

Call for Virtual Mobility Grants – 2026

ConnectLAA Cost Action

announces an open call for 1 Virtual Mobility grant to

“Develop a Data Management Plan (DMP) for ConnectLAA COST Action”

Deadline for submission: September 2, 2026

Grant Period: between September 09 – October 15, 2026

Funding: EUR 1,500

Number of Virtual Mobility grants available: 1

General introduction

COST Action CA23128, "Connecting Landscape Architecture Archives to Enhance European Landscape Practice, Research, and Education (ConnectLAA)", aims to establish a collaborative network of researchers, practitioners, and heritage professionals to explore, connect, and utilize landscape architecture (LA) archives across Europe. By fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and knowledge sharing, ConnectLAA seeks to unlock the rich potential of these archives to inform contemporary landscape practice, research, and education. Virtual Mobility (VM) grants are a networking instrument, enabling collaboration in a virtual setting among researchers and innovators to exchange knowledge and learn new techniques in support of the Action's objectives.

Topic: Develop a Data Management Plan (DMP) for ConnectLAA COST Action

With its second year of activity drawing to a close, the Action has generated a substantial and diverse body of research outputs (e.g. reports, catalogues, survey data, maps, glossary materials, and other digital publications), some of which are already deposited on Zenodo, while others are available through the Action's website connectlaa.eu. However, a systematic, Action-level framework for managing, sharing, preserving, and reusing these outputs does not yet exist. The DMP is a living document that will address this gap and support the long-term sustainability of the Action's outputs as well as ensure data transparency and compliance with FAIR principles.

The work should be closely linked to CA23128 objectives and should include:

- **An inventory of the data and outputs** produced by ConnectLAA across all Working Groups, and an assessment of how they are currently stored, documented, shared, and preserved;
- **Identification of gaps and risks** in current practice (e.g. missing metadata or persistent identifiers, unclear responsibilities, sensitive or personal data, inconsistent repository practices);
- **A consolidated Action-level DMP** addressing types and sources of data and its metadata, their collection, storage, access and long-term preservation in accordance with

FAIR principles, ethical and legal considerations and responsibilities, covering both existing outputs and those expected during the remainder of the Action (as per Memorandum of Understanding).

The DMP should be developed in consultation with the Action Coordination/Core Group, rather than in isolation. The use of an established DMP planning tool (e.g. DMPonline) is recommended but not mandatory.

The proposed work plan should demonstrate a feasible sequence of activities, including an initial review and inventory, consultation with Action Coordination/Core Group, preparation of the DMP, and final validation.

Main Output:

- A consolidated **Action-level Data Management Plan for ConnectLAA**, accompanied by a concise inventory of the Action's data and outputs and a set of practical recommendations for their management, access, preservation, and reuse.

Eligibility and Applicant profile:

This Virtual Mobility Grant is particularly suited for Action participants with experience or a strong interest in research data management, data curation, open science, digital humanities, archival information management, or related fields. Familiarity with cultural heritage, archival research, or landscape architecture is an advantage but not a requirement. Experienced researchers as well as early-career researchers and PhD students are welcome to apply.

Applicants should:

- be capable of independently developing a Data Management Plan using established frameworks or tools;
- have experience or demonstrable interest in open science, FAIR data principles, or research data management;
- be willing to engage virtually with the Core Group members throughout the process, and according to the needs;
- have some familiarity with, or willingness to engage with, the outputs and objectives of ConnectLAA;
- be affiliated with a COST Full/Cooperating Member country or a COST Near Neighbour Country¹.

¹ For the latest list of countries and organisations see <https://www.cost.eu/funding/documents-guidelines/> under 'Country and Organisations Table'

What is a Virtual Mobility Grant?

A **Virtual Mobility** enables virtual collaboration among researchers or innovators within the COST Action, to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, and contribute to the Action's objectives.

The scope of the Virtual Mobility Grant should contribute to the objectives of the COST Action CA23128 “Connecting Landscape Architecture Archives to enhance European landscape practice, research and education (ConnectLAA)”, defined in its Memorandum of Understanding: https://e-services.cost.eu/files/domain_files/CA/Action_CA23128/mou/CA23128-e.pdf

Who can apply?

