

PREDIS

Deliverable 3.6

Priority list and mobility formats

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<p>Abstract</p> <p>This deliverable provides an overview about the priorities and expectations from the PREDIS mobility programme, followed by the basic rules on how the mobility grants will be launched and administered.</p> <p>An internal survey in the first 6 months of the project from survey within PREDIS partners clearly showed that knowledge transfer in the form of mobility measures is a priority. Most of expected mobility applicants are PhD students and post docs. The survey also showed that there exists a wide pool of potential mobility hosting institutes within PREDIS participants.</p> <p>Mobility grants will be issued using the online PREDIS mobility portal four times per year. Mobility funding applications will be evaluated by the Mobility evaluation team, consisting the applicants CV, motivation letter, detailed budget, description of proposed activity and letter of support from the host institution in the case of an internship. The following types of mobility measures will be supported: visit, internship, course/training, conference/workshop. The mobility costs within the allocated budget will be reimbursed to the partner on the basis of annual financial reporting. Each mobility payment will be dependent on the applicant's submission of a final mission report.</p>

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1 Introduction

The **PREDIS** project develops and increases the Technological Readiness Level (TRL) of treatment and conditioning methodologies for radioactive wastes for which no adequate or industrially mature solutions are currently available, including metallic materials, liquid organic waste and solid organic waste. The **PREDIS** project also develops innovations in cemented waste handling and pre-disposal storage by testing and evaluating. The PREDIS project targets the development and implementation of activities for pre-disposal treatment of radioactive waste streams other than nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

The technical [Work Packages](#) align with priorities formulated within the EURAD Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) Theme 2 (<https://www.ejp-eurad.eu/>), within the EURAD Roadmap and with those priorities identified by the PREDIS project's industrial End Users Group (EUG). PREDIS will produce tools guiding decision-making on the added value of the developed technologies and their impact on the design, safety and economics of waste management and disposal.

PREDIS will liaise with the **EURAD EJP** (European Joint Program on Radioactive Waste) to be complimentary to areas including the adaptation and update of the reference founding documents of the EURAD EJP (vision, roadmap, governance and implementation mechanisms), and the organisation of training courses and mobility training schemes to enhance sharing and preservation of knowledge.

To help achieve these objectives, the PREDIS Mobility Programme was established.

2 Mobility programme

PREDIS has special interest in setting up and implementing training and mobility programmes to allow newcomers and new generations to acquire the level of knowledge needed to develop their professional careers in the different subjects related to the pre-disposal of radioactive waste.

The Mobility Programme is developed and implemented according to the defined specific needs and requests that arise within the PREDIS project. The Mobility Programme focuses on:

- Mapping of mobility needs, targeting pre-disposal activities within the waste generator's community and the research and development (RD&D) Work Packages (WP).
- Launching a priority list on mobility needs and opportunities, based on mapping within potential users and hosting institutions (this Deliverable 3.6, original at Month 9 and updated at Month 24).
- Targeting young professionals associated with PREDIS participating organisations.
- Implementation of Mobility Programme (Deliverable 3.7) by means of:
 1. Providing access and assistance to short or long-term internships (suggested time frame of 1 to 6 weeks) at organisations specialised in pre-disposal waste management RD&D.
 2. Providing access to organisations with tools/codes that are needed to advance the work in the PREDIS project RD&D Work Packages.
 3. Providing funding for attending conferences and workshops in the field of pre-disposal waste management.
- Evaluation of mobility effectiveness, based on grantee and host organisation feedback.

Thus, the Mobility Programme will also support short stays in other institutions to develop specific research of interest for both the sending and hosting organisations, the one sending the grantee and the one receiving it, as well as attendance at training courses or conferences related to the aims of the PREDIS project if budget allows.

2.1 Mobility priority

The mapping of PREDIS partners' needs and availability to receive grantees was made in the first months of the project through different types of surveys including discussions during the project workshops and webinars, on-line survey of all partners, and via direct contacts to PREDIS partners.

In the following lines, the results obtained from the survey distributed to PREDIS partners is presented. The survey was answered by 28 partners from 25 organisations. Organisations that participate in the survey are

from 13 different countries and they represent different organisation types: waste generator, waste owner, research entity, university and other. It is worth mentioning that all PREDIS WPs have been represented in the survey with higher participation from partners working in the technical work-packages, where more training and mobility actions are foreseen.

