



RESTORE

Short Term Scientific Missions

Interested in bringing Restorative Sustainability expertise to your country? Apply for a STSM to map RESTORE sustainable building standards!

Important Dates:

Applications Open: 17 December 2020

Applications Close: 17 January 2021

STSM can begin from: end of January, when applicants will be informed about results
STSM and reporting must be completed by April 15, 2021.

The Topic:

- You can select a Host Institution from the list of Hosting Proposals on [RESTORE Website](#);
- You can find a suitable Host yourself.

Be sure to prepare your application in line with COST rules regarding STSM!
(check [the COST Vademecum](#) and the [STSM guide](#))

Make your case, why is your study important, how will you use it to expand understanding in your country and abroad and GO!

CALL FOR SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS

The Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) call for the [RESTORE COST Action GP4](#) opens again! RESTORE is seeking applicants for STSMs which may begin depending on the COVID-19 situation developments and must end before March 31, 2021. You must apply by 17 January 2021.

What is a Short-Term Scientific Mission?

STSMs are research visits to a host institution where the applicant will perform research activities that advance the objectives of RESTORE. STSMs must last between 5 and 90 days and are financially supported by the Action with a fixed contribution of up to **2500 EUR**.

Proposed STSM topics should be related to WG5 and address, at a minimum, one of the goals specified on the website. Info on WG5 goals and objectives can be found on RESTORE Website, WG5 Webpage [WG5 - Scale Jumping](#)

STSMs that address industry concerns and perspectives are encouraged. STSM hosts may be industry members or other companies!

Please review the RESTORE [website](#) and [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (PDF) to learn more details about each working group before submitting your application!

Applying for an STSM

The applicant should confirm the eligibility of their STSM by carefully reading the rules in Section 8 of the [COST Vademecum](#).

To apply for a Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) within the RESTORE COST Action (CA16114), please use the online form from COST at: <https://e-services.cost.eu>. You will need:

- i) A complete online application (Appendix A below.).
- ii) an invitation letter from the host institution,
- iii) a support letter from the home institution,
- iv) the Applicant's CV, including publications.

Your application will be evaluated by the STSM Committee based on the following criteria:

	Description	Grading	Weight
1.	Quality and feasibility of the work plan	1 to 10	19 %
2.	Appropriateness of the STSM for the selected Working Group and objectives	1 to 10	19 %
3.	Suitability of the applicant to work plan objectives	1 to 10	19 %
4.	Benefits of the STSM for the applicant (visitor)	1 to 10	19 %
5.	Quality, scope, and feasibility of the outcomes	1 to 10	24 %

Priority will be given to applications that support the objectives of the RESTORE Working Group 5. Please consult the RESTORE website and the RESTORE Memorandum of Understanding for details.

It is expected that each STSM grantee will present their STSM work at a RESTORE Working Group meeting or International Meeting. Upon completion of the STSM, an STSM report must be submitted to the STSM Manager by email. **After the STSM participants are highly encouraged to submit papers related to topic studied during STSM.**

The calculation of the financial contribution for each STSM must respect the following criteria:

- Up to a maximum of EUR 2 500 in total can be afforded to each successful applicant;
- Up to a maximum of EUR 160 per day can be afforded for accommodation and meal expenses;
- Up to a maximum of EUR 300 for travel can be afforded for travel;

- STSM applicants from ITC participating in the COST can request a pre-payment of 50% of their STSM total Grant when they complete the first day of their STSM.

In case you have any questions about the application procedure or STSM rules, please contact STSM Coordinator jelena.brajkovic@arh.bg.ac.rs

Useful Information

Website <https://eurestore.eu>

Working Group 5: <http://www.eurestore.eu/wg5-scale-jumping/>

STSMs: <https://www.eurestore.eu/stsms-for-grant-period-4/>

COST Vademecum (updated May 2020): <https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Vademecum-V8-1-May-20202.pdf>

RESTORE Cost Action Link: <https://e-services.cost.eu/action/CA16114/overview>

STMS Selection Committee

STSM Coordinator: Jelena Brajković jelena.brajkovic@arh.bg.ac.rs

Scientific Representative: Roberto Lollini

Working Group Leaders (as appropriate for the application)

Appendix A: Application guidance

<https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/STSM-userguide.pdf>

Writing a clear application with goals closely linked to the Action objectives is the best way ensure your application is selected for funding. It is important to keep in mind the goals of the action and the assessment system used by the STSM committee. Each section of the online application is presented and discussed below.

1. **Applicant details.** Select your institute from the choices given. You can add or edit affiliation by clicking the link in the lower right. The affiliations listed in your COST profile will show up in the pop-up menu.

Applicant Details

Home Institution *

[Add/Edit Affiliations](#)

2. **STSM Details.** This is the main component of your application. First, select the appropriate COST Action (**CA16114**). Next, provide an informative title. When selecting a Grant Period, you will most often have only one option. If more are presented, ensure your STSM *starts* and *ends* within the grant period and within the time frames provided in the current STSM announcement.

