

VIRTUAL MOBILITY (VM) GRANT REPORT TEMPLATE

This report is submitted by the VM grantee to VNS Manager, who will coordinate the approval on behalf of the Action MC.

Action number: CA 18140

VM grant title: PIMo Training Schools: Coordination of Virtual Exchange of reseach and Training Concepts

VM grant start and end date: 06/09/2021 to 30/10/2021

Grantee name: Marta Bucholc, University of Warsaw

Description of the outcomes and achieved outputs (including any specific Action objective and deliverables, or publications resulting from the Virtual Mobility).

The grant has achieved its main objective, which was coordinating the discussions regarding the organization of PIMo Training Schools, initiated during the preparation of the First PIMo Training School in Museo Canario, Las Palmas, Spain (1-4 September 2021). The aim of the coordination was to collect and document experiences in order to create common protocols to be used by the network in all its future Training Schools. The Grantee has conducted activities which will provide the point of departure for the training school organizers and participants, aimed at generating capacity building and new skills (particularly communication skills).

The following outcomes were produced:

- 1) Self-evaluation and evaluation by the trainees of the First PIMo Training School in Museo Canario was conducted in the period from 10 to 30 of September, based on individual feedback from the trainees by way of a quantitative tool (an internet survey) as well as qualitative tools (final essays summarizing the meaning of the Training School for the research and career development of the trainees);
- 2) Feedback from the conveners and the trainers of the First PIMo Training School in Museo Canario was collected via email;
- 3) An evaluation report on the First PIMo Training School experience was prepared and shared in the Action Core Group on 4 October 2021. In the subsequent days, the report was also shared with the responsible organizers of the future training schools beyond the Core Group, including in particular the Tainings Schools planned by the WG Paper and WG Ideas; the report's contents were also included in the general Action report;
- 4) The evaluation report prepared in this grant includes format recommendations for the future training schools, identifies the challenges and suggests methods to cope with them;
- 5) Exchanges on the planning activities for the two forthcoming training schools were conducted by the grantee via email and Zoom conference in the second half of October 2021;

6) Contributions to be published in the visual reflections section of the PIMo website were prepared and submitted by three participants by the end of October 2021, to be published as soon as practicable.

Description of the benefits to the COST Action Strategy (what and how).

The actions taken under this VMG involved participation of scholars coming from three Inclusiveness Target Countries (Lithuania, Poland and Romania). The Grant did engage ITC researchers from the ITC countries in the dissemination activities of the Action and intensified their networking activity. Moreover, the grant produced ways of including early career researchers more not only in the training activities, but also in the following evaluation exchange as well as in the dissemination, encouraging your scholars to publish their reflections on the PIMo Website.

Six out of eight ERC who participated of the Training School subsequently applied for the membership in PIMo (MC vote pending as of 31 October 2021).

Description of the virtual collaboration (including constructive reflection on activities undertaken, identified successful practices and lessons learned).

The collaboration necessary to conduct the Canarias Training School was only possible thanks to virtual collaboration tools. It was an intensive exchanges, including the Canarias Training School's trainees, its co-conveners and trainers (as listed in the Grant Application) as well as the Leaders of PIMo Workgroups, the organisers of forthcoming schools, and other Action members who provided feedback on the evaluation report (in the meeting of the WG Ideas on 15 October 2021). The virtual collaboration under this grant has shown that intensive coordination and relentless communication activity of the coordinator is vital for virtual networking to succeed. It has also demonstrated the role of knowledge-gathering and sharing, both in the Core Group and in the WGs: the feedback from the organisers from the forthcoming training schools confirmed the benefits of producing a concise report on the organizational experience focusing on the formats applied, construing the timetables and addressing the needs of the participants. Those experiences were in turn only made possible by the previous virtual communications to which the trainers in the Canarias Training School contributed with their ideas as far as the workshop themes, general skills covered by training and teaching techniques were concerned. Suggestions for improvement were also collected as a part of the evaluation and some aspects of scheduling and planning in the Canarias School were identified as suboptimal. By reporting on them in a comprehensive form and sharing it in the Core Group and beyond, an effect of collective learning can be expected to have been achieved.