

COST Action CA18111 “GENOME EDITING IN PLANTS”

2nd Call for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)

PlantEd 1st Grant Period

STSM period 01/02/2020 to 31/03/2020

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) are exchange visits aimed at supporting individual mobility, strengthening existing networks, fostering collaboration 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.

There has been one previous STSM call in the first Grant Period (May 2019 to April 2020) of the COST Action PlantEd, and this is the second call. It is expected that there will be two STSM calls per subsequent Grant Period until the end of the Action in April 2023.

Objectives of STSMs

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

Important dates

Call launched: 16 Dec 2019

Application deadline: 15 Jan 2020

Expected decision: 20 Jan 2020

STSM period: 1 Feb 2020 to 31 March 2020

Eligibility

This call is open to all Action participants, but priority will be given to Early Career Investigators (ECIs). An ECI is a researcher with less than 8 years of experience from the date of obtaining the PhD. **STSM applicants must be engaged in an official research programme 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
Located in a participating COST country / COST Cooperating member	In another 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 Organisation
	In an approved International Organisation
Located in an approved NNC institution	In a participating COST country / COST Cooperating member
Located in an approved European RTD organisation	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 assesment
- WG3 – Policies and regulations
- WG4 – Perceptions and opinions
- WG5 – Integration and communication

It is also possible to focus the STSM period on the drafting of a funding proposal together with a host, such as Marie Curie Fellows or other existing programmes.

Duration

The STSMs can start from 1st February 2020 and must end no later than 31st March 2020, to be carried out in its entirety (including reporting) within the Grant Period.

The STSMs of this call must have a duration of **minimum 5 days and maximum 60 days**.

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 3 000 in total** can be afforded to each successful STSM applicant in this call.
- 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 report approved (see below). The grant will be paid directly to the bank account entered in the [e-Cost system](#).

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.

The applicant should complete:

- The COST STSM application form via the [online tool](#) (after registering in the [e-COST system](#))
- A motivation letter
- CV of the applicant
- A written agreement with the Host institution
- A letter of support from the Home institution
- Financial data (amount for travel, subsistence etc)

These documents should be submitted on the official site, and also forwarded to the following:

- The Host of the STSM
- The Action Chair, Dr Dennis Eriksson dennis.eriksson@slu.se
- The Action Vice Chair, Dr Sebastian Carpentier sebastien.carpentier@biw.kuleuven.be
- The Action STSM Coordinator, Dr Vladislava Galovic vladislava.galovic@gmail.com

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

Evaluation of proposals

The evaluation of the applications is performed by the STSM Committee together with the Action Chair or Vice Chair. **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. Also ECI status, geographical balance, and gender balance will be considered. The STSM Committee will also aim to achieve a balance of granted STSMs among the five Action WGs.

In case of approval, the STSM Coordinator will first inform the Grant Holder by e-mail. The Grant Holder will subsequently inform the successful applicants by sending them a Grant letter with an official approval of the STSM application, a "Payment Request" (to be completed after the completion of the STSM) and the level of the financial grant given. The Applicant has to confirm the acceptance of the grant by returning the Grant letter with his/her signature. In case of rejection, the STSM Coordinator will inform the applicant by e-mail.

After STSM completion

The STSM grantee is required to submit, **within 10 days after the end date of the STSM, a short scientific report** to the Host institution, Action Chair, Vice Chair and STSM Coordinator for approval. The report should contain a description of the work carried out including the main results, and a letter of confirmation by the Host institution. **N.B. the short reporting period of this call.**

The Action Chair and STSM Coordinator are responsible for approving the scientific report. **The failure to submit the scientific report within 10 days will effectively cancel the grant.** Once the report is approved, the payment of the STSM grant will be carried out.

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 work was partially funded by the COST Action CA18111 Genome Editing in Plants”.

Contact

For more information and enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the STSM Coordinator Dr Vladislava Galovic at vladislava.galovic@gmail.com.

Links

[COST Short Term Scientific Mission \(STSM\) – User guide](#)

[COST Action PlantEd \(CA18111\)](#)

[COST Action PlantEd – participating COST countries, NNCs, IPCs and organisations](#)

Potential STSM hosts

The below researchers have indicated an interest in hosting an STSM. To follow up on a specific project, please contact the respective researcher. Please note that each STSM proposal has to be negotiated with the Host, and a team being listed below is no guarantee that any individual proposal will be convenient either in scope or time for the Host. Also, **an applicant is free to contact any researcher of the Action in order to suggest and negotiate an STSM proposal**, not only those from the list below.

A list of all the 265 Action participants is unfortunately not yet available for distribution, but you can find a list of all Action Management Committee members, substitutes, and Action Observers [here](#).

Name	Country	Institute	E-mail
Ellen De Keyser	Belgium	ILVO	Ellen.dekeyser@ilvo.vlaanderen.be
Ludmila Ohnoutkova	Czech Republic	Palacký University Olomouc	ludmila.ohnoutkova@upol.cz
Detlef Bartsch	Germany	BVL	Detlef.Bartsch@bvl.bund.de
Jale Tosun	Germany	Heidelberg University	jale.tosun@ipw.uni-heidelberg.de
Kai Purnhagen	Netherlands	Wageningen University	kai.purnhagen@wur.nl
Justus Wesseler	Netherlands	Wageningen University	justus.wesseler@wur.nl
Ruud de Maagd	Netherlands	Wageningen University	Ruud.deMaagd@wur.nl
Hélia Guerra Cardoso	Portugal	University of Évora	hcardoso@uevora.pt
Anna Coll Rius	Slovenia	National Institute of Biology	Anna.Coll@nib.si
Dennis Eriksson	Sweden	SLU	dennis.eriksson@slu.se
Kubilay Yildirim	Turkey	Tokat Gaziosmanpaşa Univer	kubilay.yildirim@omu.edu.tr