The survey included questions related to training and mobility, however only results concerning mobility are presented here. The following questions were asked:

- Does anyone in your institution plan to apply for mobility measures within PREDIS project?
- What type of mobility format do you intend to apply for (visit, internship, on-the-job training, conference or exchange of lecturers and/or learners)?
- What type of position do those persons hold who are intending to apply for mobility within PREDIS represent (MSc student, PhD, post doc, junior, senior)?
- Are you able to **host any** mobility type? What type of expertise are you able to transfer within this exchange? What type of mobility format can you host?

2.1.1 Mobility plans at the outskirts of PREDIS project

50% of participants (14 out of 28 participants) replied that they envisage a mobility within PREDIS. From the positive answers, most of the survey attendees expect that the applicant would be predominantly PhD students, followed by post-docs and junior employees – see Figure 1.

Hereby **the knowledge transfer to the young generation clearly proves to be a priority** for PREDIS participants.

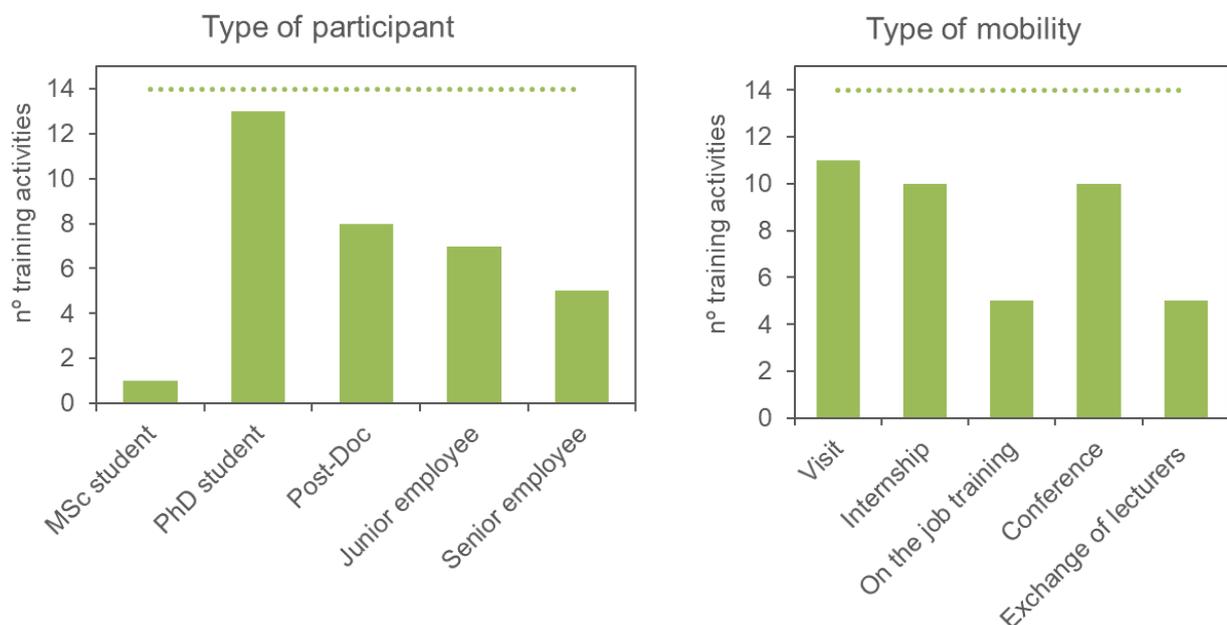


Figure 1. Mobility priorities, based on PREDIS participant survey: type of mobility presumed and potential participants.

The most expected forms of mobility were the following: **Visit**, then **Internship**, followed by **Conference/Workshop** mobility (see Figure 1).

2.1.2 Potential to provide mobility

Furthermore, the Survey results showed that there exists a wide pool of potential mobility that can be provided by PREDIS partners. The most institutions can provide on the job training, followed by both internships and visits. PREDIS partners have a higher capacity to provide mobility activities on the following topics:

Characterisation of waste, Processing & conditioning, Transport & storage and finally Radiation protection – see Figure 2.

