



3rd Call for STSM Grant Applications

April 2024

What is a STSM?

Short-term scientific missions (STSM) are institutional visits that allow COST Action members to spend a limited period of time at an institution within another COST country, [International Partner Country \(IPC\)](#) or International Organization to foster collaboration and to perform empirical research. Participation of Young Researchers and Innovators (under 40 years) 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.

| Dates

| Applications are possible until the budget limit for STSMs is reached.

| Notification: within two to three weeks after application.

STSMs can start after April 15, 2024 and must be completed by 31 August 2024 (with report and outcome of the STSM). This Call for STSMs can be used to work together between CA21150 members across borders around any of the topics stated in the CA21150 MoU. This call is open to all members, but priority will be given to young 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 topics related to the [MoU of CA21150](#).

| Information on Financial Support

Up to 10 STSMs can be funded in the 3rd Call. 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:

- Up to €2,000 per STSM
- The requested budget must be justified in the application
- The STSM grantee receives full reimbursement of their expenses after they provide a statement about how their mission contributed to the output specified in the application.



| How to apply

The applicant should complete:

- COST STSM application form (see the template on [e-cost website](#) under COST Action → Grant Applications → Apply for grant)
- Work & time plan (1 page maximum)
- CV or link to CV (2 pages maximum)
- Signed agreement with the host institution
- Overview of costs with justification of the requested funding (travel & accommodation)

This information must be submitted through [e-cost](#) platform.

| Evaluation criteria

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

Additional criteria according to CA21150 policy plans:

- Priority to researchers and innovators under the age of 40
- balance between grantees from ITC/non-ITC countries.

Applications shall be reviewed by the CA21150 Grant Awarding Team.

| 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 max 15 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 about the successful execution of the STSM.