



## **ELN SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS (STSM) FIFTH CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

Applications are welcomed for Short Term Scientific Missions between countries participating in COST Action IS1401 – Strengthening Europeans' capabilities by establishing the European Literacy Network (ELN). Details of the Action, including a list of the currently participating countries, can be found at: <http://www.is1401eln.eu>.

STSMs within this call will occur between November 14<sup>th</sup> 2016 to March 31<sup>th</sup> 2017.

### **PURPOSE OF STSMs**

STSMs are aimed at enabling scientists from one COST country to visit an institution or laboratory in another COST country, NNC institution, or IPC institution to foster collaboration, to learn a new technique or to take measurements using instruments and/or methods not available in their own institution/laboratory, and generally to fulfil the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of COST Action IS1401ELN.

Participation of Early Career Investigators (ECI) in STSM is particularly encouraged as well as that of researchers working in countries listed in COST inclusiveness policy. Countries listed in COST inclusiveness policy are: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Serbia, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Portugal and Luxembourg. STSM applicants must be engaged in an official 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 research. The institutions / organisations where applicants pursue their main strand of research are considered as Home institutions. The Host institution is the institution / organisation that will host the successful applicant. Attribution of STSMs will also take in consideration gender balance.

### **Specific information concerning STSM**

Regular STSMs in COST Action IS1401ELN can last from a minimum of 5 days to a maximum of 10 days, and be granted an average of 1500€. Funding is for travel and subsistence only and will not cover any other costs.

### **The following funding conditions apply and must be respected:**

1. For accommodation and meal expenses, a maximum amount of EUR 160 per day can be considered;
2. Exceptionally, if duly justified, a grantee can be afforded up to a maximum of EUR 2500 and Early Career Investigators can be granted to a maximum of EUR 3500 (for missions lasting from 91 to 180 days);
3. STSM activities must occur in their entirety within the dates specified in this call.

Financial support is limited to cover travel and subsistence expenses and is paid as a grant.

For this call, the Management Committee of COST Action IS1401: Strengthening Europeans' capabilities by establishing the European Literacy Network (ELN) has allocated a total budget of EUR **9000€** for up to **6** STSMs. The amounts granted for each individual STSM will be allotted during the evaluation process by the Action's STSM Coordinator, Dr. Freyja Birgisdóttir. The



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selection of applicants is based on the scientific scope of the STSM application which must clearly comply with the overall objectives of the Action IS1401ELN.

### HOW TO APPLY FOR A STSM

Interested researchers are advised to follow the directions provided below and submit their application and supporting documents to Rui A. Alves (ralves@fpce.up.pt) before **November 4<sup>th</sup> 2016**.

#### The application process is as follows:

1. Applicants need to register for an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/> - adding their bank account details to their profile.
2. Applicants need to obtain a letter of invitation from the Host institution confirming that they can undertake the STSM on the given dates prior to submitting an application.
3. Applicants must complete, submit and download their STSM application online at: <https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>.
4. Applicants must send their submitted STSM application form and the relevant supporting documents to Dr. Rui Alves (ralves@fpce.up.pt) before the application initial deadline expires (November 4<sup>th</sup>).

#### List of supporting documents to be submitted for the evaluation:

- A motivation letter including an overview of the proposed activities that will be performed which must contain a plan of work for the visit highlighting the proposed contribution to the scientific objectives of COST Action IS1401ELN;
  - The submitted STSM application form (downloadable when the online application is submitted - see point 3 above)
  - Letter of invitation to the applicant from a researcher affiliated to the Host institution;
  - A letter of support from the Home Institution;
  - A CV (including a list of academic publications).
5. The application will then be assessed by the STSM Coordinator against the perceived contribution that the proposed visit will make to the fulfilment of the scientific objectives outlined in the Action IS1401ELN MoU. If a ranking of the applications is required the STSM coordinator will request blind evaluations from members of the Action's Steering Group. On the basis of equal merit, applicants shall be ranked over a concern for ESR status, countries' inclusiveness and gender balance.
  6. The applicant will be formally notified of the outcome of their STSM application by the ELN COST Action chair (Rui A. Alves) after November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
  7. Within 30 days from the end date of the STSM, the grantee must submit a scientific report to the Host institution and to the STSM coordinator (Freyja Birgisdóttir). A template report will be made available to the grantee as soon as the STSM is awarded. The grantee is also responsible for acquiring a statement of acceptance of the scientific report by the researcher affiliated to the Host institution. The final scientific report of the STSM has to be sent to the Grant Holder (is1401eln@fpce.up.pt) and the STSM coordinator (freybi@hi.is) for archiving purposes. Failure to submit the scientific report within 30 days from the end date of the STSM will effectively cancel the grant.

**Deadline for submission of ELN STSMs applications: November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

[www.is1401eln.eu](http://www.is1401eln.eu)