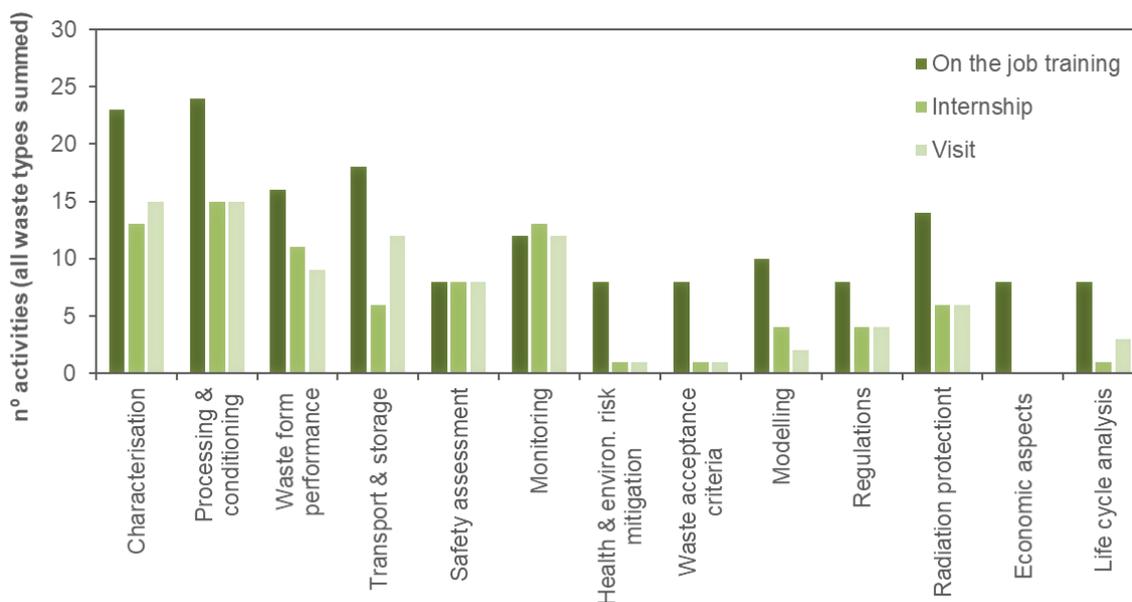


Figure 2. Mobility priorities, based on PREDIS participant survey: type of mobility presumed and potential participants.

3 Mobility Programme scheme

The main source of information on the Mobility Programme is the PREDIS Mobility Manual that will be issued as an individual PREDIS document and distributed to PREDIS partners. It will include detailed guidance on how to apply, including the proposal and budget templates.

3.1 What types of mobility?

The following forms of mobility are included into the PREDIS Mobility Programme:

- **Visit** = a short stay during which the visitor observes the activities performed at a certain institute or company.
- **Internship** = a period of time during when a student or a professional participates in the local activities at a certain institute or company in order to increase knowledge and /or skills. In case of reciprocal internships (person A from institute X visiting institute Y and person B from institute Y visiting institute X dealing with the same scientific/technical subject) we use the terminology “exchange programme”.
- **Course/Training** = a set of classes or a plan of study on a particular subject, optionally with an assessment to measure the gained competences, leading to a qualification. Hands-on training is a training method where the participant learns his/her job by performing job duties under a supervisor's guidance.
- **Conferences/Workshops** = an attendance at scientific or technology events outside PREDIS; attendance costs would be provided to those who would not be otherwise able to cover the anticipated budget.

3.2 Who can apply?

The PREDIS Mobility Programme is intended for those who would like to improve their knowledge and skills in the field of **pre-disposal treatment of radioactive waste streams, other than nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.**

Especially **PhD students, postdocs and junior/senior professionals/researchers** are eligible to receive financial support through PREDIS Mobility Programme. **Applicants should be affiliated to partners of the PREDIS project.**

The mobility grant is **only granted**:

- To applicants proposing activities related to the scope/themes of PREDIS.
- For travel outside the country of residence, but within the European Union.
- Once per call; If the application is not accepted, it can be resubmitted.
- To a successful candidate, even in case of repeated application (one can receive the grant more than once), however the priority will be given to those who have not receiving the funding before.
- If the quality of the proposal/training/benefits/motivation/impact is found significant and is approved by the Mobility Evaluation Committee.
- If the mobility activity is shorter than 1 year.
- If the activity starts within 15 months after the application was accepted.
- The mobility activity must end at least 3 months before the PREDIS project ends, in order to report of the mobility action before end of PREDIS in August 2024.

