WECANet COST Action (CA17105)
8th Call for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) Applications

for Missions occurring between 15/08/2022 and 10/10/2022

WECANet network is pleased to announce the 8th call for STSM applications. We encourage all potential applicants to consider the objectives of WECANet and to apply according to the STSM guidelines. The STSMs must contribute to the scientific objectives of one or more WECANet Working Groups (WGs):

- **WG1 Numerical hydrodynamic modelling for WECs, WEC arrays/farms and wave energy resources** (accuracy, uncertainty, coupling, applicability, usability);
- **WG2 Experimental hydrodynamic modelling and testing of WECs, WEC arrays/farms, PTO systems, and field data** (accuracy, uncertainty, testing facility suitability, measurement techniques);
- **WG3 Technology of WECs and WEC arrays:** The activities of WECANet aim to reduce costs and risks of wave energy technologies, and to contribute to the advancement of the sector;
- **WG4 Impacts and economics of wave energy and how they affect decision- and policy-making:** The activities of WECANet aim to reduce uncertainties when deciding on wave energy investments, and to contribute to increasing confidence of potential investors.

Detailed information regarding the objectives and activities of each WG are presented in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of the present Action http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/ca/CA17105

Deadline for applications to be submitted: **31/07/2022**

SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS

General information

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) are exchange visits aimed at supporting individual mobility, serving as a key tool to support WECANet (CA17105). They allow participating scientists to visit an institution or laboratory in another Participating WECANet COST Country. STSMs are aimed to promote research collaborations, to learn about new research techniques or to perform numerical modelling or experiments using instruments/tools and/or methodologies not available in or of interest for the home institution/laboratory of the Applicant. An STSM should specifically contribute to the scientific objectives of the WECANet COST Action.

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General instructions for application and eligibility criteria are reported below. All rules and regulations can be found in Annotated Rules for COST Actions (see Annex 2 for STSM) and/or the Derogation procedure for further information.

STSM – Application Guidelines

STSM – Eligibility Rules

In order to apply for an STSM, the following criteria must be fulfilled:

- STSM travel grants are available for researchers and innovators affiliated to a legal entity in COST Full/Cooperative Member, Near Neighbor Country or European RTD.
- The Applicant and its Host Institution must be located in two different countries;
- The Applicant is responsible for obtaining the agreement of the Host institution BEFORE the application is submitted;
- The Application needs to be submitted before the deadline of an STSM call.

Criteria

STSM must respect the following criteria:
- They must have a **minimum duration of 5 calendar days** that includes travel.
- STSM need to be carried out in their entirety within a single Grant Period and always within the Action's lifetime

STSM - Financial Rules

An STSM grant is a **fixed financial contribution,** taking into consideration the requested budget and the STSM outcome but not necessarily covering all expenses. An 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 4000** in total can be afforded to each successful applicant;
- Details about the maximum daily allowance that can be claimed for accommodation and meal expenses per country can be found in COST Daily Allowance Rates. Applicants are also requested to consult the Annotated Rules for COST Actions, Annex 2.

The final amount is decided by the Core Group.

STSM application procedure

The application procedure follows the Grant Awarding User guide, from November 2021. Applicants are also requested to consult the Annotated Rules for COST Actions, Annex 2.

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1) Before the STSM

Before the start of the application procedure by logging into the e-COST platform (through https://e-services.cost.eu/), the eligible applicants must prepare the following documents to be uploaded to e-COST

- Applicants must upload their CV in their e-COST profile. This information will be visible to any evaluation committees in the Action for evaluation purposes.

- Application form (template available on e-COST https://www.cost.eu/STSM_GrantApplication) describing: Goals, description of the work to be carried out by the applicant, expected outcomes and description of the contribution to the Action MoU objectives;

- **Written agreement** from the Host institution that the STSM Applicant can perform the activities detailed in the STSM work plan on the agreed dates (The Host Institution is the institution/organisation that will host the STSM Grantee) (see Annex documents);

- **Letter of support** from the Home Institution (see Annex documents);

- Complete an **online STSM application** to register the Applicant's request for an STSM.

Annex documents: Letter of support template, Written agreement template.

After submission of an STSM request, a notification will be sent by e-cost to the Grant Awarding Coordinator and the Grant Holder Manager;

Be aware to precede the STSM request before the deadline of an STSM call!

NOTE: You may need to register through in the e-COST platform (through https://e-services.cost.eu) if you do not have an e-COST profile yet in the e-COST platform.

2) Evaluation and granting of STSM

The evaluation of STSM applications and selection of STSM Grantees is performed by the Action's **Grant Awarding Coordinator/evaluation committee** on behalf of the Management Committee of the WECANet COST Action. The selection of applicants is based on the scientific scope of the STSM application which must clearly fit in the Action's scientific objectives. The selection takes into account the COST policies on promoting gender balance, enabling Early Career Investigators and broadening geographical inclusiveness.

After the evaluation and approval by the Grant Awarding Coordinator/evaluation committee, the Grant Holder will notify the STSM Applicant.

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EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR STSM APPLICATIONS	WEIGHT
Scientific scope of the application: adequacy with the CA17105 topic, support the scientific objectives of one of the Working Groups	35 points
Scientific quality of the project: feasibility, originality, potential impact	20 points
Scientific quality of the applicant and Host institution: skills of the applicant, academic CV, or for PhD students, promoter's opinion	15 points
Research environment at the Host institution: methodology available, complementarity between Host and applicant background,	15 points
COST policies: promoting gender balance, broadening geographical inclusiveness	15 points

3. After the STSM

- Within **15 days** from the end date of the STSM, the successful applicant must submit a **scientific report**. The report should be assembled accordingly to the template provided by COST.
- The applicant is also responsible for acquiring an official acceptance letter from the Host institution formally accepting the scientific report.

Annex documents: STSM report https://www.cost.eu/STSM_Report, Host approval STSM report template. The STSM Grantee must save the documents in pdf before uploading it in e-COST.

Failure to submit the scientific report within **15 days** from the end date of the STSM will cancel the Grant.

QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO: liliana.rusu@ugal.ro