COST CA17106 Action

Mobilising Data, Policies and Experts in Scientific Collections (MOBILISE)

3rd Call for STSM applications for missions occurring between 30 September 2020 and 15 April 2021. All STSM activities must occur in their entirety within this period.

COST

COST is an intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology established to initiate networking and coordination of nationally funded research activities on a European level. It was established in 1971 by 19 member countries and currently includes 35 member countries across Europe, and Israel as a cooperating state. It facilitates bringing scientists together under light strategic guidance based on networks, called COST Actions, centred on research projects in fields that are of interest both to COST countries and cooperating countries.

Purpose of a Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM)

The scope of the COST Action MOBILISE is to build up a cooperative, inclusive, bottom-up and responsive network with active involvement of European stakeholders to support research for biodiversity informatics. MOBILISE will facilitate knowledge and technology transfer across stakeholders, bridging the gap between biodiversity and geoscience research and information technology best practices.

Focus on the current call, which aims to be widely inclusive, is on early career scientists, collection and data managers, collection curators and stewards from smaller institutions and institutions in countries that do not have extensive facilities and well-developed policies for data mobilisation, digitisation of biodiversity collections, data practices and curation. As it is often not possible to move the collections experienced experts are encouraged to apply for motilities to lesser experienced facilities and support early career researchers onsite. At the same time, the grant proposals must be in line with the objectives of the MOBILISE work packages for the current period of the action. The objectives of each WG for the current period (Year 3) can be found at:

WG1: https://www.mobilise-action.eu/wg-1/

WG2: https://www.mobilise-action.eu/wg-2/

WG3: https://www.mobilise-action.eu/wg-3/

WG4: https://www.mobilise-action.eu/wg-4/

WG5: https://www.mobilise-action.eu/wg-5/

WG6: https://www.mobilise-action.eu/wg-6/

The overall objectives of the action can be found here:

https://www.mobilise-action.eu/objectives/

Specific information concerning STSM

STSMs can have a duration of between 7 days (at least 5 full working days) and 14 days.

The financial support is a contribution to the overall expenses incurred during the STSM and may not necessarily cover all of the associated outgoings.

The following funding conditions apply and must be respected:

1. Up to a maximum of 3500 € in total can be afforded to each successful STSM applicant; from among the total amount of 3500 €, up to a maximum of 160 € per day can be afforded for accommodation and meal expenses;

2. STSM activities must occur in their entirety within the dates specified in this call.

Financial support is limited to cover travel, accommodation and meal expenses and is paid in the form of a Grant after the submission of a STSM report (50% pre-grant is possible for Inclusiveness Target Countries).

For this call, the Management Committee of COST Action CA17106 Mobilising Data, Policies and Experts in Scientific Collections (MOBILISE) has allocated a total budget of 20,000 € for approximately 11-12 STSMs. The amounts granted for each individual STSM will be determined during the evaluation process by the Core Group of the COST Action CA17106. Evaluation will be based on two reviews for each proposal. The selection of applicants is based on the scientific scope of the STSM application, which must clearly compliment the overall objectives of the Action.

DEADLINE

Interested researchers can apply by following the instructions provided below and submitting their application and supporting documents by the deadlines of **31 August 2020 and 15 December 2020**.

WHO CAN APPLY

STSM applicants must 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. They should come from the COST Full Member countries or from COST Near Neighbour countries (for explanation of terms see *COST Vademecum*, this document is available at: https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Vademecum-V8-1-May-20202.pdf. The institutions / organisations or legal entities, 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. The scenarios available to eligible STSM applicants are given in detail in Section 8 of the *COST Vademecum*.

Preference will be given to the PhD students and Early Career Investigators (ECI, for explanation see *COST Vademecum*) and to those and other scientists from Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC, for explanation see *COST Vademecum*) countries.

HOW TO APPLY

The application process in details is as follows:

1. All applicants must carefully read the rules detailed in Section 8 of the *COST Vademecum* (https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Vademecum-V8-1-May-20202.pdf).

2. All applicants must register for an e-COST profile at https://e-services.cost.eu/ - adding their bank account details to their profile.

3. The applicant must obtain a letter of invitation from the Host institution confirming that he/she can undertake the STSM on the given dates prior to submitting an application.

4. The applicant must complete and submit his/her STSM applications online at: https://e-services.cost.eu/STSM.

The list of supporting documents to be submitted in pdf format for the evaluation are:

(a) The submitted STSM application form that includes motivation and workplan summary. This should contain an overview of the proposed activities that will be performed, plan of work for the visit, highlighting the proposed contribution to the scientific objectives of the respective COST Action (proposed plan of work should be consulted with the Host institution), and the description what exactly will be carried on and why it is important for the applicant;

(b) A letter of support from the Home Institution;

(c) Written agreement from the Host Institution that the STSM applicant can perform the activities detailed in the STSM work plan on the agreed dates;

(d) A Full C.V. (including a list of academic publications – if applicable).

EVALUATION

The applications will then be assessed by COST Action Core Committee (based on reviewers appointed by the committee), which will perform the scientific and budgetary assessment of the applications against the perceived contribution that the proposed visit will make against the scientific objectives outlined in the Action's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Evaluation criteria:

- Scientific quality of the proposal (scientific level of the project and how it is correlated to the aims of the Action) – weight 2;

- Technical feasibility (is the host equipment or technical knowledge required for the completion of a project, length of the STSM) – weight 1.

The applicant will be formally notified of the outcome of their STSM application by Prof. Karol Marhold before 30th September 2020 (first round of applications) and 15th January 2021 (second round of applications). Those not successful in the first application deadline may resubmit their applications for the second round.

WHAT IS REQUIRED AFFTER COMPLETING THE STSM:

Within 30 days from the end date of the STSM, the successful applicant must submit a scientific report to the Host institution and to the e-COST profile of the application (https://e-services.cost.eu/).

The scientific report should contain: STSM title; STSM Applicant name; Host institution and responsible host person; Period; Working group of the COST action; Purpose of the STSM; Description of the work carried out during the STSM; Description of the main research results obtained; An evaluation of the stay at the host institute; Future collaboration with the Host institution (if applicable); Foreseen publications/articles resulting from the STSM (if applicable); Other comments (if any).

The applicant is also responsible for acquiring an official acceptance letter / e-mail confirmation of acceptance from a senior Researcher affiliated to the Host institution formally accepting the

scientific report. This formal acceptance of the scientific report has to be submitted to the e-COST profile of the application (https://e-services.cost.eu/).

Failure to submit the scientific report within 30 days from the end date of the STSM will effectively cancel the Grant. *(Please note that the COST Association can request additional information to substantiate the information contained within the documents submitted by STSM applicants).*

Deadlines for applications to be submitted: 31 August 2020, 15 December 2020
Notification of application outcome: 30 September 2020, 15 January 2021
Period of STSM: between 30 September 2020 and 15 April 2021