**ImpleMéndez Short-term Scientific Missions: Expressions of Interest**

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) aim to support individual mobility and strengthen the existing networks and fostering collaborations by allowing scientists to visit an institution in another participating COST country or an approved Nearby Neighbor Country (NNC) or International Partner Country institution (IPC). You can find out which countries are COST member countries, NNC or IPC from the COST.EU website.

STSMs should contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST Action. Please refer to our ImpleMéndez [Action aims and objectives](https://implemendez.eu/about2/) for further details.

**Eligibility criteria**

STSMs need to take place according to the following rules:

Be a minimum duration of 5 days and a maximum duration of 90 days.

Carried out in their entirety within a single grant period and within the Action's lifetime.

The person providing the expression of interest in a STSM and the member proposing to be the STSM host both have to be participants of our Action CA22128 (ImpleMéndez).

**Eligibility of grantees will be based on the following criteria:**

Scientists (who have preferably not previously received a grant for a STSM) involved in Action CA22128 and either affiliated in a Participating COST Full/Cooperating Member or affiliated in a Near-Neighbor Country. Funding for a STSM can only be given to those members affiliated to COST Member countries or those from Nearby Neighborhood Countries

For more details regarding the regulations related to STSM, please refer to the [COST Annotated Rules](https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2023/11/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V1.4-Final-.pdf).

**Financial support**

Financial support intends to provide a contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, implementation of the project, delivery of the report to the COST Action MC and overall effort.

The financial support is paid in the form of a grant; hence no invoices will be required. The maximum grant amount is 4000 EUR.

**Final report of STSM**

After the STSM is finished, the grantee is required to submit a short scientific report to the host institution and to the STSM Coordinator within 30 days from the end date of the activity, or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period, whichever date comes first. Please note that the approved STSM should not start before 1st January 2025 and will need to have concluded by 30th September 2025.

Failure to submit the scientific report within 30 days will effectively cancel the grant. The STSM Coordinator is responsible for approving the scientific report and informing the Grant Holder that the STSM has been successfully accomplished. After receipt of the approval by email, the Grant Holder will execute the payment of the grant.

Please note that the reimbursement of STSM grantees will be made after the mission is over and the final report is submitted by the STSM grantee. However, STSMs grantees may request up to 50% pre-payment of the approved grant. This amount is subject to availability of funds and approval by the Grant Holder Institution. The request of pre- payment shall be submitted to the Grant Holder Manager (fiona.walsh@dmu.ac.uk).

The final report will be uploaded to the ImpleMéndez Action webpage.

**How to express initial interest in an STSM**

1. Please read carefully read the funding and eligibility rules detailed in the [COST Annotated Rules](https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2023/11/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V1.4-Final-.pdf).

2. You must complete in the first instance an Expression of Interest. See thee attached form. In due course, if it is decided that the STSM is to be supported, you will need to take further steps on the e-COST system. Advice will be given at that time as to the procedures to be followed, but aside from making a formal application the system, you must obtain then a letter of invitation or an email from the Host institution confirming you can undertake the STSM on the given dates.

3. Please also submit your CV (in English, please) with the Expression of Interest

4. All documents to be submitted to our Grant Holder Manager (f.walsh@dmu.ac.uk) no later than 5pm UTC on 30th August 2024

5. We will judge in the first instance whether we can support your interest in a STSM. We will let you know the outcome of this decision no later than 30th September.

6. For those successful at that stage we will propose this STSM to the COST funder

7. Once the COST funding organization has also agreed the proposal, we will invite you to make a formal application via the COST e-system. We will give that advice at that time regarding the steps to take.

The following information will need to be filled in on the Expression of Interest:

Title

Start and end date (within the active Grant Period, i.e. no overlap across two consecutive Grant Periods)

Budget requested by the applicant

Information about the host institution and contact person

The following documents will need to be forwarded no later than 5pm UTC on 30th August:

1. Expression of interest form describing goals, description of the work to be carried out by the applicant, expected outcomes and description of the contribution to the Action MoU objectives.
2. A document detailing a breakdown of the costs.

**Deadline of submitting the Expression of Interest is Friday August 30th 2024 5PM UTC time.**

The expressions will be assessed by the Grant Awarding Coordinator (Ivar Fahsing, ivarfahsing@gmail.com) in conjunction with advice from the Action Chair (Dave Walsh), Vice-Chair (Yvonne Daly) and the Scientific Communication lead (Kristjan Kask) no later than 30th September

The Expressions will be ranked based on:
• scientific quality and objectives outlined in the Action’s Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) found at <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA22128/>

• feasibility of the approach proposed,
• benefit to the development of the ImpleMéndez COST Action.

The selection will also follow the COST policies on inclusiveness (gender, age, geography). Priority will be given to encourage participation of Young Researchers and Innovators (YRI) in the COST Action activities. An applicant can be considered as being an YRI when they are younger than 40. Priority will also be given to applicants coming from Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC). The list of COST ITCs is available [here](https://www.cost.eu/about/strategy/excellence-and-inclusiveness/). While priority is given to these groups and countries, this should not discourage applications from more established researchers and/or those from other COST member countries (i.e. those not designated as ITCs)

Grant Awarding Coordinator:

Ivar Fahsing (ivarfahsing@gmail.com)
Action Chair

Dave Walsh (dave.walsh@dmu.ac.uk)