



COST Action CA18111 “GENOME EDITING IN PLANTS”

## 7th Call for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)

**The 7<sup>th</sup> Call for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) in the COST Action CA18111 PlantEd is now OPEN. This call will be open for continuous applications during the entire 4<sup>th</sup> Grant Period (which will finish on 31st October 2023. The applications will be received on a running basis and as long as there is budget available.**

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) are exchange visits aimed at supporting individual mobility, strengthening existing networks and fostering new collaborations between COST Action Participants. A STSM should specifically contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST Action, whilst at the same time allowing those partaking in the missions to learn new techniques, gain access to specific data, instruments and/ or methods not available in their own institutes.

### Objectives of the STSM

- ✓ To consolidate existing networks and to create new ones among Action participants, through joint research, proposals, manuscripts etc.
- ✓ To facilitate transfer of knowledge and training in new techniques, research equipment etc.
- ✓ To provide opportunities for career development for Early Career Investigators (ECIs), through mentoring by qualified researchers in the Action.

### Eligibility

This call is open to all Action participants affiliated with an Institute in a COST Full or Cooperating Member country or from a COST Near Neighbor Country, but in case of competition beyond the available budget priority will be given to PhD students and Young Researchers and Innovators (up to 40 years old). Priority will in that case also be given to applicants who have not previously received any STSM grant. **To be eligible, STSM applicants must be engaged in an official research program or be affiliated with an Institute or legal entity carrying out research.**

The following table shows the scenarios available to eligible STSM applicants:

Applicant in a Home Institution	To perform a STSM in a Host Institution
	In another participating COST country / COST Cooperating member

Located in a participating COST country / COST Cooperating member	In an approved NNC institution
	In an approved IPC institution
	In EU Commission, Bodies, Offices and Agencies
	In an approved European RTD Organization
	In an approved International Organization
Located at an <a href="#">approved NNC institution</a>	In a participating COST country / COST Cooperating member
Located at an <a href="#">approved European RTD organization</a>	In a participating COST country / COST Cooperating member

## Scientific topics

The experimental work plan in the STSM proposal must fit within the scope of any of the Action Working Groups:

- 📄 WG1 - Technical platforms
- 📄 WG2 - Impact assessment
- 📄 WG3 – Policies and regulations
- 📄 WG4 – Perceptions and opinions
- 📄 WG5 – Integration and communication

## Duration

The STSMs of this call can have a duration of **minimum 5 days and maximum 180 days**. Keep in mind that the STSM must finish not later than 20 Oct 2023 in order to submit and approve the report before the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> Grant Period (31 Oct 2023).

## Financial support

STSM grants do not necessarily cover all expenses related to undertaking a given mission. A STSM grant is a **contribution to the overall travel, accommodation, and meal expenses** of the grantee. The calculation of the financial contribution for each STSM must respect the following criteria:

- Up to a maximum of **EUR 4 000 in total** can be afforded to each successful STSM applicant in this call. The grant amount will depend on the duration of the STSM period. We encourage longer stays. For the maximum amount to be granted, a stay of minimum 30 days is requested.

- For shorter stays up to a maximum of EUR 160 per day can be afforded for accommodation and meal expenses.

The Action Chair, Vice Chair and STSM Coordinator can approve differentiated country rates to cover accommodation and meal expenses based on the perceived cost of living in the host country.

**Following the COST rules, the grant is paid after the STSM has been completed and the scientific report approved.** The grant will be paid directly to the bank account entered in the [HYPERLINK "https://e-services.cost.eu/user/login"](https://e-services.cost.eu/user/login).

## How to apply

The applicant must develop the proposal jointly with a research team at a Host institute. An applicant may choose to contact **any research team participating in the Action**. A list of teams that have indicated an interest in hosting an STSM is presented at the end of this document.

To successfully submit the application, the applicant should follow the **grant awarding user guide** by the following link: <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/12/Grant-Awarding-userguide.pdf> and complete the STSM - supporting documents:

**STSM grant Application** (based on e-COST template see page # 3 in the user guide) via the [online tool](#) (after registering in the [e-COST system HYPERLINK "https://e-services.cost.eu/user/login"](#) HYPERLINK "https://e-services.cost.eu/user/login")

- **A written agreement with the Host institution, and**

### Other documents required by the Action:

- A motivation letter
- CV of the applicant
- A letter of support from the Home institution
- Financial data (amount for travel, subsistence etc.)

