COST Action "Connecting Theory and Practical Issues of Migration and Religious Diversity" (COREnet) CA20107

First Call for Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM) applications

APPLY for a STSM!

Interested in gaining new skills, knowledge and bringing expertise to your country? Apply for a STSM within the area of migration and religious diversity. Propose a STSM relevant to the COST Action "Connecting Theory and Practical Issues of Migration and Religious Diversity (COREnet)", select a Host Institution, and make your innovative proposal.

Deadlines

- Deadline for submission of applications: June 10, 2022.
- Notification of application outcome: June 30, 2022.

Applications submitted after the deadline will be subject to individual assessment and will be taken into consideration depending on finances available.

Summary of the Action

"Connecting Theory and Practical Issues of Migration and Religious Diversity (COREnet)" is an interdisciplinary network that aims at knowledge production, knowledge exchange and capacity building across Europe in the intersection of migration and religious diversity with a particular emphasis on bottom-up research. The background of the network is the pressing social situation that is characterized by the fact that migrants and Syrian war refugees coming to Europe have become one of the major political issues and social challenges in the past years. Research, capacity building and exchange are important tools to analyze what lies behind these challenges and possible solutions. The network aims thus to contribute to overcoming divisions within and across European countries with the help of an innovative approach that would add to existing social scientific knowledge on migration and religious diversity, the study of religions and theological insights explaining the narratives of migrants and refugees. Drawing in researchers from all stages of their careers, and across different European countries, training a new generation of interdisciplinary action researchers capable of connecting study of religions and theology and the social sciences, and working that into action through processes of co-production. This network brings the bridging of knowledge with stakeholders – governmental, non-governmental and media organizations working in the field of diversity management on the local and national levels.

Areas of Expertise Relevant for the Action

- Sociology: migration, interethnic relations;
- Philosophy, Ethics and Religion: theology and religious studies;
- Political Science: social policies, welfare state;
- Psychology: social psychology;
- History and Archeology: modern and contemporary history;

- Education: religious and civic education;
- Community Studies, Social Work and other fields dealing with migration and religious diversity.

Keywords
- Migration;
- Religious Diversity;
- Social Cohesion;
- Refugee Crisis;
- Diversity Management and Practice.

What is a Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM) within COREnet?
Short-Term Scientific Mission consists in a visit of a host organization located in a different country than the country of affiliation of a Researcher or Innovator to carry out a specific work for a determined period of time. Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) are aimed to support researchers' individual mobility, to strengthen existing networks and to foster collaboration between individuals. The purpose of a STSM is thus to gain new partnerships, to learn new techniques and to gain access to specific data, instruments and/or methods not available in their own institutions/organizations.

Short-Term Scientific Missions benefit to:
- STSM Grantees: receives funding for implementing a project with an international team and gains new knowledge or access to equipment or techniques not available in the home institution;
- STSM Hosts: receives an international partner in their institution and can develop long lasting collaboration.

STSMs should have a minimum duration of 5 calendar days that includes travel. STSMs are financially supported by the Cost Action with a fixed grant up to a maximum of EUR 1725 in total.

A STSM within "Connecting Theory and Practical Issues of Migration and Religious Diversity (COREnet) should specifically contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST Action and relate to at least one of the five working groups, see the website of the [Action](#).

STSM applicants – Eligibility rules
STSMs are open for PhDs, postdocs, and advanced career researchers by, or affiliated to, institutions participating in the Action "Connecting Theory and Practical Issues of Migration and Religious Diversity (COREnet)", or at other approved institutions. Priority will be given to Early Career Investigators (ECI) (maximum 8 years since obtaining their PhD at the time of application) and PhD students.

STSMs must be performed between COST countries – researchers cannot apply for an STSM within their own country. Consideration will also be given to candidates moving from/to COST Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs), which include Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria,

Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Serbia and Turkey. International COST participants may host STSM researchers from European COST countries but may not apply for STSMs themselves.

Specific information

STSM of the call will be carried out between July 1, 2022, and October 15, 2022, and will have a duration between 5 and 90 days.

Up to a max of EUR 1725 in total can be afforded to each successful STSM applicant. Financial support is limited to cover travel, accommodation and meal expenses and is paid in the form of a Grant. The cost of research materials is not eligible for consideration as part of the grant. STSM awards may be combined with other funding sources, but these must be acknowledged in the application. The amounts granted for each individual STSM will be determined during the evaluation process by the STSM committee.

Please note that the awarded grant will be paid only after the STSM has been completed – therefore the applicant must have approval and prior financial support e.g., from their own institution. Researchers may ask for a 50% payment of the grant on the first day of arrival at the host institution. For detailed rules regarding eligibility and financial support, please see the relevant sections of the Annotated Rules for Cost Actions.

How to apply

This is a step-by-step guide to applying for an STSM:
1. Applicants should carefully read the funding rules detailed in Annotated Rules for Cost Actions.
2. Applicants must complete required information and submit their STSM applications and supporting documents online at: www.e-services.cost.eu.
3. If you do not already have an e-COST account, you will first need to create an account - which will include providing the details of the bank account where the grant will be lodged if your STSM application is approved and the STSM successfully completed.
4. Applicants must fill in the required information on the Application page and to upload required supporting documents (see the list below).

In the application page and the grant application, applicants have to indicate:
- start and end date of the mission;
- goals and description of the work to be carried out by the applicant;
- expected outcomes, description of the contribution to the Action MoU objectives;
- budget requested by the applicant.

