



Application Deadline:	<u>15th June 2022, 11:59 pm CET</u>
Timeframe:	STSMs need to start between: <u>1st July 2022 and 22nd October 2022</u>
	STSMs need to be completed before: <u>31st October 2022</u>

WHAT ARE STSMs?

Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) are exchange visits for researchers within the Action. This exchange programme is aimed at supporting individual mobility and fostering collaboration between individuals. STSM grantees receive funding for implementing a project with colleagues in a different institution other than their home institution.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Participation of 'Early-Career Investigators' (ECI) in STSMs 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 spent 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.

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.

FUNDING

An STSM Grant is a fixed contribution to the overall travel, accommodation and meal expenses of the grantee. It does not necessarily cover all expenses related to undertaking a given mission. The maximum amount per grant is 4,000€. The decision on the amount is made by the Core Group based on the proposal of the evaluators and the availability of budget, taking into account the duration and location of the STSM. Grants are paid after the completion of the mission and the approval of the submitted report.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications for STSMs are managed through the e-Cost management tool. The link to the STSM application template 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 (to be filled in eCOST)

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 CV
- a budget request with breakdown for the costs of the STSM
- Information about the host institution and contact person

Step 2. Formal STSM application and annexes (to be uploaded to eCOST)

- an STSM proposal (template available on eCOST) describing: goals, description of the work to be carried out by the applicant, expected outcomes and description of the contribution to the Action MoU objectives
- motivation letter (1 page), including how the applicant has been engaged in the network so far and in which WG
- letter of support from the home institute
- letter of invitation from host institute

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR A SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL?

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 evaluated according to the following criteria:

Originality & Quality (40 Points)

- Relevance to the objectives of the action, explicit link to the objectives of the network as laid out in the [Memorandum of Understanding](#)
- Originality of the chosen topic, methodology, resources and expected added value to the field of decolonizing development.
- Relevance of the applicant's chosen topic to the host's research interests or work

Feasibility (40 Points)

- Feasibility of the proposed collaborative work within the proposed timeframe and budget
- Clarity on how the work can be made actionable
- Clarity and details of proposed collaborative work and outcomes

Applicant (20 Points)

- Early Career Investigator (ECI) and/or a member from an Inclusive Target Country
- Applicant's abilities and research skills
- Academic background and motivation
- Links and engagement with a Working Group of the Action.

A proposal can reach a maximum score of 100. The proposals received will be ranked and those with the highest scores will be funded, subject to the available budget.

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.

AFTER COMPLETION OF THE STSM

Grantees will need to submit a scientific report to the Host Institution and to the Chairs of the Action within 30 days from the end date of the STSM or 15 days after the end of Grant Period whichever date comes first. They are responsible for acquiring from a senior researcher affiliated to the Host Institution confirmation of formal acceptance of the scientific report. The scientific report also requires the approval of the Action Chair 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 session after the completion of the STSM. Grantees might also be asked to submit a blog on the content of the STSM for the Action's website.

The report should include the following information:

- Purpose of the STSM
- Main achievements and outcomes of the STSM
- Planned future follow up activities

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).

QUESTIONS?

Please do get in touch with Julia Schöneberg (Julia.schoeneberg@uni-kassel.de) or Adriana Cancar (adrianacancar@web.de).