

COST Networking Activities

Euro-CAN (CA19106) Call for STSM, Virtual Mobility, ICT & Conference Dissemination Applications

Fourth Grant Period, 1 November 2023 – 31 October 2024

Introduction

Euro-CAN Action opens call for applicants for the fourth operating year concerning Networking Activities to be developed under the scope of the Action, in terms described in this document. The main procedures/regulations concerning networking activities are governed by the [COST Annotated Rules](#).

Euro-CAN Action

In Europe, millions of children experience abuse or neglect at the hands of those who should care for them. Yet, how many of these children get help, which services they receive by which agency remains largely unknown. Moreover, countries are hardly aware which maltreatment turns fatal. This constitutes a major knowledge gap that is likely due to inconsistent ways of surveying and reporting on child maltreatment services across Europe. Without this information, we cannot know how the systems work, what additional preventive efforts are required, if the interventions fit the victims' needs or if the most vulnerable groups are properly identified.

The proposed project addresses this gap by creating a network of experts in child maltreatment and relevant stakeholders and links them in working groups, in order to promote the development of a rigorous, consistent, and comparable methodology for the collection of surveillance data on child maltreatment and maltreatment-related fatalities. Researchers, policymakers, administrators and practitioners will identify best-practice methods of surveillance and recommend efficient ways of implementing them across Europe.

For further details and specific objectives, please read the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of Euro-CAN COST Action at https://e-services.cost.eu/files/domain_files/CA/Action_CA19106/mou/CA19106-e.pdf

What are the COST Networking Activities

Networking activities (short term scientific missions-STSMs, virtual mobilities-VM, dissemination by young researchers and innovators from inclusiveness target countries-ICT and dissemination conference) organised through a Grant Awarding Process encompass mobility of researchers and innovators and presentation at conferences organised by third parties.

In the work plan for the fourth period of the Euro-CAN Action (1/11/2023-31/10/2024) specific budget for individual Networking Activities is defined. The period of networking activities should be completely framed inside the fourth Grant Period and yet reserve some margin for presenting the necessary report for approval and final payment. Therefore, activities should be finished the latest by **30 September 2024**.

Scope and Benefits of grant awarding of networking activities

The grant awarding of Networking activities in the context of the Euro-CAN Action (CA19106) aim to

- offer a valuable experience for Young Researchers and Innovators as well as for the already established researchers in supporting their career development;
- strengthen the existing networks by allowing researchers and innovators to foster collaboration both in a face-to-face and virtual setting, to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, disseminate the Action results, etc. and
- contribute to the visibility of COST as an open, flexible, and inclusive funding programme

For more details on specific networking activities (Short-Term Scientific Missions, Virtual Mobilities, Inclusiveness Target Country / Near Neighbour Country-ITC dissemination for Young Researchers and Innovators and Dissemination Conference) see [COST Annotated Rules](#) (pp. 93-95).

Content of Networking Activities under the 4th period of Euro-CAN

Applications for grants for networking activities should be related to the main challenge and one or more goals (and the respective associated MOU objectives) of the fourth period of the Euro-CAN Action, as they presented below:

Euro-CAN Fourth Grant period goals, Challenge & MOU Associated Objectives

- Transfer to sustainable outputs of the Euro-CAN network (MOU Objectives associated: 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8)
- Disseminate and communicate the major takeaways of our work in four years (MOU Objective associated: 5)
- Strengthen early-career researchers to continue the efforts started during the COST-funded period (MOU Objectives associated: 6; 7; 8)
- Continue efforts to integrate child maltreatment survivors in decision-making on child protection research (MOU Objective associated: 8)

Main Challenge of Euro-CAN Action

Nationally representative data on reported child maltreatment incidents are lacking. Without this information, we cannot determine how well child protection systems support and protect vulnerable children. This pan-European project aims to tackle the lack of child maltreatment surveillance (CMS) and promote a unified system of administrative data collection in Europe.

