

**COST EMF - MED (Action BM1309):  
European network for innovative uses of EMFs in biomedical applications**

Call for Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) Proposals  
2nd Call in 4<sup>th</sup> Grant Period

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) are aimed at supporting individual mobility and at strengthening the existing networks and fostering collaborations by allowing scientists to visit an institution or laboratory in another Participating COST Country, or in approved COST Near Neighbour Countries (NNC) Institutions or in approved International Partners Countries (IPC) institutions. A STSM should specifically contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST Action, while at the same time allowing applicants to learn new techniques or gain access to specific instruments and/or methods not available in their own institutions.

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.

A new feature is now being offered as a facilitation of contact between potential hosts and grantees: Please check the page "[STSM hosting offers](#)" on COST EMF-MED site if there is an offer suiting your interest. If yes, use it as the starting point and contact the host directly for further arrangements.

In order to apply for the STSM the applicant should, before submitting an application:

- Obtain the written agreement from the host institution that the STSM applicant can perform the activities detailed in the STSM work plan on the agreed dates;
- Obtain a letter of support from the home institution,
- Prepare:
  - two page project proposal, describing the foreseen activities, following the classical scheme: Objectives, State of the Art, Project Work-plan, Deliverables,
  - Full CV, including list of applicant publications
  - motivation letter,
- Complete the online application form (see <https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>) and upload all the requested documents;
- Send additionally as e-mail attachment:
  - the two page project proposal, describing the foreseen activities, following the classical scheme: Objectives, State of the Art, Project Work-plan, Deliverables,
  - the motivation letter;

to the STSM host institution and to the to the ESTC (i.e. STSM coordinator), Prof. Stavros Koulouridis, email: [koulouridis@upatras.gr](mailto:koulouridis@upatras.gr). A copy (CC:) should be sent to Action Secretariat: [COST-EMF-MED@fesb.hr](mailto:COST-EMF-MED@fesb.hr). **Subject of the email should start with "COST BM1309 - STSM application" in order to allow for handling applications properly.**

**Interested participants should also express their interest by filing this Doodle poll:**

<https://doodle.com/poll/ha7mktvzxtk7ff2y>

**Following the expression of interest in Doodle, the application containing the required documentation must be sent within the deadline. Don't forget to leave your e-mail in Doodle!**

Applicants from [Inclusiveness Target Countries \(ITC\)](#) can request a pre-payment of 50% of the Grant, during the e-COST application process. This is payable under 2 conditions: that the Grant Holder has sufficient funds to cover 50% of the grant in advance and that the host confirms to the Grant Holder that the mission has started.

The total budget is 11000 € (indicative total number of STSMs is 8 x 1400 €, however, max. grant limits are acceptable as given below, subject to realistic planning). Next calls will be launched subject to budget availability.

Interested applicants should send their applications by **Monday, December 11th 2017 at 12:00h CET (noon)**. It is expected that the approval will be announced by **Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**. The start date can be chosen from **Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018, onwards. All STSM activities must end by April 14<sup>th</sup> 2018, due to conclusion of 4<sup>th</sup> Budget Period**. It is noted that rejected applications always need to be resubmitted for consideration in the next call. Comments on the applications can be sought from the STSM coordinator.

The ranking criteria are:

- scientific quality and originality/novelty;
- feasibility of the approach and realistic planning of the application;
- benefit of the STSM (added-value for the applicant, host and home institutions, and COST Action EMF-MED).

COST rules on STSMs in general:

- duration: 5 – 90 days;
- max. grant of 2500 Euro (up to 160 Euro per day).

Early Career Investigators (ECI) (ECI: see <http://www.cost.eu/Vademecum>) may extend the STSM beyond 90 days. For such STSMs, following rules apply:

- duration: 91 – 180 days;
- max. grant of 3500 Euro (again: up to 160 Euro per day).

Realistic budget planning is one of the major criteria for the application ranking.

Gender, geography, ESR balance and qualifications of the applicant will be taken into consideration when evaluating the proposals.

Applications should be in line with the action objectives and scientific activities as stated in COST Action BM1309 Memorandum of Understanding

([http://w3.cost.eu/fileadmin/domain\\_files/BMBS/Action\\_BM1309/mou/BM1309-e.pdf](http://w3.cost.eu/fileadmin/domain_files/BMBS/Action_BM1309/mou/BM1309-e.pdf))

#### **After the STSM:**

Immediately after the completion of STSM (**within 30 days after the end date of the STSM**), the grantee is required to **upload a scientific report** to the eCOST platform (applicant is notified) and the **host approval** containing:

- Purpose of the STSM;
- Description of the work carried out during the STSM;
- Description of the main results obtained;
- Future collaboration with host institution (if applicable);
- Foreseen publications/articles resulting or to result from the STSM (if applicable);
- Confirmation by the host institution of the successful execution of the STSM;
- Other comments (if any).

Use the COST EMF-MED report template found on COST EMF-MED website: [http://www.cost.eu/STSM\\_report\\_template](http://www.cost.eu/STSM_report_template) (don't use the generic template found on eCOST). The grant is paid after the report has been reviewed and the successful accomplishment has been approved (process involving ESTC and the Steering Group). STSM Reports have to be send first to STSM Coordinator, Prof. Stavros Koulouridis for an initial review and comments, the soonest possible.

The successful applicant may be required to give presentation at COST EMF-MED meetings. Publications resulting from STSM activities are highly valued as COST Action outcome, and should acknowledge (<http://cost-emf-med.eu/acknowledging-cost-emf-med-in-publications/>) COST EMF-MED support.

Stavros Koulouridis

ESR/STSM/Training Coordinator (ESTC)