LIAISE | Cooperation, development and cross-border transfer of industrial symbiosis



An European multidisciplinary Industrial symbiosis community

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cost EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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Open Call for LIAISE COST Action Short Term Scientific Mission

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4th 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

- 15th December 2026
- 15th February 2027
- 15th April 2027
- 15th June 2027

After 15th June 2027, 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 (23/10/2027).

To broaden participation and ensure a fair distribution of funding opportunities, preference will be given, among applications of comparable quality and relevance to the Action's objectives, to applicants who have not previously received a grant in the same category under LIAISE.

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.

In addition, where funding is insufficient to support all applications recommended for funding, a maximum of one grant per applicant will be awarded within the same cut-off round, across all grant categories. Applicants may submit applications under more than one grant type (ITC Conference Grant, YRI Conference Grant, STSM or Virtual Mobility Grant) in the same cut-off round; however, meeting the eligibility requirements does not guarantee funding. Where more than one application from the same applicant is recommended for funding, the selection committee will determine which application to support based on the published evaluation criteria and the Action's priorities.

Individuals invited as per Article 6.2 **and, where applicable, legal entities**, participating in a COST Action networking activity **shall be eligible to receive financial support to cover part or all of their expenses** carried out to participate in or to organise a COST Action networking activity **as defined in the table hereunder**:

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). 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/2026/03/2026-COST-Daily-Allowance-table.pdf