

COST CA20136 Grant Period 4 Call for STSM (Short-Term Scientific Mission) Applications

Purpose: Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM) consists of a visit to a host organization located in a different country than the country of affiliation by a Young Researcher or Innovator for **the specific work to be carried out on topics related to the [OPENSENSE Action](#) and for a determined Action period.** Applicants are expected to share the outcomes of the STSM (poster/short oral talk) with their relevant WG members.

Eligibility criteria: STSM travel grants are available only to researchers and innovators participating in the OPENSENSE Action. It is open to both young and senior researchers (support for senior researchers will be limited to 50% of the total STSM budget), with a preference given to young researchers. The total allocated budget for this grant period is 14k EUR, and the approximate average STSM support is expected to be around 2k EUR per grant.

Terminology: The institution or legal entity where applicants pursue their main strand of research is considered their Home Institution. The Host Institution is the institution that will host the successful applicant and is an institution associated with an Action member.

Duration: The minimum visit should be 5 days (including travel). There is no limit to the maximum duration of an STSM but it has to be started no earlier than November 1st, 2024, and accomplished latest by October 15th, 2025.

Funding: Financial support for STSM is a travel grant awarded to individuals, not intended to cover employment costs. STSM grantees must make their arrangements for all provisions related to personal security, health, taxation, social security, and pension matters. The maximum amount to be awarded is €3500 per grant. Applicants must make a budget request in their application taking into consideration the duration and location of the STSM. For reference, consider the maximum daily amount that can be claimed for accommodation and meal expenses per country (http://www.cost.eu/daily_allowance). Grants are paid after the completion of the activity and approval of all required documentation.

Application: Applicants must have an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/>. Applications must be submitted electronically through the e-COST platform. In addition to the information entered on the website, the applicants should upload the following documents in a single PDF file:

- Short CV with recent publications (maximum 2 pages);
- Description of involvement in OPENSENSE (maximum half-page);
- Application form describing: the goals of the visit, description of the work to be carried out by the applicant, and expected outcomes (https://www.cost.eu/STSM_GrantApplication);
- The amount requested in euros (including the list of estimated costs);

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- Confirmation letter from the Host Institution.

For additional information on the submission via the e-COST system please advise the Grant Awarding User guide: <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/12/Grant-Awarding-userguide.pdf>

Evaluation: The grant applications will be evaluated at the beginning of every month by the Grant Awarding Committee. The applicants will be notified of the results of their application within four weeks of submission. The members of the Grant Committee are Prof. Nadav Peleg (CH), Dr. Hristomir Yordanov (BG), and Dr Agnieszka Wypych (PL). Applications will be evaluated on the principle of first-come-first-serve; once the application is approved, the Grant Awarding Coordinator will review the requested budget and determine the grant amount following the applicant's request but also take into consideration the duration and location of the STSM and the budget available. Priority will be given to Young Researchers (i.e. non-tenured PhDs and post-docs, under 40 years) and Innovators (individuals).

Funded applications and reimbursement: Once the STSM has ended, the grantee must submit a short report on the outcomes of the visit. The report must be submitted within 30 days after the end date of the STSM or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period, whichever date comes first. Failure to submit the required report on time will effectively cancel the grant. The grant payment will be executed within 30 days after the approval of the report.

Period of STSM travel grants and application deadlines: The application can be considered as a continuously open call until September 15th 2025 or until the budget for STSM has been fully allocated.

Questions/Inquiries: Please contact Prof. Nadav Peleg ([nadav.peleg\(at\)unil.ch](mailto:nadav.peleg@unil.ch)).

About OPENSENSE (COST Action CA20136). *OPENSENSE brings together scientists investigating different opportunistic sensors (e.g. microwave links, citizen science), experts from weather services, and end-users of rainfall products to build a worldwide reference opportunistic sensing community. The overarching goals of the COST are to overcome key barriers preventing data exchange and acceptance as hydrometeorological observations, define standards to allow for large-scale benchmarking of opportunistic sensing precipitation products and develop new methods for precipitation retrieval, coordinate integration of the opportunistic observations into traditional monitoring networks, and identify potential new sources of precipitation observations. Further details can be found here: <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA20136/>*

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