

COST Action 23137
Print Culture and Public Spheres in Central Europe (1500–1800) | PCPS^{CE}
Virtual Mobility Grant
CALL 10: Preparation of Standardized Country Reports on Early Modern Book
Heritage and Research Resources

Important Dates

Call closes: 15 August 2026

Notification of Results: 7 days after submission of complete application

Mission Period: 1 September – 15 October 2026

About this Action

PCPS^{CE} investigates the interactions between the pre-modern media revolution through printing and the emergence of public spheres in Central Europe in early modern history. The Action aims to build a European and global network of stakeholders from education, research and cultural institutions with a special focus on Young Researchers and Innovators. It works towards an integrative methodology that brings together experts from different national and disciplinary backgrounds. The Action includes work on joint publications such as a compendium on the book history of Central Europe and the development of an annotated catalogue of digital data and tools. The initiative aims to promote a new scholarly and public historical awareness of the diverse, non-national pasts of Central Europe. More information can be found in the Action's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) available in the following web page: www.cost.eu/actions/CA23137.

Definition of Virtual Mobility Grant:

VM grants are given to a COST Action participant implementing virtual collaborative initiatives. The VM applicant(s) are Action participants with a primary affiliation to an institution located in a COST Full or Cooperating Member country or a COST Near Neighbouring Country participating in the Action. The applicant(s) shall inform the Grant Awarding Coordinator and Core Group about the aim of the VM Grant and how its outcomes will generate benefits to the Action, actively contribute to the overall objectives and relevant deliverables of the Action. The applicant must submit an activity report at the end, to be approved by the Grant Awarding Coordinator and voted by the Core Group.

The maximum amount for a VM grant is 1,500€.

Main objective of the Virtual Mobility Grant:

The purpose of this Virtual Mobility (VM) grant is to prepare standardized country overviews on historical book holdings and research infrastructures across the participating COST countries. The project seeks to produce comparable, research-oriented reports that combine historical background information on the formation, survival, dispersal, and present-day preservation of early modern book collections with a systematic mapping of major libraries, catalogues, bibliographic resources, digital research tools, and other infrastructures relevant to the study of print culture. Drawing on expert contributions from COST Action members, the position involves the critical synthesis, verification, and editorial harmonization of heterogeneous information into a common reporting format for the Compendium. The candidate should possess advanced research and editorial skills, experience in the history of books, libraries, or print culture, and familiarity with bibliographic and digital research infrastructures. Strong proficiency in reference management (particularly Zotero), the ability to critically evaluate AI-assisted summaries and historical source material, and meticulous attention to consistency, metadata standards, and scholarly quality are essential. The resulting country overviews will support contributors in preparing their Compendium chapters, enrich the COST Action's shared Zotero Group Library, and provide a sustainable research resource for the international scholarly community.

Application process:

The applicant encodes a VM application by logging into e-COST and clicking on the "My Grant Applications", where a new application can be encoded. Application on e-COST will be communicated to Joëlle Weis, Grant Awarding Coordinator.

Requirements after approval:

More information on the user guide: <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/06/VNT-userguide.pdf>