



ACRYRED



Funded by
the European Union

Open Call for Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM)

Grant Period 2
December 2023 – September 2024

What is STSM?

A **Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM)** consists in a visit to a host organization located in a different country than the country of affiliation by a researcher or innovator for a specific work to be carried out and for a determined period. The aim is to strengthen the existing networks and foster collaborations with other institutions.

The **STSM in ACRYRED Cost Action CA21149** intends to contribute to the scientific objectives and deliverables of the COST action, while providing mission participants with the opportunity to establish long-term collaborations with an international team and gain new knowledge or access to equipment or techniques not available in the home institution/organisation.

Who can apply?

These opportunities are open to **all members of ACRYRED Cost Action CA21149 (students, professors and/or researchers)**.

Eligibility for the STSMs and a reimbursement scheme are described in the [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#) (section 6.4)

The **STSM applicant** can be any person affiliated with a legal entity located in a COST Full or Cooperating Member or a Near Neighbour Country or a European RTD Organisation. The applicant must have an [e-COST profile](#).

Applicants are invited to apply to one of the proposed topics related to specific [Working Group \(WG\) objectives](#).

WG	Title	Leader and Co-Leader
1	Interdisciplinary exchange and integration of knowledge on asparagine and acrylamide	Prof Nigel HALFORD
2	Agronomy and plant breeding	Dr Marianna RAKSZEGI
3	Food chemistry & processing	Dr Jane PARKER
4	Cereal supply chain economy	Dr Tanya CURTIS
5	Dialogue on risk-benefit	Dr Zuzana CIESAROVA

How to apply?

The topics and places of STSMs for the current grant period (GP) are available in the STSM REGISTER. Only one topic application is allowed per member at one time. This call will stay **CONTINUOUSLY OPEN** and selection of candidates will follow the method “**first-in-first-evaluated**”, until the end of the allocated budget or grant period.

We are also keeping continuously open the expressions of **interest to host** STSM. Please fill the STSM Application to host and send it to the related WG leader who will forward it to STSM coordinator.

Priority criteria for selection

Applications will be assessed by the Assessment Committee consisted of the Chair, the Vice-Chair, the Grant Awarding Coordinator and the WG Leaders and Co-leaders.

The criteria for selection and preferences of candidates are as follows:

- 1) Excellence of the application promoting the direct contribution to the ACRYRED WGs assessed by the Assessment Committee
- 2) Relevance of the Applicant’s research area to STSM topic
- 3) Active contribution of the Applicant in the COST working groups assessed by the WG leader
- 4) First time participant in ACRYRED COST STSM and/or other networking tools
- 5) COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy:
 - ITC, NNC and IPC members
 - Young Researcher (< 40 years)
 - Early-stage Researcher (< 4 years of research career)
 - Gender balance
 - Geographical diversity (host and/or applicant)

Application procedure in e-COST

Applications are submitted online in e-COST platform using dedicated forms available after registration at: <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>

1. All applicants must carefully read the funding rules detailed in the Annex 2 of [the Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#).
2. For guidance on the e-COST tool, applicants can consult [the Grants User Guide](#) (see Documents & Guidelines).
3. All applicants must have an e-COST profile with bank account information and an updated CV.
4. STSM applications must be made through the above link by logging into e-COST and clicking on the Grant Applications tab.
5. All applicants must obtain a letter of invitation from the host institution confirming that they can undertake the STSM on the given dates prior to submitting an application.
6. All applicants must complete and submit their STSM application on the e-COST-system using dedicated forms available.

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 in e-COST:

- STSM 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; Plan for participation; Expected outcomes; and Description of the contribution to the ACRYRED Cost Action MoU objectives (available in the Action documents [here](#));

- **Confirmation of the host on the agreement** from the host institution in receiving the applicant.
- **Other documents required by the Action:**
 - Motivation letter
 - Recommendation letter of a WG leader
 - Breakdown of estimated costs (travel costs, accommodation costs and subsistence allowances)

The requested budget must be compatible with the activities and their time frame proposed by the applicant to be developed during the STSM.

