

Call for Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM) Applications

The call is open for the current Grant Period (GP1) until 31.09.2022

Collection dates:

15.05.2022 (decision on 20.05.2022)

05.06.2022 (decision on 10.06.2022)

30.06.2022 (decision on 08.06.2022)

01.08.2022 (decision on 05.08.2022)

General information about the call:

The main purposes of researchers and innovators' **Short-Term Scientific Missions** are to support capacity building and transfer of knowledge through collaborations and to support topics that help to achieve the [Action's Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MoU) objectives and deliverables.

Short-term scientific missions (STSMs)

STSM is a visit of a host organization (e.g. institution, organisation, company or research centre) located in a different country than the country of the applicant's affiliation with the aim to carry out specific work during a determined period of time.

The Average cost per STSM is EUR 2500, up to a maximum of EUR 4000.

STSM Grant is meant for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, implementation of the project, delivery of the report to the COST Action MC and overall effort.

The application process is as follows:

Before the STSM:

- The interested participant is Action Members which can apply via the **e-COST** system by logging in using their e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/>.
- Applicants are encouraged to carefully read the rules detailed in [Annotated rules for COST Actions, ANNEX 2](#)
- Application form filled in e-COST should indicate a general overview of the proposed activities, start and end date of the STSM; main goals, description of the work; expected outcomes, contribution to the Action MoU objectives and requested budget.

- We strongly encourage applicants **to contact respective working group leaders** (<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA20125/#tabs+Name:Main%20Contacts%20and%20Leadership>) prior to submitting their application to ensure that the proposed outcome of their STSM agrees with the objectives of this action.
- A **letter of confirmation** from the Host institution verifying that they can host the applicant on the given dates is necessary
- An **applicant's CV** and an **agreement letter** from the home institution's supervisor should be uploaded to the e-COST along with the application
- In order to facilitate the evaluation process, we kindly ask applicants to **clearly state in which workgroup(s)** their STSM will contribute

The application will then be assessed by the formally delegated Grant Awarding Coordinator and Committee who provides a proposal of selected grants and amounts to the Action MC/Core Group for their approval. After the evaluation, the applicant will be formally notified of the outcome of their STSM application by Grant Awarding Coordinator.

After the STSM:

- Once the activity has ended, the **grantee submits the report** on the main achievements and planned future activities with other relevant documentation in e-COST **within 30 days** after the end date of the Grant.
- **The host institution will provide written approval** of the STSM report.
- Grant Awarding Coordinator will collect reports submitted by individual grantees and coordinate Action Grant Committee approval and confirmation or rejection of the report on behalf of the Action MC.
- Management Committee: approves/rejects report;
- Grant Holder: pays the Grant once the report is approved and all supporting documents are submitted

The report should clearly state the purpose of the STSM, description of the work carried out, description of the results and main achievements obtained during the STSM, planned future collaborations and the impact of conducted STSM for personal career development. Failure in submitting the scientific report within the set timeframe may cancel the Grant.

Receiving payment of the grant:

- Grants are paid by the Grant Holder 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.

All questions concerning the application process are to be addressed to the Grant Awarding Coordinator Ms Kristel Panksep (kristel.panksep@emu.ee)

STSM Evaluation criteria for ParAqua

The selection of applicants is based on the scientific scope of the STSM application which must clearly complement the overall objectives of the Action

Applications will be evaluated by the Grant Awarding Committee according to the following criteria related to the proposed project:

- connection to the objectives of ParAqua (see MoU);
- realistic budget planning
- scientific quality of the proposed project;
- expected outcome/chance for publication;
- involvement of inclusiveness target countries (ITCs);
- career stage, gender balance;

Important

All the communication tools (e.g. oral presentations) granted by the Action need to acknowledge COST as the funding source by using the logos of ParAqua, EU and COST. Wrong or incomplete acknowledgement of the funding source may entail not eligible for refund.

Funding should be acknowledged as follows: Participation in this conference has been funded by the EU COST Action CA20125 – “Applications for zoonotic parasites in aquatic systems” through a Dissemination Grant”

Grantees will be required to write a short report of their experience to be published in the newsletter and to contribute with content (posts, pictures, short videos...) for the Action social media.

