DECOLONISING DEVELOPMENT:

RESEARCH, TEACHING AND PRACTICE

OPEN CALL for SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS (STSM)

FIRST CALL: October 2021

Those interested in submitting an application should consult the CA19129 STSM Guidelines for details about eligibility, grants, and criteria for evaluation of applications/proposals and how to apply. The COST Action CA19129 has three working groups. STSMs are considered a great opportunity for participants to focus their work in research interests that have been highlighted by WGs or introduce new ones in light of the COST Action objectives. For details of the working groups visit https://decolonise.eu/

During the second Grant period (1st November 2021 – 31st October 2022), the STSM funding line will be divided into four calls, as explained in this table:

CALL	APPLY BEFORE…	DECISSION BY…	STSM STARTS BETWEEN…	STSM ENDS BEFORE…
1st	7th of November 2021	14th of November 2021	The 15th of November and the 31st of December 2021.	31st of July 2022
2nd	15th of December 2021	31st of December 2021	The 1st of January and the 31st of March 2022	31st of September 2022
3rd	15th of March 2022	31st of March 2022	The 1st of April and the 31st of June 2022	31st of October 2022
4th	15th of June 2022	30th of June 2022	The 1st of July and the 22nd of October 2022	31st of October 2022

The present document presents the first call:

Application Deadline:	**7 November 2021, 11:59 pm.**
Duration:	General: 5-90 days (subject to availability of funds)
	Early Career Investigators: up to 180 days (subject to availability of funds)
Timeframe:	STSMs need to start between: **15th of November to 31st of December**
	STSMs need to be completed before: **1 July 2022**

CONTENT

STSM OBJECTIVES AND HOSTS BY WORKING GROUP:

WORKING GROUP 1 – DECOLONISING RESEARCH

Objective: The STSMs for WG1 will focus on a mapping exercise of research that is produced in Europe and beyond, on decolonising development. The themes could touch upon some of these themes:

- decolonizing theories;
- Southern, indigenous and pluriversal ontologies;
- alternative knowledge production, validation and dissemination, in alliance with activism;
- decolonizing research methodologies;
- academic challenges to free antiracist research in Europe and beyond;
- alternatives to western models of development as growth, modernity, coloniality, patriarchy and sexism;
- research on degrowth, buen vivir, ubuntu and other cosmologies of wellbeing;
- activism for civilizational transitions involving e.g. ecofeminism, environmental justice and earth jurisprudence, anti-racist resistance, social movements, indigenous, refugees and other minoritized peoples
- de-metaphorize decoloniality as recognition of the oppressed and restitution;
- alternative subjects of knowledge within and beyond the academy

The outcome of the mapping exercise will be to produce baseline knowledge that is for the benefit of the group. The report will be in English, but we welcome reports on literature from other languages. In the application, candidates have to propose the theme/s, research strategy and methodology used for the literature review and the mapping report. They will also indicate potential hosts, expressing their potential interest and availability.

Hosts:

- Aram Ziai - University of Kassel - for the mapping or for any other research visit related to decolonising development or post-development.

  As we also host a DFG-funded research project on post-development and the Global Partnership Network (GPN), which is one of the Exceed Centers (Higher Education Excellence in Development Cooperation) and basically a network of twelve universities in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean, facilities for visiting researchers are available. There will also be opportunities for exchange and collaboration with the doctoral students of the GPN graduate school, the Wangari Maathai Visiting Professors and the post-development research fellows.

  In these links you will find more information about the GNP and about the possible focus of the STSM.

- Antonio Sianes, Instituto de Investigación en Políticas para la Transformación Social, University of Loyola, Cordoba Spain

  Interest on:
  - alternative knowledge production, validation and dissemination, in alliance with activism.
  - alternative subjects of knowledge within and beyond the academy.

- Paola Minoia, University of Helsinki (Sept-October 2021) – Global development studies unit, Faculty of Social Sciences.

  More information about the focus of the unit, about the Extractivism and Alternatives Conference in October 2021, and about the project Eco-Cultural Pluralism in Ecuatorian Amazonia.

- Centro de Estudos Sociais (University of Coimbra, Portugal) [Only available for PhD students]
  - within political philosophy: critical approaches applied to theories of Western Modernity (Gaia Giuliani)
  - within cultural, gender and postcolonial studies: critical discourse analysis of visual texts (nesmedia, cinema, television and art) (Kitty [Ana Cristina Pereira]; Gaia Giuliani)
  - within critical security studies: desecuritization from a postcolonial and gender studies critical approach (Silvia Roque)
  - within political theory, geography, international relations: noborder, intersectional and postcolonial approach to narratives on migrations (Marilena Indelicato, Silvia Roque, Kitty, Gaia)

WORKING GROUP 2 – DECOLONISING TEACHING

Objective: The main objective of the WG2 'decolonising teaching' is to identify cross-cutting themes of a decolonial, post-developmental curriculum and pedagogy. In the 2022 call we are looking to fill five STSMs:

1) Candidates interested in undertaking a mapping exercise of existing "decolonise the curriculum/teaching/learning" initiatives within Europe and beyond. The mapping will provide the basis for a further formulation of strategies and pedagogies doing justice to the 'decolonial option' for the Cost Action. It will aim to make visible the nodes of resistance to colonial patterns of teaching and pedagogy, and serve to build a mutually supportive web of teachers, learners and resources through the Cost Action. The output of the STSM mapping will be an important resource on the website.

