COST Action CA22160
Enhancing knowledge of BIOmolecular solutions for the well-being of European AQUAculture sector - BIOAQUA

Call for Mobility and Dissemination Grants Applications

The COST network BIOAQUA is pleased to announce a **joint call for Virtual Mobility Grants (VMG), ITC Conferences Grants and Dissemination Conferences Grants applications**. Before applying, all candidates must read the Annotated Rules for COST actions. Any updates to the official Annotated Rules take precedence over this document.

1. Scope

According to the Annotated Rules for COST Actions:

- **Virtual Mobility** consists of a collaboration in a virtual setting among researchers or innovators within the COST Action, to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, etc. VMG consists of grants to support the participation in ad-hoc and on a short notice meetings held online.
- **ITC Conference** consists of a presentation of the own work given by a Young Researcher and Innovator affiliated in an Inclusiveness Target Country / Near Neighbour Country for their participation in high-level conferences fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action. Additionally, **Dissemination Conference** consists of an oral presentation by an Action Participant of the work of the Action in high-level conferences fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action.

2. Eligibility

Only one VM grant can be awarded to the same person under this call.

Only one ITC Conference or Dissemination Conference can be awarded to the same person under this call.

Only BIOAQUA members can be supported in this activity.

3. Financial support

According to the Annotated Rules:

- VMG provide a contribution for the overall effort, not necessarily covered by an employer or by a Grant Holder institution. Applicant could receive financial support up to a maximum of EUR 1.500,00

per grant.

- ITC Conference Grants and Dissemination Conference Grants provide contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, registration fee, printing of scientific poster and overall effort. In both cases, applicant could receive financial support up to a maximum of EUR 2.000,00 per grant for face-to-face conferences or EUR 500.00 for virtual conferences.

In BIOAQUA: The final amount of financial support is decided by the Action Chair/Grant Holder based on the proposal of the Grant Evaluation Committee, in turn based on the request of the applicant.

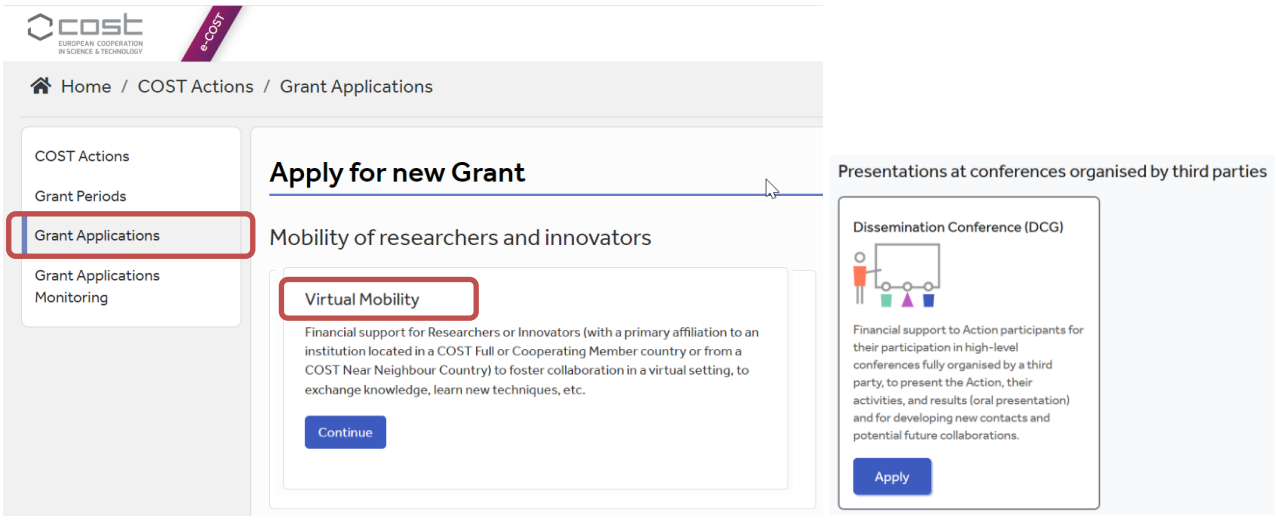
4. Period of Application

According to the Annotated Rules, **researcher or Innovator must respect that all activities need to be carried out entirely within the corresponding Grant Period, which for this call finishes 31/10/2026.**

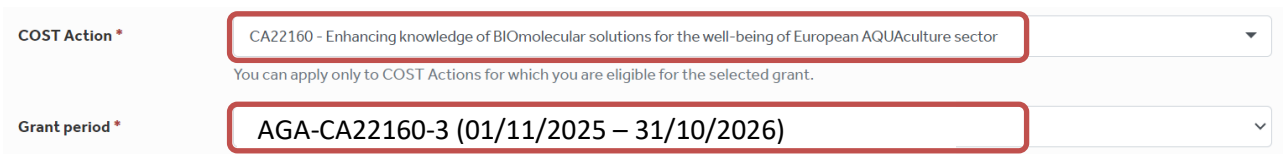
In BIOAQUA: The grant awarding process for VMGs, ITC Conference Grants and Dissemination Conference Grant will occur through a periodic call, an annual budget, review by 2 (or 3 in case the outcome is not consistent) Core Group members, an advice by Grant Awarding Coordinator communicated to Action Chair who takes over the advice if the budget allows.

5. Application Procedure

According to the Annotated Rules, applicants must have an e-COST profile and applications shall be submitted online in e-COST.