MOU Associated Objectives-Overview

1. The CA initiates, promotes and supports national and international consensus-based, interdisciplinary processes for developing uniform child maltreatment definitions.
2. It provides an overview on existing national administrative data on child protection and child maltreatment incidents and fatalities, and makes them accessible to researchers.
3. The CA will increase the international comparability of agency responses to child maltreatment and will help identify good practices that may improve national child protection systems.
4. The main findings, conclusions, and recommendations about agency responses to child maltreatment will be presented in non-academic and accessible language to ensure widespread dissemination and outreach among policymakers, administrators, child protection professionals, and the general public.
5. The CA fosters knowledge exchange, the development of a joint research agenda, and guidelines for ethically responsible data collection on agency responses to child maltreatment – a public health topic of high relevance as it affects millions of children.

6. It fosters interdisciplinary collaboration by bridging across several disciplines that are highly relevant to child protection-research but that have too often conducted research in disciplinary silos – even though the child protection system is highly dependent on interdisciplinary input.
7. Early Career Investigators are supported and promoted. They will view agency responses to child maltreatment as an essentially interdisciplinary field and move with ease between disciplinary context and research agendas.
8. Research on child maltreatment should not only be about studying victims, but should integrate them as active participants. We therefore promote the involvement and participation of youth and adult survivors of child maltreatment in our research activities.

Eligibility criteria and access conditions

For issues related to Eligibility to receive financial support as well as for the possible Location of COST Action networking activities see [COST Annotated Rules](#) p. 57-59.

Funding

The total budget for Networking Activities in the current Grant (fourth) Period is €28.650 (see table below) and the number of activities' grants that will be funded is expected to be ~ 15 (~8 STSM/VM, ~7 ITC and CD grants). Changes to the distribution are possible if needed.

Name	Scope	Maximum Amount (EUR)	Decision of the Amount	Work & Budget plan for the 4 th Euro-CAN period
STSM Grant	Providing a contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, implementation of the project, delivery of the report to the COST Action MC and overall effort.	up to 4.000 € /grant	Decided by the Action MC or Core Group on proposal of the evaluators, based on the request of the applicant and should reflect the duration and location of the STSM.	18.000 €
Virtual Mobility Grant	Providing a contribution for the overall effort, not necessarily covered by an employer or by a Grant Holder institution.	up to 1.500 € /grant	Decided by the Action MC or Core Group on proposal of the evaluators and should reflect the duration, scope and complexity of the task and activities to be covered via the VM grant.	0 € (potential transfer from other activities)
ITC Conference Grant	Providing contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, registration fee, printing of scientific poster and overall effort.	up to 2.000 € /grant for face-to-face conferences OR up to 500 € /grant for virtual conferences	Decided by the Action MC or Core Group on proposal of the evaluators and should reflect the duration and location of the Conference and the actual conference fee.	4.400 €
Dissemination Conference Grant	Providing contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, registration fee, printing of scientific poster and overall effort.	up to 2.000 € /grant for face-to-face conferences OR up to 500 € /grant for virtual conferences	Decided by the Action MC or Core Group on proposal of the evaluators and should reflect the duration and location of the Conference and the actual conference fee.	6.250 €

Annotated rules define the criteria for the financial contribution for each Networking Activity, which should not be disregarded in any circumstance:

1. Maximum amount per grant per activity (see table above) can be afforded to each successful applicant;
2. Financial support for networking activities is a grant awarded to individuals that is not intended to cover employment costs;
3. Participant grants are non-commercial transactions, therefore, claims as such are not subject to V.A.T deduction. Taxes normally due or applicable with respect to the payment of the grant are not to be deducted from amounts payable to participants. It is the responsibility of each participant to ensure that all amounts that they receive from COST funding are compliant with their national tax rules and obligations.
4. Grants are paid to the applicant after the completion of the activity and approval of all required report/documentation. STSM grantees may request up to 50% pre-payment of the approved grant. This amount is subject to availability of funds and approval.
5. The maximum daily allowance that covers meals and accommodation (for ICT and Dissemination conference grants) is to be determined using the reference values from https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2022/04/2022_Daily-allowance-table.pdf

Application Procedure for Euro-CAN (CA 19106)

The application procedure is legally bound to the Annotated Rules. Eligible applicants must submit their applications online at the following web address: <https://e-services.cost.eu/> by choosing respectively the type of the activity and using dedicated forms available. 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. Applicants must upload their CV in their e-COST profile. This information will be visible to the holders of leadership positions and any evaluation committees in the Action for evaluation purposes.

In the table below the procedure and the content of application is summarized per type of activity.

