

DECOLONISING DEVELOPMENT: RESEARCH, TEACHING AND PRACTICE

OPEN CALL for SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS (STSM)

THIRD CALL: March 2022

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	7 st of November 2021	14 th of November 2021	The 15 th of November and the 31 st of December 2021.	30 th of June 2022
2nd	9 th of January 2022	19 th of January 2022	The 19 th of January and the 31 st of March 2022	30 th of September 2022
3rd	25 th of March 2022	5 th of April 2022	The 6 th of April and the 30 th of June 2022	31 st of October 2022
4th	15 th of June 2022	30 th of June 2022	The 1 st of July and the 22 nd of October 2022	31 st of October 2022

The present document presents the third call:

Application Deadline:	25th of March 2022, 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: 6th of April 2022 to 30th of June 2022 STSMs need to be completed before: 31st of October 2022

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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 according to the following criteria:

Originality & Quality (25 Points)

- Relevance to the objectives of the action (Memorandum of Understanding)
- Originality of the chosen topic, methodology, resources and expected added value to the field of decolonization
- How does the project speak to the challenges of development practice?
- Relevance of the applicant's chosen topic to the host's research interests or work

Feasibility (25 Points)

- Feasibility of the proposed collaborative work within the proposed time and budget

- Clarity on how the work can be made actionable
- Clarity and details of proposed collaborative work

Applicant (25 Points)

- Early Career Investigator (ECI) and/or a member from an Inclusive Target Country
- Applicant’s abilities and research skills
- Academic background and motivation

Outcomes (25 Points)

- Reporting strategy of the completed work and the network quality of the written proposal
- Is a non-academic target audience identified? How does the project speak to their practices/challenges/needs?

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 applicants are advised to contact and consult the WG Leaders prior to their application. The number of proposals in this specific call will be ranked and those with the highest scores will be financed, subject to the duration of the STSM applications and the available budget for this call. If an applicant is applying for a second STSM, the results of the first STSM should be explained and presented to the WG and to the evaluation team. The successful applicant should contact the working group leaders in order to organize a brief presentation of the STSM before the mission, and a presentation of the experience and the outcomes after the mission. The working group leaders could propose the applicant writing a blog post based on the STSM experience. The results will be published on 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.

STSMs 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 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:

A normal STSM application is not expected to exceed the amount of 1650€ (regardless the duration of the mission). If the applicant wants to ask for more than 1650€, the application will have to explain why

the project requires such an amount. The evaluation team will decide based on the content of the proposed project and the expected results, if it deserves an amount higher than 1650€. In the application they have to explain how they are going to share with the network the results of the STSM. 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.

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 sent 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; murowetdemiral@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, the Vice Chair and Grant Awarding Coordinator within 30 days from the end date of the STSM or 15 days after the end of Grant Period whichever date comes first. 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 Grant Award Coordinator in order to effect the payment of the Grant.

Each grantee will be asked to make a presentation in collaboration with the host in one Working Group after the Short Term Scientific Mission. Successful applicants will be asked also 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)

ANNEX

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 a report with a review of the literature produced on these themes. 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, Global Partnership Network and Department of Development and Postcolonial Studies, University of Kassel (Germany)
 - Post-Development Alternatives in the South and North
 - Postcolonial critique of development discourse and practice
 - Protests against development projects and accountability mechanisms
 - Postcolonial political economy
- 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.
- 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) (Gaia Giuliani)

- within political theory, geography, international relations: noborder, intersectional and postcolonial approach to narratives on migrations (Gaia Giuliani)
- Alexander Horstmann FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg (Campus Erlangen) [Only available for PhD students]
Interests on:
 - Decolonizing Development, Decolonizing Academia, Southeast Asia (especially Myanmar)
 - Peace and Development, World Anthropology
 - Democracy Movement, Legal and Political Anthropology, Human Rights
 - Anthropology of Education
(Availability until July 2022)
- Ethemcan Turhan, University of Groningen
Interests on:
 - decolonizing planning
 - decolonizing (urban) climate justice and energy justice (including but not limited to topics around reparative justice, loss and damage and energy commons)
(Availability for hosting Spring 2022)

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 second funding phase Working Group 3 ‘decolonising practice’ would like to fill five 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 the following **host** 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'

The WG3 welcomes other proposals that address ‘decolonising development practice’.