Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM)

Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) is one of the networking activities which is organized through a Grant Awarding Process in a COST Action.

1.1. What is STSM?

STSM is a professional visit of a host organization or institution located in a different country than the country of affiliation by a Researcher or Innovator for a specific project to be implemented and for a determined period of time.

The aim of STSMs is, basically to contribute to the research coordination and capacity building objectives of COST Action CA21122, PROmoting GeRiAtric Medicine in countries where it is still eMergING (PROGRAMMING) via establishing new scientific collaborations or strengthening existing ones. The STSM grantee individually benefits gaining new knowledge and abilities as well as improving personal experience in cooperative project management.

The amount of the grant which has a maximum limit of EUR 4000,00 (per grant) is to be decided by the Action's Core Group based on the request of the applicant and considering the duration and location of the STSM and the total number of the applications. This funding aims to contribute for the expenses of travel, accommodation, living and proposed project.

1.2. How to apply?

Open Calls for STSMs are periodically published in the Action's website.

During an Active Grant Period, candidates will be able to reach online application platform in e-COST via their e-COST account to submit their applications. If the candidate does not already have an e-COST account, could create one here.

The information to be filled regarding the STSM proposal in e-COST consists of
- Title
- Start and end date (within the active Grant Period)
- Budget requested by the applicant
- Information about the host institution and contact person*

The supporting documentation to be uploaded to e-COST:
- STSM grant Application form (template available on e-COST)
  Goals, description of the work to be carried out by the applicant, expected outcomes and description of the contribution to the Action MoU objectives.
- Confirmation of the host on the agreement from the host institution in receiving the applicant
- Motivation letter
  The statement explaining the candidate's motivation by relating it to the personal professional background, experience, field(s) of interest and the potential benefits that the realization of the mission will provide for

the evolution of their own career and, most importantly, for their national community and working environment. The motivation letter should also include the confirmation statement that the candidate speaks English at least at B2 level as well as the information regarding any other spoken languages.

- Support/recommendation letter
- An updated CV

*IMPORTANT: To submit your final application, you need to upload the official acceptance letter from the host institution which clearly indicates that your proposed visit to realize your project has been approved for the period you suggest. Therefore, you may directly contact your intended host institution yourself to arrange your visit. To facilitate the matching process with an institute that suits your interests and preferences you can find here a list the institutions of the Action's participants who declared willing to host a STSM, as well as contact details of the reference persons. If you have not yet identified a host institution that is suitable for your mission, you can fill out a form to request assistance and contact the Grant Award Coordinator (GAC) (Dr Meltem Koca meltem.koca@outlook.com) and the Secretariat EUGMS <secretariat@eugms.org>.

1.3. Evaluation of the applications

The submitted applications will be evaluated and ranked by the GAC of the Action PROGRAMMING, and the Core Group on behalf of the Action Management Committee (MC) and according to the STSM Evaluation Criteria which are determined and approved by the Action MC (on the 30/11/22) to prioritize the Action's objectives on the basis of the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness principle.

Evaluation Criteria

- Candidate coming from an ITC country → (0/1 points)
- Candidate coming from *a country with emerging GM* [1] → (0/1 points)
- Active participation in the *Action's specific tasks* [2] → (0/1/2 points)
- Motivation letter *(The statement explaining the candidate's motivation by relating it to the personal professional background, experience, field(s) of interest and the potential benefits that realization of the project will provide for the self and his/her community)* → (0/1/2 points)
- Young researchers and innovators → (<40yo) (0/1 points)

Upon approval of the STSM Grant Application, the grantee will be notified with a letter.

1.4. Outcomes

The grantee is required to submit the Grant Report following the template provided on e-COST within 30 days from the end of the STSM or within 15 days from the end date of the Grant Period, whichever date comes first.
The grant will be paid only after the approval of the submitted report.

1.5.Important Dates

Deadline for applications: 30th April 2023 (23.59 Central European Time)

Please remember this implies the final date until when you must complete and submit your application including all required documents to be uploaded on the e-COST platform. Therefore, if you do not have an appointed host institution yet and you are planning to request aid for facilitation of your matching with a potential host, take into account the time that it will take.

Deadline for evaluation of the applications: 31st May 2023

Deadline for the end date of the missions: 31st October 2023

Any grant application must start and end within the duration of a single Grant Period

NOTES

[1] In the recent paper in Age& Ageing (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9760902/) the 23 European countries have been indicated in which postgraduate training for obtaining the specialty title in geriatrics exists with geriatrics as a recognized primary specialty.

All the other countries from the WHO list of the European region (which consists of 53 countries in total, page 2) will be considered by the Action as countries where geriatric medicine is still emerging/doesn't exist as a recognized primary specialty, see: https://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/215660/The-World-Health-Organization-in-the-European-Region-Eng.pdf.

For countries not included in this WHO list (mostly non-European countries that have or may join the Action in the future), their status "emerging" or ''developed'' geriatric medicine will be examined case by case, using the same criterion as in the Age and Ageing paper of *having of not geriatrics as a recognized primary specialty*.

[2] Action's specific tasks are tasks and missions serving the Action's objectives, that are defined by the Core Group according to the Action's evolving needs. For the first Grant Period these tasks are:

1. Participation in collection and analysis of data about educational needs assessment by various qualitative research methods
2. Participation in the finalization of WG1 questionnaires, including translation in native languages of the questionnaires and other Action's material
3. Creation of content for the digital newsletter of the Action
4. Organization of internal focus group online sessions (among WG members) to brainstorm, discuss and synthesize conclusions on topics and strategies related to WG5 activities.