COST Action No CA23119 – Targeting Cell Senescence to Prevent Age-Related Diseases (SENESCENCE2030)

1st Call for Virtual Mobility (VM) grant

Preventing or alleviating aging associated diseases, collectively rather than individually, is the challenge to extend the human health span. The knowledge on cellular and molecular mechanisms identified so far as "hallmarks of aging" allow experimental strategies to prevent aging anticipation and extend the health span. A body of evidence indicate that cell senescence is a targetable hallmark of aging, typically associated with metabolic disorders, cardiovascular diseases, neurodegeneration and cancer.

The Action SENESCENCE2030 aims at rooting in Europe the vision of cells senescence and its targeting at center for the prevention of aging related disorders. Through the engagement with international partners, SENESCENCE2030 generates an interdisciplinary and intersectoral network of experts in geroscience and senescence, facilitating the acquisition of new skills and knowledge among young researchers, medical personnel, and innovators from Inclusiveness Target Countries.

SENESCENCE2030 goes beyond the state-of-the-art by opening vibrant knowledge exchange on senescence and senotherapy, trying to overcome the difficulties that prevent in Europe the clinical application of these knowledge for the identification of feasible diagnostics paths, more efficient clinical trials, and effective interventions on lifestyle and nutrition.

SENESCENCE2030 will highlight the socio-economic impact of therapeutic approaches and cost-effectiveness of timing interventions to define innovative processes, measures, and products of impact on industries, funders and policy makers interested in addressing healthcare and socioeconomic challenges related to the aging.

Overall, SENESCENCE2030 will empower the transition from a disease-centered therapeutic approach to a balanced preventive and personalized treatment to avoid aging anticipation and promote individual health span extension for the next decade.

The first annual program of VM grants will directly or indirectly contribute to all four Grant Period Goals:

GAPG1 - Establish a Robust Network & Knowledge Base
GAPG2 - Enhance Research Capacity & Collaboration
GAPG3 - Promote Dissemination & Outreach
GAPG4 - The Societal Impact of Cell Senescence Research and Related Policies

1. IMPORTANT DATES

- Deadline for submission of applications:
  - **April 20th, 2025, for VM occurring on April 27th – June 30th, 2025.**
- Outcome notification date:

  Grant decisions will be communicated on April 25h, 2025. The decision of its attribution is based on the merits of the application.

- Deadline for delivering the VM report and Video: **up to 15 days after the conclusion of the VM.**

2. OVERVIEW

Virtual Mobilities (VMs) are collaborations in virtual setting among researchers or innovators within the COST Action, to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, etc. These collaborations should specifically contribute to the scientific objectives of this COST Action "Targeting Cell Senescence to Prevent Age-Related Diseases (SENESCENCE2030, CA2311, henceforth 'Action'), which are outlined in detail in the Memorandum of Understanding.

SENESCENCE2030 Virtual Mobility Grants

• Support capacity building and transfer of knowledge through bilateral/multilateral collaborations;

• Support specific / general topic that can help achieving the Action MoU objectives and deliverables (research coordination);

• Are very flexible and inclusive networking activities crucial to establish new collaborations or reinforce existing collaborations across disciplines and different sectors (e.g., academia and industry / SMEs) with possible impact on career development;

• Outcomes (e.g. spin-off publications and (funded) projects) contribute to the visibility and impact of the COST Actions, encouraging other researchers to join.

You may find the eligibility provisions, along with further specifics, conditions and information, in the Action's VM Guidelines and COST Annotated Rules. Please read these two documents carefully before applying.

Examples of activities that can be performed by the VM grantee are:

• Virtual mentoring scheme, with 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 harmonisation and standardisation of methods and procedures within the Action networking activities, e.g.

- setting up a survey amongst all Action members to collect different results and outcomes from experiments done in their respective labs and research groups;

- coordinating the discussions to create common protocols to be used by the network afterwards;

- preparing questionnaires and response scales to be used by the Action members as part of online networking activities.

• To support the implementation of research coordination related activities that do not necessarily require in-person presence, e.g.

- computational or modelling activities;
- data analysis of the Action for a specific report or activity

3. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

For this first VM call, the Management Committee of the Action has allocated a **total budget of EUR 3 000 Euros**.

A maximum of 1 500 Euros shall be awarded to each successful applicant.

Please note that the awarded grant will be paid only after the VM has been completed in accordance with VM conditions.

4. ELIGIBILITY

In order to apply for an VM grant you must:

1. Be enrolled as a PhD Student or postdoctoral fellow;
2. Be employed by, or affiliated to an institution or legal entity that conducts research.

5. FINAL PROVISIONS

1. Failure to submit the scientific report and the supporting documents within 15 days after the end date of the VMs will effectively cancel the grant.
2. Grant is payable up to 30 days after the grantee's report and supporting documents have been approved by the Action Chair (or Vice-Chair).

Please note that both COST Association and Action's Grant holder may request additional information to substantiate the information contained within the documents submitted by VM applicants.

Please contact the Grant Awarding Coordinator Prof Francesco Beguinot via email if any queries relating to VMs occur: beguino@unina.it

To apply, please follow the steps below:

1. Register for an e-COST profile at https://e-services.cost.eu/, adding your bank account details to your profile (if a returning applicant or already in possession of a COST profile, move to step 2).
2. Complete the application form at the VM application section of your e-COST profile at https://e-services.cost.eu/, uploading the following documentation:
    a) Letter of invitation from the Host Institution, under the supervision of a senior researcher affiliated with that institution; (optional) recommendation letters.
    b) Full CV (max. 3 pages), including a list of academic publications if applicable (font: 12pt. Times New Roman).
    c) Fill out the available online "Virtual Mobility Grant APPLICATION FORM" describing: Main Objective, detailed description of the work to be carried out by the applicant, expected outcomes and description of the contribution to the Action MoU objectives;
    d) A detailed – estimated – budget to justify the required grant.

Please make sure to include the following information and documents:

- **Title** of the proposed activity
- **Start and end date**
- **Budget requested**, to be uploaded to the e-COST platform
- **Application form** (template available on e-COST)
- **Recommendation letter**
- **Letter of intent** from the collaborator, outlining the planned activity

All documents should be uploaded via the e-COST platform as part of your application.

3. Please be aware that after the completed VM each awardee is expected to provide the following outputs:
    - VM reports on the aims and objectives, achieved results, and dissemination of the work/activities that were performed and description of the future follow up collaboration.
    - Short (max 3 minutes) video summary of the VM report, emphasizing how the VM has contributed to the grantee's career (current and planned) as well as its contribution to the action.