The VM applicant is an Action participant with a primary affiliation to an institution located in a COST Full or Cooperating Member country or a COST Near Neighbour Country participating in the Action.

What can you apply for?

Applicants may apply for one Virtual Mobility Grant of EUR 1,500 to undertake the activity described in this call, in support of the objectives of COST Action CA23128.

How to apply?

The application process is as follows:

1. Applicant must carefully read the funding rules detailed in supporting documents (see: Main information, supported documents and links)
2. Applicant must create an account and submit an application through e-COST.
3. Main information to be provided in the application:

To be filled in e-COST:

- **Cost Action**
- **Grant period**
- **Title**
- **Amount request** by the applicant;
- **Bank account**
- **Start and end date** (within the active Grant Period of the Action)

To be uploaded to e-COST:

Application form (template available on e-COST) describing **main objective of the VM**

- Working Plan, Plan for Participation, Expected outputs and contribution to MoU objectives and deliverables
- **A short CV** (maximum 2 pages) including related experience.

Evaluation

The **Grant Awarding Committee** will assess each application.

Main criteria for evaluation will be as follows:

1. Relevance to the Action and Working Groups Objectives and Deliverables (30%).

- Clarity of how the proposed virtual activity advances the Action's objectives and/or contributes to the deliverables of one or more Working Groups.
- Demonstration of alignment between the planned activity and upcoming milestones and/or deliverables.
- Identification of tangible outputs expected during or after completing the VM (e.g. report, working paper, catalogue entry, glossary contribution, manual section, workshop).

2. Quality and Feasibility of the Proposed Work Plan (40%)

- The quality and clarity of the proposed activity/ies;
- Feasibility of the virtual collaboration within the planned activities.
- Clear description of participants' roles, expertise, and contributions to the collaborative task.
- Suitability of the proposed virtual format for the planned activity (e.g. online workshops, co-authoring, shared data analysis, digital archive work).

3. Collaboration and Network Impact (15%)

- Evaluation of the VM's potential to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange within ConnectLAA.
- Consideration of consolidating existing collaborations and establishing new contacts is particularly encouraged.
- Potential of the output to benefit the broader Action network (not only the applicant).

4. Other criteria (15%)

- The applicant's profile will be considered towards the potential of successfully completing the VM based on her/his previous work and active participation and contribution to the activities of the Action's working groups.
- Geographical distribution of applicants within the same VM call.
- Affiliation country: applicants from ITC nations. Score: 0 = non-ITC, 1 = ITC.
- Career development: Young Researchers and Innovators (YRI). Score: 0 = non-YRI, 1 = YRI.

Reporting and claim for payment of the grant:

- Once the activity has ended, the Grantee must submit a report and all necessary documentation through e-COST. Submission is required **within 30 days of the activity's end date, or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period**, whichever date comes first;
- The submission of the supporting documents is mandatory, or the Grant is cancelled. The required **Report** should be completed following the official **Virtual Mobility Grant Report template** detailing the descriptions: of the outcomes and achieved outputs; of the benefits to the COST Action Strategy and of the virtual collaboration.

Reimbursement:

- The Grant Holder Institution pays grants after completing the activity and approving all required reports/documentation.
- Virtual Mobility activities must occur within the dates specified in this call.
- Applicants shall not receive different overlapping grants during the same grant period.

For detailed rules regarding eligibility and financial support, please see the relevant sections of the:

COST Annotated Rules: <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/02/COST-094-21-V2.0-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C.pdf>

and: Grant Awarding User Guide: <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/01/COST-Grant-Awarding-user-guide.pdf>

Main information, supported documents and links:

- CA23128 (ConnectLAA) Website: <https://connectlaa.eu/>
<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA23128/>
- Virtual Mobility Grant Application Form: https://www.cost.eu/VM_GrantApplication
- Virtual Mobility Grant Report Template: https://www.cost.eu/VM_Report
- Grant Awarding user guide: <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/01/COST-Grant-Awarding-user-guide.pdf>
- Annotated Rules for COST Actions: <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/02/COST-094-21-V2.0-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C.pdf>
- Main contacts:
 - Grant Awarding Coordinator - Kinga Kimic: kinga_kimic@sqqw.edu.pl
 - Grant Holder Manager - Heidi Manser: heidi.manser@boku.ac.at