If the Applicant is approved by the Assessment Committee, the Applicant will receive an official confirmation of the STSM with a link to the official Grant Letter.

Financial support (reimbursement)

- STSM grants provide a contribution for **travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses** and implementation of the project. They do not necessarily cover all the expenses.
- According to the MC decision, **the maximum amount for STSM grant is 4 000 € for 1-month typical duration of STSM**. The amounts may change after taking into consideration the specific conditions of applicant and available budget of the Action.

Obs.: STSMs grantees **may request up to 50% pre-payment** of the approved grant. The remaining 50% of the grant is paid after the completion of the activity and approval of all required report with documentation.

After the STSM

Reporting and claim for payment of the grant:

- The Grantee must start and complete STSM within the approved period and carry out the activities in accordance with the programme described in the STSM Application.
- Once the activity has ended, the Grantee has to submit the required documentation in e-COST within **30 days** after the end date of the activity or **15 days** after the end of the Grant Period, whichever comes first.

To be uploaded in e-COST:

- **STSM Report**
- **Approval of the report** (by supervisor)
- **Certificate of completion** (by host)
- Scientific report templates are available in [Grant Awarding User Guide](#) or through the following links: [STSM Report Template](#).
- The required report for claiming the grant of a STSM should describe the work developed, main achievements of the STSM and planned future follow up activities.
- Report needs to be approved by the ACRYRED Assessment Committee.
- If the report is approved, the Grant Holder financial and accounting department will process the Grant transfer.
- Failure to submit the scientific report within the requested period will effectively cancel the grant.

STSM outputs

The list of achieved deliverables and a short presentation report of the STSM will be placed on the ACRYRED webpage <https://acryred.eu/> and on-line newsletter.

STSM dissemination and visibility

- It is recommended to produce photos, videos or other documentation from the STSM which can be placed on the ACRYRED social media and webpage <https://acryred.eu/>
- If the mission results in a publication, the **acknowledgement** must be placed in it. This publication must be sent to the Grant Awarding Coordinator by e-mail as soon as it is published.

One of the following sentences, which are in line with COST instructions on acknowledgements, should be used:

i) In the case of a publication from the research group dealing with ACRYRED objectives, but that was not based on activities performed within the framework of COST Action CA21149: “This publication is based upon work from COST Action CA21149 (Reducing Acrylamide Exposure of Consumers by a Cereals Supply-chain Approach Targeting Asparagine; <https://acryred.eu/>), supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology; www.cost.eu).”

ii) In the case of a publication that was based on activities performed within the framework of COST Action CA21149, but for which the author did not receive money from COST to cover the publication fee: “This study was performed within the framework of COST Action CA21149 (Reducing Acrylamide Exposure of Consumers by a Cereals Supply-chain Approach Targeting Asparagine; <https://acryred.eu/>), supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology; www.cost.eu).”

iii) In the case of a publication that was based on activities performed within the framework of COST Action CA21149 and for which the author did not receive money from COST to cover the publication fee: “The authors would like to acknowledge the support by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology; www.cost.eu), in the framework of COST Action CA21149 (Reducing Acrylamide Exposure of Consumers by a Cereals Supply-chain Approach Targeting Asparagine; <https://acryred.eu/>).”

iv) In the case of a publication in which one of the authors has been directly financed by one of the CA21149 open calls (e.g. STSM, CG): “(Name Surname) would like to acknowledge the direct support by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology; www.cost.eu), in the framework of COST Action CA21149 (Reducing Acrylamide Exposure of Consumers by a Cereals Supply-chain Approach Targeting Asparagine; <https://acryred.eu/>).”

- Posters/ presentations of the results from STSM have to be presented using project templates with the logo of ACRYRED (contact: **Malgorzata Starowicz**, m.starowicz@pan.olsztyn.pl)

For more general information on STSM please contact the Grant Awarding Coordinator:

Kristina Kukurova (kristina.kukurova@nppc.sk)

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