

SyMat COST Action (CA18223).

“Future communications with higher-symmetric engineered artificial materials”

<https://syamat-cost.eu/stsm/>

**Call for Short Term Scientific Mission Proposals
for the 2nd Grant Period**

(for missions occurring between 1st May 2021 and 30th September 2021)

PURPOSE

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) are aimed at supporting researchers’ individual mobility with the objective of strengthening the existing networks and fostering collaborations. An STSM should specifically contribute to the scientific objectives and activities of the SyMat COST Action, as stated in the Memorandum of Understanding (https://e-services.cost.eu/files/domain_files/CA/Action_CA18223/mou/CA18223-e.pdf) while at the same time enabling those partaking in the missions to establish new partnerships, learn new techniques, gain access to specific data, instruments and/or methods not available in their own institutions/organizations.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

STSMs are open for PhDs, PostDocs, and advanced career researchers employed at institutions in countries participating in SyMat Cost Action, or at approved institutions. Researchers cannot apply for a STSM within their own country. International COST Participating Countries (IPC) may host STSM researchers from European COST countries but may not apply for STSMs themselves. The following table shows the scenarios available to eligible STSM applicants

Applicant’s Home Institution	STSM Host Institution
Located in a Participating COST Full Member / COST Cooperating Member	Located in another Participating COST Full Member / COST Cooperating Member
	Located in a Participating COST Partner Member
	Action MC Observer from IPC
	Action MC Observer from NNC
	The EU Commission or an EU Body, Office or Agency
	An Approved European RTD Organisation
	An Approved International Organisation
Action MC Observer from NNC	Located in a Participating COST Full Member / COST Cooperating Member
Located in an Approved European RTD Organisation	Located in a Participating COST Full Member / COST Cooperating Member

See <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA18223/#tabs|Name:parties> for the list of Participating Countries and <https://www.cost.eu/who-we-are/cost-strategy/international-cooperation/> for the list of Near Neighbour Countries (NNC).

STSM DURATION, FUNDING AND BUDGET

STSMs must have a minimum duration of 5 calendar days that includes travel. All STSM activities relevant to this call should occur in their entirety by the end of September 2021. Please consider the current situation related to the COVID-19 outbreak when choosing your mission dates. We advise all the applicants to check individual country stipulations before planning the mission, and to purchase travel cancellation insurance.

The financial support, which is paid in the form of a Grant, is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation and meal expenses incurred during the STSM, and may not necessarily cover all the associated outgoings. Differentiated country rates could be considered to cover accommodation and meal expenses based on the perceived cost of living in the host country. In all the cases, the following funding conditions apply:

1. up to a maximum of 3500€ in total can be afforded to each successful STSM applicant;
2. up to a maximum of 160€ per day can be afforded for accommodation and meal expenses.

The awarded grant will be paid only after the STSM has been completed. Only researchers from COST Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) (see the list at <https://www.cost.eu/who-we-are/cost-strategy/excellence-and-inclusiveness/>) can request a prepayment of 50% of grant. This is payable under 2 conditions: that the Grant Holder (GH) has sufficient funds to cover 50% of the grant in advance and that the host confirms to the GH that the mission has started.

The COST Association and the GH of the Action cannot to be considered as being an STSM grantee's employer. STSM grantees must make their own arrangements for all provisions related to personal security, health, taxation, social security and pension matters.

The number of STSMs granted is not fixed and amounts granted for each individual STSM will be determined during the evaluation process.

New calls will be launched for the next Grant Periods, subject to budget availability.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE and DEADLINE

Applications should be submitted online by completing the online application form at <https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm> and uploading all the requested documents. Applications should be also sent by e-mail to the STSM responsible Enrica Martini at the address martini@dii.unisi.it including:

- an invitation letter from the Host Institution, confirming that the STSM Applicant can perform the activities detailed in the STSM work plan on the agreed dates, should the application be approved, and containing a description of the measures that will be taken by the host and visitor to fulfil the COVID requirements of the host organization and country;
- a letter of support from the Home Institution;

- a motivation letter (up to 2 pages), including a justification for the choice of the Host Institution, the proposed contribution to the scientific objectives of the Action, the techniques and/or equipment to be used and a Work Plan detailing the proposed activities;
- a CV of the Applicant, including a list of publications;
- a budget request with breakdown for the costs of the STSM.

The outcome of the evaluation will be communicated within one week after the submission. More detailed information about online application can be found at <https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/STSM-userguide.pdf>

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be ranked by the STSM Selection Team based on the following criteria:

- scientific quality;
- feasibility of the proposed approach;
- benefit to the development of the COST Action.

The selection will follow the COST policies on inclusiveness (gender, age, geography). In particular, priority will be given to PhD students and Early Career Investigators (ECI) (maximum 8 years since obtaining their PhD at the time of application). Particular consideration will also be given to candidates moving from/to ITC Countries

REPORTING AFTER THE STSM

Successful applicants will need to upload a scientific report and the host approval of the report in e-COST within 30 days from the end date of the STSM. Before uploading, the report should be also sent to the STSM Coordinator (e-mail: martini@dii.unisi.it) for possible feedbacks and comments. A scientific report template is available on http://www.cost.eu/STSM_report_template. Failure to submit the scientific report within 30 days from the end date of the STSM will effectively cancel the Grant. The scientific report will require the approval of the Action Chair or STSM coordinator in order to effect the payment of the Grant. Successful applicants will be asked to submit a brief summary of the STSM outputs for the Action's website describing the scientific report which will also be made available online.

Publications resulting from STSM activities are highly valued as COST Action outcome, and they should acknowledge SyMat COST support.