CA21145 EURESTOP – STSMs call in Grant Period 1 (GP1)

<u>IMPORTANT NOTE</u>: GP1 ends in 31/10/2023

CALL

Following our first EURESTOP meeting and training school held in Lisbon in January 2023, we are proud to launch the call for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs). Indeed, meetings and training schools support the creation of new collaborations among participants that strongly benefit the Action. These are also important starting points for other networking activities (in particular STSMs) and follow-up activities (e.g., other funding opportunities, new collaboration proposals). In EURESTOP, STSMs represent an important tool to achieve MoU objectives as described below:

- *Capacity building* – Increase and disseminate the know-how on DR bacteria from a multidisciplinary and translational perspective, and use this knowledge in training young scientists including Ph.D. students, ECIs, and established researchers via Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs).
- *Capacity building* – Enhance the individual capacity of institutions participating in the Action by promoting and facilitating the implementation of high-quality research activities through STSMs.
- *Capacity building* – Stimulate the exchange of expertise, materials, and data among Action's members through STSMs, training schools, and joint Action activities, such as compound screening or genomic/proteomic/glycomic analyses.
- *Research coordination* – Integrate diverse expertise and research interests such as genetics, chemistry, molecular, cell, computational and structural biology, immunology, physics, bioinformatics, and medicine into a common pipeline that meets the needs of diagnosis and therapy.

Deadline and budget

Given the limited budget available in this GP1, and the relatively low number of STSMs that we can grant, the **deadline for application is set on March 15th, 2023**. We hope in the next GPs to eliminate the deadline and to keep the STSMs active in the whole GPs up to the consumption of the allocated budget.

After the deadline, the Grant Awarding Coordinator with the support of the Core Group will release a list of selected candidates that will be requested to finalize their application in eCOST mandatorily no later than 2 weeks from the notification date.

Total budget for STSMs in GP1: **15,245.00 €**

Approximate # of STSMs: **8** (average 1905 €/STSM)

Selection criteria

- Selection of applicants will be made according to the following criteria (in order of importance):
- First come, first service;
- host institution already involved in the Action;
- coherence with MoU objectives;
- YR&I;
- WG related to the STSM;
- ITCs;
- gender balance;
- length of the STSM (priority to longer STSMs)
- budget availability (<u>individual requests exceeding 2500 € shall be strongly motivated by the applicant, and due to budget restrictions, they will be deemed with a low priority in this GP</u>).

Application procedure

Applications shall be submitted before the deadline of March 15th, 2023 via email at info@eurestop.eu, with the following information collected in a single PDF document.

→To apply for a STSM, please copy/paste the following list in a new Word document, fill in all the fields, and save into PDF.

- Name/Surname of the applicant:
- Date of application:
- Country of origin:
- YR&I (under40): YES/NO
- Gender:
- Career stage: title, and years after the degree
- Do you have a role in EURESTOP: YES/NO
    - if YES: describe your role (WG member, MC member)
    - if NO: write the name of your PI/Supervisor affiliated to EURESTOP
- WG relative to the topic of the proposed STSM:
- Name of the host institution and laboratory:
- Country of the host institution:
- Name of the PI at the host institution:
- Is the PI at the host institution already involved in EURESTOP? YES/NO
    - if YES, what is his/her role? WG member/MC member
- Do you already have a preliminary agreement with the hosting institution/PI? YES/NO
- Expected starting date of the STSM:
- Expected duration of the STSM*:
- Topic of the STSM: *(please provide a short description of the main project that will be carried out – max 300 words)*
- Are you (or your PI) already involved in a collaboration with the hosting institution or hosting PI? YES/NO
    - If YES, is the proposed STSM placed within the framework of the existing collaboration?
- Motivation for the STSM: *(max 200 words)*
- Techniques to be used and skills to be developed: *(max 100 words)*
- Benefit for EURESTOP*: (max 200 words)*
- Expected outcomes from *a*) career development, and *b*) scientific development standpoints: *(max 300 words)*

* STSMs approved in GP1 must be completed by October 10th, 2023.

Application deadline: March 15th, 2023.

Applications received after the deadline will be deemed with a low priority and will be granted only in the case of budget availability.

Before to apply, please carefully read the COST Annotated Rules (available at https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2022/12/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V1.3.pdf) with respect to STSMs, including definitions, obligations, and timeline for reimbursement.

For your convenience, a non-exhaustive summary of the most important rules for STSMs are reported here below. Please refer to the COST Annotated Rules above for any official documentation.

Definition

Short-Term Scientific Mission consists in a visit to a host organization located in a different country than the country of affiliation by a researcher or innovator for specific work to be carried out and for a determined period of time. Short-Term Scientific Missions benefit to:

- STSM Grantee: receives funding for implementing a project with an international team and gains new knowledge or access to equipment or techniques not available in the home institution;

- STSM Host: receives an international partner in their institution and can develop long lasting collaboration.

Short-Term Scientific Missions:

- Support capacity building and transfer of knowledge through bilateral/multilateral collaborations;

- Support specific/general topic that can help achieving the Action MoU objectives and deliverables (research coordination);

- Are very flexible and inclusive networking activities crucial to establish new collaborations or reinforce existing collaborations across disciplines and different sectors (e.g., academia and industry/SMEs) with possible impact on career development;

- Outcomes (e.g. spin-off publications and (funded) projects) contribute to the visibility and impact of the COST Actions, encouraging other researchers to join.

Application in eCOST (ONLY for selected applicants, see above)

To be filled in e-COST:

- Title

- Start and end date (within the active Grant Period, i.e. no overlap across two consecutive Grant Periods)

- Budget requested by the applicant;

- Information about the host institution and contact person.

To be uploaded to e-COST:

- Application form (template available on e-COST) describing: 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;

- Other documents required by the Action (e.g. recommendation letter, etc…)

Upon approval of the application, the Grantee receives a Grant Letter from the Grant Holder stating the approved amount and the conditions for receiving the grant.

Implementation of the Activity

The STSM grantee performs the tasks in line with the approved application

Reporting and claim for payment of the grant

The required report/documentation for claiming a STSM Grant is:

Report to the Action MC on the work developed, main achievements of the STSM and planned future follow up activities.

Receiving payment of the grant

Grants are paid by the Grant Holder Institution after the completion of the activity and approval of all required report/documentation.

However, STSMs grantees may request up to 50% pre-payment of the approved grant. This amount is subject to availability of funds and approval by the Grant Holder Institution. The request of pre-payment shall be submitted to the Grant Holder Manager. In cases when the Grant Holder approved a pre-payment of up to 50% of the grant for an STSM, the amount is paid by the Grant Holder at any moment before or during the duration of the STSM

Duration & grant amount

The minimum duration of STSM is 5 days, while there is no maximum duration. All STSMs must be completed within a GP (e.g., before October 10th, 2023)

The maximum amount is up to EUR 4 000,00 per grant.