

## Call for Applications

### Calls 2016/2017

The Management Committee agreed to fund at least 4 Short Term Scientific Missions for early stage researchers and allocate a total budget of 8.000 €. There will be up to four calls in the Grant Period IV:

Call	open until	grants
1 <sup>st</sup>	30.06.2016	max 2
2 <sup>nd</sup>	31.08.2016	max 2
3 <sup>rd</sup> (optional)	31.10.2016	max 2
4 <sup>th</sup> (optional)	31.12.2016	max 2

### What are Short Term Scientific Missions?

Short Term Scientific Missions are exchange visits aimed at supporting individual mobility, strengthening existing networks and fostering collaboration between researchers. A STSM should specifically contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST Action, whilst at the same time allowing those partaking in the missions to learn new techniques or gain access to specific data, instruments and/or methods not available in their own institutions/ organisations.

### Criteria for Funding

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 or legal entity which has within its remit a clear association with performing research. The institutions / organisations where applicants pursue their main strand of research are considered as the Home institutions. The Host institution is the institution /organization that will host the successful applicant.

The Home and the Host Institution should be located in two different participating COST Countries. Applicants must obtain a written agreement from the Host Institution. The scientific scope of the STSM application must be in line with the Action objectives (see [Memorandum of Understanding](#)) The duration of the STSMs should be between **minimum 5 working days** and **maximum 90 working days**. **The STSM needs to be carried out in their entirety within a single Grant Period** and always within the Action's lifetime. The COST Association and the Grant Holder or the Action are not considered as being an STSM Grantee's employer. STSM Grantees must make their own arrangements for all provisions related to personal security, health, taxation, social security and pension matters.

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM)  
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The following table shows the scenarios available to eligible STSM applicants:

<b>Home Institution</b>	<b>Host Institution</b>
From a Participating COST Country <sup>1</sup>	To another Participating COST Country To an approved NNC institution <sup>23</sup> To an approved IPC institution <sup>45</sup> To an approved EC/ EU Agency <sup>6</sup> / an approved European RTD Organisation <sup>7</sup> or an approved International Organisation <sup>8</sup>
From an approved NNC institution	To a Participating COST Country
From an approved European RTD Organisation	To a Participating COST Country

### **Financial support**

A STSM grant is a fixed financial which takes into consideration the budget request of the applicant and the outcome of the evaluation of the STSM application by the STSM Committee. The aim of this grant is to support the costs associated with the exchange visit. This grant will not necessarily cover all expenses; it is intended only as a contribution to the travel and subsistence costs of the participant.

The reimbursement rate per day is 160 € maximum (The MC can approve differentiated country rates for subsistence per day, based on the cost of living in each respective country) and up to 500 € may be attributed for the travel expenses. A maximum 2 500 € in total can be afforded to the grantee.

### **Application Procedure**

#### ***Before the STSM***

In order to receive a STSM grant, the applicant must:

- Obtain the written agreement of the host institution, before submitting an application;
- Submit online application: at [www.cost.eu/STSM](http://www.cost.eu/STSM) (link opens in new window - an e-COST profile is required and can be created if needed);
- Complete the DSDnet Application form for a STSM.

Please send the DSDnet Application form together with the necessary supporting documents (invitation letter from Host institution, CV, full work plan, list of publications, motivation letter, letter of support from the home institution) as e-mail attachment to the STSM host institution and to the STSM coordinator; [antonio.balsamo\(at\)unibo.it](mailto:antonio.balsamo(at)unibo.it) and cc to [renate.wagner\(at\)uksh](mailto:renate.wagner(at)uksh).

The STSM Committee will perform the scientific and budgetary assessment of the applications considering the Action objectives and define an acceptable funding level;

Once approved by the STSM Committee, the Grant Holder receives the approval and then sends a grant letter to the applicant.

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### ***After the STSM***

The grantee is required to submit a **short** scientific report to the Host Institution and STSM coordinator for approval within 30 days after the end date of the STSM containing:

- 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);
- Confirmation by the host institution of the successful execution of the STSM;
- Other comments (if any).

The failure to submit the scientific report within 30 days will effectively cancel the grant;

The STSM coordinator approves the scientific report and informs the Grant Holder by email that the STSM has been successfully accomplished. The Grant Holder will execute the payment of the grant.

### Contact:

STSM Coordinator: Prof Antonio Balsamo, University of Bologna (IT), ([antonio.balsamo@unibo.it](mailto:antonio.balsamo@unibo.it))

Action-Chair: Prof Olaf Hiort, Universität zu Lübeck (DE), ([olaf.hiort@uksh.de](mailto:olaf.hiort@uksh.de))

Website: [www.dsdnet.eu](http://www.dsdnet.eu) and on [COST-Website](#)

### Attachments:

Application form for Short Term Scientific Mission in DSDnet

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<sup>1</sup> **Participating COST Countries:** COST Member Countries and / or Cooperating State that have accepted the Action's MoU, for [DSDnet](#).

<sup>2</sup> **COST Near Neighbours Countries (NNC):** Countries approved by the CSO to benefit from dedicated support for the integration of their researchers in COST activities.

<sup>3</sup> **NNC approved institution:** an institution located in a NNC whose participation in an Action has been approved in accordance with the relevant COST rules, for [DSDnet](#).

<sup>4</sup> **International Partners Countries (IPC)** All those countries that are neither COST Member Countries / Cooperating State nor are they COST NNC

<sup>5</sup> **IPC approved institution** is an institution located in an IPC whose participation in an Action has been approved in accordance with the COST rules governing International Cooperation: for [DSDnet](#).

<sup>6</sup> **EU Agencies:** Any organisation governed by European public law, with its own legal personality, established in the EU to accomplish specific tasks of a legal, technical and/or scientific nature in a given policy field and to support the EU Member States but distinct from the EU institutions

<sup>7</sup> **European RTD Organisation:** Any intergovernmental scientific research organisation that is responsible for infrastructures and laboratories whose members are countries, and the majority of which are COST Member Countries or Cooperating.

<sup>8</sup> **International Organisation:** Any organisation with a European or international membership, scope or presence, with its own legal personality, governed by international public law or recognised to have value in promoting scientific and technological cooperation, which should contribute to the fulfilment of the COST Mission.