

COST Action CA21107

Work Inequalities in Later Life redefined by Digitalisation

(DIGI-net)

1st Call for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM)

Grant period no 2

Applications for Missions occurring between

1st April 2024 and 8th September 2024

The aim of the *COST Action 21107: Work Inequalities in Latter Life redefined by Digitalisation (DIGI-net)* is to overcome critical gaps in conceptual innovation on the influence of digitalisation on work inequalities in later life, in order to address the research-policy disconnect and tackle work inequalities in later life redefined by digitalisation. The Action will enhance scientific knowledge by integrating the different disciplines and schools of thought, by developing collaborations with public policy officials, international policy bodies, non-academic professionals, civil society NGOs, trade unions, management of organisations and older workers themselves.

The Action is an innovative participatory, interdisciplinary, and cross-European. The first area concerns social inequalities in cases where some groups are privileged, and other groups are marginalised. The second knowledge gap concerns organisational age culture in which stereotypes and discrimination are known to strongly shape organisational life for older workers in terms of hiring, training and retirement. A third largely unexplored central area concerns the complex

interplay and connection between digitalisation of work and older workers' health, which is a vital condition for extending working life. A fourth directions envisage policies and practices dealing with digitalisation and who are implemented by national governments as well as by European institutions and organisations. The fifth dimension of the CA21107 is focused on the social, corporate and news media reflecting and propelling stereotypes of older workers and digitalisation.

***All STSM activities must occur in their entirety within the dates specified above**

Purpose of a Short-term Scientific Mission

Short-term scientific missions (STSMs) are exchange visits between researchers involved in a COST Action, allowing scientists to visit an institution or laboratory in another COST Member/Cooperating Member or Near-Neighbour Country joining the Action. These scientific missions are done by researchers or innovators for specific work to be carried out and for a determined period of time: it may last from 5 days to 180 days. Their aim is to foster collaboration in excellent research infrastructures and share new techniques that may not be available in a participant's home institution or laboratory.

The grants cover expenses for traveling, accommodation, and subsistence of max. EUR 2000.

Who can apply?

- Any individual affiliated to a Legal entity according to the Annotated Rules for COST Actions - COST
- STSM applicants shall be engaged in an official research programme as a PhD Student or postdoctoral fellow or can be employed by, or affiliated to, an institution, organisation or legal entity which has within its remit a clear association with performing research. The institutions / organisation or legal entity where applicants pursue their main strand of research are considered as Home Institutions.

- COST Action CA21107 supports Young Researchers and Innovators (young R&I). Therefore, the participation of young R&I in STSMs is particularly encouraged but applications are not limited to them. Other researchers are also eligible to partake in STSMs, but young R&I are prioritized when applications are evaluated.
- Previous successful applicants are not precluded from applying, but preference and priority will be given to applicants who have not been awarded a DIGI-net STSM before.

Amount of grants

- The financial support on offer is a contribution to the overall expenses incurred during the STSM and may not necessarily cover all of the associated outgoings. Financial support is limited to covering travel and subsistence expenses and is paid as a grant.
- For this call the STSM's shall have a minimum duration of at least 5 calendar days, and up to 180 days that includes travel.
- STSM need to be carried out in their entirety within a single Grant Period and always within the Action's lifetime.

Note:

- During an STSM neither the MC, nor the COST Office nor the Grant Holder may be considered as an employer.
- Grantees must make their own arrangements for all health, social, personal security, and pension matters.

Financial issue

- Grants are usually processed only after the STSM has taken place and the reporting retirements have been satisfied and approved by the MC Action.
- STSM Grants do not necessarily cover all expenses related to undertaking a given mission.

- A STSM Grant is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation, and meal expenses of the Grantee.
- The Grant Evaluation Committee should consider and can approve differentiated country rates to cover accommodation and meal expenses based on the perceived cost of living in the host country.
- The maximum amounts granted for each individual STSM will be determined during the evaluation process by the Grant Evaluation Committee. The selection of applicants is based on the scientific scope of the STSM application which must clearly compliment the overall objectives of the Action and be related to a specific Working Group.

The following funding conditions apply and must be respected:

- Travel expenses cannot exceed EUR 700 (are included in the total amount of the grant);
- For accommodation and meal expenses, maximum amount as per eCOST daily allowance rate table (see budget template – Annex 3)
- For this call, a grantee can be afforded up to a maximum of EUR 2000;
- STSM activities must occur in their entirety within the dates specified in this call.
- For this call, the Management Committee of COST Action CA21107 has allocated the budget for a maximum of 6 STSMs.
- The amounts granted for each individual STSM will depends on the length of the stay and will be determined during the evaluation process.

Note:

- Grants are paid by the Grant Holder Institution 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. In that case STSMs grantees will sign an agreement between him/her and the Grant Holder Institution.
- This amount is subject to availability of funds and approval by the Grant Holder Institution.
- The request of prepayment shall be submitted to the Grant Holder Manager.

Please note that reimbursements will be done in compliance with the COST Annotated Rules. The application follows the steps in e-COST. In case of questions, please contact the Administrative Manager.

