



FULL RECO4US

FULLRECO4US SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS - CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2025

The COST CA20133 "Cross-border transfer and development of sustainable resource recovery strategies towards zero waste" ("FULLRECO4US") encourages and supports Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs). STSMs are exchange visits aimed at strengthening existing networks by allowing individual researchers to visit an institution or laboratory in another COST country in order to foster collaboration and contribute to the scientific objectives of COST Action CA20133.

Up to **8 STSMs** will be awarded and implemented from **February 1 to May 31, 2025**. Applicants are invited to apply for one of the proposed topics related to specific Working Group objectives or to propose their individual research topic by **January 17, 2025**. Please note that all STSMs must be in line with the general objectives of COST Action CA20133 (<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA20133/>).

Please note that the STSM must take place abroad (in another COST country) and the applicant should contact the proposed host institution individually.

PROPOSED TOPICS / IDEAS

WG 1: "Bioenergy recovery from waste". The STSM could address the following question: Which waste feedstocks are relevant for bioenergy production (e.g. bioethanol, biohydrogen, biodiesel)?

WG 2: "Biochemical recovery from waste" The STSM could address the question: Which waste feedstocks are relevant for the recovery of value-added chemicals (e.g. biopolymers, enzymes, biosurfactants)?

WG 3: "Biological production of food and feed from residues and wastes". What are the best methods and techniques for the determination of biologically active compounds (e.g. polyphenols, sugars, fatty acids, dietary fibres) in food and feed wastes?

WG 4: "Water and nutrient recovery from wastewater". The STSM could address the question: Which technologies are relevant for metal and nutrient recovery from wastewater/sludge and wastewater reuse?

In addition to the topics mentioned above, applicants may propose their own research topic as long as it is also of interest for COST CA20133.

STSMs offer the opportunity to participate in this international, multidisciplinary project, to learn new methods and techniques, to gain new knowledge and experience of working abroad.

WHAT IS A STSM?

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) are exchange visits aimed at strengthening existing networks by allowing individual scientists to visit an institution or laboratory in another COST country in order to foster collaboration, to learn new techniques or to gain access to specific instruments and/or methods or techniques not available in their own institutions. They have a minimum duration of 5 calendar days, including travel.

A STSM should specifically contribute to the scientific objectives of COST Action CA20133. For more information on the objectives of COST Action CA20133, please refer to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) available on the COST website: <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA20133/> For further information on the COST Rules for Short-Term Scientific Missions, please refer to the COST Annotated Rules for COST Actions (https://www.cost.eu/Annotated_Rules_for_COST_Actions_C).

RULES

-The STSM applicant must be a PhD student or a post-doctoral researcher, or employed by an institution in a COST country that has signed the MoU of the Action. Preference will be given to applications from young researchers (under 40 years of age). The host institution should actively participate in the COST Action CA20133. For the duration of the STSM, neither the MC, nor the COST Office, nor the grantee can be considered as an employer. Grant holders must make their own arrangements for all health, social, personal security and pension matters.

-The selection of STSM applicants will be based on the scientific scope of the STSM application, which must be in line with the objectives of COST Action CA20133. The selection of successful applicants will be made by the STSM Coordinator on the recommendation of the WG Leaders, the MC Chair and the Action Core Group. The STSM Coordinator will inform the Grant Holder (GH) about the successful candidate and the GH will then send a grant letter, generated from the e-COST system, to the approved applicant. The grant letter must be signed by the applicant and returned to the GH.

-An STSM grant is a fixed contribution based on the requested budget, which is evaluated by the STSM coordinator. The grant covers travel and subsistence costs only. It does not necessarily cover all such expenses.

- Successful applicants will receive an allowance of up to €160 per day and up to €600 for travel up to a maximum **total budget of €2,500**. The budget will be allocated to the successful applicants according to the COST rules.

- After the STSM, the STSM grantee must submit a scientific report to the host supervisor. **Both the report and the host institution's letter of acceptance of the report must be uploaded into the eCOST system within 30 days after the end of the STSM.**

- The **STSM grant will be paid after the exchange visit** (acceptance of the scientific report and a letter from the host institution supporting the report are required). STSM candidates are therefore required to pre-finance the costs associated with the STSM (travel, accommodation, meals). STSM applicants affiliated to an institution in an Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC) can request a pre-financing of 50% of the grant. This is subject to two conditions: 1) the GH has funds to cover 50% of the grant in advance, and 2) the host confirms to the GH that the mission has started. Please note that the transfer of the 50% of the grant can only take place after the start of the mission; therefore, requesting a pre-payment is more effective for STSMs longer than 1 month.

APPLICATION

If you are interested in applying, please fill in the online application form available in your eCOST account (<https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>) after selecting COST Action CA20133 (Grant Applications, left menu) by **17 January 2025**. Further information on the procedures can be found in the STSM User Guide (http://www.cost.eu/STSM_userguide).

The following documents must be included in the application:

- **Cover letter** explaining how your work will benefit from this STSM and how the STSM will contribute to the COST CA20133 objectives;
- **Work plan** specifying what you intend to do (800 words), start and end dates and budget (accommodation/travel);
- A **written agreement** from the **host institution**;
- A **letter of support** from the **home institution**;
- **Curriculum vitae** (2 pages), including a list of publications.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated by the Cost Action CA20133 WG Leaders, the Core Group and the STSM Coordinator according to the following criteria:

- Scientific quality and relevance of the work plan. Namely, how well it addresses the proposed topics and the objectives of COST Action CA20133;
- Expected results in relation to the objectives of COST Action CA20133;
- Contribution to the personal development of the candidate;
- Other criteria include early career, gender balance and geographical inclusiveness.

After the STSM

The grantee is obliged to submit a short scientific report to the host institution (for information) and to the STSM coordinator or the MC Core Group (for approval) within 30 days after the end of the STSM. The report must include the following information:

- **Purpose of the STSM;**
- **Description of the work carried out** during the STSM;
- **Description of the main results** obtained;
- **Future collaboration** with the host institution (if applicable);
- **Planned publications** / articles resulting from the STSM (if applicable);
- **Confirmation by the host institution of the successful completion of the STSM;**
- Other comments (if any).

Please note that **failure to submit the scientific report and the letter of support from the host institution on time will result in the cancellation of the scholarship.**

The STSM coordinator will inform the GH about the acceptance of the report. The GH will then make the payment of the fixed grant directly to the grantee or to the home institution as indicated in the application form.