



COST Action CA16109 “Chemical On-Line cOmpoSition and Source Apportionment of fine aerosoL” (COLOSSAL)

8th open rolling call for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) applications for missions occurring between October 1st, 2020 and September 2nd, 2021

Objectives / description

STSM facilitates Researchers from COST Countries participating in COST Action CA16109 to go to an institution, organisation or research centre in another participating COST Country to foster collaboration and to perform empirical research. A STSM should specifically contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST Action, whilst at the same time allowing those partaking in the missions to learn new techniques, gain access to specific data, instruments and / or methods not available in their own institutions / organisations.

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

Deadlines

STSM applications can be submitted **starting September 15th, 2020**.

STSM application outcomes will be notified **no later than 2 weeks after submission** (plus one extra week over Christmas vacation).

STSM activities must occur in their entirety (including travel) within the dates specified in this call, that is to say, between October 1st, 2020 and September 2nd, 2021.

The successful applicant must submit a scientific report (3-5 pages), an approval letter from the Host institution and dissemination material within 30 days from the end date of the STSM or 10 days after the end of the Grant Period (September 2nd, 2021) whichever comes first.

Failure to submit the requested documents within this deadline from the end date of the STSM will effectively cancel the Grant.

Eligibility criteria

Eligibility can be determined by adhering to the stipulations in the following 3 categories:

1. Researchers holding their primary affiliation at an institution located in a Participating COST Country. Participating COST Countries: http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/ca/CA16109?parties.
2. Researchers holding their primary affiliation in an approved institution from a Near Neighbour Country (NNC) (http://www.cost.eu/about_cost/cost_countries/international_cooperation/nnc). Approved NNC Institutions can be found at http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/ca/CA16109?parties.
3. Researchers holding their primary affiliation at an approved European RTD Organisation. Approved European RTD Organisations: http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/ca/CA16109?parties.

The possible destinations (Host institutions) for the different STSM are detailed below:

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

Financial support

The financial support on offer is a fixed contribution to the overall expenses incurred during the STSM and may not necessarily cover all of the associated outgoings. Financial support is limited to cover travel, accommodation and meal expenses and is paid in the form of a Grant.

The following funding conditions apply and must be respected:

- Up to a maximum of EUR 3500 in total can be afforded to each successful applicant;
- Up to a maximum of EUR 160 per day can be afforded for accommodation and meal expenses.

The amounts granted for each individual STSM will be determined during the evaluation process by the formally appointed STSM Committee.

Researchers from ITC participating in the COST Action can request a pre-payment of 50% of their STSM Grant during the submission process, which will be arranged only once they complete the first day of their STSM.

Rules of selection

The selection of applicants is based on the scientific scope of the STSM application which must clearly compliment the overall objectives of the Action. The STSM Committee will select the successful applications.

The STSM Committee is composed of the STSM Coordinator (Prof. Véronique Riffault, veronique.riffault@imt-lille-douai.fr), the Action Chair (Dr. María Cruz Minguillón, mariacruz.minguillon@idaea.csic.es), the Action Vice-Chair (Dr. André Prévôt, andre.prevot@psi.ch), and the WG Leaders (Olivier Favez, Stefania Gilardoni, Grisa Mocnik, Stephen Platt).

The STSM from PhD students, ECI (date of PhD title + 8 years; full-time equivalent) and participants from Inclusiveness Target Countries will have priority, and gender balance will be promoted.

How to apply

Interested researchers can apply by following the directions provided below and submitting their application **starting September 15th, 2020**.

The application process is as follows:

1. All applicants must carefully read the funding rules detailed in Section 8 of the *COST Vademecum*, and the STSM user guide.

<https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Vademecum-V9-28-April-20212-1.pdf>

<https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/STSM-userguide.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. All applicants must obtain a letter of invitation from the Host institution confirming that they can undertake the STSM on the given dates prior to submitting an application.

4. All applicants must complete and submit their STSM applications online at:

www.cost.eu/STSM.

