



SeaWheat
COST Action CA20106

TOMORROW'S WHEAT OF THE SEA: USA, A MODEL FOR AN INNOVATIVE MARICULTURE



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COST Action CA20106 STSM CALL

SEAWHEAT is pleased to announce its 5th call for applications to participate in Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs). The missions are intended for **Early-Stage Researchers (ESRs)** (please verify if you are an early-stage career before applying) to contribute to developing their career goals and producing COST Action deliverables.

A short-term scientific mission consists of a visit to a host organization located in a country different from the country of affiliation by a researcher or innovator for specific work to be carried out and for a determined period.

- The deadline for submitting applications is **15th February 2024**.
- The missions are programmed to take place between **4th March until 30th August 2024**, including submitting the final reports.

The STSMs must contribute to the scientific objectives of one or more SEAWHEAT [Working Groups \(WGs\)](#). All applicants are encouraged to carefully consider the objectives of SEAWHEAT and to apply them according to the STSM guidelines from the [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#).

Background:

STSMs aim to support individual mobility, strengthen existing researcher networks and foster collaborations between scientists through goal-orientated visits to a research institution or laboratory in another Participating COST Country. Proposed STSMs should specifically contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST Action while allowing applicants to acquire new technical competencies and gain access to specific instruments and/or methods not available in their own institutions.

STSM applicants must be engaged in an official research program as PhD Students or postdoctoral fellows or be employed by, or affiliated with, an Institution or legal entity with a clear and active research mandate. The institutions where applicants pursue their main research line are considered host institutions. Host institutions will be responsible for providing the predefined infrastructure capacity and knowledge support for the grant beneficiaries to complete the proposed STSM. Applicants are encouraged to initiate early consultations with host institute PIs and discuss the scope of proposed STSM research and the capacity to carry out the work at the host institution.

STSMs must respect the following criteria:

- Must have a **minimum duration of 5 working calendar days**.
- Must be carried out in their entirety within a single Grant Period and within the Action's lifetime.
- The required report/documentation for claiming an STSM Grant is: o Report to the Action MC on the work developed, main achievements of the STSM and planned future follow-up activities and proposed joined publications or research proposals, if any.
- STSMs Grantee **performs all the tasks in line with the approved application** within the accepted duration dates of the application. **Any tasks not performed or missing** from the final report, or any changes within the performed tasks will not be accepted.



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Financial support available:

An STSM grant is a fixed financial contribution to the overall travel, accommodation, and meal expenses of the grantee. It takes into consideration the budget request of the applicant and the evaluation of the STSM application by the delegated reviewers. **STSM Grants do not necessarily cover all expenses related to undertaking a given mission.** However, other expenses nonrelated to the above may be eligible.

The calculation of the financial contribution for each STSM respect the following criteria:

- Up to a maximum of €4000 in total is granted to each successful applicant (subject to days of duration of STSM).
- Realistic budget planning will be a key component of proposal evaluation. Gender, geography, ESR criteria, and qualifications of the applicant will also be taken into due consideration.
- Applications should be in line with the Action's objectives and scientific activities as stated in COST Action CA20106 Memorandum of Understanding (<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA20106/>)

How to apply:

In order to apply for an STSM, the candidate should prepare the application as follows:

- The applicant creates a Grant application. The applicant encodes a grant application by logging into e-COST and clicking on the Grant Applications tab.

COST Action	Type	Title	Status	Created on	Amount [EUR]
Showing 0 total grants					

- Make sure you complete the online application form and upload all the requested documents as follows.
 - Obtain the written agreement from the host institution, stating that the STSM applicant can perform the activities detailed in the STSM work plan on the agreed dates.
 - Confirmation of the host on the agreement from the host institution in receiving the applicant Obtain a letter of support from the home institution.
 - Plan the Mission duration and provide a budget breakdown - including accommodation, travel expenses, per diem in a separate file.
 - Provide a full CV, including a list of the applicant's publications.
 - The applicant also needs to upload the actual application template completed which shall be previously downloaded from the application page STSM grant Application (based on e-COST template) - describing the foreseen activities, following the classical scheme: Objectives, State-of-the-Art, Project Workplan and Gantt chart, Deliverables (timebound).



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The ranking criteria are as follows:

- Scientific excellence and novelty of the proposed Mission.
- Feasibility of the approach and realistic planning of the application.
- The benefit of the STSM (i.e. added-value for **a**) the applicant, **b**) the host and home institutions, and **c**) the SEAWHEAT COST Action).

