

## 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: 18236**

**VM grant title: Approaching the social innovation through the legislative and executive mechanisms of the European Union**

**VM grant start and end date: 22/10/2021 to 28/10/2021**

**Grantee name: Maria Diacon**

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

The virtual mobility was a real opportunity to analyse social innovation through the legislative and executive mechanisms of the European Union. At the level of the European Union there are a series of initiatives that support social innovations and, as a result, allow the development of society. First of all, it was attested that social innovation, as a definition, as it appears in the description of the COST CA 18236 action, is very close to the definition placed on the official website of the European Union. Social innovations are new ideas that meet social needs, create social relationships and form new collaborations. These innovations can be products, services or models addressing unmet needs more effectively. The European Commission's objective is to encourage market uptake of innovative solutions and stimulate employment.

As a result of the research carried out through virtual mobility, we have attested that the legislative mechanisms through which the substantiation of this field takes place are expressed through the legislative initiatives of the European Commission. After all, it is the European Commissioner who has the majority leverage in this field and she determines the directions for the evolution and development of social innovations.

The executive mechanisms for achieving and implementing social innovations can be described through three general objectives:

- promoting social innovation as a source of growth and jobs
- sharing information about social innovation in Europe
- supporting innovative entrepreneurs and mobilizing investors and public organizations.

The European Commission is making major efforts to develop the community, implicitly, in terms of social innovations. Moreover, these innovations go beyond the borders of the European Union and become valid for the associated states. The case of the Republic of Moldova is an emblematic one, because here we can identify social innovations such as energy efficiency and electronic population documentation services, projects carried out with the financial support of the European Union.

The results of virtual mobility can be expressed through a deeper knowledge of the approach to social innovations in the European Union, allows the identification of edifying examples of social innovations in the Republic of Moldova and increases the quality of research under the COST Action CA 18236.

All the theses identified in the framework of virtual mobility will be reflected in a future scientific article with the same name as the name of virtual mobility: Approaching the social innovation through the

legislative and executive mechanisms of the European Union.

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

Virtual mobility is a real possibility to expand scientific research and collaborate with foreign entities. The global pandemic has closed its borders, and with them, the possibilities for cooperation with partners in other countries have been limited. Face-to-face communication and cooperation is now being replaced by online communication, but this does not reduce the quality and quantity of scientific research. In my case, I worked with resources placed on official websites of the responsible authorities in social innovation, both at European and national level, so physical contact was not so relevant.

I chose to conduct research in the field of social innovation because this is a relevant field of any nation, having a huge impact on the degree of development. Social innovation allows us to live in a better and more elevate society. The research brought to the fore the legislative and executive mechanisms of the European Union in developing social innovation, because these are a key factor in the development of society, so it is worth combining all research efforts to see how much does the European Union support this area of activity. The global Coronavirus pandemic shows everyone that only through effective collaboration and teamwork can good results be achieved in combating crises that affect all partners, regardless of level of development and geographical location. Research conducted through virtual mobility in the digital library of the European Union has added value to the main objectives of CA 18236 and stimulated new research segments for the future.

I believe that the coordinators of the action must expand the possibilities for achieving online mobility because it keep the researchers connected to the objectives of the action. They are available to all members and can bring to the fore ideas kept only in the laboratory. Along with training schools and STSM, virtual mobility offers the opportunity to grow professionally and improve our experience of cooperation and research, either individually or as a team.

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

The virtual collaboration was achieved through multiple access to the European Union database, placed on the official website [www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu), where we analyzed publications in the field of social innovation, programs, decisions, recommendations, directives, reflections. The objective of the research was narrow and focused only on materials that had as content the legislative and executive mechanisms of the European Union in approaching the social innovation. We also noticed the capacity of the authorities to adapt the social innovation sector to the new requirements and evolutions of the global pandemic. The conclusions and lessons learned from this research are multiple. First of all, we attested, once again, that the level of development of the state determines the level of development of social innovation. In European Union member states with increased economic potential, social innovation has been easily connected to the new conditions imposed by the global pandemic. The level of digitization in European states is a continuous process and permits a rapid evolution of social innovation. In the Republic of Moldova, the digitalization is a novelty, and the pandemic has found the country partially unprepared to deal with social innovation.

Another thorough lesson offered by the research is the fact that the Republic of Moldova must gather all efforts to move from the status of an associated state to the status of an integrated state in the European Union. The crises faced together will be easier to manage, and the legislative provisions of the European Union, in the field of social innovation, for example, may be easier to connect to national legislation.

The good practices of this virtual mobility are valid both for researchers and for members of society in general. For researchers, virtual mobility is a new opportunity to conduct thematic research and present the results in individual or joint publications. This is a new possibility to move from classical research, with physical contact, to distance research, with cooperation through IT resources. Remote cooperation does not limit the quality and quantity of scientific results, in areas where remote research allows this, of course. For members of society in general, it is an added value because they do not stay out of research processes, or they are not limited to scientific research news.

Along with the training schools and STSM, the virtual mobilities come to complete the general objectives of the action and to allow it a lively, competent and full of interest character. Members of the action remain connected to it and continue to invest in their professional growth.