Networking Activity	Information to be provided in the application	
	TO BE FILLED IN e-COST	TO BE UPLOADED IN e-COST
STSM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Title - Start and end date (within the active Grant Period, end date before 30/9/24) - Budget requested by the applicant; - Information about the host institution and contact person (location of host institution must be in a different country than the country of affiliation of the applicant); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Application form (template available on e-COST) describing: Goals, description of the work to be carried out by the applicant, expected outcomes and description of the contribution to the Action MoU objectives; - Confirmation of the host on the agreement from the host institution in receiving the applicant (prior to submission, it is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain a written agreement from the Host institution stating that the applicant may perform the activities detailed in the STSM work plan on the agreed dates); - Confirmation of agreement by applicant's organization ("home agreement") - CV
Virtual Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Title - Start and end date (within the active Grant Period, end date before 30/9/24) - Budget requested by the applicant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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; - CV

ITC Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Title of the presentation - Conference title, date (within the active Grant Period) and country; - Budget requested; - Attendance Type (face to face or virtual) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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; - CV
Dissemination Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Title of the presentation - Conference title, date (within the active Grant Period and venue; - Budget requested; - Attendance Type (face to face or virtual) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Application form (template available on e-COST) describing: Alignment with the Science Communication Plan²⁵ 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; - CV

Selection Committee

A scientific committee composed by the Grant Awarding Coordinator, the Action Chair and the relevant Work Group leader will evaluate all the applications and define a seriation for the attribution of the grants. In case of conflict of interest, the member that is constrained in his duties should designate a substitute (the Action Vice-Chair or the respective Work Group vice-leader).

Applications assessment and communication of results

The Committee will perform the scientific assessment of the applications considering the Euro-CAN Action scope and objectives, as well as the potential for enhancement of the research interaction between the involved parts, measured by the impact of the exchange expected by the applicants and involved institutions. STSM Committee will promote gender balance, enabling ECIs (researchers with PhD + up to 8 years of research experience) and PhD students, and broadening geographical inclusiveness.

Once approved by the Grant Awarding Coordinator or the Action Chair, Grant Holder will be informed on the approved activity, who will inform each approved applicant by sending a Grant Letter generated from e-COST stating the approved amount and the conditions for receiving the grant.

Implementation, Reporting and Payment

Implementation per type of activity

- **STSMs:** Grantee performs the tasks in line with the approved application;
- **Virtual Mobility:** performs the tasks in line with the approved application;
- **ITC Conference:** Grantee delivers the approved (oral or poster) presentation, following any specific request of acknowledgement set by the Action MC;
- **Dissemination Conference:** Grantee delivers the approved oral presentation, actively networks with other participants and promotes the COST Action to the potential stakeholders;

Reporting and claim for payment of the grant

- Once the activity has ended, the grantee submits the required reports and relevant documentation in e-COST within 30 days after the end date of the activity or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period, whichever date comes first;
- Claim the payment by submitting the report via e-COST;

- The required report/documentation for claiming a **STSM Grant** is:
 - Report to the Action MC on the work developed, main achievements of the STSM and planned future follow up activities.
- The required report/documentation for claiming a Virtual Mobility Grant is:
 - Report to the Action MC on the work developed, main outcomes and achieved outputs of the Virtual Mobility, and description of the future follow up collaboration.
- The required report/documentation for claiming an **ITC Conference Grant** is:
 - Report to the Action MC 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 programme 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);
- The required report/documentation for claiming a **Dissemination Conference Grant** are:
 - Report to the Action MC on the outcome of the presentation, contacts made and potential for future collaborations;
 - The certificate of attendance,
 - The programme of the conference or book of abstracts / proceedings indicating the oral presentation of the grantee
 - Copy of the given presentation.

Receiving payment of the grant

- Grants are paid by the Grant Holder Institution after the completion of the activity and approval of all required report/documentation.

Contact:

Mr Athanasios Ntinapogias Grant Awarding Coordinator of Euro-CAN (CA19106)
Institute of Child Health
Athens-Greece
ntinapogias@ich-mhsw.gr; dinapogias@gmail.com

Prof. Dr. Andreas Jud – Action Chair of Euro-CAN (CA19106)
Clinic for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry/Psychotherapy
University Clinics Ulm , Germany
andreas.jud@uniklinik-ulm.de