   Host: The International Institute of Social Studies/EUR together with University of Utrecht (The Netherlands)

2) Candidates interested in collaborating on joint sessions/ teaching collaboratively across institutions. This STSM would look at the how institutions can host joint teaching sessions/ teach collaboratively/ co-supervise PhDs and MA students across the Cost Action network.

The STSM would include exploring fund raising possibilities for an on-line COST Action MOOC to be developed over the COST Action period.

Host: The University of Utrecht together with ISS/EUR (The Netherlands).

3) Open call for STSM to visit different institutions in the Cost Action network.

Hosts: University of Lodz (Poland) and NUI Galway (Ireland); University of Kassel (Germany); Birkbeck College University of London (UK); Skograd Research Center Belgrade (Serbia).

WORKING GROUP 3 – DECOLONISING PRACTICE

Objective: In the first funding phase Working Group 3 'decolonising practice' would like to fill three Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs). The STSMs are supposed to contribute to one of the following two objectives of WG3:

(1) 2 STSM: Providing an overview (mapping) on the fields of work and experience related to decolonising practice among the members of WG3. The mapping would collect the existing "decolonial practice" initiatives within the network of the COST Action (considering Europe and beyond). The mapping will support professional networking and to connect people with overlapping research interests within the broad field of development practice. The output will also be an important resource on the website.

(2) 3 STSMs: Investigating the question of how we understand "decolonising practice" (either in general or in a topic-related investigation).

Candidates could either

a) apply as a group/as a tandem who have arranged both a topic and a host-ECR match.

or

b) apply for visiting one of the following three **hosts** who have offered to host an ECR colleague:

- Lata Narayanaswamy - (University of Leeds, UK). Topic: Exploring insights into decolonial feminisms and also specifically what 'gender' looks like in decolonial practice. Opportunities for ECRs: Doing presentations and engaging with the host's networks on 'decolonial feminisms'
- Daniel Bendix - (Friedensau Adventist University, tiny village 130km to the west of Berlin, Germany). Topic: Writing retreat
- Alice Santiago Faria and Mafalda - (FCSH, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal). Suggested time for travelling: September. Topic: a) Question around how colonial heritage is perceived and/or contested nowadays by local and outside eyes. Can built heritage be thought of as a tool to promote constructive dialogue between colonial and post-colonial eras? Can colonial heritage ever be decolonized? It is possible to do some concrete action around colonial heritage in Europe and in the global South (buildings, statues, urban spaces, etc.) with local communities, living in Portugal but from former colonial territories, like in focus groups? Any theme related to colonial built environment (how can we decolonize the colonial built environment | heritage in practice) both in Europe or in former colonial territories would be welcome. b) An STSM on mapping existing cooperation practices (or on how to do it) to work on how to disconnect international cooperation from funding in practice. Further Opportunies: There are other researchers from NOVA in other COST Action WG and it could

> be an opportunity to meet. Possible Cooperation: Linking people from Nova and CES, Coimbra University (Antonieta Leite)

ELIGIBILITY

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 applicant's PhD and the date of the applicant's first involvement in the COST Action CA19129 does not exceed 8 years. We will take into account times spend in other occupation or with reproductive and care work. PhD students are also eligible to partake in STSMs. Other applicants must be employed by or affiliated to an institution or legal entity, which has within its remit a clear association with performing scientific research. STSMs are not available to BSc/MSc students with no additional affiliation to an organisation/research centre.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF APPLICANTS

The proposal should show clear evidence of how the proposed STSM will benefit both the COST Action CA19129 and the Applicant. The proposal will be assigned to one of the following categories:

1– Very poor: proposal illogical and not understandable. Not clearly linked to any WG. (0-10 marks)

2– Poor: proposal with limited understanding, planning and no clear objectives. Weakly linked to at least one WG. (11-35 marks)

3– Fair: proposal with some understanding, planning and objectives. Moderate links to at least one WG. (36-60 marks)

4– Good: good proposal but needs input to develop feasible STSM. Well linked to at least one WG. (61-80 marks)

5– Excellent: proposal well designed in terms of planning, feasibility and projected outputs. Strongly linked to at least one WG. (81-100 marks)

Extra marks will be given for links with a WG of the Action and the output value to the COST Action via the development of research, research proposals and scientific networks. A proposal can reach a maximum score of 100. The proposals will be ranked and those with the highest scores will be financed, subject to the duration of the STSM applications and the available budget. The results will be published in the COST Action website.