**Please remember that the applicant is responsible for obtaining an agreement with the Host institution, before submitting the application.**

These documents should be uploaded on the official site:

The applicant encodes a grant application by logging into e-COST and choose the Grant Applications tab. To encode a new application, the applicant clicks on 'Apply for grant'. The applicant can select the grant from the page 'Apply for new grant' for new grant' and upload the required documents for the STSM Grant Application.

## Evaluation of proposals

As soon as the Grant application is submitted, the applicant, Action Chair, Vice Chair, Grant Evaluation Committee (GEC) Members and the Grant Awarding Coordinator (GAC) will receive the notification through e-COST accordingly.

The evaluation process of the applications is performed by the Grant Evaluation Committee. The evaluation criteria consider the scientific scope of the proposal and how the mission can support the Action in achieving its scientific objectives, as well as how the mission will contribute to the professional development of the applicant.

The Grant Awarding Coordinator (Action Chair and Grant Holder in absence of the GAC) is authorized to approve/reject the Grant application in e-COST system on behalf of the MC. In case of rejection, a

justification needs to be encoded. The justification will be included in the e-notification to the applicant.

## Approval of the Scientific Report

1 day and 10 days after the end of the grant, the grantee receives a reminder to upload the report.

For this call, the **Scientific report must be submitted within 30 days** after the end date of the STSM (using template from page 3 of Grant Awarding User Guide following the instructions) and submit in the e-COST system. The failure to submit the Scientific Report within 30 days will effectively cancel the grant. **The report should contain a description of the work carried out, including the main results, and a letter of confirmation by the Host institution.**

As soon as the Grant application is submitted, the Grant Awarding Coordinator is notified for approval. The Applicant, Action Chair and Vice Chair receive a copy of the notification by the e-COST system for approval as well. The Grant Awarding Coordinator is responsible for approving the Scientific report. Also Chair of the Action and Grant Holder have the right to approve the document in the absence of the Grant Awarding Coordinator. Once the report is approved, the payment of the STSM grant will be carried out.

As soon as the Grant Awarding Coordinator approved the Grant application, the GH manager is notified and can send the Grant Letter notification. The Action Chair and Vice Chair also receive a copy of the e-notification. The GH manager follows the link provided in the notification and logs into e-cost.

Dissemination of the results obtained during STSMs activities is obligatory by the granted Applicant whether at the PlantED annual Conference, webinars, through publications, presentations at the Conferences organized by third parties. For this kind of activities there is a possibility to apply for the dissemination Grants (look at the link "Annotated Rules for COST Actions", page 94-97)

Please add the following acknowledgment if the results from STSM visit will be published in a scientific journal or presented at any national or international conference (oral or poster):

*"This article/publication is based upon work from COST Action PlantEd (CA18111), supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology, [www.cost.eu](http://www.cost.eu))" or "This work was supported by the COST Association (European Cooperation in Science and Technology, [www.cost.eu](http://www.cost.eu)) through the STSM grant in the COST Action PlantEd (CA18111)."*

## Contact

For more information and enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the Grant Award Coordinator Dr Vladislava Galovic at [vladislava.galovic@gmail.com](mailto:vladislava.galovic@gmail.com).

## Links

[Annotated Rules for COST Actions](https://lead-me-cost.eu/resources/COST_Annotated_Rules_for_COST_Actions_(LEVEL_C).pdf) HYPERLINK "[https://lead-me-cost.eu/resources/COST\\_Annotated\\_Rules\\_for\\_COST\\_Actions\\_\(LEVEL\\_C\).pdf](https://lead-me-cost.eu/resources/COST_Annotated_Rules_for_COST_Actions_(LEVEL_C).pdf)

[Grant Awarding User Guide](https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/12/Grant-Awarding-userguide.pdf) HYPERLINK "<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/12/Grant-Awarding-userguide.pdf>

[COST Action](https://plantgenomeediting.eu/>(CA18111)) HYPERLINK "[https://plantgenomeediting.eu/>\(CA18111\)](https://plantgenomeediting.eu/>(CA18111))

## Potential STSM hosts

An applicant is free to contact any researcher of the Action in order to suggest and negotiate an STSM proposal. Also, researchers from NNC and IPC countries can serve as STSM hosts.

Potential STSM hosts are welcome to present their research profiles in the dedicated page at the Members only section of the [PlantEd website](#).

sYou can find a list of all [Action Management Committee members](#).