

## Open Call for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)

The Cost Action 17137 - A network for Gravitational Waves, Geophysics and Machine Learning - encourages and provides financial support on individual exchange visits to strengthen the action network and to foster the collaboration between the action participants.

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### General information:

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) are aimed at supporting individual mobility to go to an institution or laboratory in other COST country to foster collaboration, to learn a new technique or to gain access to specific instruments and/or methods that are not available in the applicant home institution.

The proposals should contribute to the main goals of the COST action: create a broad network of scientists from four different areas of expertise, namely Gravitational Wave (GW) physics, Geophysics, Computing Science and Robotics, with a common goal of conceiving innovative solutions for the analysis of the data of Gravitational Waves detectors and for handling/suppression of instrumental and environmental noise. To learn more about the scientific objectives, please see:

[https://e-services.cost.eu/files/domain\\_files/CA/Action\\_CA17137/mou/CA17137-e.pdf](https://e-services.cost.eu/files/domain_files/CA/Action_CA17137/mou/CA17137-e.pdf)

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### Application rules:

#### ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES:

Any person with a complete e-COST profile that:

- is currently engaged in an official research programme as a Ph.D. student;
- is a postdoctoral fellow;
- or can be employed by, or affiliated to a research institution.

Candidates from a **participating COST country**<sup>1</sup> can select a host institution from:

- a different participating COST country;
- an approved COST Near Neighbour Country<sup>2</sup>;
- an approved International Partner Country Institution<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom

<sup>2</sup> Israel

<sup>3</sup> Missouri University of Science and Technology (S&T) at United States, Ligo Laboratory California Institute of Technology at United States, Swinburne University of Technology at Australia.

Candidates from an **approved COST near Neighbour Country** can select a host institution from:

- a participating COST country

### APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Eligible candidates can submit their STSM applications at:

<https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>

After creating a new STSM Request, fill in the online form choosing the corresponding Action Number (CA17137).

The following additional information is encoded in the online form:

- STSM Title;
- Grant period: please select "2020-05-01 to 2021-10-31"
- Duration:
  - from 5 up to 180 days (if the candidate is an Early Career Investigator - ECI<sup>4</sup>)
  - from 5 up to 90 days (if the candidate is not an ECI).
  - **Note:** The STSM visit should finish before September 30th 2021.
- Motivation and Workplan summary, specifying:
  1. **Abstract** (max 200 words): a brief summary of the whole project;
  2. **Aim & Motivation** (max 400 words): explain the scientific and/or other motivation for the STSM;
  3. **Outcomes** (max 300 words): describe the expected results to accomplish with the STSM;
  4. **Integration with the COST action** (max 300 words): explain the contribution of the proposed STSM to the scientific objectives of the Action, specifying the relation with the working group(s) activities;
  5. **Techniques** (max: 400 words): detail on what techniques or equipment the candidate may learn to use, if applicable;
  6. **Planning** (max 300 words): The plan/steps to achieve the proposed objectives;
  7. **References:** up to 5 most relevant papers/projects.
- Bank Details
- Host Institution details, including:
  - 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.
- Requested financial support:
  - up to 3500€ (if the duration is from 91 days to 180 days)
  - up to 2500 (if the duration is from 5 days to 90 days).
  - **Note:** The grant estimation **must not exceed the 160€/day**. If accepted, the provided financial support can always be smaller than requested.

### FINAL SELECTION:

The applications will be evaluated by the COST Action 17137 Core group following the COST Excellence and inclusiveness Policies (geography, age, and gender equality). Moreover, it will be considered the following criteria:

- Relevance to COST Action objectives;
- Scientific quality and anticipated outcomes of the proposed plan;

Preference will be given to applications:

- From an Early Career Investigator (ECI) or Ph.D. student.
- Visits to/from a participating COST Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC<sup>5</sup>).

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<sup>4</sup> Person with less than 8 years from the date they obtained the PhD;

<sup>5</sup> Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Croatia, Hungary, Macedonia, Malta, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Turkey.

## **FINAL REPORT:**

If approved, the candidate will have to submit, within 30 days after the end of the STSM:

- A Final Scientific Report. A template can be found at:  
(substitute by the provided pages and docx document)
- A Host approval of the report stating that the STSM took place and the goals outlined in the work plan were reached.

Both documents can be upload directly into the e-COST portal.

The payment of the grant can only be made after the approval of this report.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

For more information about the STSM application procedure, see:

<https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/STSM-userguide-for-website-Oct-2018.pdf>

<https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Vademecum-V8-1-May-20202.pdf>

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## **Deadlines:**

### **APPLICATION:**

The call for STSMs will be continuously opened until the budget has been spent, i.e., applications can be submitted at any time, and decisions will be made until the end of the grant period.

### **FINAL RESULTS**

The proposals will be collected every month (on the 15th) and the results communicated within the following two weeks.

**Apply now!**