



Call for STSM Grant Applications

February 2024

| Dates

| Application deadline: 12 March 2024

| Notification: 22 March 2024

STSMs can start after 1 April 2024 and must be completed by 31 August 2024 (with report and outcome of the STSM). This call is open to all members, but priority will be given to young researchers and innovators (researchers and innovators under the age of 40). A balance between working groups, gender and ITC/non-ITC countries will also be considered.

| Scientific Topics

The STSM application of candidates for CA21150 Sustainability@Leave must contribute to one or more of the following topics related to the Deliverables of the Working Groups in the 2nd year of the Action:

| WG1

- Work collaboratively on chapters for the book project “Care, Leave Policies, and Social Sustainability throughout the Life Course”. We encourage STSM applications for chapter-authors to work with each other or across chapters in a focused way.

| WG2

- Analysis of the literature review data collected in 2023, reporting various dimensions of inequalities in recent research on parental leave

| WG3

- Literature Review: Parental leave design and children’s health & child wellbeing
- Literature Review: Identify effective parental leave policy designs to promote gender equality, including engagement of fathers/ partners

| WG4

- Coding of parental leave policy characteristics in an Excel file based on the Leavenetwork Annual Review comparative tables (2013-2021)
- Coding of parental leave policy characteristics in an Excel file based on the Leavenetwork Annual Review comparative tables (2005-2012)

| WG5

- Creation of a Policy Brief
- Article based on/inspired by the WG5 report on data gaps in parental leave research



| Information on Financial Support

A total of at least 10 STSMs can be funded. The STSM grant is used to cover costs of travel and subsistence. The financial support should be viewed as a contribution to the costs of the mission and may not cover all costs. This comprises:

- The STSM is a contribution up to a maximum of EUR 2000 per STSM
- The budget requested must be justified in the application
- The successful STSM grantee has to provide a statement about how they contributed to the output specified in the application before receiving full reimbursement of expenses.

| How to apply

The applicant should complete:

- COST STSM application form (see the template on e-cost website)
- Motivation letter (1 page maximum)
- Work & time plan (1 page maximum)
- CV or link to CV (2 pages maximum)
- Signed agreement with the host institution
- Letter of support from the home institution
- Financial data (travel & accommodation)

This information must be submitted through e-cost platform and to the following persons by email:

+ Chairs

+ WG Leaders of chosen task/topic

For contact data please see the [CA21150 website](#).

| Evaluation criteria

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| • Benefit to CA21150 Objectives & Deliverables | 80% |
| • Scientific quality excellence | 10 % |
| • Training and/or networking benefit for the applicant | 10 % |

Applications shall be reviewed by the CA21150 Core Group.

Additional criteria according to CA21150 policy plans: Priority to researchers and innovators under the age of 40; gender (priority to male Action members); balance of members from ITC/non-ITC countries.

| After the STSM

The Grantee is required to submit a scientific report to the host institution, Action Chair, Vice-Chair, and STSM Coordinator for approval within 30 days after the end date of the STSM. The report should contain:

- A scientific report on the STSM, including the dissemination works and publications generated or in progress.
- An official letter by the host institution of the successful execution of the STSM.



What is a STSM?

Short-term scientific missions (STSM) are institutional visits that allow researchers (belonging to COST countries or Near Neighbour Countries (NNC)) to spend a limited period of time at an institute or laboratory within another COST country, International Partner Country (IPC) / institution or International Organisation to foster collaboration and to perform empirical research. Participation of Young Researchers and Innovators in STSMs is particularly encouraged. The aim of STSM is to provide researchers with access to new research/new techniques relevant to CA21150 that may not be available in their own institution. Another aim is to facilitate networking between participants across CA21150 in pursuit of its Objectives. By this means STSM can accelerate the development of CA21150 research, knowledge exchange and collaboration across COST countries and beyond, as well as being an important component in the individual's personal development.