

CA17140 CANCER NANOMEDICINE
Call № 2 for
Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) Applications

1st Call of the Second Grant Period from 15/08/2018 to 15/10/2019

Applicants are requested to submit their STSM application not later than 30/07/2019

The STSM committee for the evaluation of the applications and final approval is constituted by:

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IN THIS 1ST CALL OF THE SECOND GRANT PERIOD, 20-25 APPLICATIONS WILL BE GRANTED

The institutions/ organisations where applicants pursue their main strand of research are considered as **Home Institutions**. The **Host Institution** is the institution/ organisation that will host the STSM grantee.

The following table shows the scenarios available to eligible STSM applicants

| 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 |
| | An Approved IPC Institution |
| | An Approved NNC Institution |
| | The EU Commission or an EU Body, Office or Agency |
| | An Approved European RTD Organisation |
| | An Approved International Organisation |
| Located in an Approved NNC Institution | 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 |

GOALS: building a network in order to initiate specific scientific projects in line with MoU objectives, exchanging expertise and transferring knowledge on nanomedicine between participants.

OUTPUTS: STSM reports, collaborative projects, joint publications, knowledge exchange, transfer of skills and techniques, networking.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

A STSM Grant is a fixed financial contribution which 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. A 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 must respect the following criteria:

- 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.
- Up to a maximum of EUR 300 can be afforded for travel costs.

Therefore, the financial contribution of EUR 160 per day is applicable for STSM from 5 to 20 days (+EUR 300 for travel costs). For STSM longer than 20 days, a fixed financial contribution of EUR 3500 is provided (including the travel costs).

The appointed STSM Committee should consider and can approve differentiated country rates to cover accommodation and meal expenses based on the perceived cost of living in the host country.

For the period of the STSM neither the MC, nor the COST Association nor the Grant Holder may be considered as an employer. The grantees must make their own arrangements for all health, social, personal security, taxation and pension matters.

All applicants must carefully read the funding rules detailed in Section 8 of the COST Vademecum. This document is available at: <http://www.cost.eu/Vademecum>.

APPLICATION:

The applicants must register for an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/> and submit their STSM applications online at: <https://e-services.cost.eu/STSM/> (follow the instructions)

After submitting the application online, the applicants must download it and send it as an e-mail attachment together with the necessary supporting documents (CV, work plan, list of publications, motivation letter, letter of support from the Home institution, letter of support of the Host institution) to the STSM Committee member(s) connected to the applicant selected WG(s). All documents must be sent to the STSM coordinator too.

In the motivation letter, the applicant has to specify the WG(s) to which the Home and Host Institutions belong to.

The following information has to be encoded in the on-line registration form:

- the Action number,
- the title of the planned STSM,
- the start and end dates,
- the key academic details of applicant,
- the work plan,
- the bank details of applicant,
- the host institution,
- requested grant (amount for travel and subsistence).

As approved by the MC, the evaluation of STSM applications and selection of Grantees is performed by the STSM Committee. The selection of STSM applicants will be based on the scientific scope of the application and how it can support the COST Action in achieving its scientific objectives, and take into account the COST Policy and Rules with special attention on Inclusiveness and Excellence. The selection of STSM grantees, including Home and Host Institutions as well as allocated grants, must be communicated to the entire Action MC in a subsequent Action MC meeting and included in the minutes of the Action MC meeting.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

The applicant has to consider each of the following evaluation criteria in the motivation letter.

Evaluation criteria for STSM, dedicated to ECI, PhD&lower grade researchers (TERMED TYPE A STSM):

- I) Scientific quality/Excellence in Science:

- 1- Does the project start from a relevant non-trivial question, and is this question relevant for the Action?
- 2- Would answering this question (or solving this problem) really be an important step forward in the development or progress of the Action scientific purposes?
- 3- Does the project description indicate that the group is sufficiently acquainted with the up-to-date knowledge in this domain? Do they have broad and adequate access to the international scientific literature?
- 4- Is the proposed methodology for obtaining an answer to this problem appropriate?
- 5- Does the Host group possess the necessary skills for applying this methodology?
- 6- Quality of the applicant based on publications, participations to symposia, patents, experiences in process up-scaling and experiences in clinical translation.

