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# Open Call for LIAISE COST Action Short Term Scientific Mission

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grant Period

### Introduction

Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) is a grant that allows Researchers or Innovators to visit a host organization located in a different country than the country of their affiliation, for the specific work to be carried out and for a determined period. We have an Open Call for STSM Grants using a rolling system for the deadlines for STSM Grant Applications, which for this grant period are as follows:

### Cut-off Dates and Budget

- 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025
- 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026
- 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026
- 15<sup>th</sup> June 2026

After 15th June 2026, if there is a budget available, the applications will be processed as they are received. In the same way, if the budget runs out of any of the previous cut-offs, participants will be informed, and the following calls will not be carried out.

All the applications that have been sent by the cut-off date will be evaluated within 15 days and the applicants will be informed about the decision. Up to 4000 EUR can be awarded for a STSM.

Only applications for future missions will be approved. Grants cannot be rewarded retroactively for scientific missions that have already taken place at the time of the cut-off date.

All STSMs need to be finished, and its report submitted maximum on the last day of the grant period (31/10/2026).

### Eligibility criteria

Researcher and Innovators with appropriate affiliation as described in the [Annotated Rules](#) section 4.1.1.1.1. AFFILIATION.

Additionally, **priority** will be given to active Working Group members whose application is endorsed by the Working Group and whose STSM output is closely related to the goals and deliverables of the Action. For more information please see the [LIAISE Memorandum of understanding](#).

Participation of Young Researchers/ Innovators (<40-year-old) in STSM is encouraged. In the evaluation of two applications with the same score, the one from a Young Researcher will be considered first.

The Table below (page 59 COST ANNOTATED RULES) describes all eligible scenarios. Applicants may receive only one STSM per Grant Period and may not receive more than one STSM for the same Host institution for the duration of the LIAISE COST Action.

Affiliation to		Meetings		Training Schools			Other networking activities	
		Invited individual	Local Organiser	Trainer	Trainee	Local Organiser	ITC Conf Grant*	All others
COST Members	Legal entity in COST F/C Member	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Legal entity in CPM	At COST Partner Member's costs (dedicated budget line)						
Specific Organisations	EC/EU	At EC, EU body, office or agency cost (minimisation of cascade funding)						
	Eur. RTD Org.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
	IO	Once in the lifetime of the Action	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
NNC	Legal entity in a NNC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
IPC / Third States	Legal entity in an IPC	Once in the lifetime of the Action	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
* ITC Conference Grants are limited to Young researchers and innovators from COST Inclusiveness Target Countries and NNC.								

Note that STSMs can be organised anywhere in the world, provided budget availability and MC approval of the scientific justification of the specific benefit of visiting the proposed Host.

## Evaluation criteria

All the applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- 40% Appropriateness of the STSM for the selected Working Group and objectives.
- 15% Quality and feasibility of the work plan.
- 15% Quality and feasibility of the planned outcomes.
- 15% Suitability of the applicant to work plan objectives.
- 15% Benefits of the STSM for the applicant (visitor).

## How to apply?

To apply for a STSM Grant within the LIAISE Cost Action (CA22110), please fill in the [STSM application form](#) available on the e-cost system and upload the following documents:

- Application form (template available on e-COST) describing: Goals, description of the work to be carried out by the applicant, **expected outcomes and description of the contribution to the Action MoU objectives**. Note that applications without clear contribution to the Action objectives will not be taken into consideration. Priority will be given to applications that are coordinated with the working groups.
- Confirmation of the host on the agreement from the host institution in receiving the applicant.

Your application will be first evaluated by the Grant Awarding team (composed by the Grant Awarding leader, the Grant Awarding co-leader and the Action Chair). Then, if the remaining budget allows to provide funding it will be submitted for approval by the MC Chair of the Action. For more information please visit the LIAISE web site and consult the [LIAISE MoU](#). Before you apply, make sure you review and understand the STSM Grant rules, available in the COST [Annotated Rules](#). More information about the grant awarding process can be found [here](#).

It is expected that each STSM grantee will send to the Action Chair, by email, some information about the visit shortly after the mission takes place. Photographic and video material (e.g. the applicant with the LIAISE logo in background) will also be requested.

## Financial support

LIAISE COST Action will decide on the financial contribution for each STSM, taking into consideration the budget request of the applicant, the outcome of the evaluation of the STSM application, the duration of the mobility, the location of the Host and the total number of STSM approved.

In calculating the requested financial contribution, applicants should take the following criteria into account:

- A fixed daily rate for accommodation and meal expenses, calculated according to the country daily rates approved by COST;
- A maximum of EUR 4,000 can be granted to for each successful applicant.

Recommended daily rates for calculation of travel grants for STSM:  
<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2024/11/2024-Daily-allowance-table.pdf>