Only complete applications will be considered. To successful applicants, the PREDIS Mobility Programme will provide mobility grants intended exclusively to cover mobility costs. For cost reimbursement see Section 3.5.

3.3 What is covered?

The PREDIS Mobility Programme will cover exclusively expenses related to mobility costs and access/registration fees. These include:

- **Travel costs (e.g. round-trip flight, train, bus tickets)**
- **Daily allowance as per organisation's internal travel rules (e.g. meal costs)**
- **Accommodation costs**
- **Registration fees for conferences, workshops and training courses (outside of PREDIS events)**
- **Indirect costs (flat rate 25% for all organisations).**

All personnel costs incurred from the visit/exchange visit are to be covered by the applicant organisation's budget, meaning no personnel costs are to be budgeted in the application. Potential other costs related to the mobility action are to be covered by the applicant's home organisation.

PREDIS mobility actions can cover both actions within PREDIS project (internal PREDIS mobility) or out-of-PREDIS mobility (external PREDIS mobility). Internal mobility action can be either within one WP or cross WPs (between different WPs).

The Mobility Programme costs are associated with WP3 budget, thus reimbursed at 100% EC funding rate.

3.4 What budget is included in the grant award?

Actual eligible direct costs, with the 25% flat rate for indirect costs, are to be budgeted. Travel costs are to be budgeted using the organisation's usual travel methods, daily allowances, local transportation etc.

However, there are proposed maximum ceilings for the requested EC contribution. These maximums include flights, local transportation, accommodation, daily allowances and, where applicable, registration fees, but are for direct costs only, so the flat rate of 25% for indirect costs will be automatically added to these direct costs:

- **1 950,- Euro/week including registration fee**
- **1 450,- Euro/week without registration fee**

with 3 000,- Euro maximum per stay.

The above mentioned are the proposed maximum EC contribution an applicant can budget in their application for travel, daily allowance and/or accommodation. The applicants should be encouraged to prepare the budget with estimations of actual figures, taking into account the realism of planned expenses as much as possible.

However, the Mobility Evaluation Committee reserves the right to adjust the requested amount according to the realism of the application or the number of applications etc.

3.5 How to apply?

The support for mobility actions will be based on following steps (see Figure 3):

- 1) Submission of the application
- 2) Evaluation by the Evaluation Committee
- 3) Application and funding approval by Mobility Evaluation Committee
- 4) Mobility action (visit, internship, training, etc)
- 5) Reporting (Mission Report)
- 6) Cost reimbursement on the basis of PREDIS periodic reporting to the EC.

The application will be submitted through the [PREDIS MOBILITY PORTAL](#), built in cooperation with WP13 EURAD in EVALATO tool.

The call for open mobility grant applicants will be announced at PREDIS workshops, newsletters and on the PREDIS website. The mobility grant application period will remain open (see '**When to apply**') between July 2021 and May 2024, or as long as funds are available.

Besides filling out an application form, applicants will be asked to submit additional supporting documents:

- **Curriculum Vitae** (max 1.5 pages, references including);
- **Motivation letter** (how will this action improve the candidate's knowledge, skills and competitiveness; max 1 page);
- **Letter of support of the supervisor / WP leader**; In case of internship, a letter shall also be provided from the receiving institution and mentor, clearly expressing the value of the proposed mobility action; max. 1 page per letter;
- **Detailed budget** covering all expected costs (in an excel template);
- **Description of the proposed activity** (max 1.5 pages).

