



Call for Proposals: Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM) Grant

Important Note:

Under the FOGOS STSM call for the 1st grant period, proposals will be considered on a rolling basis subject to the availability of funds. Proposals must meet the requirement of making a significant contribution to the objectives of the FOGOS working groups. All STSMs should be completed by 10 October 2025.

Short-Term Scientific Missions fund a visit to a host organization located in a country different than the country of affiliation by a researcher or innovator for specific work to be carried out and for a determined period of time.

1. Objective

The STSM grant supports short-term visits to host institutions in different countries, fostering in-person collaboration between researchers. This grant enables knowledge exchange, skill development, and the advancement of the FOGOS COST Action objectives. Researchers can conduct research, learn new techniques, and explore novel approaches during their stay at the host institution.

2. Eligibility Criteria

Candidate Requirements

- The Grant applicants are Action 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 RTD Organisation.
- A formal agreement with the host institution must be in place before applying, ensuring collaboration and mentorship.
- Preference will be given to:
 - Young Researchers and Innovators (YRI) under 40 years old.
 - Applicants from Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs)
 - First-time applicants.

Activity Specifics

- Duration: 5–90 days (up to 180 days and up to 2000 EUR per STSM).
- The proposed activity must align directly with the objectives of FOGOS.
- Expected outputs include a report detailing the mission's outcomes, as well as plans for collaborative publications or research proposals.

3. Funding

- The total STSM budget for the 1st grant period of FOGOS is 4000 EUR.
- Grants are paid **after completion** of the activity and approval of the required reports/documentation. However, applicants may request up to **50% prepayment**, subject to availability of funds and approval by the Grant Holder Institution.

4. Application Process

Applications must be submitted online via e-COST: <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>



Steps to Apply:

1. Obtain a **Host Institution Agreement Letter** confirming acceptance.
2. Fill in the STSM application online at <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>, selecting **Apply for New Grant** and then **Short-Term Scientific Mission Grant**:
 - Title of the project.
 - Start and end date.
 - A detailed calculated Budget (amount) requested by the applicant.
 - Host institution contact person details
3. Upload required documents:
 - **STSM Grant Application Form** (template available on the website [download template](#)).
 - **Host Institution Confirmation Letter**.
 - **Budget request and justification** that should reflect the duration and location of the STSM.
 - **CV**, including a list of academic **publications (if any)**, which will be uploaded anyway in the e-cost platform when you create an e-cost account.

Once submitted, applicants will receive a confirmation email from e-COST. *Upon approval, the Grantee will receive a Grant Letter stating the approved amount and conditions for receiving the grant.*

5. Evaluation Criteria

The Core Group reviews applications on behalf of the Action Management Committee. If a conflict of interest arises, the affected committee member(s) will not participate in the evaluation of the applications of that call. Applications are assessed based on the following criteria:

- **Alignment with FOGOS objectives.**
- **Feasibility and clarity of the work plan.**
- **Scientific merit and potential outcomes.**
- **Contribution to inclusiveness** (ITCs, Young Researchers and Innovators, gender balance).

Applications will be reviewed and scored based on the following key criteria:

- **Scientific goals** (How well does the proposal align with the FOGOS goals, and what is the STSM's potential impact):
Scale: 1 poor; 2 deficient; 3 satisfactory; 4 very good; 5 excellent.
- **Working plan** (The work plan's quality, feasibility, and clarity, including the realism of the proposed methodology, timeline, and deliverables):
Scale: 1 poor; 2 deficient; 3 satisfactory; 4 very good; 5 excellent.
- **Expected outputs and contributions to FOGOS research** (Potential for tangible results such as publications, collaborations, or skill transfer):
Scale: 1 poor; 2 deficient; 3 satisfactory; 4 very good; 5 excellent.



- **Scientific merit of the applicant:** The experience and qualifications of the applicant:
Scale: 1 satisfactory; 2 good; 3 excellent.
- **Contribution to inclusiveness:**
 - Does the applicant promote gender equality? (0-1)
 - Is the applicant a Young Researchers and Innovators? (0-1)
 - Is the applicant or the host-based in an Inclusiveness Target Country? (0-1)

Applications with the highest scores will be prioritized for funding.

Please note that STSM proposals that strongly advance the objectives of FOGOS or lead to initiatives within the framework of its Working Groups (WGs) will be given high priority.

6. Reporting and Reimbursement

- The **scientific report** must be submitted within **30 days** after the mission's completion (but no later than 10 October 2025). The templates: https://www.cost.eu/STSM_Report
- Reports must be uploaded via e-COST and include:
 - A summary of the work developed
 - Main achievements
 - Future follow-up plans
- In addition to the scientific report, the Grantee is required to prepare a **communication activity** for a larger audience that will be published on the FOGOS website and social media through coordination with Science Communication coordinator
- Payment of the grant is subject to the STSM scientific report being reviewed by the Grant Awarding Coordinator and approved by the MC

For further details, before applying, all applicants should carefully read Annex 2 of the [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#) .

For any inquiries, contact the FOGOS co-chairs at florian.rabitz@ktu.lt and x.s.yap@uu.nl, as well as the Grant Awarding Coordinator at besashahini@feut.edu.al