To be filled in e-COST: Action and period:



Virtual Mobility	*To be filled in e-COST:* • Title • Start and end date (within the active Grant Period, i.e.no overlap across two consecutive Grant Periods) • Budget requested by the applicant *To be uploaded to e-COST:* • 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;

ITC Conference	*To be filled in e-COST:* • Title of the presentation • Conference title, date (within the active Grant Period , i.e.no overlap across two consecutive Grant Periods) and country; • Budget requested; • Attendance Type (face to face or virtual) *To be uploaded to e-COST:* • 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. • Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral or poster presentation; • Acceptance letter from the conference organisers;

For an ITC Conference grant application, if the applicant is still waiting for acceptance of the submitted abstract for a conference, it is ok to apply specifying that s/he is still waiting for the acceptance confirmation, although if chosen to receive the ITC grant, s/he will have to send also the acceptance letter as soon as s/he receives it, and only then would s/he get the official invite via e-cost.

Dissemination Conference	*To be filled in e-COST:* • Title of the presentation • Conference title, date (within the active Grant Period, i.e.no overlap across two consecutive Grant Periods) and venue; • Budget requested; • Attendance Type (face to face or virtual) *To be uploaded to e-COST:* • Application form (template available on e-COST) describing: Alignment with the Science Communication Plan[26] adopted by the COST Action and Expected impact to the COST Action. • Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral presentation focused on promoting the scientific achievements and activities being performed by the COST Action; • Acceptance (or invitation) letter from the conference organisers;

For a Dissemination Conference grant application, if the applicant is still waiting for acceptance of the submitted abstract for a conference, it is ok to apply specifying that s/he is still waiting for the acceptance confirmation, although if chosen to receive the ITC grant, s/he will have to send the acceptance letter as soon as s/he receives it, and only then would s/he get the official invite via e-cost.

In this regard applicants are informed that their application can be accessed by the holders of leadership positions and any evaluation committees in the Action for evaluation purposes.

Documents that cannot be uploaded via the e-COST interface should directly be sent to the Grant Awarding Coordinator Konstantina Bitchava (bitchava@aua.gr).

6. Evaluation of Applications

Proposals will be evaluated for their quality and for their relevance to BIOAQUA and Working Groups. In brief, the BIOAQUA working groups have the following objectives:

- ✓ *WG 1 "Biomolecular solutions for water prophylaxis and biosafety", with particular focus into new proteins and biomolecular biomarkers.*
- ✓ *WG 2 "Biomolecular solutions as alternative methods and tools for fish-farm production", with particular focus in environmental-friendly and safe treatments, and new molecular engineering methodologies or disruptive combinations.*
- ✓ *WG 3 "Fish welfare" will be a horizontal WG focused in developing an integral perspective of the potential impact over fish derived from the solutions explored in WGs 1 and 2 (disease, stress, growth, feeding, behaviour, etc.)*
- ✓ *WG 4 "Sustainability insights" will focus on an in-depth analysis of the drivers and barriers in relation to the sustainability of aquaculture and the potential adoption of the solutions explored in WGs 1 and 2. This will*

include regulation aspects and proposing an innovative conceptual pathway for veterinary applications and fish tracking systems. It will also be a horizontal WG to all previous WGs described.

- ✓ *WG 5 "Informed creativity", is a complementary WG that will focus on the context of R&I management, including the technological, sectorial, territorial, policy-oriented, and social dimensions potentially impacting research and uptake of results.*

7. Submission of reports and payment

According to the Annotated Rules, once the activity has ended, the applicant claims the payment of the grant via e-COST, providing.

- In the case of VMG:
  - The **Report** using the VMG report template (below), and relevant documentation **within 15 days after the end date or by 31/10/2026**, whichever date comes first;
  - The Report must include the work developed, main achievements of the VM and planned future follow-up activities.
  - Grants are paid by the Grant Holder **after** the completion of the activity and approval of all required report/documentation.
- In the case of ITC Conference grants:
  - Report on the outcome of the presentation of the accepted contribution, in terms of grantee's visibility, including the establishment of new contacts for future collaborations;
  - The certificate of attendance;
  - The program of the conference or book of abstracts / proceedings indicating the presentation (oral or poster) of the grantee;
  - Copy of the given presentation (oral or poster).
- In the case of Dissemination Conference grants:
  - Report on the outcome of the presentation, contacts made and potential for future collaborations;
  - The certificate of attendance;
  - The program of the conference or book of abstracts / proceedings indicating the oral presentation of the grantee;
  - Copy of the given presentation;
  - Providing contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, registration fee, printing of scientific poster and overall effort;
  - Proof of delivery: Certificate of participation issued by the event organizer;
  - Weblink to the event website.

Documents that cannot be uploaded via the e-COST interface should directly be sent to the Grant Awarding Coordinator Konstantina Bitchava (bitchava@aua.gr).

Notes:
Each presentation, poster or publication produced with support of a VMG, an ITC Conference Grant or Dissemination Conference Grant must acknowledge the support of the COST Action and whenever possible use the COST and BIOAQUA logos (on slides and posters). See acknowledgements text section down.

Acknowledgement text:
Two versions, short (for posters and presentations) and long (for papers) are proposed:
Partially funded by……./Person A had a grant from… COST Office (CA22160 BIOAQUA).
Partially funded by……./Person A had a grant from… COST Office (COST Action CA22160 Enhancing knowledge of BIOmolecular solutions for the well-being of European AQUAculture sector - BIOAQUA).

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VMG Template Summary of the Report

The formal report should be written after the WG meeting in which the VM is focused (2 pages max.)

SCIENTIFIC REPORT	
Reference	Virtual Mobility Grant COST CA22160
Beneficiary	Put your Name PUT YOUR AFFILIATION Your email Address
Date	DD/MM/YYYY
VMG Reference Code	**COST-VMG - CA22160-xxxxx**
VMG Title	

1. **Description of the work carried out in the past in relation to the topic**
2. **Possible future contributions to BIOAQUA as a result of this activity**
3. **Description of the expected outcomes from this activity**