- **II) Training benefit for the applicant**

- **III) Benefit for the Nano2clinic Network**

- **IV) Experience of the applicants**: higher priority to ECI and PhD Students or postdoctoral fellow or employed by, or affiliated to, an institution, organisation or legal entity which has within its remit a clear association with performing research.

- **V) Interdisciplinary level**

- **VI) Inclusiveness target countries**: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, fYR Macedonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey.

- **VII) Gender balance**

- **VIII) STSM period**

Evaluation scoring for Type A STSM

I : 30 pts (5 pts for each sub-criteria)

II: 10 pts (2 pts per pertinent benefit, as indicated in the motivation letter)

III: 10 pts (2pts per key performance indicator (KPI)/those defined in the Nano2Clinic proposal are: paper, patent, conference-poster, project, prototypes, database, software, book, training school and workshop)

IV: 15 pts for PhD students & lower; from 12 to 5 pts for ECIs on the basis of the number of years after PhD.

V: Maximum 15 points will be granted for highly interdisciplinary projects.

VI: To Inclusiveness target countries will be given priority in the STSM selection.

VII: Gender balance will be taken into consideration in the STSM selection.

VIII: Preferred STSM with a duration period longer than 7 days up to a maximum of 90 days .

Maximum total: 80

Evaluation criteria for STSM dedicated to group leaders, professors and experienced scientists (TERMED TYPE B STSM)

I) Scientific quality/Excellence in Science:

1- Does the project start from a relevant non-trivial question, and is this question relevant for the Action?

2- Would answering this question (or solving this problem) really be an important step forward in the development or progress of the Action scientific purposes?

3- Does the project idea/targeted activity description indicate that the visiting/visited groups are sufficiently acquainted with the up-to-date knowledge in this domain? Do they have broad and adequate access to the international stakeholders/networks?

4- How promising will be this STSM for future collaborations and project applications?

5- Quality of the applicant based on publications, patents, experiences in process up-scaling and experiences in clinical translation.

- **II) Benefit for the Nano2clinic Network**

- **III) Experience of the applicants**

- **IV) Interdisciplinary level**

- **V) Inclusiveness target countries**: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, FYR Macedonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey.

- **VI) Gender balance**.

- **VII) STSM period**.

Evaluation scoring for for Type B STSM:

I : 45 pts (5 pts for sub-criteria 1-4, 25 pts for sub-criteria 5)

II: 20 pts (5pts per key performance indicators (KPI)/ those defined in the Nano2Clinic proposal are: paper, patent, conference-poster, project, prototypes, database, software, book, training school and workshop)

III: Higher priority to experienced investigators/professors, retired professors, senior scientists/researchers and group leaders

IV: Maximum 15 points will be granted for highly interdisciplinary projects

V: To Inclusiveness target countries will be given priority in the STSM selection

VI: Gender balance will be taken into consideration in the STSM selection

VII: Preferred STSM with a duration period of 5-7 days

Maximum total: 80

APPROVING STSM FOR PAYMENT

Specific provisions have been introduced to enable researchers from Inclusiveness target countries (ITC) participating in the COST Action to request a pre-payment of 50% of their STSM Grant when they complete the first day of their STSM. In such case, the representative of the Host Institution must confirm by e-mail to the Grant Holder that the STSM applicant has officially started the mission on day 1. Only then the Grant Holder can arrange the payment of 50% of the STSM grant. The remaining 50% of the Grant is payable once the administrative requirements have been satisfied after the STSM.

The STSM Grantee has 30 calendar days from the end date of the mission to submit (by e-mail) a scientific report to the appointed STSM Committee, and to a senior researcher affiliated to the Host Institution.

Payment of the Grant is subject to a STSM scientific report being approved on behalf of the Action's MC by the STSM Committee and by a senior researcher affiliated to the Host Institution.

Written approval of the STSM scientific report by the aforementioned persons will be uploaded in e-COST for archiving purposes.