5. All applicants must send the relevant supporting documents (see list below) to the Action STSM Coordinator (Prof. Véronique Riffault, veronique.riffault@imt-lille-douai.fr) and the Action Chair (Dr. María Cruz Minguillón, mariacruz.minguillon@idaea.csic.es) for evaluation before the review of their application can start.

The list of supporting documents (as PDF files) to be submitted for the evaluation are:

- A letter of invitation to the applicant from a senior researcher affiliated to the Host institution;
- A motivation letter including an overview of the proposed activities that will be performed (max. 1 page);
- A plan of work for the visit highlighting the proposed contribution to the scientific objectives of the COST Action CA16109 (max. 2 pages);
- A letter of support from the Home institution;
- A full C.V. (max. 2 pages);
- A list of academic publications – if applicable;
- A screenshot of the expected travel prices (for instance, railway companies or using Google flights: <https://www.google.com/flights>) at the proposed dates for the STSM.

6. The application will then be assessed by the STSM Committee (see Rules of selection above) against the perceived contribution that the proposed visit will make in line with the scientific objectives outlined in the Action’s Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

7. The applicant will be formally notified of the outcome of their STSM application by the Action Grant Holder (Ms. Marta Monge, marta.monge@cid.csic.es) as soon as possible.

After completing the STSM

Within 30 days from the end date of the STSM or 10 days after the end of the Grant Period (September 2, 2021), whichever comes first, the successful applicant must submit:

- a scientific report (3-5 pages), using the template found in e-cost
- an official acceptance letter / email confirmation of acceptance from a senior Researcher affiliated to the Host institution formally accepting the scientific report
- for dissemination purposes, **at least three (3) pictures (landscape format) or one (1) video** showing either experiments or group picture with host, which will be sent directly to the Dissemination coordinator Dunja Sokolovic (dunjaso@uns.ac.rs), the Twitter account curator David Green (d.green@imperial.ac.uk) and the STSM coordinator Véronique Riffault (veronique.riffault@imt-lille-douai.fr)
- an email to Dunja Sokolovic (dunjaso@uns.ac.rs and websitecolossal@gmail.com), Dissemination Coordinator, with the following information:
 - STSM Title
 - Name and Surname of STSM grantee
 - Home institution
 - Host institution
 - Dates of STSM
 - Short abstract indicating the main outcome(s) of the STSM (approx. 150 words, this info will be public in the COLOSSAL website)

The submission of the report needs to be done **in e-cost and by email**, addressed to the Action STSM Coordinator (Prof. Véronique Riffault, veronique.riffault@imt-lille-douai.fr) and the Action Chair (Dr. María Cruz Minguillón, mariacruz.minguillon@idaea.csic.es).

The formal acceptance of the scientific report by Host institution has to be sent to the Grant Holder (Ms. Marta Monge, marta.monge@cid.csic.es) and to the Action STSM Coordinator (Prof. Véronique Riffault, veronique.riffault@imt-lille-douai.fr) for archiving purposes.

The STSM Coordinator is responsible for approving the scientific report and informing the MC Chair and the Grant Holder that the STSM has been successfully accomplished.

The grantee can be asked by STSM Coordinator or by any member in the COLOSSAL Core Group to collaborate in different tasks in the Action, including, but not limited to, preparation of material for the website, preparation of Action templates, support for preparation of Action scientific reports. The grantee, by accepting the STSM grant, commits to accept and perform these tasks in the future.

Failure to submit the scientific report and Host acceptance within 30 days from the end date of the STSM or 10 days after the end of the Action, whichever comes first, will effectively cancel the Grant.

Failure to submit the dissemination material required 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).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS in papers and conferences:

If the results from a STSM are published in a journal or conference, please add the following acknowledgement in your paper/presentation:

“Part of this work was supported by the COST Action CA16109 COLOSSAL Chemical On-Line cOmpoSition and Source Apportionment of fine aerosol.”

It would be highly appreciated that a copy of the paper/article, abstract or other flyer is sent to the STSM Coordinator and the Action Chair.