When selecting dates keep in mind the minimum period is 5 days, but longer durations are generally encouraged as more can be completed during the period. The maximum duration for normal STSMs is 90 days. Exceptions can be made for early career investigators (please consult the Vademecum or contact the STSM Coordinator).

The most important part of the entire application is the Workplan (“Motivation and Workplan summary” in the form). You are limited to 2000 words, so being direct and succinct is important.

- a. **Aim & Motivation.** Use this space to briefly state the objective of the study, your personal interest in the topic, and the societal relevance of the STSM.
- b. **Contribution to the scientific objectives of the Action.** *Creating a clear link between the objectives of your STSM with WG and Action goals is very important.* Please clearly, but briefly, state the WG associated with the STSM and how the STSM relates to the goals of the WG and the Action.
- c. **Techniques.** In this section, clearly state how you will accomplish the objectives you declared in the **Aim & Motivation** section. Describe the tools/equipment available at the host, the expertise at the host, and/or capacities of the area (environments, subjects/participants) that make it appropriate for your STSM.

- d. Planning.** Describe the activities you will do to accomplish your objectives:
- i. What will you do *before* your STSM? Examples might be material preparation, literature review, data collection/preparation, special training.
 - ii. What will you do *during* your STSM? Include the activities and the time frame within the STSM period. For example: Day 1: Meet HOST staff and finalise details of the implementation plan. Day 2 and 3: Receive training on Tool XYZ. Day 4-6: Data collection and site visits. Day 7-10: Utilise Tool XYZ for data analysis & modelling. Day 11-12: Review and refine results. Day 13-15: Draft journal paper. Day 16: Travel home. Longer duration STSMs may use longer blocks to describe the work.
 - iii. What will you do *after* your STSM? Describe how you will finalise the results of your STSM. Continued data analysis, finalise a journal paper, etc.
- e. Outcomes.** Define what the outcomes of the STSM. State how the new knowledge will be used and disseminated. Journal publications, conference presentations, lessons at universities or other forums are all important.

STSM Details

Action Number *

Action General information: CA16114

STSM Title *

Grant Period *

A Grant Period refers to the period of time that the Grant Holder of each Action has to complete their Action objectives. A Grant Period runs for one year unless stated otherwise. An STSM application must start and end during one single Grant Period. If a Grant Period containing your preferred start and/or end date of the STSM application is not available, please contact the MC chair of the Action (details available above under Action General Information) or update the start and end date to correspond to the Grant Period displayed in the drop-down menu.

Start Date *

End Date *

Duration

The minimum duration for an STSM is 5 days, maximum duration is 180 days (if you are ECI), or 90 days (if you are not ECI).
Early Career Investigator (ECI) - A researcher within a time span of up to 8 years from the date they obtained the PhD/doctorate (full-time equivalent).

Motivation and Workplan summary

(limited to 2000 words)

1. Aim & motivation - Please explain the scientific and/or other motivation for the STSM and what scientific and/or other outcomes you aim to accomplish with the STSM.
2. Proposed contribution to the scientific objectives of the Action.
3. Techniques - Please detail what techniques or equipment you may learn to use, if applicable.
4. Planning - Please detail the steps you will take to achieve your proposed aim.

- 3. Bank details.** Select the bank account you would like the grant deposited into, if successful. The available accounts are entered and stored in your profile and can be added or edited here. In some cases, your home institution may have guidelines for this (e.g.,

they may request the funds are deposited in their account). It is encouraged to discuss this with your supervisor or administrative staff prior to submitting your request.

4. Host Details. Provide the contact details of the host institution.

HOST Details

Title *

First Name *

Last Name *

Email *

Institution *

Institution Address *

Institution City *

Institution Country *

5. Financial support. In this section define the grant you will request. There are 3 main considerations: the amount for travel, the amount for subsistence (lodging, meals), and if you will apply for prepayment (only available for applicants from ITC countries). The Vademecum limits the total grant amount to 3500 EUR. **RESTORE STSM grants are limited to 2500 EUR to ensure more people can participate.** The total budget should be appropriate for the duration of the STSM.

- a. You may request a maximum of 300 EUR for travel for the STSM.
- b. You may request a maximum of 160 EUR per day for subsistence. That means a STSM lasting 10 days can include a MAXIMUM of 1600 EUR for this category. These values are not checked or validated by the online system, so please be mindful of these rules.
- c. If you are from an Inclusiveness Target Country, you may request 50% prepayment of your grant amount. If you select this, after arriving at the host institution the HOST must notify the grant holder that you have arrived. At that time the Grant Holder can transfer the pre-payment.

Financial Support

Amount for Travel in EUR * Up to a maximum of EUR 300

Amount for Subsistence in EUR * Up to a maximum of EUR 160 per day

Total Amount in EUR The total requested amount is limited to EUR 3500

I wish to apply for a pre-payment for the Grant

Disclaimer: The pre-payment of 50% of your Grant is subject to the approval by the Grant Holder Institute. Should the request be approved, the first installment of the Grant will be processed upon receipt of the STSM host's confirmation of your presence at the host institute.