

COST Action CA15122
Reducing Old-Age Social Exclusion: Collaborations in Research and Policy
(ROSEnet)

2nd Call for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM)
Applications for Missions occurring between
01 July 2017 and 31st March 2018

Topic of the COST Action CA15122:

Reducing the number of people at risk of social exclusion is a headline target of the Europe 2020 strategy. Population ageing and low economic growth pose major challenges to meeting this target, emphasising the necessity to tackle old-age exclusion. While risks of exclusion of older people are widening and deepening, damaging gaps in understanding old-age exclusion exist across Europe. Existing knowledge is poorly developed, lacks synthesis and is spread across highly disparate disciplines.

This Action aims to overcome fragmentation and critical gaps in conceptual innovation on old-age exclusion across the life course, forging much needed new links between research and policy and enhancing evidence-based and effective innovation in order to tackle social exclusion amongst older people in Europe. The action engages with researchers and policy stakeholders to develop shared understandings and to direct the development of new policy and practice interventions that can be practically and effectively implemented, for reducing exclusion in diverse European ageing societies.

The Action is an innovative participatory, interdisciplinary and cross-European collaboration that will: (1) synthesise existing knowledge; (2) critically investigate the construction of life-course old-age exclusion; (3) assess the implications of old-age exclusion across the life course; (4) Develop new conceptual frameworks on old-age exclusion; and (5) identify innovative, and implementable, policy and practice for reducing old-age exclusion. The Action is focused on an encompassing view of exclusion that takes into account different kinds and dimensions of the phenomenon, including economic, social, service, civic rights, and community/spatial exclusion.

***All STSM activities must occur in their entirety within the dates specified above**

Purpose of a Short-term Scientific Mission

STSMs facilitate researchers from COST countries participating in COST Action CA15122 to go to an institution, organization or research centre in another participating COST country to foster collaboration and to perform empirical

research. STSMs involve visiting a partner institution for a period of up to three (3) months to improve closer cooperation and exchange, to develop capacity building and joint research, publications, and preparation of future projects. The STSM must further the scientific objectives of the Action, as set out above. The following detailed information is drawn from COST VADEMECUM (<http://www.cost.eu/download/COSTVademecum>)

Who can apply?

- STSM applicants are PhD or post-doctoral researchers, or employed by or officially affiliated to an institution or legal entity (public or private, as Home Institution);
- COST Action CA15122 in accordance with COST strategy supports Early Career Investigators (ECI) Therefore, the participation of ECIs in STSMs is particularly encouraged but applications are not limited to ECIs. An applicant is considered an ECI when the time that has elapsed between the award date of the applicant’s PhD and the date of the applicant’s first involvement in the COST Action does not exceed 8 years. PhD students and other researchers are also eligible to partake in STSMs, but ECIs are prioritized when applications are evaluated.
- The table below (see category A) details the possible STSM scenarios available to the respective Researcher. The Host institution (category B) concerns the institution/organisation that will host the successful applicant.

A) Researcher in a Home Institution	B) To Perform a STSM in a Host Institution
From an institution in a <u>Participating</u> COST Country	In another <u>Participating</u> COST Country
	In an <u>approved</u> NNC institution
	In an <u>approved</u> IPC institution
	In an <u>approved</u> Specific organisation
From an <u>approved</u> NNC institution	In a <u>Participating</u> COST Country
In an <u>approved</u> European RTD Organisation	In a <u>Participating</u> COST Country

To clarify the acronyms, please see Cost Vademecum, (<http://www.cost.eu/download/COSTVademecum>)

Amount of grants

- STSM’s can have a duration of between 5 days and 90 days (and up to 180 days if the applicant is an ECI).
- The financial support on offer is a contribution to the overall expenses incurred during the STSM and may not necessarily cover all of the associated outgoings. Financial support is limited to covering travel and subsistence expenses and is paid as a grant.
- During an STSM neither the MC, nor the COST Office nor the Grant Holder may be considered as an employer. Grantees must make their own arrangements for

all health, social, personal security and pension matters.

- **Grants are processed only after the STSM has taken place** and the reporting retirements have been satisfied and approved by the STSM coordinator.
- The following funding conditions apply and must be respected:
 - Travel expenses cannot exceed EUR 500;
 - For accommodation and meal expenses, a maximum amount of EUR 160 per day can be considered;
 - For this call, a grantee can be afforded up to a maximum of EUR 2000;
 - For this call ECI (with a duration of more than 91 days), a maximum amount of EUR 2000 can be afforded.
- STSM activities must occur in their entirety within the dates specified in this call.
- For this call, the Management Committee of COST Action CA15122 has allocated a total budget of EUR 8,000 for up to 4 STSMs.
- The amounts granted for each individual STSM will be determined during the evaluation process.

How to apply?

- The applicant is responsible for choosing and contacting the Host institution and for organizing the application process. He/she has to complete the online application form (<https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>) and send it to the STSM coordinator by the **31st May 2017**, attaching the following documents:
 - CV;
 - Publication list;
 - Work plan - should include objectives for visit, time-line and core tasks to be undertaken; expected outputs and deliverables (e.g. new research model; draft outline of peer review publication);
 - Work plan should be structured with a particular research question in mind and with a view to developing work that will form the basis for a peer review publication.
 - Written agreement letter from the host institution;
 - Support letter from the home institution;
 - Motivation letter, highlighting the importance of the mission for this COST Action, and for his/her own training and career.

The selection of applicants is based on the following criteria;

1. The fit between the Action and the scientific scope of the STSM application. The proposal must clearly complement the overall objectives of the Action, contributing to either the individual domains of exclusion (listed in the MOU of the Action found here http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/ca/CA15122) or the overarching construct of old-age exclusion.
2. ECI will be given priority over PhD students and other applicants.
3. Applicant's cv, and particularly his/her background (research interests; experience and publications in peer-reviewed journals) on the topic covered by the Action.

When to apply?

The current call is open until **31st May 2017**. Feedback will be given by the **12th June 2017**. STSMs may take place within the period: 1st July 2017 – 31st March 2018.

After the STSM has taken place

It is important that within 30 days from the end date of the STSM, the successful applicant must submit a scientific report to the Host institution and to the STSM Coordinator Feliciano Villar (fvillar@ub.edu). The applicant is also responsible for acquiring an official acceptance letter / Email confirmation of acceptance from a senior Researcher affiliated to the Host institution formally accepting the scientific report.

Failure to submit the scientific report within 30 days from the end date of the STSM will effectively cancel the Grant.

NOTICE OF COMPLETION:

The STSM coordinator will approve the final report and send the completion notice to the Grant Holder. The Grant Holder will then execute the payment of the grant directly to the grantee.

STSM Coordinator -Professor Feliciano Villar. University of Barcelona.

Email: fvillar@ub.edu

