

Third call for CardioRNA STSM fellowships

The COST Action CardioRNA CA17129 (<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA17129>) is launching the third call for short-term scientific mission (STSM) fellowships. STSMs aim to foster new collaborations between the laboratories participating in the Action and beyond, to learn new techniques or to use specific equipment not available in the applicant's institute, and promote the objectives of the Action.

This second STSM call will be open for application through e-COST from 1st September 2019 until 30th September 2019. Please start preparing your visit and your application as soon as possible.

Exchange visits for this second call **can start from 1st November 2019 must be completed by 31 March 2020** or otherwise, we will not be able to reimburse them. According to the Work and Budget Plan of our COST Action for **Grant Period 2 (01 May 2019 – 30 Apr 2020)**, we hope to allocate **3 more STSMs of 2000 EUR each**.

Applications must be sent using the online registration tool available at the following website: <https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>

Rules and eligibility criteria

For full information on COST STSM rules see [COST Vademecum](https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Vademecum_June2019.pdf) Section 8 (https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Vademecum_June2019.pdf).

- **The applicant is either a PhD student or an Early Career Investigator (ECI).** ECI is an individual who is within a time span of up to 8 years from the date they obtained their PhD.
- **The applicant must be engaged in a research program in a COST Member State** and must go to an institution or laboratory in **another Member State actively participating in the Action CardioRNA.**
- The financial support is limited to travel and accommodation expenses and is **not intended to cover experimental costs.**
- The maximal financial support is 2000 EUR, and the mission duration should be **minimum one week to maximum three months.**
- Due to the limited number of fellowships, only one person per home institution and host lab can apply.
- **The laboratory of origin and host laboratory must send recommendation letters** with the application and agree to cover the rest of the expenses related to the travel and project if necessary.
- The grantee is required to submit a short **scientific report within four weeks after his/her stay.**

The table below illustrates the possible scenarios for 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
Action MC Observer from NNC	An Approved International Organisation
	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

How to apply

To apply for an STSM within the CardioRNA COST Action, please follow the following steps:

1. The applicant must have a profile on e-COST at <https://e-services.cost.eu/>;
2. Submit an **STSM application on e-COST** (<https://e-services.cost.eu/conferencegrant/apply/new>);
3. Send the following supporting documents as a single pdf file, to the CardioRNA STSM Coordinator, Dr Dimitris Beis, at dbeis@bioacademy.gr:
 - 3.1. CV (max. 1 page);
 - 3.2. Recommendation letter from a senior researcher affiliated to the home institution agreeing to cover the rest of the expenses related to the travel and project if necessary (see template attached);
 - 3.3. Letter of invitation from a senior researcher affiliated to the host institution confirming that the applicant can undertake the STSM on the given dates (see template attached).

Selection criteria

The applications will be assessed by the STSM Committee based on:

- Scientific quality of the proposal;
- The relevance of the proposed visit to the objectives of the Action CardioRNA (see MoU);
- Technical feasibility (is the host lab equipment or technical knowledge required for the completion of a project, length of the STSM);
- Diversity and representativeness of contributions concerning the COST Action;
- Gender balance and country.

Obligations

The grantee must submit a short **scientific report within four weeks after his/her stay to dbeis@bioacademy.gr, yvan.devaux@lih.lu, and the host institution**. The scientific report should cover a statement of achieving the project aims, description of the work carried out and the outcome/results, and expected publications or abstract presentation that may arise from the STSM (if applicable) (see template attached).

The applicant is also responsible for acquiring an official acceptance letter or email confirmation of acceptance from a senior researcher affiliated to the host institution formally **accepting the scientific report**. This formal acceptance is necessary for approving STSM for payment. Failure to submit the scientific report within 30 days from the end date of the STSM will effectively cancel the Grant.

The grantee will also present a poster or an abstract describing the activities and achievements of the mission in the next CardioRNA scientific meeting.

The STSM grantee must email a summary and a copy of their scientific report to the **Science Communication Manager of the Action**, Dr Emma Robinson (e.robinson@maastrichtuniversity.nl). It will be then disseminated using the official CardioRNA website, social media, etc.

Photos from the STSM (e.g., the grantee with the team at the host institution) will be greatly appreciated.