

## **Cost Action: Bats and Climate Change (CA18107)**

### **Call for Applications for Virtual Mobility Grants**

**Deadline: 20th July 2021 (23:59 GMT)**

These grants aim to promoting virtual collaboration, complementing traditional ways of collaboration within the research and innovation of the COST Action.

#### **About the Bats and Climate Change COST Action**

Climate change poses major threats to biological communities and the ecosystem services they provide. Bats are sensitive to human-driven habitat alteration, and changes in temperature and water availability induced by climate change may affect their eco-physiology, distribution and ultimately survival. Climate change is therefore likely to influence European bat populations and affect insect consumption by bats in farmland, forests and urban areas, implying serious consequences for the conservation of European biodiversity as well as economy.

CLIMBATS Action uses state-of-art modelling approaches to categorize European bat species according to responses to future climate change, design a European monitoring network to track changes in bat distribution and demography to inform conservation, and provide an economic assessment of bat insectivory in farmland, forecasting climate change effects on this service.

The Action has three Working Groups pursuing the following objectives

**WG1:** Define, predict and quantify the effects of climate change on bats across Europe.

**WG2:** Establish strategies to develop a network to monitor and predict changes in bat distribution and inform future management and policy.

**WG3:** Evaluate the effects of climate change on insectivory provided by bats in farmland.

Find out more about CLIMBATS focus areas here <https://climbats.eu/focus-areas/>. You can also learn more about the aims and the key questions of COST Action CLIMBATS from the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) here <https://tinyurl.com/24vyvrth>.

## **Virtual Mobility Grants (VM)**

The role of digital tools to support and ensure continuity of CLIMBATS activities is increasing rapidly. Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants allow scientists to foster collaboration in a virtual setting, to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, disseminate Action results, etc. VM grants include activities that do not require in-person presence – such as surveys, questionnaires or preparation of protocols, virtual mentoring of research tasks contributing to capacity building and improving skills, etc.

A maximum of **6 Virtual Mobility Grants** can be awarded. Each Virtual Mobility Grant **cannot exceed EUR 1 500**, and the task **has to be completed by 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021**.

Candidates can apply to participate in one of the following tasks:

- **Reference: VM1\_CA18107:** Collecting data on responses to climate from bat rehabilitation centres across Europe (**WG1**)
- **Reference: VM2\_CA18107:** Preparing distribution models of European bat species under climate change (**WG1**)
- **Reference: VM3\_CA18107:** Collecting and analysing information on bat monitoring schemes/programs (**WG2**)
- **Reference: VM4\_CA18107:** Reviewing information on agricultural pest species including their distribution in Europe and setting up a database with the ecological and economic traits relevant to evaluate their impact (**WG3**)
- **Reference: VM5\_CA18107:** Reviewing environmental assessment and evaluation techniques that can inform an economic assessment framework of current regulating services provided by bats (**WG3**)
- **Reference: VM6\_CA18107:** Communicating with stakeholders about the impacts of climate change on bats and prey species through newsletters and social media (**Science Communication Office**)

## Eligibility

Applicants must have a primary affiliation to an institution located in a COST Full or Cooperating Member country or a COST Near Neighbour Country. Voluntary affiliations to academic or research institutions, museums or NGOs are also considered.

More information about eligibility can be found here: <https://www.cost.eu/about/cost-strategy/cost-global-networking/>. If you wish to discuss your eligibility please contact the Virtual Networking Support Manager (Dr. Francisco Amorim [famorim@cibio.up.pt](mailto:famorim@cibio.up.pt)).

## How to apply

Please send us:

- complete CV
- short application letter stating the reference number of the grant, highlighting why you are interested in the VM grant and how you can contribute to the task.

**Applications must be submitted by 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021 (23:59 GMT).**

**Please send your application to the Virtual Networking Support Manager (Dr. Francisco Amorim [famorim@cibio.up.pt](mailto:famorim@cibio.up.pt)) with VM grant Reference and the word Application in the subject line (e.g. VM4\_CA18107 Application).**

## Evaluation Criteria

Selection of applicants will focus mainly on the scientific contributions to the tasks. Evaluation will also consider the contribution to the overall objectives of COST Action CLIMBATS, as expressed in the MoU, the strategy on the virtual networking of COST Action CLIMBATS and the implementation of the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy.

If your application is selected you will be contacted by the WG leader (or a representative) to prepare a short application to be submitted in the e-COST platform.

## Reporting and Financial Support

The grantee should submit a report at the end of the VM Grant. **The Action will pay the financial support in the form of a grant only after the Management Committee has**

**approved the report.** The VM Grants should be **finished by the 15 October 2021** and the final report approved by the Management Committee within 30 calendar days from the completion of the Virtual Mobility Grant.

For more information, see the COST-Vademecum (Version April 2021): <https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Vademecum-28-April-2021.pdf> (from page 38)

For further enquiries, please contact the COST Action CLIMBATS Virtual Networking Support manager Dr. Francisco Amorim ([famorim@cibio.up.pt](mailto:famorim@cibio.up.pt)).