the working plan approved in their application.

The grantee has 30 calendar days from the completion of the VM grant to submit a report to the VNS Manager and to the Science Officer of the Action. The information that needs to be included can be found in the Vademecum. The report shall consider only virtual activities carried out. The MC must be informed of the main results of each VM and the grantee will have the obligation to actively contribute to the activities of the Action WG relevant to those findings.

A financial contribution of up to maximum EUR 1 500 can be awarded per VM for this grant period. The exact amount will depend on the duration, aim and tasks foreseen in the application and will be decided upon by the Core Group. A maximum of 6 grants can be awarded. The grant does not necessarily cover all expenses related to undertaking the virtual networking coordination role.





SOUND control

COST Action CA17110

THE PROJECT

SOUND control brings together researchers that work in animal health surveillance, applied epidemiology, economics and sociology, stakeholders and policy makers from many different countries to discuss the requirements and demands for an output-based framework that enables objective and standardized comparison of disease control programmes.

SOUND control

Start date: 29/10/2018

End date: 28/10/2022

info@sound-control.eu
www.sound-control.eu



SCIENTIFIC WORK PLAN

The work is carried out in five working groups with the following tasks:

WG1 - CHARACTERISTICS OF EXISTING CONTROL PROGRAMMES

Task: description of the current control programmes for non-regulated cattle diseases across member states.

Leader: Prof George Gunn/Dr Carla Gomes
SRUC, Inverness, United Kingdom

WG2 - DATA REQUIREMENTS AND AVAILABILITY

Task: determination of data needs for an output-based framework and assessment of the available data.

Leader: Prof Gerdien van Schaik
Utrecht University, Utrecht, Netherlands

WG3 - EVALUATION OF EXISTING METHODS

Task: assessment of the available mathematical and statistical methods for objective and standardized comparison of control measures. Leader: Dr Aurélien Madouasse
INRA & Oniris, BIOEPAR, Nantes, France

WG4 - ADDRESSING THE KNOWLEDGE GAPS

Task: establishment of a joint research agenda focused on the development of methodologies for objective comparison of outputs from different input-based control programmes. Leader: Dr John Berezowski
University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland

WG5 - DISSEMINATION AND COMMUNICATION

Task: dissemination, communication and exploitation of the results of this project. Leader: Dr Tanja Knific
University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia