

COST Action 24138

2nd Call for STSM Applications

1st grant period, 3rd quadrimester. Deadline: June 24, 2026

Total available amount: ~5,000 euros.

Purpose of a Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM)

Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) is a grant to facilitate researchers' short mobility from COST Countries participating in COST Action CA24138 to visit an institution, organization or research center in another participating COST Country to foster collaboration and to perform empirical research within the objectives of the Action. Applications from "Young Researcher and Innovator" (YRI) are particularly encouraged. An applicant can be considered as being a YRI up to 40 years of age (excluding time of maternity/paternity leave). PhD students are also eligible and encouraged to apply for STSMs.

Specific information concerning STSM

STSMs have a duration of between 5 days and 90 days (and up to 180 days if the applicant is a YRI).

The financial support is a contribution to the overall expenses incurred during the STSM and may not necessarily cover all associated costs.

The following funding conditions apply and must be respected:

Up to a maximum of EUR 2,000 in total can be awarded to each successful STSM applicant. An estimation of foreseen expenses (transportation + accommodation) must be specified in the application. While some allowance will be made for minor changes between estimated and incurred expenses, please ensure that any estimates are as accurate as possible as only minor changes will be considered for reimbursement.

The STSM Committee can approve differentiated country rates to cover accommodation and meal expenses based on the cost of living in the host country. A typical allowance ranges from 50 to 90 Euros per day (depending on the host country).

For YRIs participating in STSMs with a duration of between 5 and 90 days, the maximum amount is EUR 2,000.

For YRI, with a duration of between 91 and 180 days, a maximum amount of EUR 4,000 can be awarded to the Grantee for STSMs. A strong justification for awards in excess of EUR 2000 will need to be provided as these will only be supported in exceptional circumstances.

STSM activities must be completed by September 30th, 2026.

Financial support is limited to cover costs for travel, accommodation and meal expenses and is paid in the form of a Grant (after its completion; 50% of the awarded Grant can be provided at the beginning of the STSM only to ITC members for periods longer than one month).

The amount granted for each individual STSM will be determined during the evaluation process by the formally appointed STSM Committee. The selection of applicants is based on the scientific scope of their STSM application, which must clearly comply with the overall objectives of the Action (but see also Annex to this document).

How to apply for an STSM

Calls will be announced by the Action through its website and/or via email communication. Interested researchers can apply by following the guidelines provided below, and they must submit their electronic application and supporting documents through the eCOST website ([www. COST.eu](http://www.COST.eu)) before the application deadline of the 24th of June 2026.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS IS AS FOLLOWS (see Annotated Rules p.100

<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/11/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V3.0-25-IX-2025.pdf>):

All applicants must create an account on eCOST (www.cost.eu) and upload their STSM application form and the relevant supporting documents for evaluation by the STSM Committee before the application submission deadline expires

The applicant must carefully read the funding rules detailed in the Annotated Rules

<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/11/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V3.0-25-IX-2025.pdf> (Annex 2).

The applicant must register and open an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/> – adding their bank account details to their profile.

The applicant must provide a letter of invitation from the Host institution confirming that they can undertake the STSM on the given dates prior to submitting an application.

The applicant must complete, submit, and download their STSM applications online at: cost.eu/STSM.

The list of supporting documents (see guidelines in the ANNEX) to be submitted for the evaluation are:

- I) a motivation letter (max 1 A4 page). **For PhD students, this should also be signed by the supervisor!**
- II) a copy of the online STSM application (downloadable when the online application is submitted – see point 4 above)
- III) a CV (max 2 A4, including a list of relevant academic publications – if applicable)
- IV) a work plan of the activities to be performed during the visit highlighting the proposed contribution to the scientific objectives of the COST Action (max 2 A4) **with detailed cost estimation**
- V) the written agreement from the Host institution that the STSM applicant can perform the activities detailed in the STSM work plan on the agreed dates

The application will then be evaluated by the formally delegated STSM Committee according to the scientific objectives outlined in the Action's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of CA24138 (but see also Annex to this document).

The applicant will be formally notified of the outcome of their STSM application by the STSM Coordinator Helike Löhelaid on 8th of July 2026 (tentative date).

Within 30 days from the end date of the STSM, the successful applicant must submit a scientific report to the Host institution and to the STSM Coordinator Helike Löhelaid. The applicant is also responsible for

acquiring an official acceptance letter / Email confirmation of acceptance from a senior Researcher affiliated to the Host institution formally accepting the scientific report. This formal acceptance of the scientific report has to be also sent to Helike Lõhelaid (helike.lohelaid@taltech.ee) for archiving purposes and validated by the Grant Awarding Committee.

Failure to submit the scientific report (e.g., an empty report or non-approved report) within 30 days from the end date of the STSM will effectively cancel the Grant.

(Please note that the COST Association can request additional information to substantiate the information contained within the documents submitted by STSM applicants).

The **Scientific report** must contain the following information:

- Period of STSM (end before September 30, 2026)
- purpose of the STSM
- description of the work carried out during the STSM
- description of the main results achieved
- future collaboration with the Host institution (if applicable)
- foreseen publications / articles resulting from the STSM (if applicable)
- confirmation by the senior Researcher affiliated to the Host institution of the successful execution of the STSM

ANNEX

STSM Evaluation criteria for CA24138 EU-RESOLVE

The evaluation of STSM applications and selection of Grantees is performed by the Action's STSM Committee on behalf of the MC following the listed criteria.

– 2-page CV,

– Science (quality of the project, justification for mobility and match with the host and feasibility – max 70 pts),

– Pertinence (a justified explanation of how the STSM fits within the COST goals with relation to WG tasks – max 30pts).

- Applicant's contribution to the mission of EU-RESOLVE, including participating in weekly webinars and WG meetings

First time applicants will be prioritized over returning applicants

COST policies on gender balance, early career investigators and geographical inclusiveness will be applied.

It is further aimed at supporting STSMs of different WG topics.