



COST

COST Action MP1307

Stable Next Generation Photovoltaics: Unraveling Degradation Mechanisms of Organic Solar Cells by Complementary Characterization Techniques.

2nd MC Meeting and 1st WG Meeting

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Short Term Scientific Missions

Hotel Condes de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain. 8th -9th October, 2014



What is an STSM and whats the purpose

Short Term Scientific Missions allows:

- **Researchers participating** in a COST Action
- to **visit**
- an **institution** or laboratory in another **participating COST Country** / an approved NNC institution or an approved IPC institution.
- **What is the purpose of an STSM?**
 - strengthening existing **networks** and fostering **collaborations**
 - **contribute** to the overall **scientific** objectives of the COST Action,
 - enable eligible Researchers to **learn new techniques**
 - gain **access** to specific expertise, instruments and/or methods not available in their own institutions.

We can adjust some rules and need to agree on them!



Who is eligible

- *A STSM applicant must be engaged in a research programme as a PhD Student or postdoctoral fellow or can be employed by, or affiliated to, an Institution or legal entity which has within its remit a clear association with performing scientific research.*
- depends on which country their primary affiliation is held.

Home Institution	Host Institution
From a Participating COST Country or Cooperation State	To another Participating COST Country or Cooperation State
	To an approved NNC institution
	To an approved IPC institution
	To an approved Specific organisation
From an approved NNC institution	To a Participating COST Country or Cooperation State
From an approved European RTD Organisation	To a Participating COST Country or Cooperation State

Types and funding

Rates are subject of discussion

- **Duration**
 - **Standard STSMs:**
 - minimum duration of 5 days;
 - maximum duration of 90 days;
 - **ESRs may extend (extended mission):**
 - minimum duration of 91 days;
 - maximum duration of 180 days;
 - In any case within a single grant period and within the Action's lifetime.
- **Max. funding rates: (for discussion)**

• Max. 120€ per day	(max. 160)
• Up to 500€ for travel	(max. 500)
• A maximum 2 500€ in total (standard STSM).	(max. 2500)
• A maximum 3 500€ in total (extended ESR STSM)	(max. 3500)
- **Not necessarily full funding!**

Reciprocal STSM (RSTSM)

Host institutions in international partner countries with reciprocal agreement with COST (Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa).

Home Institution	Host Institution	Financial Support
From a Participating COST Country	To an approved IPC Institution in country benefiting from a reciprocal agreement	Supported by the COST Office directly
From an approved IPC Institution in a country benefiting from a reciprocal agreement	To an institution in a Participating COST country	Supported by the implementing agent in the IPC benefiting from a reciprocal agreement

Separate rules, funding and procedure

See -> COST Action Vademecum – STSM, RSTSM



STSM process: before

- Obtain the written agreement of the host institution
- Complete the online application form
(see <https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>);
- Submit to the STSM host institution and to the STSM coordinator.
 - the completed e-cost file
 - CV
 - full work plan/project description
 - list of publications
 - motivation letter
 - letter of support from the home institution
 - other supporting info
- We hope to get a webpage online for submission by then
- If evaluation positive-> grant letter is sent to the applicant



STSM process 2: afterwards

- submit a **short scientific report** to the host institution (for information) and the STSM coordinator (for approval) **within 30 days** after the end date of the STSM
 - Purpose of the STSM;
 - Description of the work carried out during the STSM;
 - Description of the main results obtained;
 - Future collaboration with the host institution (if applicable);
 - Foreseen publications/articles resulting from the STSM (if applicable);
 - Confirmation by the host institution of the successful execution of the STSM;
 - Other comments (if any).
- After approval from coordinator, the Grant Holder will execute the payment of the grant.

**Details are subject
of discussion**

Budget

- 27,737 Euros this year (to be spent till may)
- Suggestion: hand out as much as possible funds for first call (asap), do second call if leftovers (february?)

