

CA19140 FIT4NANO
Call No 6 for
Short-Term Scientific Mission Applications

1st Call of the Fourth Grant Period from 01/11/2023 to 14/10/2024

Applicants should submit their STSM application not later than 25/11/2023

The **STSM committee** for the evaluation of the applications and final approval is constituted by:

STSM Coordinator: José María De Teresa (CSIC-University of Zaragoza, Spain)

STSM Vice-coordinator: Catarina Pinto-Reis (University of Lisboa, Portugal)

for WG1 : Tom Wirtz (University of Luxembourg)

for WG2: Adam Gali (Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Hungary)

for WG3 : Meltem Sezen (Sabanci University, Turkey)

IN THIS 1st CALL OF THE FOURTH GRANT PERIOD, up to 10 APPLICATIONS COULD BE TYPICALLY GRANTED.

The institutions/ organisations where applicants pursue their main strand of research are considered as **Home Institutions**. The **Host Institution** is the institution/ organisation that will host the STSM grantee.

All individuals affiliated to a legal entity in:

- a COST Full/Cooperating Member
- an European RTD
- a NNC

are eligible to receive funding via STSM grants.

GOALS: building a network in order to initiate specific scientific projects in line with MoU objectives, exchanging expertise and transferring knowledge between participants.

OUTPUTS: STSM reports, collaborative projects, joint publications, knowledge exchange, transfer of skills and techniques, networking.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

A STSM Grant is a fixed financial contribution which takes into consideration the budget request of the applicant and the outcome of the evaluation of the STSM application. 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 4000 in total can be afforded to each successful applicant;

The final amount granted will depend on available budget, actual length of the STSM and information provided by the applicant on the estimated costs of the research stay. All applicants have to hand in a budget with an approximate budget for their travel and accommodation costs. The final decision will be made by the GAC supported by the STSM coordinator, the STSM committee and the CG after considering the above information as well as accommodation and meal expenses based on the perceived cost of living in the host country.

The appointed STSM Committee should consider and can approve differentiated country rates to cover accommodation and meal expenses based on the perceived cost of living in the host country.

For the period of the STSM neither the MC, nor the COST Association nor the Grant Holder may be considered as an employer. The grantees must make their own arrangements for all health, social, personal security, taxation and pension matters.

All applicants must carefully read the funding rules detailed in the Annotated Rules for COST Actions. This document is available at: <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2022/10/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V1.3-.pdf>

APPLICATION:

The applicants must register for an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/> and submit their STSM applications online at: <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>.

These are the requested supporting documents: CV including the list of publications, letter of support from the Home institution.

The following information has to be provided:

To be filled in e-COST:

- Title
- Start and end date (within the active Grant Period);
- Budget requested by the applicant;
- Information about the host institution and contact person.

To be uploaded to e-COST:

- Application form (template available on e-COST) describing: Goals, description of the work to be carried out by the applicant, expected outcomes and description of the contribution to the Action MoU and GP objectives;
- Confirmation of the host on the agreement from the host institution in receiving the applicant;
- Other documents required as detailed above.

STSM applicants are strongly encouraged to join the FIT4NANO action by joining at least one working group in e-COST: <https://e-services.cost.eu/action/CA19140/working-groups/apply>

As approved by the MC, the evaluation of STSM applications and selection of Grantees is performed by the STSM Committee. The selection of STSM applicants will be based on the scientific scope of the application and how it can support the COST Action in achieving its scientific objectives, and take into account the COST Policy and Rules with special attention on Inclusiveness and Excellence. The selection of STSM grantees, including Home and Host Institutions as well as allocated grants, must be communicated to the entire Action MC in a subsequent Action MC meeting and included in the minutes of the Action MC meeting.

In accordance with the FIT4NANO Action MC decisions the CG and the GAC have the mandate to make the final selection of the grantees.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

The applicant has to consider each of the following evaluation criteria in the motivation letter.

Evaluation criteria for STSM:

- I) Scientific and technological quality of the project (50%);
- II) Methodology and feasibility (20%);

III) Fit to the objectives of FIT4NANO in the grant period (20%);

IV) Collaboration between different WGs (10%).

Grades: A (>90%); B (80-90%); C(70-80%) and D (<70%).

All the proposals within the same grade will be ranked according to the mark as well as the following aspects: previously-funded STSM of the applicant in the project, gender balance, home and/or host laboratory belonging to an ITC country, number of applications from the same country and/or laboratory.

APPROVING STSM FOR PAYMENT

Specific provisions have been introduced to enable researchers from Inclusiveness target countries (ITC) participating in the COST Action to request a pre-payment of 50% of their STSM Grant when they complete the first day of their STSM. In such case, the representative of the Host Institution must confirm by e-mail to the Grant Holder that the STSM applicant has officially started the mission on day 1. Only then the Grant Holder can arrange the payment of 50% of the STSM grant. The remaining 50% of the Grant is payable once the administrative requirements have been satisfied after the STSM.

The STSM Grantee has 30 calendar (15 at the end of the GP) days from the end date of the mission to submit (by e-mail) a scientific report to the appointed GAC, and to a senior researcher affiliated to the Host Institution.

Payment of the Grant is subject to a STSM scientific report being approved on behalf of the Action's MC by the STSM Committee and by a senior researcher affiliated to the Host Institution.

Written approval of the STSM scientific report by the aforementioned persons will be uploaded in e-COST for archiving purposes.

In order to increase the visibility of the action as well as the STSMs itself, it is mandatory for STSM grant recipients to submit a publishable report including photos for the FIT4-NANO website & newsletter.

The report should be between ½ - 1 Din A4 page. Some questions your report could cover are:

Why did you choose XY as the host institution?

What was the scientific question you tried to answer?

What challenges did you meet during your STSM?

What was your biggest success and the worst failure?

What will you do next?

What did you learn about the host country/city/culture?

How did you like the experience?

Alternatively, a self-made video clip of your STSM will also be accepted. Grants will only be paid after this is submitted to Astrid Berens: a.berens@hzdr.de