

CA17140 CANCER NANOMEDICINE

Call № 7 for

Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) Applications

A 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 the specific work to be carried out, and for a determined period of time.

- **STSM Applicants:** Actions participants with a primary affiliation to a legal entity located in a COST Full or Cooperating Member country, a COST Near Neighbour Country or a European RTD¹ organization. The 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.
- **Home Institution:** a legal entity where applicants are affiliated. Examples of affiliation may be: a work contract; PhD or Post-Doctoral programme; Emeritus professorship. A legal entity can be: a public entity (national, regional, local public authority or any other kind of public entity), a university, a research centre, company, association, or any other form of legal entity recognised under a national or international framework.
- **Host Institution:** receives an international partner and can develop long lasting collaboration.
- **Outputs:** knowledge exchange, transfer of skills and techniques, STSM reports, collaborative projects, joint publications, presentation in a COST Action Meeting or an external conference to a wider scientific community, potential stakeholders.

TIME SCHEDULE AND MAIN RULES:

- **STSMs must be carried out from 20/05/2022 to 31/10/2022**
- **Applicants are requested to submit their STSM applications not later than 10/05/2022.**
- **APPLICATION PROCESS:**
 - **The applicants must register for an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/> and submit their STSM applications online in the e-COST website at: <https://e-services.cost.eu/STSM/>, following the instructions.**

To be filled in e-COST:

- **Title**

¹ European RTD Organizations: intergovernmental scientific research organisations responsible for infrastructures and laboratories whose members are States, and the majority of which are COST Members

- Start and end date (within the active Grant Period);
- 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), filled in all parts;
- Confirmation of the host on the agreement from the host institution in receiving the applicant;
- CV

Immediately after applying in the e-cost web site, the applicant has to send the application to the Grant Evaluation Committee (GEC) member/s (see the list below) who are expert in the applicant's project, adding the Grant Awarding Coordinator (GAC) in Cc. The skills of GEC members fall within the Working Groups (WGs) defined by the Action MOU, as follows:

WG1: Manufacturing nanodrugs

WG2: Physico-chemical characterization of nanodrugs

WG3: Preclinical studies of nanodrugs

WG4: Guidelines for clinical trials and regulatory aspects

IMPORTANT: In the on-line Application, in the first lines when describing the project, the applicant has to specify:

- 1) the WG/s of the Home Institution (only in case the applicant's Home Institution belongs to the CA17140 Action);**
- 2) the name of the CA17140 Action Participant who will host the applicant (only in case the Host Institution belongs to the CA17140 Action);**
- 3) If the applicant is a PhD, or a Young Researcher / Innovator (<40 years old), or a Senior Researcher / Innovator (>40 years old), or has a work contract with a private or public entity;**
- 4) if the applicant belongs to an ITC (Inclusiveness Target Country: see the list below at point VI,6 of the evaluation criteria);**

5) the relevance of the application in the field of CANCER NANOMEDICINE. Reference should also be made to this field in the TITLE of the project.

Upon a comparative evaluation of the applications (following the criteria listed below), the selected applicants receive a Grant Letter from the Grant Holder stating the approved amount and the conditions for receiving the grant.

The Grant Evaluation Committee for the evaluation of the applications and final approval is constituted by:

Rosario Maria Sanchez Martin: rmsanchez@go.ugr.es for WG1 (also available for WG2)

Aura Tintaru: aura.tintaru@univ-amu.fr for WG2 (also available for WG1 and WG3)

Ulf Kahlert: ulf.kahlert@med.ovgu.de for WG3

Catarina Pinto Reis: catarinareis@ff.ulisboa.pt for WG4

The Grant Awarding Coordinator: Maria Francesca Ottaviani: maria.ottaviani@uniurb.it

In case of doubt where the Action cannot help, the applicant should contact the Science or Administrative Officer in charge of the COST Action (as displayed on COST Action page on COST website) for further guidance.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

The STSM grant provides a contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, implementation of the project, and overall efforts.

The grant is proposed by the evaluators, based on the request of the applicant, and reflects the duration and location of the STSM, and the budget available for the STSM Call.

The maximum grant available for each grantee is 4000 Euro. Indicatively, up to a duration of 20 days, the grant is a maximum of 180 Euro per day + 400 Euro for travelling. For STSM longer than 20 days, the total grant is a maximum of 4000 Euro (including travelling expenses).

All applicants must carefully read the funding rules detailed in the COST website.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

As approved by the MC, **the evaluation of STSM applications and selection of Grantees is performed by the Grant Evaluation Committee with the final approval of the Grant Awarding Coordinator.** 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.

Priority in selection will be given to Ukrainian Scientists up to 4 applications.

First preference will be given to applicants who already got the STSM grants and could not perform STSM (or performed it only in part) due to Coronavirus situation. These applicants may apply again following the rules indicated in this 7th STSM Call. The applicant has to specify that could not use the previously assigned grant in the on-line application.

Also, main preference will be given to Home and Host Institutions belonging to the Action.

Preference will be also given to applicants who did not previously perform a STSM, and have selected a never previously-visited Host Institution. A second STSM may be approved only for new relevant projects, as judged by the GEC and GAC. A third STSM cannot be approved.

Finally, a main preference will be given to applications involving an exchange between a public and a private institution.

The applicant has to consider each of the following evaluation criteria in the working plan:

- 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 Host Institution is sufficiently acquainted with the up-to-date knowledge in this domain and has the expertise and equipment for achieving the expected results?
- 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 (ITC):** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, (Republic of North) Macedonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey.

- **VII) Gender balance**

- **VIII) STSM period long enough for achieving the expected results.**

APPROVING STSM FOR PAYMENT

The grantee submits the Scientific Report on the work developed, main achievements of the STSM and planned future follow up activities in e-COST within 30 days after the end date of the STSM, or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period, whichever date comes first.

The grantees are requested to also send the Scientific Report to the GAC and to the member/s of their WG/s in the GEC.

No receipts or tickets are needed for grant payment.

Grants are paid by the Grant Holder (joanna.korczynska@uni.lodz.pl) after the completion of the activity and approval of all required report/documentation.

Grantees may request up to 50% pre-payment of the approved grant. This is subject to availability of funds and approval of the Grant Holder Institution.

For more details regarding the STSM regulations, please see Annex II of the Annotated Rules
<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/10/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-2021-11-01-1.pdf>