

# Report on the implementation of Virtual Networking Support<sup>1</sup>

Action number: CA 19130

Grantee name: Vasile Strat

## **Virtual Networking Support Details:**

Title: A strategy for online and hybrid activities to support an efficient CA19130

Start date: 02.07.2022

## **Reference to the Action strategy on virtual and hybrid networking (MC approved)**

The strategy is enclosed as Annex.

## **Description of Action benefits realised through virtual and hybrid networking activities**

The main benefit brought by this strategy was to foster interdisciplinary research cooperation for an efficient fulfilment of the CA19130 goals and objectives by using all the advantages provided by the online environment. Through the activities conducted during the VNS, an important number of researches was supported in the form of VMGs. This allowed researchers coming from different member countries, NNCs or international partners to get together and form diverse research teams to address the main goals and deliverables of the Action, like those of the working groups, the activity and strategy of the diversity team, while others helped at enhancing the relationship with the stakeholders.

The VNS has assisted researchers to connect and work in the online environment:

1. Support the hybrid format of all conferences and workshops to insure equal access probabilities to all CA19130 members, regardless of the country of origin, gender or research experience.
2. Facilitate the spread of excellence by financially supporting teams made up of different types of researchers, not only with diverse specialisation, but also with different characteristics like origin (ITC or non-ITC), seniority (students and ECIs), gender, etc.
3. Contribute to the Action's strategy by supporting the work of the Diversity team – 4 VMGs belong to this group. They were not only implemented for research purposes, but all the research was conducted with the goal of facilitating the entrance of students in research activities. Among these it is worth mentioning the Datathon organized by the Diversity Team, that was mostly conducted online. Following the Datathon, through the supported VMGs, winner students are now helped by the VMG teams (advised, coordinated, etc.) to publish their works in famous scientific journals. Additionally, due to this VNS strategy, the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Datathon is already launched.

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<sup>1</sup> This report is submitted by the grantee to the Action MC for approval and for claiming payment of the awarded grant. The Grant Awarding Coordinator coordinates the evaluation of this report on behalf of the Action MC and instructs the GH for payment of the Grant.

4. An important contribution of the VNS in respect to the deliverables was possible through the special calls for VMGs to solely address these. Already two such applications were accepted, dealing with the white paper in GDPR in AI and FinAI, and transparency.
5. A special VMG was created to coordinate and monitor in an online environment all the work related to having the required deliverables.

The VNS strategy also supported stakeholders' involvement in the Action, in two ways:

1. Through VMGs like the one of Codruța Mare, during which an important collection of national reports on the FinTech sector was constructed, along with enhancing the relationship with the FinTech companies, the banking sector and regulators, not only in Romania (for which the first FinTech Report was launched), but also from other countries, like Albania, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, etc.
2. Online meetings with the stakeholders to discuss relevant issues for the Action, special conference sessions dedicated to this, included.

Regardless of the main idea and the actual action taken, this VNS is efficient in popularizing the results. An important tool are the podcasts organized and coordinated by Vasile Strat, the VNS coordinator, during which the participants present their research results, opinion upon the Action's activities and strategies, etc.

### **Description of virtual and hybrid networking activities supported by the VNS**

Description of virtual and hybrid networking activities carried out by the VNS grantee in support to the COST Action to develop capacity in virtual and hybrid collaboration and networking and to increase Action impact and reach.

1. Support was provided with organising hybrid events when required by CA members.
2. Several calls for VMGs were created over the GP period and the evaluation of the submitted grants was performed and results were submitted to the GAC for approval. 12 VMGs applications were selected in several rounds.

The 12 grantees of the VMGs selected for this period are:

1. Belma OZTURKAL
2. Alessandra TANDA
3. Wolfgang HAERDLE
4. Albulena SHALA
5. Esra KABAKLARLI
6. Ioana COITA
7. Codruta MARE
8. Maria IANNARIO
9. Barbara Będowska-Sójka
10. D8 - Karolina Bolesta
11. GDPR - Maria Moloney
12. Codruta MARE - overview of deliverables

The distribution of the VMG is:

- 11 female CA members and 1 male member of the CA

- 7 grantees coming from ITC countries

3. The 12 selected VMGs were monitored over the entire period. At the end of the GP the 12 VMGs have submitted the final reports.

Details about the selected VMGs (except the two deliverables and the VMG monitoring them) were uploaded on the website of the CA - [Virtual Mobility Grants during 2022 – Fintech and Artificial Intelligence in Finance \(fin-ai.eu\)](#)

4. Support was provided for the evaluation of the deliverables created under the VMGs. There was an online evaluation collaborative tool created.
5. Support was provided to action members for applying to online networking tools. Online meetings and customised support over email was provided.
6. Support was provided for hybrid format meetings for diversity meetings and events.
7. When needed support was provided for other hybrid meetings of the CA, including the WG meetings
8. Support the online communication process within the Action and to the general public via the LinkedIn Channel of the CA.

Example: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6991732687350730752>

### **Other Activities performed in support to the Action**

Description of any other activities performed by the VNS grantee, if relevant.

Over the period of the grant several podcasts were created for increasing the visibility of the activity of the members of the network both in the network and outside. The podcasts were also used for engaging stakeholders. Six podcasts were created and four have been already edited and uploaded on the website of the action ([Our Podcast – Fintech and Artificial Intelligence in Finance \(fin-ai.eu\)](#)). The activity will also continue and several other podcasts will be recorded, edited and uploaded on the website of the CA and further presented on the LinkedIn channel.

1. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=7&v=wCCRxaMP0sw&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=7&v=wCCRxaMP0sw&feature=emb_logo)

2. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=7&v=wCCRxaMP0sw&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=7&v=wCCRxaMP0sw&feature=emb_logo)

3. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7iWPovSxokl&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7iWPovSxokl&feature=emb_logo)

4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TyaZgtOAtRQ>

## Virtual Network Strategy (VNS)

The objectives of the VNS are:

- to increase both internal and external visibility of the COST ACTION,
- to give more structure to the large network virtual activities and events.

The activities that will be performed within this strategy are:

### Online activities

1. Cross-publish content from Wiki, Web-page and MeetUp on LinkedIn and Twitter.
2. Identify Social Media Champions for each WG so that more visibility can be produced for the activity of the WGs.
3. Develop with the help of VMG content for the Social media, Wiki, Webpage and Meetup of the Cost Action.
4. Diversify information published on Social Media of the Project in order to engage external stakeholders.

### Marketing material

1. Create podcasts with action members and VMGs grantees
2. Support the engagement with external stakeholders (hybrid events and Podcasts)