CA20126 - Network for research, innovation and product development on porous semiconductors and oxides

1st Open Call for Short-Term Scientific Mission

(Grant Period: 01/11/2024 – 20/10/2025)

Call Launched: 16/12/2024

Application deadline: 31/01/2025

STSM Period: 14/02/2025 – 20/10/2025

Number of Grants: 4

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) are exchange visits aimed at supporting individual mobility, strengthening existing networks, and promoting collaboration between COST Action Participants. A STSM should specifically contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST Action (more information can be found in the Action's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) available in the following web page: Action CA20126 - COST) whilst at the same time allowing those partaking in the missions to learn new techniques, gain access to specific data, instruments or methods not available in their own institutions or organizations.

Eligibility

STSM applicants shall be engaged in an official research programme as a PhD Student or postdoctoral fellow or can be employed by, or affiliated to, an institution, organisation or legal entity which has within its remit a clear association with performing research. Young Researchers and Innovators[1] are also encouraged to participate in STSM. The institutions / organisation or legal entity where applicants pursue their main strand of research are considered as **Home Institutions**. The **Host Institution** is the institution / organisation that will host the successful applicant.

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[1] Young Researcher and Innovator is a researcher or innovator under the age of 40.

Both Home and Host Institutions should be the members of the Action CA20126 – COST (to join the Action please visit the website: www.netpore.eu/RegNTP/preReg.php). The following table shows the scenarios available to eligible STSM applicants:

Applicant's Home Institution	STSM Host Institution
Located in a Participating COST Full Member / COST Cooperating Member	Located in another Participating COST Full Member / COST Cooperating Member
	Located in a Participating COST Partner Member
	Action MC Observer from IPC[2]
	Action MC Observer from NNC[3]
	The EU Commission or an EU Body, Office or Agency
	An Approved European RTD Organisation[4]
	An Approved International Organisation
Action MC Observer from NNC	Located in a Participating COST Full Member / COST Cooperating Member
Located in an Approved European RTD Organisation	Located in a Participating COST Full Member / COST Cooperating Member

Evaluation

The selection of successful STSM applicants shall be done so in consideration of the scientific scope of the proposed mission and how the mission can support the Action in achieving its scientific objectives. Special considerations will be made with respect to supporting COST policies on promoting gender balance, enabling Young Researchers and Innovators, broadening geographical inclusiveness. The eligible applications will be evaluated according to the following scale:

1) Relevance to the Cost Action Goals and the selected Working Group objectives: **1-10**

2) Benefits of the STSM for the applicant and the host: **1-10**

3) Quality and feasibility of the work plan (aim and motivation, justification for choice of host institution, foreseen outcomes, dissemination of results, etc.): **1-10**

4) Justification of the requested budget: **1-7**

5) Inclusiveness and Diversity**: 0-3**
Is the applicant a Young Researcher and Innovator? (0-1)
Is the applicant or the host based in an Inclusiveness Target Country? (0-1)
Does the applicant promote gender equality? (0-1)

Applications will be evaluated by the STSM committee and then the applicants will be informed of the results via emails.

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[2] IPC – International Partner Countries: States that are neither COST Members nor COST Near Neighbour Countries.
[3] COST Near Neighbour Countries: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia, and Ukraine.
[4] The intergovernmental scientific research organisations whose members are States, the majority of which are COST members.

Financial Support

STSM grant is intended as a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation and meal costs of the participant and may not cover all costs. The STSM grant amount will be decided by the STSM Committee taking into consideration the outcome of the evaluation of the application. **The total support shall not exceed EUR 2000 for a STSM within Europe and 2500 EUR for a STSM outside Europe.** The duration of STSM is not specified, however, the maximal budget (B_{max}) of 2000 EUR (or 2500 EUR for an applicant who are going to perform his STSM outside Europe) is strictly assigned to the 1-month stay. For shorter stay the amount will be reduced according to the following formula: **Budget = N * n + A**, where

$N = (B_{max} - A_{max})/30 = 50$ EUR – is a daily allowance
n – the number of days planned for a STSM
A – is a rate including a rough estimation of the travel cost and other expenses taking into account differentiated cost of living in the host country: maximal A (A_{max}) is 500 EUR within Europe and 1000 EUR outside Europe).

For a STSM longer than 1 month, the budget cannot exceed B_{max}.

Please note that the awarded grant will be paid only after the STSM has been completed – therefore the applicant should arrange financial support before starting STSM.

How to apply

Before submitting an application, the applicant needs to obtain the agreement of the host institution to carry out the work planned during the STSM.

Eligible STSM applicants must submit their STSM applications online at the following web address: https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants/add. The application should contain:

1) Application Form (available at the Cost website: https://www.cost.eu/STSM_GrantApplication);

2) *Curriculum vitae* (2 pages maximum);

3) Letter of invitation from the host institution signed by a senior researcher affiliated with the host institution;

4) Letter of support from the home institution.

The applicant will get a feedback email confirming the reception of the application.

After the STSM

The STSM Grantee is required to submit a scientific report to the Grant Awarding Coordinator for formal approval. The report form must be downloaded from the address https://www.cost.eu/STSM_Report. The deadline to submit the report is 30 days from the end of the activity or within 15 days from the end date of the Grant Period whichever date comes first.

Please note that failure to submit the scientific report within the above terms will effectively cancel the Grant. The STSM Coordinator will inform the Grant Holder about the acceptance of the report via e-mail. Once approved, the Grant Holder will execute the payment of the fixed grant directly to the Grantee or to the Home Institution as stated in the application form.

For further enquires please contact the Grant Awarding Coordinator: Dr. Małgorzata Norek, via email malgorzata.norek@wat.edu.pl / STSM@netpore.eu. For a detailed description of the regulations and procedures, applicants are also encouraged to consult the ANNOTATED RULES FOR COST ACTIONS.