We aim for:

- Probably around 16 missions (~1730€ each)
- As many as possible!
- **Economic use of funds preferred!**

Evaluation Criteria (to be discussed & agreed on)

Contribute to the scientific objectives of Stable Next SOL:

Reviewers give points (1-10) in each category,

- Scientific excellence (50%, but 6 or above as minimum threshold)
- Impact on the action (15%, but 6 or above as minimum threshold)
- Alignment with the Stable Next Sol scientific objectives (10%, but 6 or above as minimum threshold)
- Economic use of funds (15%)
- Personal qualification based on CV (10%)

-> Max 10 Points

Bonus Points (please indicate in your application letter):

- 1 extra point for ESRs
- 1 extra point for female researchers, 0.3 points for female host
- Publication from a STSM will give 1 bonus point for the next application of one of the partners
- 1 bonus point for partner from NN oder inclusiveness countries
- 1 point for significant co-funding from host (more than 20%, free accommodation...)

Final decision by STSM coordinator, Chair and Vice Chair

- Based on ranking
- If necessary adjustments for gender & country balance or optimal budget use

To decide:

- Delegate STSM evaluation to STSM coordinator & core group (budgetary decisions)!
- Selection of reviewers:
 - Proposal: Volunteers + we invite from the member list if needed.
- Ask for 3 reviews, but possible to proceed with only 2
- Reviewers are kept confidential
- Rejected applications are kept confidential
- Granted applications and reviews (scores only?) are published
- Applicants can veto reviewer (up to 3?) names in their applications
- Evaluation list and scores are (not) published?

Plan for Call:

- Get call out till 20th october
- Deadline 21st of november
- Decide till mid december


- Maybe a second call in february/march

Helpful links

- Cost Vademecum, STSM section:
<http://www.cost.eu/module/download/43338>
- Online application:
 - <https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>
- Some answers:
http://www.cost.eu/participate/networking/grant_holder_qa
- NNC:
http://www.cost.eu/about_cost/cost_countries/international_cooperation/nnc




END

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- The evaluation of STSM applications is performed by the MC and must avoid any potential conflict of interest. The MC may formally delegate the evaluation of STSM applications to an STSM coordinator or committee (refer to section 1.3.8). The assessment criteria defined by the MC should be communicated in advance to all potential applicants.
 - When formally nominated to do so, the STSM Coordinator/Committee Member can make budgetary decisions related to STSM on behalf of the MC.
- > Suggestion: Monica, Moritz and me are nominated STSM committee, all three negotiate and agree on STSM grants unanimously, if not-> MC

@ webmaster, what's possible?

- HP to publish call ? (like <http://compstar.uni-frankfurt.de/stsm-2/>)
 - FAQ and granted STSM list to be filled over time on HP
 - Separate email to handle STSM requests and inquiries?
 - Submission system+database? (how much can be done via e-cost?)
 - User (applicant) uploads documents (files) and fills form/dataset
 - User (reviewer) can (partially) access selected datasets (read-only) (one or more), fill evaluation form/dataset and upload report file
 - User (committee) can access everything, can assign reviewers to applicants
 - Data handling from forms (weighting, adding, sorting) and generate report/export data
 - Automatic invitation to reviewer?
 - List of possible reviewers?
 - Keep track of gender, country, lab, ESR... balance over several missions
 - Keep track of reviewers (balance load)
- > probably too sophisticated (???), but at least the data should be kept somehow?

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- Latest additions, do we want to advertise hosts on homepage? (as poster?)

COST Inclusiveness countries

EU Member States: “EU13”: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech republic, Estonia, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia.

EU candidate countries: former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Serbia, Turkey.

Potential EU candidate countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Targeted COST Countries

- **EU 13:**
Bulgaria
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Estonia
Croatia
Hungary
Lithuania
Latvia
Malta
Poland
Romania
Slovenia
Slovakia

- **EU Candidates:**
fYR Macedonia
Republic of Serbia
Turkey

- **EU Potential Candidate:**
Bosnia and Herzegovina

