

FAIRNESS STSM CALL

for the 3rd Grant Period

The European Network for FAIR Network of micrometeorological measurements (CA20108) opens the Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM) Call for the 3rd Grant Period (ending 31 October 2024).

1. PURPOSE OF STSM

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) are institutional visits aimed at supporting mobility and fostering collaboration by facilitating researchers and scholars participating in the Action to visit an institution in another Country. An STSM should specifically contribute to the objectives of FAIRNESS COST Action.

2. IMPORTANT DATES

The **3rd FAIRNESS STSM Call** will be received according to the following timetable:

Applications Round	Deadline for applications	Notification of applicants until	STSM Start Date
Round 1	01/03/2024	15/03/2024	15/03/2024-31/07/2024
Round 2	01/06/2024	15/07/2024	01/08/2024-30/09/2024

Please note that all STSM should be completed before **1 November 2024**

3. STSM ELIGIBILITY RULES

STSM applicants should 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 the FAIRNESS research.

The institution / 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. The following table shows the scenarios available to eligible STSM applicants:

Applicant's Home Institution	STSM Host Institution
From a Participating COST Full Member / COST Cooperating Member Country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To another Participating COST Full Member / COST Cooperating Member ▪ To the EU Commission or an EU Body, Office or Agency ▪ To an Approved European RTD Organisation ▪ To an Approved International Organisation ▪ To a Participating COST Partner Member ▪ To an Action MC Observer from International Participating Country (IPC) ▪ To an Action MC Observer from an NNC
From an approved Near Neighbourhood Country (NNC)	To a Participating COST Full Member / COST Cooperating Member

From an Approved European RTD Organisation	To a Participating COST Full Member / COST Cooperating Member
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Please visit <https://e-services.cost.eu/action/CA20108> for an up-to-date list of Countries and approved NNC and European RTD Organisations within FAIRNESS COST Action.

4. HOW TO APPLY

Eligible applicants shall follow these steps:

- Obtain an Invitation Letter from the Host Institution, describing the work plan and the period of visit.
- Submit the STSM application online at <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants> , selecting Apply for New Grant and then Short-Term Scientific Mission Grant.
- In the platform the applicant should provide:
 - the STSM title
 - a motivation and work plan summary (maximum 2000 words).The motivation and work plan summary should include the following four components:
 - a. the scientific Aim & Motivation for the STSM and the scientific outcomes the applicant aims to accomplish with the STSM,
 - b. the proposed contribution to the scientific objectives of FAIRNESS and those more specific to the relevant WG,
 - c. the techniques or equipment the applicant may learn to use, if applicable,
 - d. the steps for achieving the proposed aim (planning).
- Additionally, the following information are required for the submission:
 - Budget request and justification
 - CV (including a list of academic publications - if applicable), which will be uploaded anyway in the e-cost platform when you create an e-cost account
 - Letter of **support** from the **Home Institution**
 - The written agreement from the **Host Institution** that the STSM applicant can perform the activities detailed in the STSM work plan on the agreed dates

The applicants will get a confirmation e-mail for their successful reception of their application from the e-cost platform.

Please see Section 7 for the specific requirements for the proposed STSMs and the evaluation procedure.

5. DURATION OF STSM

STSM shall respect the following criteria regarding duration:

- They shall have a **minimum duration of 5 calendar days** that includes traveling.
- There is **no maximum duration** for the STSM, though **the budget is limited to EUR 3500 by COST** (see section 6 below for details) and may depend upon the ongoing Grant Period funding and the number of approved applications.
- STSM need to be carried out in their entirety within a single Grant Period and always within the Action's lifetime. The COST Association and the Grant Holder of the Action cannot be considered as being an STSM grantee's employer. STSM grantees shall make their own arrangements for all provisions related to personal security, health, taxation, social security, and pension matters.

6. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

An STSM Grant 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. **An STSM Grant is a contribution** to the overall travel, accommodation, and meal expenses of the Grantee. The calculation of the financial contribution for each STSM shall respect the following criteria:

- Up to a maximum of **EUR 4000 in total** can be afforded to each successful applicant (**including travel costs**). However, the maximum amount may depend upon the ongoing Grant Period funding and the number of approved applications.
- Up to a maximum of **EUR 160 per day** can be afforded for accommodation and meal expenses. However, the daily rate is differentiated according to the perceived cost of living in the host country.
- For enabling researchers from ITC participating countries, a pre-payment of 50% of their STSM Grant when they complete the first day of their STSM can be requested.

Please note that the approved budget is subject to the available total budget, the number of the approved applications at a specific Round and the outcome of their evaluation. The applicant will be informed about the approved budget prior to the final import of the STSM.

7. EVALUATION PROCEDURE AND SELECTION OF APPLICANTS

The applications will be evaluated by the STSM Committee **within two weeks** after the submission deadline and the results will be communicated to the applicants. Specifically:

The eligible applications will be evaluated and graded by each member of the STSM Committee and all grades will be summed up.

The scientific scope, motivation of the STSM, and relevance to FAIRNESS research, as derived from the **four components** of the **motivation and work plan summary** (see section 4) will be evaluated. Each component will get a grade from 1 to 5 (Very poor to Excellent).

Please note that high priority will be given to STSM proposals that strongly promote the FAIRNESS COST Action, either by pushing forward the current initiatives or by leading to new initiatives.

Special considerations with respect to supporting COST policies on **promoting gender balance, enabling Early Career Investigators (ECI), broadening geographical inclusiveness** will be taken into account.

8. REPORTING AND REIMBURSEMENT

The STSM Grantee has **30 calendar days from the end date of the mission to submit a scientific report** to the STSM Coordinator and to a senior researcher affiliated to the Host Institution. However, in any case, **the scientific reports must be submitted before 10 October 2024**. The template for the final report can be found here:

https://www.cost.eu/STSM_report_template.

In addition to the scientific report, **the Grantee is expected to prepare a communication activity for a larger audience that will be published in the FAIRNESS website.** For the type and the preparation of the communication activity, the Grantee will be in contact with the **Communication Dr. Peter Marčiš** (marcis.petogmail.com) and the **Grants awarding coordinator Gert-Jan Steeneveld** (Gert-Jan.Steeneveld@wur.nl).

Payment of the Grant is subject to the STSM scientific report being approved by the STSM Committee and the Host Institution. Written approval of the STSM scientific report will be uploaded in e-COST for archiving purposes.

9. OTHER

Please visit <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/10/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-2021-11-01-1.pdf> for a detailed description of the regulations and procedures.