



STSM – GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose of a Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM)

STSM facilitates Researchers from COST Countries participating in COST Action **CA15116** to go to an institution, organization or research center in another participating COST Country to foster collaboration and to perform empirical research. 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 **CA15116** does not exceed 8 years. Undergraduates, Master and PhD students as well as other research staff are also eligible to partake in STSMs.

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 on offer 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 apply and must be respected:

1. up to a maximum of EUR 2 500 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. for ECIs, a maximum amount of EUR 3500 can be afforded to the Grantee for STSMs with a duration of between 91 and 180 days – For ECIs partaking STSMs with a duration of between 5 and 90 days, the limit of EUR 2 500 must be respected;
4. 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.



- **What is the purpose of an STSM?**

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) are aimed at strengthening existing networks and fostering collaborations by facilitating researchers and scholars participating in a given COST Action to visit an institution / organization in another Participating COST Country¹ / an approved NNC institution² or an approved IPC institution³. 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, gain access to specific data, instruments and / or methods not available in their own institutions / organizations.

- **Who is eligible to partake in STSM?**

A STSM applicant must be engaged in a research programme as a PhD Student or postdoctoral fellow or be employed by, or affiliated to, an Institution or legal entity which has within its remit a clear association with performing scientific research.

Always satisfying the above requirement, whether a Researcher is eligible to receive a STSM Grant depends on the status of the country where they hold their primary affiliation. Once this has been established, eligibility can be determined by adhering to the stipulations in the following 3 categories:

1. Researchers holding their primary affiliation at an institution located in a Participating COST Country (a Country that has accepted the Action's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) are eligible to perform a STSM in another Participating COST Country.
2. For Researchers holding their primary affiliation in a Near Neighbour Country (NNC), the consideration for being eligible to receive a STSM Grant is linked to whether their institution has been formally approved onto the Action or not – The eligibility status of Researchers located in NNC is restricted to those affiliated to approved NNC institutions. The complete list of NNC can be found at http://www.cost.eu/about_cost/cost_countries/international_cooperation/nnc. A list of approved NNC Institutions can be found on the respective COST Action Webpage at www.cost.eu.
3. For Researchers holding their primary affiliation at a European RTD Organisation, the consideration for being eligible to receive a STSM Grant is linked to whether their institution has been formally approved⁴ onto the Action or not. The eligibility status of Researchers located in European RTD Organisations is restricted to those affiliated to approved European RTD Organisations.

¹ **COST COUNTRIES IN ASF-STOP:** Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, fYR Macedonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom

² **NEAR NEIGHBOUR COUNTRIES (NNC) in ASF-STOP:** Albania (University of Agricultural of Albania -Faculty of Veterinary Medicine), Russian Federation (National Institute for Veterinary Virology and Microbiology), Ukraine (Institute of experimental and clinical veterinary medicine)

³ **INTERNATIONAL PARTNER COUNTRIES (IPC) IN ASF-STOP:** None

⁴ **EUROPEAN RTD ORGANIZATIONS IN ASF-STOP:** European Commission, European Food Safety Authority



- **STSM - from where to where?**

The Home Institution / Organisation is the institution / organisation where the STSM applicant holds their primary affiliation as registered on their e-COST profile / STSM application / C.V. and where they are currently performing their main strand of research. The table below (see category A) details the possible STSM scenarios available to the respective applicant. The Host Institution / Organisation (category B) concerns the Institution / Organisation that will host the successful applicant.

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

A) Researcher in a Home Institution	B) To Perform a STSM in a Host Institution
From an institution in a <u>Participating</u> COST Country	In another <u>Participating</u> COST Country
	In an <u>approved</u> NNC institution
	In an <u>approved</u> IPC institution
From an <u>approved</u> NNC institution	In an <u>approved</u> Specific organisation
In an <u>approved</u> European RTD Organisation	In a <u>Participating</u> COST Country