

COST ACTION CA17139

STSM – Selection and Award Criteria

The following guidelines will be applied in selecting STSM projects for the COST action CA17139 Grant Period 3 (GP3). They are provided to all applicants and hosts to ensure transparency in the application and selection process.

Applications will be accepted at any time, but only considered at the specific closing dates of each call. After the closing date, the applications will be evaluated and a decision regarding their funding will be made. Members should note that COST rules require that STSMs need to be carried out in their entirety within a single Grant Period. As a consequence, STSMs in this grant period should be completed within October 15th 2021.

The STSM applications will be evaluated and selected as follows:

1. All applications must be fully completed online and all required supporting documents (see Application Procedure) must also be mailed to Mrs. Chiara Toldo (chiara.toldo@unitn.it) before midnight (Brussels time) of the day of the deadline of the STSM call for which the application should be considered. Incomplete applications will be rejected.
2. All applications must fit the eligibility rules of COST for STSMs. Those that do not will be rejected.
3. A clear work-plan, with an achievable agenda for the time-period of the stay and a plan to tangibly disseminate the STSM work in the form of papers, thesis or conference contributions are necessary. If follow-up is required, it should be stated. Successful proposals should always demonstrate scientific excellence but it is not the sole criteria. Therefore, it does NOT necessarily mean that rejected proposals are not scientifically excellent.
4. The applications will be evaluated according to the
 1. Scientific quality of the proposal (Scientific level of the project and how it is correlated to the aims of the Action) – weight 2
 2. Technical feasibility (How important the host laboratory's equipment or knowledge is for the completion of a project and is the length of the STSM feasible) – weight 1
5. CA17139 encourages diversity, training and inclusiveness; applicants involving PhD students, postdocs and ECIs will be favourably reviewed; likewise those involving an action member travelling to / from a COST inclusiveness target country will also be encouraged.
6. In the case where the Applicant or the Host Institution have already benefited of previous STSMs funded by the Action 17139, the STSM Committee expects that the scientific output of the previous STSM visits is stated in the application.
7. Within each call, the STSM Committee aims at distributing funds between applications from different countries and targeted at aims of different Working Packages.
8. The STSM Committee will also consider diversity in all areas, including (but not limited to) career stages of applicant and host, nationality and gender, to achieve a fair balance for the action

in terms of STSM awards across the entire COST Action in subjects supported, countries sending and receiving applicants, promotion of researchers from inclusiveness countries and training for young researchers. Cross-working group STSMs will be favoured.