



ACRYRED



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the European Union

Open Call for **Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM) Virtual Mobility (VM)**

Grant Period 4
December 2025 – September 2026

What is STSM and VM?

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.

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.

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.

Virtual Mobility (VM) consists of a collaboration in a virtual setting among researchers or innovators within the COST Action, to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, etc.

Virtual Mobilities **benefit to:**

- **COST Action:** uses a flexible tool to implement virtual activities inside the network, achieve the MoU objectives and significantly increase their impact and reach. Contributes to European leadership in knowledge creation and increasing its innovation potential;
- **VM grantee:** develop(s) capacity in virtual collaboration and networking in a pan-European framework.

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

Who can apply?

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

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

The **STSM/VM 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 Elena BALDONI
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 for STSM and VM grants?

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.

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/VM 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/VM on the given dates prior to submitting an application.
6. All applicants must complete and submit their STSM/VM application on the e-COST-system using dedicated forms available.

STSM and VM applications must be filled in e-COST providing:

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

STSM documentation which must 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**
- **Justification of estimated costs** (travel costs, accommodation costs and subsistence allowances) **including bank details for payment** (Bank address country, IBAN Account Number, Bank Name and SWIFT/BIC Code)

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.

VM documentation which must be uploaded in e-COST:

- **Application form** ([template available on e-COST](#)) describing: Main Objective; Description of the work to be carried out by the applicant; Plan for participation; Expected outcomes; and Description of the contribution to the Action MoU objectives;

- **Other documents required by the Action:**

- **Motivation letter**
- **Recommendation letter of a WG leader**
- **Justification of required costs** (travel costs, accommodation costs and subsistence allowances) **including bank details for payment** (Bank address country, IBAN Account Number, Bank Name and SWIFT/BIC Code)

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)

Financial support (reimbursement)

- **STSM grants** provide a financial 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 one-month typical duration of STSM**. The amounts may be reduced taking into consideration the specific conditions of the applicant and should reflect the duration and location of the STSM, based on the 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 and documentation.

- **VM grants** provide a contribution for the overall effort, not necessarily covered by an employer or by a Grant Holder Institution. The **maximum amount for VM grant** is **1,500 €**. The amounts may be reduced based on decision of the Assessment Committee and should reflect the duration, scope and complexity of the task and activities to be covered via the VM grant.

Implementation of STSM/VM

- The Grantee must start and complete the mission within the approved period and carry out the activities in accordance with the approved programme described in the Application.
- At the end of the mission, the Grantee must obtain a certificate of completion from his/her Supervisor and prepare a scientific report.
- Scientific report templates are available in [Grant Awarding User Guide](#) or through the following links: [STSM Report Template](#); [VM Report Template](#).
- The scientific report necessary for claiming the STSM/VM grant should describe the work developed, main achievements of the STSM/VM and planned future follow up activities. **The scientific report prepared by the Grantee must be approved by his/her Supervisor.**

After the STSM/VM

Reporting and claim for payment of the grant:

- 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)
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- 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.
 - The Grantee must start and complete STSM/VM within the approved period and carry out the activities in accordance with the programme described in the Application.

STSM/VM dissemination and visibility

- It is recommended to produce photos, videos or other documentation from the STSM/VM 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/>)."

Dissemination and visibility of a grantee

The Grantee acknowledges and consents that upon completion of the mobility, information about the mobility and the Grantee, the presentation, and visual documentation (photos, videos) will be placed on the ACRYRED website <https://acryred.eu/>, in the on-line newsletter and other communication media of the project.

- Posters/ presentations of the results from STSM/VM 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/VM please contact the Grant Awarding Coordinator:

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