

## **Call for Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM) Applications**

### **Call Number 1**

1st Call for STSM Applications **for Missions occurring until 31st October 2021.**

All STSM activities must occur in their entirety until the date specified above.

### **PURPOSE OF A SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM)**

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) are institutional visits aimed at supporting individual mobility, fostering collaboration between individuals. The Guidelines for Action Management, Monitoring and Assessment should be followed to ensure the proper implementation of this networking instrument.

### **STSM - ELIGIBILITY RULES**

STSM applicants must be engaged in an official research programme as a PhD Student or postdoctoral fellow or can be employed by, or affiliated to, an institution, organisation or legal entity which has within its remit a clear association with performing research. The institutions / organisation or legal entity where applicants pursue their main strand of research are considered as Home Institutions. The Host Institution is the institution / organisation that will host the successful applicant.

Participation of "Early Career Investigators" (ECI) in STSM is particularly encouraged. An applicant can be considered as being an ECI when the time that has elapsed between the award date of the applicants PhD and the date of the applicants first involvement in the COST Action does not exceed 8 years.

### **Specific information concerning STSM**

STSMs can have a duration of between 5 days and 90 days (and up to 180 days if the applicant is an ECI – see definition of ECI above).

The financial support is a contribution to the overall expenses incurred during the STSM and may not necessarily cover all of the associated outgoings.

The following funding conditions that are in compliance with the Vademecum apply and must be respected:

1. up to a maximum of EUR 3 500 in total can be afforded to each successful STSM applicant;
2. up to a maximum of EUR 160 per day can be afforded for accommodation and meal expenses;
3. STSM activities must occur in their entirety within the dates specified in this call.

Financial support is limited to cover travel, accommodation and meal expenses and is paid in the form of a Grant.

The amounts granted for each individual STSM will be determined during the evaluation process by the STSM committee. The selection of applicants is based on the scientific scope of the STSM application which must clearly complement the overall objectives of the Action and be related to a specific Working Group.

#### DEADLINE:

Interested researchers can apply by following the instructions provided below and submitting their application and supporting documents by the deadline of the **30th June 2021**.

#### WHO CAN APPLY:

Available STMS scenarios:

The following table shows the scenarios available to eligible STSM applicants:

Applicant's Home Institution	STSM Host Institution
Located in a Participating COST Full Member / COST Cooperating Member	Located in another Participating COST Full Member / COST Cooperating Member
	Located in a Participating COST Partner Member
	Action MC Observer from IPC
	Action MC Observer from NNC
	The EU Commission or an EU Body, Office or Agency
	An Approved European RTD Organisation
	An Approved International Organisation
Action MC Observer from NNC	Located in a Participating COST Full Member / COST Cooperating Member
Located in an Approved European RTD Organisation	Located in a Participating COST Full Member / COST Cooperating Member

Eligible STSM applicants shall submit their STSM applications online at the following web address: <https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>.

#### HOW TO APPLY:

The application process in details is as follows:

1. All applicants must carefully read the funding rules detailed in Section 8 of the COST Vademecum. This document is available [here](#).
2. All applicants must register for an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/> - adding their bank account details to their profile.
3. The applicant must obtain a letter of invitation from the Host institution confirming that he/she can undertake the STSM on the given dates prior to submitting an application.
4. The applicant must complete and submit his/her STSM application online at: [www.cost.eu/STSM](http://www.cost.eu/STSM).

## CONTACTS:

**STSM Coordinator - Prof. Jukka Viljanen – [jukka.viljanen@tuni.fi](mailto:jukka.viljanen@tuni.fi)**

Chair of the Management Committee of the Action - Prof. Mart Susi -

## EVALUATION

The applications will be assessed by the STSM Committee, which will perform the scientific and budgetary assessment of the applications against the perceived contribution that the proposed visit will make against the scientific objectives outlined in the Action's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

STSM Committee consists of the Action Chair Mart Susi, Action Vice Chair Vygantė Milašiūtė and STSM Coordinator Jukka Viljanen. WG Leaders relevant to the STSM topic/plan may be consulted if needed.

### **Evaluation criteria:**

Scientific quality of the proposal. The scientific level of the project and how it is correlated to the aims of the GDHR Network Action

The STSM should contribute to the scientific objectives of GDHR Network. The selection of applicants is based on the scientific aims and scope of the STSM application which must clearly compliment the overall objectives of GDHR Network.

Candidate ranking will be done by summing up the scores of the whole research proposal and its individual parts (see below) on a 0-3 scale (3 = outstanding, 2 = excellent, 1 = average, 0 = insufficient).

## WHAT IS REQUIRED AFTER COMPLETING THE STMS:

Within 30 days from the end date of the STSM, the successful applicant must submit a scientific report to the Host institution and to the eCOST system. The STSM reports will be public and published in Action website.

The scientific report should cover statement of achieving the project aims, description of the work carried out and the outcome/results, expected publications that may arise from the STSM (if applicable).

The applicant is also responsible for acquiring an official acceptance letter / Email confirmation of acceptance from a senior Researcher affiliated to the Host institution formally accepting the scientific report.

Failure to submit the scientific report within 30 days from the end date of the STSM will effectively cancel the Grant.

(Please note that the COST Association can request additional information to substantiate the information contained within the documents submitted by STSM applicants).

**Deadline for applications to be submitted: until 30th June 2021**

Expected date of notification of application outcome:  
up to two weeks from receiving the application

**Period of STSM: until 31st October 2021**