STSM – GP1: Proposed topics:

The main focus during the first grant period is on Monitoring (Organised mainly in collaboration with WG1)

- Design specific monitoring campaigns to follow parasites and their hosts
- Develop specific protocols for monitoring zoonotic diseases

Expected Outputs of the call:

- Obtain data on parasites occurrence in natural and industrial systems
- Test zoonotic parasites detection methods in natural and industrial systems

Proposed Topics for the STSM call (information in more detail below)

- Parasites detection and identification with special emphasis on potentially toxic cyanobacteria as their host – Institute of Public Health of Serbia 'Dr Milan Jovanovic Batut' , Belgrade, Serbia (RS)

- Parasites sampling in the Mediterranean area – I.A.CO Environmental & Water Consultants - Cyprus (CY)

- Genetic approaches to detect parasites in wastewaters – Aquateam COWI AS, Oslo, Norway (NO)



WG1 | STSM | SERBIA

Parasites detection and identification with special emphasis on cyanobacteria occurrence and cyanotoxin production

Host Institution: Institute of Public Health of Serbia 'Dr Milan Jovanovic Batut' – Belgrade, Serbia (RS)

Supervisors: Jelena Jovanovic (jelena_jovanovic@batut.org.rs)

Institute of Public Health of Serbia 'Dr Milan Jovanovic Batut' - Serbia

and Ivana Trbojevic (itrbojevic@bio.bg.ac.rs)

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Biology - Serbia (RS)

Recommended Timeframe: 2-3 weeks

Main topic and expertise of the hosting institutes:

- Monitoring phytoplankton composition, abundance and biomass in water bodies intended for human consumption (mainly water supply and recreation) as indicators of environmental health;
- Controlling the abundance of cyanobacteria, their biomass and cyanotoxin production and assessing the risks concerning the occurrence of toxic cyanobacterial blooms

Aim:

Investigate parasites of phytoplankton and cyanobacteria, and relate their occurrence to cyanobacteria biomass and nutrients (N, P) in natural and semi-natural ecosystems (e.g. lakes and reservoirs for drinking water).

Specific Requirements:

The STSM applicant is a specialist in parasites detection and identification (epifluorescence microscopy preferred).

Expected outcome:

The applicant will write a report on the findings of the STSM. The results will be presented during one of the meetings of the ParAqua Action (e.g. MC2 in Cyprus)

The mission will be the opportunity to transfer the candidate's expertise in parasites identification to the collaborators at the host institute. Organising some specific joint sessions dedicated to the identification of parasites will be a plus.



WG1 | STSM | CYPRUS

Parasites sampling in the Mediterranean area

Host Institution: I.A.CO Environmental & Water Consultants – Cyprus (CY)

Supervisors: Athina Papatheodoulou (athinap@iaco.com.cy)

Zoe Makridou (z.makridou@iaco.com.cy)

Chrystalleni Costa (c.costa@iaco.com.cy)

I.A.CO Environmental & Water Consultants – Cyprus (CY)

Recommended Timeframe: 1-2 weeks, preferred period is spring or summer

Main topic and expertise of the hosting institutes:

- Water Bodies Assessment (natural lakes, salt lakes, natural & artificial wetlands, permanent and intermittent rivers)
- Using bio-indicators (macrophytes, diatoms, invertebrates, fish)
- Physicochemical Assessment
- Hydromorphological Assessment

Aim:

Trainees can be hosted for 1-2 weeks STSM with the purpose to collect samples from the different water bodies in Cyprus.

Info from local environments can be also collected for meta-analysis of parasites in different environments, including ecosystems typical of eastern dry Mediterranean and water bodies undergoing intense water scarcity periods.

Expected outcome:

The applicant will write a report on the findings of the STSM and a scientific article written in collaboration with the host supervisors. The results will be presented during one of the meetings of the ParAqua Action (e.g. MC2 in Cyprus) and published in a scientific article.



WG1 | STSM | NORWAY

Genetic approaches to detect parasites in waste waters

Host Institution: Aquateam COWI AS – Oslo Norway (NO)

Supervisor: Janka Dibdiakova (jadi@cowi.com)
Aquateam COWI AS – Oslo Norway (NO)

Main topic and expertise of the hosting institutes:

- Water and wastewater treatment, management and treatment of sludge, sediment and soil.
- R&D studies on the possibilities of recovering nutrients from waste and wastewater fractions such as rejected water at wastewater plants, anaerobically digested sewage sludge and organic waste, ecotoxicity of fresh and marine water, and life cycle assessment.

Aim:

STSM of 1-2 weeks is welcome to learn genetic approaches to detect bacteria/parasites in used waters from different sources using our biology lab facilities.

Expected outcome:

The applicant will write a report on the findings of the STSM and a scientific article written in collaboration with the host supervisors. The results will be presented during one of the meetings of the ParAqua Action (e.g. MC2 in Cyprus).