

Report on the outcomes of a Virtual Mobility¹

Action number: CA23113

Grantee name: Vladyslav Baranov

Virtual Mobility Details

Title: Understanding Eco-Anxiety in Ukraine: Qualitative Research within COST Action CA23113 WG1

Start and end date: 01/07/2025 to 10/10/2025

Description of the work carried out during the VM

Description of the virtual collaboration and activities carried out during the VM, with focus on the work carried out by the grantee. Any deviations from the initial working plan shall also be described in this section.

(max. 500 words)

The Virtual Mobility (VM) project aimed to prepare and coordinate the Ukrainian segment of the WG1 qualitative study on eco-anxiety, aligned with COST Action CA23113 objectives on mapping the psychological impacts of climate change across Europe.

During the VM, the grantee completed all necessary preparatory and conduct tasks. Ethical approval for the study was obtained from the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Psychology, V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University (Protocol No. 17, 30 June 2025). During the WG1 online meetings on 26 June, 31 July, and 25 September 2025, the study sample was agreed to include three groups across participating countries, with at least four respondents per group: (1) climate activists, (2) members of the general population, and (3) professionals working in governmental institutions or agencies dealing with climate-related issues.

The grantee established contacts and collaborations with Ukrainian environmental organizations, including the Ukrainian Climate Network, Zero Waste Alliance Ukraine, Let's Do It Ukraine, and the Ukrainian Ecological Club "Green Wave," to recruit climate activists (n=4; 3 men, 1 woman). Recruitment of the general public (n=4; 2 men, 2 women) was carried out via the online platform Kabanchik.ua. Professionals (n=4; 1 climatologist, 2 forecasters, and 1 station manager, all women) were recruited through the Rivne Regional Hydrometeorological Center, following direct contact established with its director.

¹ 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.

In total, 12 semi-structured interviews were conducted online via Zoom between late September and mid-October 2025, following the final approval of the interview guide at the WG1 workshop on 25 September 2025 (the reason for the extension of the work completion date within the grant period, as communicated to Dr. Burkauskas). The interviews were transcribed using the Transcriptor software, manually corrected for accuracy, anonymized, and securely stored. Field notes were completed to ensure transparency.

The grantee is actively contributing to the editing and refinement of the WG1 codebook as one of the coders within the Working Group. The coding process remains uncompleted as the codebook is being finalized collaboratively. Coding is ongoing in accordance with WG1's collective timeline (deadline 15 December 2025), and thematic analysis is scheduled for completion by 31 December 2025, also in coordination with WG1. These steps remain fully aligned with the Action's internal schedule, and the subsequent measures for ensuring trustworthiness (triangulation, member checking, audit trail, etc.) will be applied upon the finalization of the analysis. These revised timelines do not constitute deviations from the approved WG1 work plan.

Additionally, the grantee submitted an abstract entitled "*The Relationship between Stress, Eco-Anxiety, Religiosity, and Spirituality in Ukraine: A Study of Mental Models*" for oral presentation at the 3rd International Psychology Conference in Oxford (online, 24–26 October 2025). The abstract successfully passed double-blind peer review and was accepted for presentation.

Overall, all preparatory, ethical, and methodological phases, as well as participant recruitment, data collection, and initial processing, were successfully completed during the VM period. The collaboration with WG1 members and local stakeholders has ensured that the Ukrainian dataset is methodologically rigorous, culturally relevant, and integrated into the broader COST Action CA23113 research framework.

Description of the VM main achievements and planned follow-up activities

Description and assessment of whether the VM achieved its planned goals and expected outcomes, including specific contribution to Action objective and deliverables, or publications resulting from the VM. Agreed plans for future follow-up collaborations shall also be described in this section.

(max. 500 words)

The Virtual Mobility (VM) project successfully achieved its planned preparatory and data collection objectives. All ethical, organizational, and methodological tasks required for conducting qualitative research in Ukraine were completed as scheduled. The Ukrainian segment now provides a complete set of 12 semi-structured interviews, transcribed, anonymized, and securely stored, ensuring high methodological rigor and compliance with ethical standards. The mandatory communication activity has been completed, with the dissemination material attached as a supplementary file ("Supplement for CliMent Website") and the post published on LinkedIn: [\[hyperlink\]](#). The collaboration with WG1 members and local environmental stakeholders has ensured cultural relevance of the data and full integration into the broader COST Action CA23113 research framework.

The submission and acceptance of the abstract "*The Relationship between Stress, Eco-Anxiety, Religiosity, and Spirituality in Ukraine: A Study of Mental Models*" for oral presentation at the 3rd International Psychology Conference in Oxford (online, 24–26 October 2025) represents a first tangible output from the VM. This demonstrates the readiness of the Ukrainian dataset to contribute to WG1 deliverables and ongoing discussions on eco-anxiety in the COST Action context.

While the coding process and thematic analysis are still in progress, these activities are fully aligned with WG1 timelines (coding deadline: 15 December 2025; thematic analysis deadline: 31 December 2025). The grantee actively participates in editing and refining the WG1 codebook, ensuring methodological consistency and reliability of the forthcoming analyses.

Planned follow-up activities include:

1. Completion of coding and thematic analysis in coordination with WG1 members, applying all necessary trustworthiness measures (member checking, triangulation, audit trail) and ensuring full documentation of the process to maintain transparency and reproducibility

2. Integration of qualitative findings with ongoing systematic reviews and survey tasks within WG1. The results will directly contribute to Deliverable D1.2—a scientific paper presenting qualitative insights to guide the selection of measures for the upcoming T1.2 survey.
3. Dissemination of results through conference presentation, joint publications, and engagement with Ukrainian environmental stakeholders to enhance regional research capacity and inform interventions addressing eco-anxiety.
4. Continued collaboration within COST Action CA23113, strengthening international networks, methodological alignment, and data comparability across participating countries.

Overall, the VM has laid a solid foundation for producing rigorous qualitative insights on eco-anxiety in Ukraine. It has contributed directly to WG1 objectives by generating methodologically robust data, fostering professional development of the grantee, and supporting future international collaboration and dissemination activities within the COST Action framework.