Call for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM)

Sustainable Network for agrofood loss and waste prevention, management, quantification and valorisation

(FoodWaStop)

CA22134

1 October 2024

4th Call of Short Term Scientific Missions (CA22134)

CALL FOR STSM GRANTS

Application for 1 STSM Grant of EUR 2500 (plus eventual additional funding)
Deadline: 5 October 2024
Results: within 8 October 2024
Period of STSM: from 9 October 2024 to 30 October 2024
Grant Period: This Call covers the grant period from 1 November 2023 to 31 October 2024
STSM duration: No minimum or maximum number of days required, but suggested at least **two weeks to three weeks**

DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM) are institutional visits aimed at supporting individual mobility, fostering collaboration between individuals and strengthening existing networks by contributing to the scientific objectives of the COST Action. The STSM will be addressed mainly to Young Researchers and Innovators (YRI), more than half from ITC Countries, to increase the knowledge on food loss and waste management by spending a period in another Institution. The STSM of FoodWaStop COST Action will be reserved to YRI, at least half of them from ITC Countries, to join another Institution for a putative period of 2 to 3 weeks to learn on strategies to prevent, manage, quantify and use of cross-cutting technologies for food loss and waste, valorisation of food waste.

A STSM should specifically contribute to the scientific objectives of the **FoodWaStop CA22134 Cost Action**, mainly on the capacity building specific objectives, as listed in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU CA22134). For more information, visit the link: https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA22134/

ELIGIBILITY AND GENERAL RULES

STSM must be carried out in a different country than the country of Affiliation of the applicant. Grant applicant is Action participants with a primary affiliation to a legal entity located in a COST Full or Cooperating Member Country, a COST Near Neighbor Country (NNC) or a European RTD Organisation. The institution or organization where applicants pursue their main strand of research are considered as Home Institutions. The Host Institution is the institution/organization that will host the approved applicant. The following eligibility criteria apply:

- Applicants must be part of a PhD program, or postdoctoral fellow or can be employed by an institution or organisation performing research.
- The applicant must conduct research at the host institution that must be on the topic of the Action and must acknowledge **FoodWaStop COST Action** as follows: This work was supported by a STSM Grant from the **FoodWaStop COST CA22134 Action**.
- There is no maximum duration for the STSM within funding period, though the budget is limited to **EUR 2500** by **FoodWaStop COST CA22134 Action** and may depend upon the ongoing Grant Period funding and the number of approved applications.

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- The STSM need to be carried out in their entirety within a single Grant Period and always within the Action lifetime.
- STSM grantees should make their own arrangements for all provisions related to personal security, health, taxation, social security and pension matters.
- Eligible STSM applicants must submit their STSM applications online at the following web address: e-services.cost.eu. For more information about eligibility, please consult the information contained in the Cost Rules (https://www.cost.eu/Annotated_Rules_for_COST_Actions_C)

EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF APPLICANTS - CRITERIA FOR AWARDING STSM

In the evaluation and selection of applicants, the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy are considered, basically (see Annotated Rules for COST Actions):

- **Inclusiveness criteria** (*Geographical diversity*, *Gender balance*, *Age*) of COST
- **Career stage, involving Young Researchers and Innovators (YRI)** (i.e. non-tenured PhDs and Post-Docs under 40 years old)
- **Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) members.** At least half of grants will be addressed to applicants coming from research organisations or institutions located in ITC
- **Excellence of proposal.** The detailed work plan needs to include the scientific goals of the work and how these goals are applicable to the Action task. Evaluation will be based on the scientific excellence of the applicant, the research proposal, and the relevance of the work plan for the achievement of **FoodWaStop COST CA22134 Action** objectives
- **Feasibility of the mission.** The planned activities and goals are achievable in the proposed mission and represents an impact on the applicant career
- **Scientists who have preferably not previously received a grant for a STSM**
- **No previous STSM by the same home/host laboratory** for a fair spread of research across the network

