



RELY SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS - CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2017

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

For this grant period, STSMs are Exchange Visits from two weeks up to three 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. Long stays will be privileged.

There are up to 8 STSMs to be awarded during the next grant period and we invite you to participate in a Short-Term Scientific Mission. The STSM must take place between May 2017 and March 2018. The four working groups have suggested a list of missions at the end of this document. Nevertheless, feel free to apply with any research proposal that can enrich the RELY Action.

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 travel expenses is recommended. The total of a STSM shall not exceed EUR 3 000. 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). Applications from Early Career Investigators (ECI) are privileged. An ECI is a researcher in the start phase of his/her career with at least the 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 candidate and then the Grant Holder sends a grant letter generated from e-COST system to the approved applicant. 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/w3/index.php?id=91>) and send the following by 19th April 2017 to STSMs coordinator of this Action (S.Schmitz@ulg.ac.be):

- 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 out 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).

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) **The systematic review and meta-analysis of empirical findings on landscape quality change through renewable energy development (WG1).**

Host Institution: Szent Istvan University (Hungary), Institute of Nature Conservation and Landscape Management

Tasks:

1. Recompilation of the missing information of the summaries on renewable development in the COST Action RELY partner countries.
2. Preparation of the report of the WG1 on landscape quality change through renewable energy development.
3. Preparation of the common data bases for the WG 1 contribution to the common COST Action TU1401 book.

Requirement: The person in charge must have a background in GIS database management or development of renewable energies. The person has to be sufficiently self-reliant to contact the representatives of the COST Action from different countries.

Expected outcome: Common database with the missing information of the summaries on renewable development in the COST Action RELY partner countries necessary for preparation of the report of the WG1 and the WG1 contribution to the common COST Action TU1401 book

- 2) **Development of a catalogue of relevant criteria, indicators and respective GIS-available proxy-data for assessing the suitability of landscapes for renewable energy systems (WG2).**

Host Institution: Nürtingen-Geislingen University (Germany), University of Ljubljana (Slovenia) or University of Liege (Belgium)

Tasks:

1. Analysis of suitable criteria at the European scale using GIS proxy-data.
2. Preparation of a report to be included in the TU1401 book.

3) **Smart practices to smart visibility of renewable energy (WG2).**

Host Institution: To be selected by the research units working within WG2

Tasks:

1. Collection of several smart practices.
2. Discussion of the case studies.
3. Preparation of a report to be included in the TU1401 book.

4) **Survey on participatory RE-planning in the European countries and subjective aspects of participatory (WG3).**

Host institution: To be selected by the research units working within the COST Action that can offer support in statistical analysis and GIS.

Tasks:

1. Analysis of an online survey amongst all COST Action members.
2. Preparation of the description of the results for a collective paper including maps to represent findings.

5) **E-Survey on the topics of our COST Action (WG3 & WG4).**

Host institution: to be selected

Tasks:

1. Preparation of the e-survey.
2. Analysis of the online survey to an international sample of European citizens.
3. Preparation of the description of the results for a collective paper

6) **Info graphics mission (WG4)**

Host institution: Scotland (?), 2nd half of 2017

Tasks:

1. Creation of supports to address COST RELY results to different public. Information are about the state of the art of RE, including different aspects that go ahead: psychology, aesthetics, different and changing planning laws and time frame in the different European countries, effects of different RE on landscape,...

Requirement: The person in charge must have graphical/design background – the necessary data about RE, landscape, impacts, planning/laws will be provided by the Action, but the person has to be sufficiently self-reliant to contact the different WG-leaders.

Expected outcome: At least one infographic, printable in A1, but also usable as pdf for homepage, publications and within the framework of our travelling exhibition.

7) Finalizing the RELY glossary (WG4)

Host institution: University of Seville (Spain)

Tasks:

1. Finalization of the glossary, including theoretical background, methodological description and harmonization.
2. Creation of a poster
3. Contribution to a collective article
4. Preparation of a report to be included in the TU1401 book.

Requirement: The person in charge must have a sound understanding and knowledge on RE and landscape quality – as well as landscape planning. The person must be able to harmonize the given definitions, comments and illustrations and bring together those information and furthermore the translations so that the glossary will be a useful and appealing tool for Action participants as well as for other interested users – e.g. via the Action homepage.

Expected outcome: A completed glossary – which can be provided to the Action members but also published as appendix to the book and on the Action homepage.

8) Travelling exhibition (WG4)

Host institution: to be selected, Scotland (?), 1st half of 2017, at least 6 weeks

Tasks: In order to get into contact with lay people and other people than researchers, the travelling exhibition shall be displayed in different “every day locations”, accompanied by one person with a simple questionnaire who will speak with visitors about the topic and the travelling exhibition.

1. Draft a short questionnaire about RE and the personal knowledge, expectations towards politic and the personal practical side of having/installing RE, maybe also “feelings” towards RE
2. Exhibit the travelling exhibition – as eye-catcher, as mean to get into contact – during one week at different “every day locations” (e.g. townhall, railway station, shopping center, tourism fair etc.)
3. Analyzing the results and produce one panel for the travelling exhibition and an article/book chapter

Requirements

Good language skills of the country where to exhibit the panels and do the interviews.

Please, contact [WG leader](#) to get more information about the missions.