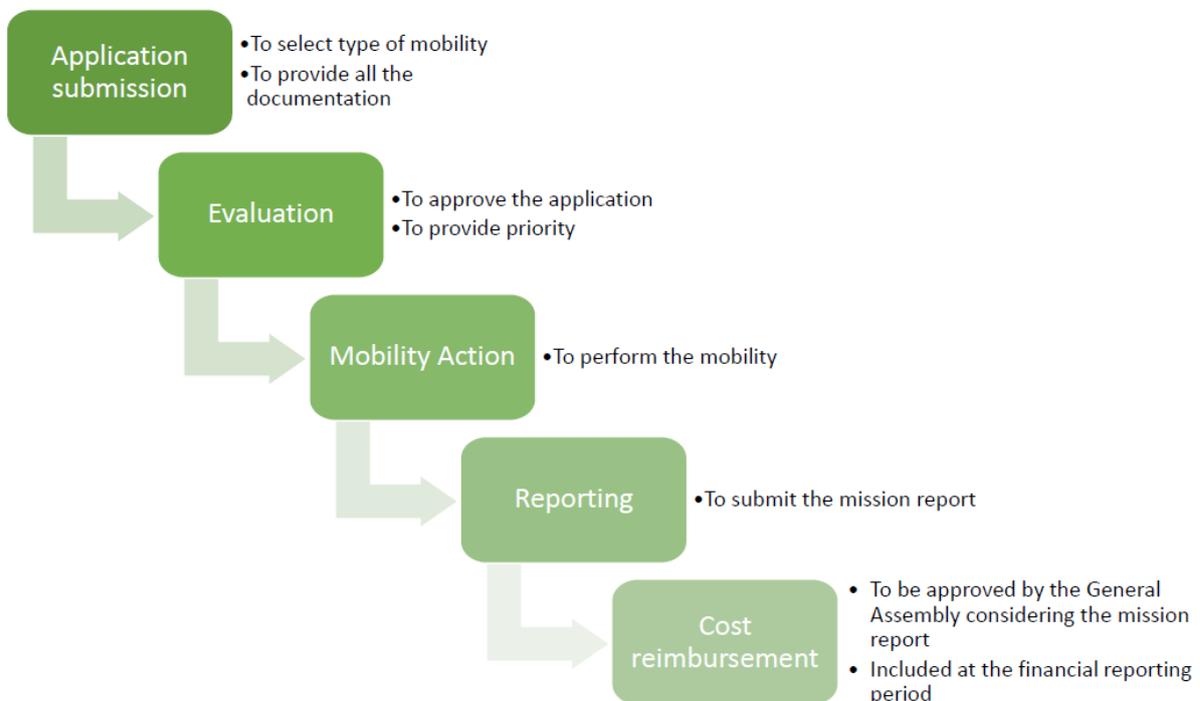


Figure 3. PREDIS mobility application scheme.

3.6 How the financing proceeds?

The Partner organisation's PREDIS budget will be updated and increased based on accepted applications. The Evaluation Committee makes the decisions on successful applications, and the final approval and budget update will be made approximately once a year to the EC via the Grant Agreement amendment process, meaning that the final approval of all applications is subject to EC approval of the amendment. The Grant Agreement amendment is subject to General Assembly approval as per the Consortium Agreement. However, the EC and GA decisions are done retrospectively, and the mobility can start prior to them.

The financing will proceed as follows:

- PREDIS partner (person) applies for a Mobility grant;
- The application is evaluated (see 'Submission and Evaluation');
- Mobility Evaluation Committee informs the applicant of approval/refusal, and of the awarded amount;
- Increase of the awarded grant is made to the partner organisation's budget via the official amendment to the EC, approximately once a year;
- Mobility participant performs the mobility action;
- Mobility participant completes the Mobility action report;
- PREDIS partner reports the actual incurred costs, irrelevant of the budgeted costs, in their next EC periodic report as WP3 cost (see ARTICLE 20 — REPORTING — PAYMENT REQUESTS of the PREDIS Grant Agreement) via the 'partner individual financial statement' submitted by each Partner, claimed as all other costs associated to PREDIS. The costs have to have incurred during the project reporting period.
- There is no extra payment to cover specifically the mobility costs, but the reimbursement of actual costs is included in the regular Interim or Final Payment to partners, subject to EC approval of Periodic Reports, including the Periodic Financial Reports.

3.7 When to apply (Deadlines)?

The following submission and decision deadlines are valid for the mobility applications.

Submission deadlines:

August 31st, 2021
December 31st, 2021
March 28th, 2022
June 30th, 2022

Decision deadlines:

September 30th, 2021
January 31st, 2022
April 31st, 2022
July 31st, 2022 (*continuing*)

Following the same scheme as noted above with 4 calls per year until Month 43 (March 2024), when the last grant call will be issued.

All of the mobility actions must be closed before May 31, 2024 (Month 45) of PREDIS so that the mission report is submitted latest by June 30, 2024 (Month 46) and can be evaluated until July 31, 2024 (Month 47).