Applicants will be ranked based on the following criteria:
1. YRI
2. ITC Country
3. Applicant has an appropriate CV
4. Research plan is relevant for the Action aims
5. Quality of working plan (research questions, methodology, timeline)
For criteria 1 and 2 (1 = Fulfilled, 0 = Not fulfilled), for criteria 3 to 5 (0 = Not relevant to the Action; 1 = Very low … 5 = Very high)

The applications will be pre-processed by the Grant Awarding Coordinator who will then propose a ranked list of applications to the selection Committee that for **FoodWaStop** Action is the Core Group. To avoid conflict of interest when evaluating the applications,

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applicants who either work at the same place or will visit the same place of a Committee member will not be evaluated by that member.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications are made through your e-COST profile. For further information, please consult the User Guide. The following documents must be uploaded:

- Application form (To be downloaded here: https://www.cost.eu/STSM_GrantApplication). The application should describe:
  1. goals for the STSM and benefits to the COST Action CA22134 and applicant (how results will be disseminated, possible plans for academic articles, policy brief, how the action and the applicant benefits from the outputs, etc.)
  2. the work will be carried out by the applicant (how the activities are planned during the time spend at the Host institution, applicants may include a working plan chart, and expected results) and how the awarded grant will address one (or several) associated Grant Goals(s) related to the achievement of **FoodWaStop COST CA22134 Action** objective(s)
- Invitation letter from a senior researcher of the Host Institution
- Letter of authorization from the Head of the Department of the Home Institution
- Updated Europass CV (dates of degrees obtained, current position, experience, list of publications, etc.)

Incomplete applications will not be accepted. The FoodWaStop selection Committee can request additional information.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- The limit per each STMS Grant is **EUR 2500**.
- STSM Mobility and Collaboration Grants do not necessarily cover all expenses related to performing a given mission. The grant is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation and meal expenses of the grantee. The STSM Grant will be a fixed grant to cover part of the travel expenses and a living allowance. The cost of research materials is not eligible for consideration as part of the grant.
- For this call, the Management Committee of COST Action **CA22134** has allocated a total budget of **EUR 2500.00** for **1 STSM**, plus eventual additional funding coming from savings from other grants. Additional Grants can be allocated during the Grant Period based on eventual additional funding, upon MC decision.

ACCEPTANCE OF STSM

The selected applicants will be contacted by e-mail within **8 October 2024** and they need to accept the Grant within **3 days**. In case of not acceptance within this time, the following applicant in the list will be awarded, until use of allocated funding.

REPORTING AND PAYMENT

The grantee should upload the Scientific Reports (A) and the Dissemination Materials (B) within **2 days from the end of the STSM**. The grant will only be paid to the grantee after the STSM has been completed and the STSM report, which is submitted by the grantee in e-COST, has been approved by the Grand Holder Manager with the assistance of the Grant Awarding Coordinator. **Failure to submit the scientific report and dissemination materials, and Host acceptance within 30 days from the end date of the STSM will effectively cancel the Grant**.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Successful STSM grant holders must properly acknowledge their COST financial support, received through the **FoodWaStop COST CA22134 Action**, in their published work (paper, proceeding) as well as on the presentation slides for any work resulting from the STSM. To acknowledge COST please follow the available guidelines. To acknowledge the **FoodWaStop COST CA22134 Action** support, the logo has to be put on each slides and presentation. Please, add in the eventul papers sourcing from the STSM the following acknowledgement "This work was supported by the **FoodWaStop COST CA22134 Action**", and send a copy of the article, abstract or other to the STSM Committee (email: costfoodwastop@gmail.com).

More information

- **COST Actions Website:** https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA22134/
- COST Actions Online Application form: https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants
- Annotated Rules for COST Actions: https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2023/11/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V1.4-Final-.pdf
- Grant Award User Guide: https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/12/Grant-Awarding-userguide.pdf

For further information, you may contact the Chair Prof. Gianfranco Romanazzi (e-mail: g.romanazzi@univpm.it) the FoodWaStop Action or Grant Awarding Coordinator Prof. Pervin Kinay (e-mail: pervin.kinay@ege.edu.tr)

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