

## **COST Action AtheroNET CA21153**

### **First call for STSM Grants**

The COST Action AtheroNET CA21153 (<https://atheronet.eu/>) is launching the first call for Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM) grants. An STSM consists of a visit to a host located in a different country than the country of affiliation and provides a contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses. STSMs are great opportunities for researchers to share techniques and gain skills that may not be available at their home institution or laboratory, strengthening existing networks and fostering collaboration between COST Action Participants. This networking activity supports individual mobility and offers a valuable experience for Young Researchers and Innovators (YRI), as well as for already established researchers in supporting their career development.

The first STSM call will be open for application through e-COST from the **1<sup>st</sup> April 2023** and grants will be awarded on a **first come, first served basis**, according to the selection criteria (see below). Participation of **Young Researchers and Innovators** in STSM is particularly encouraged.

All STSM for this period **must be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023**. Once the activity has ended, the grantee should submit the required reports and relevant documentation on e-COST within 30 days after the end date of the activity or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period, whichever date comes first. Otherwise, the Action will not be able to reimburse the grantee from the budget of the Grant Period 1 (1st Nov 2022 – 31st Oct 2023).

#### **Glossary of relevant EC / COST abbreviations:**

- STSM: Short-Term Scientific Mission
- YRI: Young Researcher and Innovator (under the age of 40)
- IPC: International Partner Countries
- ITC: Inclusiveness-Target Countries
- NNC: Near Neighbour Countries

<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/10/Annex-II-level-A-Glossary-REVISION.pdf>

#### **STSM rules**

For full information on COST STSM rules see the [Annotated rules for COST Actions](#).

- **The applicant must be engaged in an official research programme or can be employed by, or affiliated with, an institution, organisation or legal entity which has within its remit a clear association with performing research.**
- The maximal financial support is 2500 EUR and the mission duration should be **minimum one week to maximum three months**.
- **The Home Institution (where the applicant is affiliated) and the Host Institution (that will host the successful applicant) must be located in different countries.**
- The financial support is limited to travel and accommodation expenses and is **not intended to cover experimental costs**.
- Due to limited funding available, only one person per home institution and host lab can apply.
- **The Home Institution and the Host Institution must send recommendation and acceptance letters, respectively, with the application and agree to cover the rest of the expenses related to the travel and project, if necessary.**
- The grantee is required to submit a short **scientific report within four weeks after their stay**.

The table below illustrates the possible scenarios for eligible STSM applicants:

Applicant's Home institution	STSM Host Institution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Located in a Participating COST Full Member / COST Cooperating Member</li> <li>✓ Located in a NNC</li> <li>✓ Located in a recognized European RTD Organization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Located in another Participating COST Full Member / COST Cooperating Member / Partner Member</li> <li>✓ Located in an IPC / Third State</li> <li>✓ Located in a NNC</li> <li>✓ Specific Organizations: only if the rule applies to the territory where it is vested</li> </ul>

For definitions on the COST countries, please visit the [ANNEX I – LEVEL A: COUNTRY AND ORGANISATIONS TABLE](#)

### Applications will be awarded funding according to the following criteria:

- Available **budget**.
- Scientific **quality** of the proposal.
- Technical **feasibility** (term of the STSM, host lab equipment and technical knowledge required for the development of the project).
- The proposal must fit with the **aims and goals** of the COST Action AtheroNET CA21153.
- The host is an approved institution or laboratory actively participating in the COST Action AtheroNET.
- Mutual scientific **benefit** for host and home institution (*motivation and recommendation/acceptance letters*).
- Participation of PhD students and **YRIs** is particularly encouraged.

### How to apply

- Applicants must create a Grant application by logging into e-COST (COST Actions) and clicking on the Grant Applications tab (<https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>).
- The amounts granted for each individual STSM will be determined during the evaluation process. The selection of applicants is based on the scientific scope of the STSM application, which must clearly fall within the overall objectives of the Action.
- Applicants must read carefully the rules detailed in the [Annotated rules for COST Actions](#).

To apply for an STSM, please follow the following steps:

1. Submit an **STSM application on e-COST** (<https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>). To encode a new application, the applicant clicks on 'Apply for grant'.
2. The online application form contains different sections with mandatory documents:
  - 2.1. Grant Application template
  - 2.2. Confirmation by host template
  - 2.3. **One single PDF file** with supporting information:
    - A brief description of the scientific mission to be performed
    - Motivation letter by the candidate
    - Recommendation letter by the Home Institution

- Brief CV with a list of publications (if applicable)
- Acceptance letter from the Host Institution that the STSM applicant can perform the activities detailed in the STSM work plan on the agreed dates.

## Post-STSM obligations

The grantee must submit a short **scientific report and relevant information on e-COST** ([http://www.cost.eu/STSM\\_report\\_template](http://www.cost.eu/STSM_report_template)) **within 30 days after the end date of the activity or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period, whichever date comes first, to [susana.novella \[at\] uv.es](mailto:susana.novella@uv.es), [paolo.magni \[at\] unimi.it](mailto:paolo.magni@unimi.it), and the Host Institution.** The scientific report should include a description of the work carried out during the STSM and the main achievements and planned follow-up activities.

The applicant is also responsible for acquiring an official letter from the Host Institution formally **accepting the scientific report**. This formal acceptance is necessary for approving the STSM for payment.

The grantee will also present a scientific communication describing the activities and achievements of the mission in the following AtheroNET MC/WG meeting.

The STSM grantee must email a summary and a copy of their scientific report to the **Science Communication Coordinator of the Action and Working Group 5** leader Prof. George Kararigas ([atheronet \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:atheronet@gmail.com)). It will be then disseminated using the official AtheroNET website, social media, etc.

## Pre-payment of 50% of the Grant (if applicable and requested) and reimbursement

The applicant can apply for a pre-payment of 50% of the Grant. This amount is subject to availability of funds and approval by the Grant Holder Institution. The request of the pre-payment shall be submitted to the Grant Holder Manager. This amount would be paid by the Grant Holder at any moment before or during the duration of the STSM, so a pre-payment is more effective for STSMs longer than 1 month. The Grant Holder needs to ensure adequate tracking of any amount pre-paid and record in e-COST the total final grant after the mission has been fulfilled.

## Contact persons

- Prof. Paolo Magni ([paolo.magni \[at\] unimi.it](mailto:paolo.magni@unimi.it)) - **Action Chair**
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