Each applicant can only submit **one application within one application period. In case an application is refused, it is possible to re-submit a revised application.**

The decision about the grant will be made within 1 month after the closing the application deadline by the Mobility Evaluation Committee. The PREDIS General Assembly will be required to give this decision mandate to the Mobility Evaluation Committee, retrospectively, if needed. However, the final budget transfer approval decision made by the GA and EC is still required.

4 Evaluation process

4.1 Form of evaluation

Decision of the Mobility grant approval will be made by a **Mobility Evaluation Committee**, based on a mandate, to be given by the GA.

Internal PREDIS WP mobility applications (see Section 3.3 for definition) will be evaluated by the related WP leaders, assisted by two WP3 partners. **All other PREDIS mobility action** applications will be evaluated by members of the PREDIS Mobility Evaluation Committee (see Section 4.2), and the PREDIS Management Team (see Table 1) according to the pre-defined criteria, listed in Table 2.

In case of internship, a member of the hosting institution (hosting mentor) will be invited to the evaluation process.

A recommendation for funding will be based on simple majority, with at least three evaluators participating in the evaluation.

Table 1. Evaluation team representatives in the case of each mobility submission type.

	WP3 representatives	WP lead/representative*	Host organisation	MT team
PREDIS Internal mobility: Internal WP mobility	2	1		
PREDIS Internal mobility Internal WP: Internship	2	1	1	
PREDIS Internal mobility: Cross WP mobility	2	2		
PREDIS Internal mobility Cross WP Internship	2	2	1	
External PREDIS WP mobility application	2	1		1
External PREDIS WP mobility application: Internship	2	1	1	1

*Note: WP representative has to be from different organisation that the applicant.

Evaluation criteria for mobility application are listed in Table 2.

Table 2. Evaluation criteria for each mobility application.

	Evaluation criteria for mobility application			
	1 (Vague)	2 (Fair)	3 (Well fitting)	4 (Perfectly fitting)
Relevance to PREDIS Objectives	1 (Vague)	2 (Fair)	3 (Well fitting)	4 (Perfectly fitting)
Scientific background	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Excellent)
Motivation:	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Excellent)
Level of recommendation (by the internal supervisor, by receiving mentor and by the host institute):	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Excellent)
Effectiveness of mobility	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Excellent)
Potential research outcomes	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Excellent)
Personal development outcomes	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Excellent)
Link to aims of the projects	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Excellent)

	Evaluation criteria for mobility application			
Has the applicant received another PREDIS grant? (Y/N)	0 (Yes)	4 (No)		
Would the applicant be able to complete the mobility action if no funding is available? (Y/N)	0 (No)	1 (Yes)		
Can the participant's organisation contribute to funding the mobility action?	0 (None contribution)	1 (Yes, small contribution)	2 (Yes, moderate contribution)	3 (Yes, important contribution)
In case of internships/exchange programmes/visit, the host institution can unilaterally decide to decline certain candidates.				

4.2 Mobility Evaluation Committee

The members of the Mobility Evaluation Committee will be comprised of representatives from:

WP3 Coordinators

Paul Carbol (JRC)

Alba Valls (Amphos21)

Vaclava Havlova (UJV Rež)

WP leaders

Anthony Banford (NNL)

Bernd Grambow or depute **Abdesselam Abdelouas** (Subatech)

Maxime Fournier or depute **David Lambertin** (CEA)

Thierry Mennecart (SCK CEN)

Ernst Niederleithinger or depute **Christian Koepp** (BAM)

MT team

Maria Oksa or depute **Erika Holt** (VTT)

5 What the applicant must fulfil (Mission report)?

Successful applicants are obliged to submit a Mission report (template is available) not later than 30 days after completion of the mobility activity. The report should be sent to predis-mobility@vtt.fi.

The mission reports will be stored during the PREDIS project and will serve as valuable input for evaluation of the PREDIS Mobility Programme. The Mission report must be written in the provided template.

6 Dissemination of Mobility outcomes/publications

All publications or dissemination of results, resulting from the mobility activities, shall acknowledge the PREDIS Mobility Programme by using the following sentence:

This project has received funding from the Euratom research and training programme 2019-2020 under Grant Agreement No 945098.