

COST Action CA17114
Transdisciplinary solutions to cross sectoral disadvantage in youth
(YOUNG-IN)

5th Call for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM)
applications for missions occurring between
15th October 2020 and 29th March 2021

Topic of the COST Action CA17114:

This COST Action aims to understand the interrelationship of disadvantages that young people across Europe face in the process of entering the adulthood and how policies can mitigate this negative spill-over effect. Specifically, we are interested in sets of circumstances and factors that prevent young people from:

- finding a decent job;
- starting a family when they want;
- making their voice heard in the policy process.

The scientific challenge that the proposed Action addresses is to build awareness and mutual usability of research findings across research disciplines and societal contexts. This understanding is especially important due to the fact that life domains are interrelated and disadvantages in one domain may cause negative spillover effect in another. Based on transdisciplinary knowledge on disadvantages it is possible to propose relevant policy interventions to tackle such situations and eventually to reduce risk of social exclusion. Focus is on cross-sectoral youth policy and investment approach in social policy that represent two efforts in finding novel solutions to contemporary concerns. Yet the problem is that both are taken for granted as good solutions for youth without further in depth investigation. The Action sees its societal challenge in understanding how the approach to social investment and relevant policy interventions can be applied to young people without bringing about increase in inequality.

All STSM activities must occur in their entirety within the dates specified above.

STSM IN GENERAL

STSMs facilitate researchers from COST countries participating in COST Action CA17114 to go to an institution, organization or research centre in another participating COST country to foster collaboration and to perform empirical research. STSMs involve visiting a partner institution for a period of up to three (3) months to improve closer cooperation and exchange, to develop capacity building and joint research, publications, and preparation of future projects. The STSM must further the scientific objectives of the Action, as set out above. All STSM activities must occur in their entirety within the dates specified above Purpose of a Short-term Scientific Mission.

The following detailed information is drawn from COST VADEMECUM (<https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Vademecum-V8-1-May-20202.pdf>) and from STSM User guide (<https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/STSM-userguide.pdf>). Please, consult it for more detailed information also. All other COST documents could be found here: <https://www.cost.eu/funding/how-to-get-funding/documents-and-guidelines/> Please, consult it for more detailed information.

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. 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.

COST Action CA17114 in accordance with COST strategy supports Early Career Investigators (ECI). Therefore, the participation of ECIs in STSMs is particularly encouraged, but applications are not limited to ECIs. An applicant is considered an ECI when the time that has elapsed between the award date of the applicant's PhD and the date of the applicant's first involvement in the COST Action does not exceed 8 years.

Other researchers are also eligible to partake in STSMs, but ECIs are prioritized when applications are evaluated.

Previous successful applicants are not precluded from applying, but preference and priority will be given to applicants who have not been awarded a YOUNG-IN STSM before. Previous successful applicants will be considered only if total number of applicants is less than total number of available STSMs.

Where can I go?

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
	Action MC Observer from NNC
	The EU Commission or an EU Body, Office or Agency
	An Approved European RTD Organisation
	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

AMOUNT OF GRANTS

STSM must have a minimum duration of 5 calendar days that includes travel.

An STSM Grant is a fixed financial contribution which takes into consideration the budget request of the applicant and the outcome of the evaluation of the STSM application. **STSM Grants do not necessarily cover all expenses related to undertaking a given mission.** A STSM Grant is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation and meal expenses of the Grantee.

The COST Association and the Grant Holder of the Action cannot to be considered as being an STSM grantee's employer. STSM grantees must make their own arrangements for all provisions related to personal security, health, taxation, social security and pension matters.

Please, consider the current COVID-19 situation which has been resulted in many limitations, suspensions and restrictions, so you are strongly advised to search for more information about travel conditions and restrictions, home and host institution restrictions where national and international recommendations and regulations should be followed, quarantine issues and all other issues related to the COVID-19 situation.

Grants are normally processed only after the STSM has taken place and the reporting retirements have been satisfied and approved by the STSM coordinator.

For this call, the Management Committee of COST Action CA17114 will not limit the number of participants but it depends on the current condition of our budget.

The following funding conditions apply and must be respected:

- an applicant can be afforded up to a maximum amount of EUR 3500 ;
- up to a maximum of EUR 160 per day can be afforded for accommodation and meal expenses.

Different country rates to cover accommodation and meal expenses based on the perceived cost of living in the host country may apply.

The application process is organised on a "first come first served basis".

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

The amounts granted for each individual STSM will be determined during the evaluation process.

Specific provisions have been introduced to enable researchers from ITC participating in the COST Action to request a pre-payment of 50% of their STSM Grant when they complete the first day of their STSM. In such case, the representative of the Host Institution must confirm by e-mail to the Grant Holder that the STSM applicant has officially started the mission on day 1. Only then the Grant Holder can arrange the payment of 50% of the STSM grant. The remaining 50% of the Grant is payable once the administrative requirements have been satisfied after the STSM.

HOW TO APPLY?

The applicant is responsible for choosing and contacting the Host institution and for organizing the application process. All applicants must register for an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/>.

All applicants have to complete the online application form (<https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>):

- STSM Application (including Workplan – Workplan should include objectives for visit, time-line and core tasks to be undertaken; expected outputs and deliverables (e.g. new research model; draft outline of peer review publication); Work plan should be structured with a particular research question in mind and with a view to developing work that will form the basis for a possible peer review publication);
- CV (including a list of academic publications - if applicable);
- A letter of support from the Home Institution;
- Written agreement from the Host Institution that the STSM applicant can perform the activities detailed in the STSM work plan on the agreed dates;

When to apply?

The application process is organised on a "first come first served basis".

This Call is open no later than 26st February 2021. Depending on the state of the budget, it may be terminated earlier (info will be sent).

STSMs may take place within the period: **1st October 2020 and 29th March 2021.**

WHEN WILL I KNOW IF I GOT IT?

Application will be assessed by the STSM Committee following which applicants will be informed on the results.

You will know whether your STSM has been granted within 10 days after submission of the application.

Review Committee:

Slaven Gasparovic, University of Zagreb, Croatia, STSM Coordinator

Tali Heiman, The Open University, Israel

Marge Unt, Tallin University, Estonia

AFTER THE STSM HAS TAKEN PLACE

Within 30 days after the end date of the STSM, the grantee must submit a scientific report to the Host institution. The scientific report should cover purpose of the STSM, description of work carried out during the STSM, description of the main results obtained and future collaborations (if applicable). It is obligatory to use a scientific report template which is available on the e-COST Supporting documents page or on-line here: [http://www.cost.eu/STSM report template](http://www.cost.eu/STSM_report_template).

After the submission of the scientific report to the Host institution, the grantee must acquire an official acceptance confirmation from a researcher affiliated to the Host institution formally accepting the scientific report. The host approval of the report can be an email confirming that the STSM took place and the goals outlined in the Work plan were reached.

The grantee must upload both documents (scientific report and host acceptance confirmation email, both in pdf) to e-COST system, otherwise completion procedure will not be possible.

The submission of the supporting documents is mandatory or the Grant is cancelled. Late submission, beyond the deadline, can also lead to the cancellation of the Grant and, in cases when a pre-payment was done, the obligatory reimbursement by the grantee of the amount received.

NOTICE OF COMPLETION: The STSM coordinator will approve the final report and send the completion notice to the Grant Holder. The Grant Holder will then execute the payment of the grant directly to the grantee.

(Please note that the COST Association can request additional information to substantiate the information contained within the documents submitted by STSM applicants).

STSM Coordinator – Assistant Professor Slaven Gasparovic, University of Zagreb, Croatia, Email: slaveng@geog.pmf.hr