List of supporting documents to be submitted for the evaluation:
1. STSM grant application (based on e-COST template that may downloaded from the website);
2. Letter of support to the applicant from his/her home institution (Annex 1);

3. Letter of invitation to the applicant from a senior Researcher at the Host institution confirming that they can undertake the STSM on the given dates should their application be approved (Annex 2);
4. An overview of the proposed activities that will be performed, a workplan for the visit, a description of the proposed contributions to the scientific objectives of the Action, an outline of the host's scientific expertise/resources in support of the STSM (maximum 8 pages, the font should correspond to Times New Roman size 12 pt with single line spacing and standard margins of 2 cm);
5. A full CV (including a list of academic publications – if applicable);
6. A certificate demonstrating the position as PhD student, postdoc, or other position eligible for STSM grants.

Evaluation

The Action's STSM Coordination Team organizes the assessment of the STSM proposals. STSM funding will be awarded according to the COST key principles of:
• Excellence
• Inclusivity
• Balance (gender and nation)

The STSM Coordination Team will select applicants based on the scientific scope of the STSM applications which must clearly compliment the overall objectives of the Action and be related to a specific Working Group. Criteria for evaluation will be as follows:
1. The relevance of the proposed STSM to the research field of COREnet. A detailed work plan will help to determine if the scientific aims of the proposed work are relevant and applicable to the COREnet's aims (1-10 points).
2. The quality and clarity of the proposed research. The STSM application should be of high quality, arguing clearly and cogently the importance and timeliness of the research (1-10 points).
3. The choice of Host institution and benefits of the STSM for the applicant. The applicant must provide specific scientific reasons for visiting their chosen Host institution. (1-10 points).
4. The profile of the researcher. The STSM Coordination team will consider the researcher's potential of successfully completing the STSM based on their previous work and achievements commensurate with their career stage (1-10 points). In line with COST policy, we will preferentially award STSMs to Early Career Investigators (PhD + <8 years). This should not discourage more experienced researchers from applying.
5. The publication/output potential of the proposed STSM. Assessment will be based on the STSM work plan and detailed publication/output plan (1-10 points).

The STSM Coordination Team will consider the number of applications from each institution to ensure a fair spread of researchers across the network. The STSM Coordination Team will also track the geographical distribution of the Host institutions to ensure there is an evenly spread network for knowledge transfer. Involvement of ITC countries will be a plus.

If approved, the STSM Coordination Team sends the application and its approval to the Grant Holder and Action Chair for the final check. The Grant Holder sends the applicant a grant letter to sign and return. The STSM should not be started until the letter has been signed and returned.

Requirements after completing the STSM

Within 30 days from the end date of the STSM or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period (whichever date comes first) the successful applicant must submit a scientific report to the Host institution, STSM coordinator and to the e-COST system (http://www.e-services.cost.eu). The required report should contain information on the work development, main achievements of the STSM and planned future follow up activities (see Annex 3). Report must include:
- the purpose of the mission;
- description of the work carried out;
- description of main results/outputs;
- plan of future collaborations with the Host institution (if applicable);
- planned publications resulting from the STSM (if applicable);
- confirmation of successful STSM by the Host institution.

The applicant is also responsible for acquiring an official acceptance letter/e-mail confirmation of acceptance from a senior Researcher affiliated to the Host institution formally accepting the scientific report.

When the STSM Coordination team and Action Chair approves the final report, the Grant Holder executes payment to STSM Applicant. Please note that the COST Association can request additional information to substantiate the information contained within the documents submitted by STSM applicants. Failure to submit the scientific report within 30 days from the end date of the STSM or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period (whichever date comes first) will effectively cancel the Grant.

Contacts
- STSM Coordination Team – dr. Eglė Aleknaitė, egle.aleknaite@vdu.lt.
- Chair of the Management Committee of the Action – prof. dr. Milda Ališauskienė, milda.alisauskiene@vdu.lt.
- Administrative Manager – dr. Gintarė Pocė, gintare.poce@vdu.lt.

Annex 1

TEMPLATE – LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM HOME INSTITUTION

I, _____ (The responsible person – typically a head of the lab - at HOME institution) from _____ (HOME Institution), support the application of _____(applicant's name) proposing to travel to _____ (HOST Institution) to realize a STSM for ____ day(s) to carry out the project _____ (proposal title).

Name of the responsible person from the home institution (typically a head of the lab)
Signature
Stamp

At _____ (city)_____ (country), the __ (day) of __ (month), 2022.

Annex 2

TEMPLATE – LETTER OF INVITATION FROM HOST INSTITUTION

I _____ (The responsible person – typically a head of the lab - at HOST institution) from _____ (HOST Institution) support the application of _____ (applicant's name) from _____ (HOME Institution) to realize a STSM for _____ day(s) to carry out the project _____ (proposal title).

Name of the responsible person from the host institution (typically a head of the lab)
Signature
Stamp

At _____ (city)_____ (country), the __ (day) of __(month), 2022.

Annex 3

Scientific Report Short-Term Scientific Mission
(maximum 4 pages long)
Applicant name (First, Last):
Home Institution:
Host Institution:
STSM date:
STSM title:
Explanation about how the STSM contribute to the Action:
Description of the work carried out during the STSM (Max 300 words):
Description of the main results obtained:
Mutual benefits for the Home and Host institutions:
Future collaboration with the Host institution (if applicable):
Foreseen publications/articles or conference presentations expected to result from the STSM (if applicable):
Other comments (if any):

Date: Signature of the grantee