

STRATEGY FOR VIRTUAL NETWORKING

Virtual Networking Tools are established permanently by the COST Association since November 1st, 2021. Evaluation and selection criteria of Virtual Networking Support (VNS) and Virtual Mobility Grant (VMG) established by the MC for the pilot phase in GP2 become definitive and they are communicated to all Action Members through the dedicated Google Group. Details are made available on the website ([link here](#)), where the Strategy approved by the MC for each GP can be downloaded.

The Strategy for Virtual Networking of GP3 is built on a continuity basis with respect to GP2. A top-down approach is followed identifying the GP3 Grant Agreement Period Goals (GAPGs) of the Action Implementation Plan that could be supported by virtual activities in addition to other traditional COST Networking Tools. In alignment with the COST Excellence and inclusiveness Policy, the following GAPGs are targeted, corresponding to CA18130 MoU Challenge, Research Coordination (RCO) and capacity building (CBO) objectives.

- Challenge Collection of information about participants, research topics, instrumentation, experience
- RCO2 Development of procedures/methodologies for analysis by joint experimentation
- RCO2 Realization of interlaboratory studies
- RCO3 Realization of experiments on defined/specific kinds of samples/model samples realized on purpose
- RCO6 Identification of the most relevant topics needing standardization (to get into markets, labs, instrumentation) and connection with the relevant WG
- RCO6 Selection of the available expert(s) of the specific WG or subgroup involved in the development of method/procedure to draft the WD of ISO (CEN) New project (NP)
- RCO7 Identification of possible fields of interest for specific applications and single use instrument/sample prep devices
- RCO9 Organization of workshops dedicated to stakeholders and feedback collection
- CBO3 Training and joint research for young and less experienced researchers from ITC, recent groups, developing countries, women on relevant (social/env) topics
- CBO5 Creating a task force of experts in chemical traceability and physical traceability
- CBO5 Identification of lacks for TXRF to be traceable at the chemical/physical level and the needs to be proposed as primary chemical method to CCQM
- CBO5 Select the most suitable method to propose the related standard (ICO-CEN)
- CBO6 Propose joint research activities related to TXRF to research groups with wider competences and involve them as stakeholders
- CBO6 Include/open to different approaches and evaluate possible roadmaps for the fulfillment of stakeholders needs
- CBO7 Monitoring the number/gender of ITC action participants constantly with time, aiming to an increasing trend
- CBO7 Collecting information about local research groups age, interests, number/gender/age of involved researchers
- CBO7 Assessing local research groups availability of instrumentation/tools and access to infrastructures for elemental analysis

- CBO7 Select number and type of training events/dissemination/joint research activities to increase the involvement of ITC

In addition, a bottom-up approach is taken to support collaborative research activities, negatively affected by the lack of STSMs due to the Covid 19 Pandemic and the most recent geopolitical situation in Eastern Europe. Ongoing and new collaborative activities that can benefit from VN are scouted discussing with WG leaders, SG leaders, and active Action members to favour new VMG applications by researchers with a high track record to be completed withing GP3.

Virtual Networking Support

The VNS Manager oversees the following activities related to the Challenge, RCO9, CBO6, CBO7.

- Consultation with Action participants for activities that can be funded under the VN Tools
- Discussion, planning and selection of virtual events and collaboration activities, encouraging the proposal of identified activities to be finalized within GP3
- Assisting the selected hosts in preparation and coordination of online events and collaboration activities (including the analysis of technical needs)
- Overseeing the selection of the most appropriate virtual tools for each specific virtual activity
- Plan and coordination of the VMG and other online events and reports to the MC
- Feedback collection on the organized events by anonymous survey and statistical evaluation of results with reference to the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy
- Assessment of different approaches to fulfil stakeholders needs and definition of a roadmap

Virtual Mobility Grant

VM Grants in GP3 address the following:

1) Research coordination (RCO2, RC03)

To support collaborative research activities aiming at harmonizing and standardizing methods and procedures for TXRF analysis collecting different results and outcomes from experiments done in their respective labs and research groups.

To coordinate the discussions to create common protocols for TXRF analysis to be used and compared within the network participants.

2) Capacity building (RCO6, CBO3, CBO5)

To realize a repository of training material employing digital tools, to maintain the virtual mentoring scheme defined in GP2, to share knowledge that can generate capacity and new skills in TXRF analysis, particularly for ECIs researchers and ITC participants, and thus contributing to the finalization of deliverable n.3.

To determine the data that is most pertinent to the TXRF chemical measurement procedure and to establish the related parameters that are useful when reporting TXRF data, fundamental to contributing to the FAIR data policies.

3) Stakeholders' engagement (CBO6, RCO7, RCO6)

To provide an in-depth analysis of the "Google form" survey of Action members to gain a picture of the "elemental analysis community" in terms of expertise, knowledge of TXRF, needs, and goals, to be compared to the "TXRF user" portrait, and to identify goals, needs, and their potential participation in future pilot tests.

To involve a large and diverse user population through a survey to get feedback on potential commercially viable applications and enhance current TXRF hardware and associated sample preparation. Analysing the findings to find tools created through the Action that may be applied commercially.