The application steps and responsibilities

- The applicant is responsible for choosing and contacting the Host institution and for organizing the application process.
- All applicants must carefully read the funding rules detailed in Annex 2 of the *COST Annotated Rules*.
- All applicants must register for an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu>
- The applicants must make sure that information about their bank account is added to their profile
- The application templates for grants can be found on the COST website: www.cost.eu/grants_userguide
- A letter of support from the **HOME** institution needs to be added (Annex 1).
- A letter of support from the **HOST** institution needs to be added (Annex 2)
- The applicant must complete and submit their STSM application online at: www.cost.eu/STSM
- The applicants must also submit to the Grant Evaluation Committee before the deadline is expired, the following documents:
 - **CV** - short format of Europass (see [Home | Europass](#))
 - The **budget** of the STSM (see budget template – Annex 3);
 - **Work plan** - should include objectives for visit, timeline, and core tasks to be undertaken; expected outputs and deliverables specific for this COST Action and grant period (e.g., new research model; draft outline of peer review publication, thematic synthesis); work plan should be structured with a particular research question in mind and with a view to developing work that will form the basis for a peer review publication.
 - **Written agreement letter from the host institution** (Annex 2)
 - **Support letter from the home institution** (Annex 1)
 - **Motivation letter**, highlighting the importance of the mission for this COST Action, and

for the applicants training and career.

- A ppt presentation of results for a CA21107 meeting or webinar (after the STSM has taken place);
- A short brief for website and social media (after the STSM has taken place)

The selection of applicants is based on the following criteria:

- A. Contribution to achievement of the COST Action 21107 MoU objectives and deliverables
- B. The compliance of the application (goals, expected outcomes) with the expertise of the coordinator from the Host Institution
- C. The gains of STSM in terms of the new knowledge or of the access to equipment or techniques not available in the home institution
- D. Inclusiveness criteria
- E. The applicants having or being involved in any type of ongoing grants under CA 21107 and not being approved yet, cannot be considered for funding.

When to apply?

The current call is open until **1st of March 2024**.

For this call, the STSMs may take place within the period: **1st April 2024 and 8th September 2024**.

After the STSM has taken place

The STSM Grantee has 15 calendar days from the end date of the mission to send the report to the STSM /Grant Awarding Coordinator: daniela.soitu@uaic.ro and to a senior researcher affiliated to the Host Institution.

Payment of the Grant is subject to a STSM scientific report being pre-approved on behalf of the Action's MC by the delegated Grant Evaluation Committee and by a senior researcher affiliated to the Host Institution.

Written approval of the STSM scientific report by the aforementioned persons shall be uploaded in eCOST for archiving purposes.

Failure to submit the scientific report within 15 days from the end date of the STSM will effectively cancel the Grant.

NOTICE OF COMPLETION:

The MC Action will approve the final report and send the completion notice to the Grant Holder. The Grant Holder will then execute the payment of the grant directly to the grantee.

For additional info, please contact:

Grant awarding Coordinator -Professor Daniela Şoitu. University of Iaşi

Email: daniela.soitu@uaic.ro

Grant Evaluation Committee

It consists of Grant awarding coordinator and the Vice-chair of the Action

Grant awarding Coordinator -Professor Daniela Şoitu. University of Iaşi

Email: daniela.soitu@uaic.ro

Vice-Chair of CA 21107: Professor Clary Krekula, University of Linnaeus

Email: clary.krekula@lnu.se

Annex 1:

LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM HOME INSTITUTION

- TEMPLATE -

- I, _____ (*The responsible person – typically a head of the lab - at HOME institution*)
- from _____ (*HOME Institution*),
- support the application of _____ (*applicant's name*)
- proposing to travel to _____ (*HOST Institution*)
- to realize a STSM for ____ day(s) to carry out
- the project _____ (*proposal title*).

Name of the responsible person from the home institution (typically a head of the lab)

Signature

Stamp

At ____ (city) _____ (country) _____, the ____ (day) ____ of ____ (month) _____ 20__

Annex 2:

LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM HOST INSTITUTION

- TEMPLATE -

- I _____ (*The responsible person – typically a head of the lab - at HOST institution*)
- from _____ (*HOST Institution*)
- support the application of _____ (*applicant's name*)
- from _____ (*HOME Institution*)
- to realize a STSM for ____ day(s) to carry out
- the project _____ (*proposal title*).

Name of the responsible person from the host institution (typically a head of the lab)

Signature

Stamp

At ____ (city)_____, (country)_____, the __ (day) ____ of __ (month)____ 20__.

Annex 3: Budget Template

Instructions: complete blue cells with numbers

	Reference	Euro/No	Notes
# of Visiting Days	A		
Daily Subsistence (hotel, food, local transport)	B		as per eCOST daily allowance rates: https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2022/04/2022_Daily-allowance-table.pdf
Total Subsistence	C=AxB		
Long distance travel cost (flight, train, bus, car)	D		provide details
Other	E		provide details
Total Grant Amount	F=C+D+E		