In case of rejection, the STSM Committee will inform the Applicant. Resubmissions are possible. Once approved by the STSM Committee, the Grant Holder will notify the Applicant. To accept the grant, the Applicant has to return the Grant letter with his/her signature.

RULES

A STSM may only be approved:

- from a Home Institution in a COST participating country to a Host Institution in another COST participating country or to a formally approved Host Institution in a non-COST country;
- from a formally approved Home Institution in a Near Neighbour Country to a Host Institution in a COST participating country.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

STSM can have a duration of between 5 days and 90 days (and up to 180 days if the applicant is an ECI). The financial support on offer is a contribution to the overall expenses incurred during the STSM and may not necessarily cover all of the associated costs. Financial support is limited to cover travel, accommodation and meal expenses and is paid in the form of a Grant. The cost of research materials is not eligible for consideration as part of the grant. Please note that the awarded grant will be paid only after the STSM has been completed – therefore the applicant must have approval and prior financial support.

The following funding conditions apply and must be respected. All are subject to the availability of funds:

- up to a max of EUR2,500 in total can be afforded to each successful STSM applicant;
- up to a max of EUR160 per day can be afforded for accommodation & meal expenses;
- for ECIs, a max amount of EUR3,500 can be afforded to the Grantee for STSMs with a duration of between 91 & 180 days – For ECIs partaking in STSMs with a duration of between 5 & 90 days, the limit is EUR2,500.

STSMs must occur in their entirety within the dates specified in the Grant Period in the respective Action call. The MC can approve lower country rates for subsistence per day, based on the cost of living in a given country. STSM awards may be combined with other funding sources, but these must be acknowledged in the application.

Please note that failure to submit the scientific report within 30 days from the end date of the STSM will effectively cancel the Grant.

COST can request additional information to substantiate the information contained within the documents submitted by STSM applicants.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications for STSMs are managed through the e-Cost management tool. The link to the STSM application is available at http://www.cost.eu/STSM. You will need an e-Cost profile to log in or you can create one using the site.

It is highly recommended to consult further important and updated information about STSMs (duration, financial support and reimbursement) in the COST Vademecum Section 8 (http://www.cost.eu/Vademecum).

The application for a STSM is composed of two steps:

Step 1. Online registration by the applicant

The Applicant must use the online e-Cost tool to register the request for an STSM. The following information has to be encoded with the registration:

- the title of the planned STSM
- the planned dates and length of stay
- a short description of the academic details of the proposed STSM
- a short description of the proposed work plan (about 250 words)
- name, postal address and email of the prospective host at the receiving institute
- a budget request with breakdown for the costs of the STSM

Step 2. Formal STSM application and annexes

After encoding the information and pressing the "submit" button the online registration tool will issue a formal STSM application which has to be downloaded and sent by the applicant electronically (as email as attachment) together with the necessary documents to support the application at the evaluation process.

The supporting document include:

- an STSM proposal with reference to the call (1 page), including the proposed duration and envisaged dates,
- CV,
- list of publications,
- motivation letter (1 page),
- letter of support from the home institute
- letter of support from host institute

If you did not contact a Host institution and you don't have an invitation letter, please, write a brief signed document stating that you want the Core Group to assign you a Host institution and upload it.

The application must be send to:

- the future Host of the STSM (if applicable);
- the Chair and Co-Chair of the Management Committee of the Action (julia.schoeneberg@uni-kassel.de; juan.telleria@ehu.eus)
- the Action STSM Coordinator (blendicali7@yahoo.it)
- The action STSM Committee Members (yafa.elmasri@phd.unipd.it strehl.meike@googlemail.com ; paola.minoia@helsinki.fi ; L.Narayanaswamy@leeds.ac.uk; filip.majetic@pilar.hr; uk027788@uni-kassel.de; muruwetdemiral@gmail.com; gc@hi.is adrianacancar@web.de)

AFTER COMPLETION OF THE STSM

Successful applicants will need to submit a scientific report to the Host Institution and to the STSM Chair and Coordinator within 30 days from the end date of the STSM, and they will be responsible for acquiring from a senior researcher affiliated to the Host Institution confirmation of formal acceptance of the

scientific report. The scientific report will also require the approval of the Action Chair or STSM coordinator in order to effect the payment of the Grant.

Successful applicants will be asked to submit a brief of the STSM outputs for the Action's website describing in summary the scientific report which will also be made available online, and be prepared to participate in the Action's events with a poster about their STSM when applicable or when requested by the Chair or STSM coordinator

The report should include the following information:

- Purpose of the STSM
- Description of the work carried out during the STSM;
- Description of the main results obtained
- Future collaboration with the host institution (if applicable)
- Foreseen publications/articles resulting from the STSM (if applicable)

The report should be accompanied by:

- Confirmation by the host institution of the successful execution of the STSM (official signed letter)
- Confirmation from a senior researcher affiliated to the Host Institution that they formally accept your scientific report (email confirmation).