

CA 21143 TraFaDy
Core Group Document
Networking grants TraFaDy
SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS –
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2023 – 2024
(Call November 2023)

Terms and abbreviations used in this document: Check the full list [here](#) (including definitions)

The COST Action CA21143 “Transnational Family Dynamics in Europe” (TraFaDy) objective is to deepen and broaden the scientific understanding of transnational families through international and multidisciplinary knowledge exchange, enable further multidisciplinary approaches and stimulate innovation in research, policy, and practice.

As part of this aim, the Action encourages and supports Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM). STSMs are exchange visits aiming at strengthening the existing networks by allowing individual researchers to go to an institution or laboratory in other COST country to foster collaboration and contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST Action CA21143.

The TraFaDy Action launch now a 4th call for proposals. There are approx. 8 STSM grants to be awarded. All STSMs have to take place before 30th of September 2024. Applicants are invited to apply up to 3th of January 2024. Note that all STSMs must be in line with the general COST Action CA21143 goals and objectives (<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA21143/>).

Be aware that the STSM must take place abroad (in other COST country) and the applicant should get in touch with a proposed hosting institution individually.

WHAT IS A STSM?

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) are exchange visits aiming at strengthening the existing networks by allowing individual scientists to go to an institution in other COST country to foster collaboration, to learn new techniques or gain access to specific instruments and/or methods or techniques not available in their own institutions. They shall have a minimum duration of 5 calendar days that includes travel.

A STSM should specifically contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST Action CA21143.

More information about the COST rules on the Short-Term Scientific Missions is available at the COST Annotated Rules for COST Actions (https://www.cost.eu/Annotated_Rules_for_COST_Actions_C).

A short video explaining what the STSM is about can be found [here](#).

PRIORITIES FOR APPLICATIONS

In the selection procedure, **proposals with a close relation with one or more TraFaDy Working Groups will be prioritized**. All proposals must contribute to the scientific objectives of and finally be of interest for COST Action CA21143.

Read about the scope of the 6 working groups and the objectives of the Action in the '[memory of understanding](#)' of the action.

Applications from Young Researchers (under 40 years) are privileged.

RULES

The STSM applicant must be a PhD candidate or be engaged in a research programme as a postdoctoral fellow or be employed by an institution of a COST Country that has signed the MoU of the Action. Applications from Young Researchers (under 40 years) are privileged. The host institution should be actively participating in the COST Action CA21143. For the period of the STSM neither the Management Committee, nor the COST Office nor the Grant Holder may be considered as an employer. The grantees must make their own arrangements for all health, social, personal security, and pension matters.

The selection of STSM applicants is based on the scientific scope of the STSM application that must be in line with the COST Action CA21143 objectives. The selection of successful candidates is made by the Action Core Group, based on a proposal of the Grant Awarding Coordinator following the recommendations of the WG Leaders and the MC Chair. The Grant Awarding Coordinator informs the Grant Holder about successful candidate and then the Grant Holder sends a grant letter generated from e-COST system to the approved applicant. The grant letter must be signed by the applicant and returned to the Grant Holder.

A STSM grant is a fixed contribution based on the requested budget that should reflect the duration and location of the STSM. The budget is evaluated by the Grant Awarding Coordinator and can be reduced by decision of the Core Group. The grant is for travel and subsistence costs only. It does not necessarily cover all such expenses.

Successful applicants will receive an allowance up to €160/day and up to €600 for travel - up to a maximum total budget of €4 000 (the average of requested STSM grants is €1 800). The budget will be awarded to the successful applicants in accordance with COST rules.

Be aware of the brand guidelines for dissemination activities funded by COST. Please check [here](#) if they apply on your grant (or check [COST-Action-Visual-Branding-Guidelines-071122.pdf](#)). In that case, the COST logo, EU Emblem, acknowledgment, and boilerplate are required in the final slide of presentation made by you. The grant might be rejected if your material does not reach the COST standards.

After the STSM, the STSM participant must submit a scientific report to the Host and to the Grant Awarding Coordinator within 30 days after the end of his/her stays *and in any case on 15th of October 2024 at the latest*.

The STSM grant will be paid after the exchange visit (acceptance of the scientific report and a letter from the Host are required). The STSM candidates must therefore pre-finance costs related to the STSM (travel, stay, meals). STSM applicants with an affiliation in an institution in an Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC) country can request a pre-payment of 50% of grant. This is payable under two conditions:

- the GH has funds to cover 50% of the grant in advance
- the host confirms to the GH that the mission has started.

The transfer of the 50% of the Grant can only take place after the mission has started; therefore, requesting a pre-payment is more effective for STSMs longer than 1 month.

APPLICATION

If you are interested in applying, complete the on-line application <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants/add?type=STSM>. More about the COST grants applications on <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>. (A COST account is needed. Create your account [here](#)).

The following supporting documents must be included in the application:

- Cover letter, explaining how your work will benefit from this STSM and how the STSM will contribute to the achievement of the COST CA21143 objectives;
- Work plan specifying what you intend to do (800 words), the start and end dates, and budget (accommodation/travel);
- A written agreement of the host institution;
- A letter of support from the home institution;
- CV (2 pages), including a list of publications.

All applicants will be informed about the result of the call by end of January 2024.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed by the Cost Action CA21143 WG leaders, the Core Group and the Grant Awarding Coordinator according to the following criteria:

- The relevance of the proposal to the scope or activities of one or more working groups (read about the scope of the 6 working groups in the [‘memory of understanding’](#) of the action)
- Scientific quality and relevance of the work plan. Namely, how well it addresses the proposed topics and the COST Action CA21143 objectives;
- Anticipated outcomes in respect of COST Action CA21143 objectives;
- Contribution to personal development of the candidate;
- Other criteria include early career, gender balance and geographical inclusiveness;
- The application of the [‘Rules and Principles for COST activities’](#) by the applicant.

AFTER THE STSM

The grantee is obliged to submit a short scientific report to the host institution (for information) and to the Grant Awarding Coordinator (by uploading it in e-COST) within 30 days after the end date of the STSM *and in any case on 15th of October 2024 at the latest*.

The report must contain the following information:

- Purpose of the STSM;
- Description of the work carried out during the STSM;
- Description of the main results obtained;
- Future collaboration with the host institution (if applicable);
- Foreseen publications / articles resulting from the STSM (if applicable);
- Confirmation by the host institution of the successful execution of the STSM;
- Other comments (if any).

In addition to the report the applicant will also:

- provide a 200 words (publishable) text for the TraFaDy newsletters and social media (to be uploaded in e-COST)
- make presentations and other material available for the use in TraFaDy working groups ((to be uploaded in e-COST)
- share results of the activities with the relevant working groups (also via presentations on working groups if requested by the working group leader).



Please note that failure to submit the scientific report on time will effectively cancel the grant.

The Grant Awarding Coordinator will manage the evaluation process and inform the Grant Holder about the acceptance of the report. Afterwards, the Grant Holder will execute the payment of the fixed grant directly to the grantee or to home institution as stated in the application form.

About the terms and abbreviations used in this document: Check [here](#) for definitions and the full list.