RELY SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS - CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2018

The COST Action TU1401 'Renewable Energy and Landscape Quality' ('RELY') encourages Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs).

For the present grant period, STSMs are Exchange Visits from 2 weeks until 2 months that are aimed at strengthening the existing networks by allowing individual scientists to go to an institution or laboratory in other COST country to foster collaboration and contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST Action TU1401.

There are 3 STSMs to be awarded and we invite you to participate in a Short-Term Scientific. The STSM must take place between May 2018 and September 2018. The working groups have suggested a list of missions at the end of the document.

COST Action TU1401 Objectives

This Action investigates the inter-relationships between renewable energy production and landscape quality, and the role of public participation for the acceptance of renewable energy systems. The Action will develop a better understanding of how landscape protection and management, and renewable energy deployment can be reconciled to contribute socio-environmentally to the sustainable transformation of energy systems. This Action will consolidate and extend knowledge from a pan-European perspective using a modular methodological framework. This Action will enhance the science base for decision-making, and develop guidelines for public participation in planning renewable energy systems. The potential of sustainable landscape development, with innovative land uses producing synergies for landscape quality and renewable energy, will be revealed. (http://cost-rely.eu/)

Financial Support

A grant usually covers travel and subsistence. The financial support is a contribution to the costs of a STSM and may not cover all costs.

The financial contribution for a STSM will be a fixed grant based on the Applicant's budget request and the evaluation of the application by the STSM assessment committee. An amount of EUR 60 to 90 for the daily allowance in particular for longer stays and EUR 300 for the travel is recommended. The total of a STSM shall not exceed EUR 2.500. In any case, the costs associated with the STSM must not exceed the limits set in the "rules for reimbursement by COST of expenses for experts eligible for reimbursement".

The STSM Applicants

The selection of STSM applicants is based on the scientific scope of the STSM application that must be in line with the Cost Action TU1401 objectives. The Working Groups have suggested a list of tasks that would be particularly useful to target the objectives of this action (See at the end of the call). The applications from Early Career Investigators (ECI) are privileged. An ECI is a researcher in the start phase of his/her career with at least a PhD and up to 8 years of experience after the PhD. The selection of successful candidates is made by the STSM Coordinator following the recommendations of MC Chair and Action Core Group. The STSM Coordinator informs the Grant Holder about successful candidates and then the Grant Holder sends a grant letter generated from e-COST to the approved applicants. The grant letter must be signed by the applicant and returned to the Grant Holder.

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. The host institution should be actively participating in the COST Action TU1401.

For the period of the STSM neither the MC, 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.

Application

If you are interested in applying, please complete the on-line application form (at https://e-services.cost.eu/STSM) and send the following by 29 May 2018 to STSMs coordinator of this Action (S.Schmitz@uliege.be):

- application form,
- cover letter, explaining how your work will benefit from this STSM and how this STSM will contribute to the achievement of the COST TU1401 objectives,
- work plan specifying what you intend to do (800 words), the start and end dates
- a written agreement of the host institution,
- letter of support from the home institution,
- CV (2 pages),
- list of publications.

After the STSM

The grantee is obliged to submit a short scientific report to the host institution (for information) and to the STSM Coordinator or MC Core Group (for approval) within 30 days after the end date of the STSM. The report must contain the following information:

- Purpose of the STSM,
- Description of the work carried 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),
- A short version of this report, which can be added to the Action homepage.

The failure to submit the scientific report on time will effectively cancel the grant. The STSM Coordinator will inform the Grant Holder about the acceptance of the report via e-mail. 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.

Working groups priorities

1) Finalizing and submitting a paper with COST RELY results to a peer review journal

Across European researches and aggregated data are valuable perspectives to have a clearer look on complex processes. The draft analysis as well as results on innovative participation practices across Europe was already produced in WG3 and will be published in COST RELY Book. The results are part of an extended pool of data. It would be valuable to upgrade results with additional variables (economic status and democracy level) and to extend understanding of the status of participation across Europe. The aim of STSM is to submit an additional paper on results gathered in COST Action. Previous to the STSM paper will be finished and exchanged as much as possible via emails and video calls and finalized during STSM.

Host Institution: WSL Birmensdorf
Tutor: Matthias Buchecker
Date: June 2018
Duration: 2 weeks

Requirements: The participant must have some background in writing and peer reviewing of scientific papers. Background on basic statistical analysis and graphical skills is welcome. Previous work on case study analysis within WG3 is required.

2) Travelling exhibition

The COST RELY travelling exhibition consists so far of 6 panels (1 partners panel, 1 general COST RELY paper, 4 WG papers). The task of the STSM holder will be to update the WG panels and to add panels among others about the 2 training schools, the photo database, the COST RELY Infographic(s). The travelling exhibition has to be ready for the PECSRL conference first week of September 2018. The STSM holder shall also put some effort in convincing Action members to exhibit the travelling exhibition.

Infographics are a very good means to communicate messages to different audiences, whether young people or politicians. It is expected that the COST RELY infographic(s) will transmit information, ideas, and "feelings". It has to be discussed if there shall be one panel with one infographic or one panel with several infographics or if infographics shall be included into the other panels (and on the Action homepage for download). Therefore, it is likely that more than one image will be developed, but they may be compiled into one final infographic. The following content should be considered (t.b.e.): Information about the psychology, aesthetics, different and changing planning laws and time frame in the different European countries of RE systems, and state of the art; Effects of different RE on landscapes; Participatory processes – what are "good" means to get constructive and successful participation processes?

Host Institution:	HfWU, Nürtingen-Geislingen University
Tutor:	Michael Roth and Sina Roehner
Date:	June 2018
Duration:	3 weeks

Requirements: The person in charge must have some background in graphical/design and must have compulsory participated in both training schools. The necessary data on RE, landscape, impacts, planning and laws will be provided by the Action, but the person has to be sufficiently self-reliant to contact the different WG-leaders to gather the material. The Action book chapters will be available as resource.

3) Photo database

The COST RELY has collected about 100 photos on RE-types, production and landscape quality. Soon, the photos will be made available in a photo database. The STSM holder shall analyse the materials with 2 aims:

- 1 scientific article
- Compose photographs of good and bad siting or design with each other, and explain the examples.

The scientific article will analyse in-depth the different RE types in the countries, people's perceptions in the countries, different strategies of dealing with RE production, and landscape quality in the different countries. As basis for this analysis we provide the collected photographs, the WG 4 chapter on the photo database, the photos on roof-top grounded PV-panels taken during the RELY thematic meeting on Malta

It is likely to be necessary to collect further photos, especially to collect examples of bad siting or design. The argumentation of "good" and "bad" will originate from our RELY topic: landscape quality. The outputs are to be addressed, initially, to NGOs and citizens to provide them with information and arguments to support participation in planning processes. As RELY is an Action with members from more than 30 European countries, one of the required tasks

is the program of knowledge exchange as well as providing new ideas and alternative solutions for RE in relation to landscapes across Europe.

Host Institution:	Institute for Research on European Agricultural Landscapes e.V. (EUCALAND) (FR) or University of Sevilla (ES) (the applicant shall discuss with the two institutions and then take a personal decision),
Tutor:	Alexandra Kruse, Michael Roth
Date:	at any time from May 2018 (as soon as possible)
Duration:	3 weeks (at least)

Requirements: Competences in layout and design, experience with guidelines

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*Please, contact WG leader to get more information about the missions.