Application approval and payment procedures are managed through the e-COST platform and are explained in detail in the COST Rules. Detailed information on eligibility, evaluation and selection, financial support, and grant payment procedures can be found in the rules. Grants are paid **after the completion** of the activity and approval of all required report/documentation. STSMs grantees may request up to **50% pre-payment** of the approved grant. **This amount is subject to the availability of funds and approval by the Grant Holder Institution. The request of prepayment shall be submitted to the Grant Holder Manager.**

After the STSM:

Directly after the completion of the STSM, the grantee will be requested to upload a scientific report (the application form shall be previously downloaded - the template is available on e-COST).

Reports must have host approval prior to submission and contain 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 host institution (if applicable).
- Foreseen publications/articles resulting or likely to result from the STSM (if applicable).
- Confirmation by the host institution of the successful execution of the STSM
- The applicant, including the final report, must upload a photo of themselves during their STSM at the host institution and a small abstract for our website and social media about the STSM (thematic, results, how it was, how did you benefit from it, how useful it is, plans etc)

Cancellation of the STSM

- The eligible STSM Applicant cancelled his/her STSM due to medical circumstances / decease / for “any other case of force majeure” or closure of the Host Institution.
- In case of medical circumstances: The STSM Applicant shall provide the relevant supporting document as described under the scenario related to medical circumstances (Case 3 – Scenario 3.1)
- In case of decease please refers to (Case 2)
- In case of “any other case of force majeure”: The STSM Applicant shall provide the relevant supporting document as described under (Case 4 – Scenario 4.1)
- In case of closure of the Host Institution, the STSM Applicant shall provide an official communication / letter from the Host Institution confirming the closure of the Institution and the period concerned by as well as the relevant supporting documents as described under “any other case of force majeure” ([Case 4 – Scenario 4.1](#))

Please note: The sum of the non-refundable amounts for travel and accommodation incurred by the participant due to the cancellation of the STSM can never exceed the grant amount allocated to the STSM



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grantee, as agreed by the MC for the given activity. **It's the applicants responsibility to read the [GUIDELINES HANDLING TRAVEL DEROGATION REQUESTS](#) before you proceed with the application.**

Shortened STSM

The eligible STSM Applicant needs to shorten the duration of his/her STSM due to illness /decease / “any other case of force majeure” or closure of the Host Institution.

Administrative requirements / Documents to be provided

- In case of medical circumstances: The eligible STSM Applicant shall provide the relevant supporting document as described under the scenario related to medical circumstances (Case 3 – Scenario 3.2)
- In case of decease please refer to (Case 2)
- In case of “any other case of force majeure”: The STSM Applicant shall provide the relevant supporting document as described under (Case 4 – Scenario 4.2)
- In case of closure of the Host Institution: the STSM Applicant shall provide an official communication / letter from the Host Institution confirming the closure of the Institution and the period concerned by as well as the relevant supporting documents as described under “ any other case of force majeure” (Case 4 – Scenario 4.2)
- The grant amount allocated shall be calculated based on the pro rata of the attended days.
- The grant amount shall consider the expenses incurred by the STSM Applicant due to the change of his/her return travel.

Please note: The STSM applicant shall submit the scientific report covering the period worked in the Host Institution. The report must be approved by the Host Institution and the Grant Awarding Coordinator. **It's the applicant's responsibility to read the [GUIDELINES HANDLING TRAVEL DEROGATION REQUESTS](#) before you proceed with the application.**

Short-Term Scientific Missions benefit to:

- STSM Grantee 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 Host receives an international partner in their institution and can develop long lasting collaboration.

End-of-Mission reports must be submitted within **30 days after** the end date of the STSM. **The last day for submitting all reports is the 30th August for all STSM's Grantee.** Failure to meet this deadline may lead to the denial of the grant award.

All applicants are encouraged to carefully consider our Actions' objectives and apply them according to the STSM guidelines from the [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#).

Questions not covered in the annotated Rules or STSMs guidelines can be addressed to seawheat@univ.haifa.ac.il.

[THE COST 20106 LEADERSHIP WILL NOT RESPOND TO EMAILS WITH QUESTIONS THAT ARE COVERED IN THE ABOVE TEXT.](#)