

- Call for Short Term Scientific Missions -

Second period of activity, fourth call for STSMs (2015/4) of the COST Action

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GOALS OF SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS

Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) contribute to the scientific objectives of a COST Action by enabling researchers to carry out international research visits. The STSMs are intended particularly for early stage researchers, though are open to all.

A scientist fits the definition of “early-stage researcher” if the time between the date of obtaining a PhD degree (or equivalent) and the date of involvement in the COST Action does not exceed 8 years. Doctoral students are also eligible for STSMs.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON STSMs

- The duration of a Standard STSM can range from 5 days to 90 days.
- A STSM grant is a fixed contribution based on the requested budget which is evaluated by the STSM Committee. The grant is for travel and subsistence costs only. It does not necessarily cover all such expenses.
- For this Call, the Management Committee of the COST Action IS1304 has allocated a budget for supporting several STSMs. The budget will be divided among the successful applicants (called Grant Holders) in accordance with COST rules.
- After the STSM, the Grant Holder must submit a scientific report to the Host and to the STSM Coordinator within 30 days after the end of his/her stay. Moreover, the Grant Holder must request a signed acceptance letter of his/her scientific report from the Host (senior researcher at the Host Institution), which the Host sends to the STSM Coordinator.
- After the visit, the STSM grant will be paid after the Grant Holder’s scientific report and the acceptance letter from the Host institution have been approved by the STSM Committee. The Grant Holder must therefore pre-finance costs related to the STSM (travel, stay, meals).

APPLICATION PROCESS

Researchers are strongly encouraged to apply for STSMs as follows:

1. Applicants are required to read the instructions in Section 7 of the COST Vademecum - Short Term Scientific Mission (<http://www.cost.eu/Vademecum>, pp. 29-30).
2. Register the application online at <https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm> and send the following application documents to the STSM Coordinator Ahti Salo (ahti.salo@aalto.fi) and to the Host institution before the deadline of 16 October 2015:
 - Motivation letter
 - Detailed work plan
 - Description of the expected contribution to the scientific objectives of the COST Action IS1304
 - Support letter from the Home Institution
 - Letter of invitation from the Host Institution
 - CV (including list of publications)
3. The application will be evaluated by the STSM Committee (consisting of the STSM Coordinator, the Chair, and the Working Groups Chairs of COST Action IS 1304) based on its contribution to the objectives mentioned in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for COST Action IS1304.
4. Notification of the Committee's decision will be sent to the applicants by 21 October 2015.
5. The Grant Holder will receive payment after his/her scientific report of the Grant Holder and the acceptance letter from the Host Institution have been approved by the STSM Committee. The scientific report should be about three pages long. It must include:
 - 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);
 - Other comments (if applicable).

After the approval, the STSM Committee will inform the Grant Holder.

Priority will be given to early stage researchers or doctoral students.

Deadline for applications: 16 October 2015

Notification of acceptance: 21 October 2015

Period of STSMs: Between 26 October and 31 December 2015

Contact person: STSM Coordinator, Ahti Salo (ahti.salo@aalto.fi)