

I love to exchange ideas with other scientists about my research in
social farming!

Nobody in my country is working in the field of green care...

Which kind of research methods shall I use for my research?

If any of the problems and questions sounds familiar, maybe a Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) can help you...

What is a STSM?

A STSM is an opportunity for (young) scientists to visit a university or institution in another COST member country to foster collaboration and learn from research, data and research methods used by other scientists.

For whom is the STSM?

For everybody who is engaged in a programme of research (post graduate student or postdoctoral fellow) or who is employed at an institution of a COST Member Country having signed the MoU of the Action concerned.

How long can a STSM be?

The applicant can stay for a minimum of one week (5 working days) up to a maximum of 3 months.

What is the financial contribution?

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. The total grant shall normally not exceed € 2500.

What kind of formal procedures do you have to follow?

You need to follow carefully the next steps to register yourself as a STSM applicant and receive the grant:

1. Inform the STSM coordinator that you are planning to apply for a STSM. If you have any questions, ask her directly. Afterwards the STSM coordinator can check if your application fits the rules and research area of the COST program.
2. Register yourself online at: <http://www.cost.esf.org/stsm>

3. You will receive a formal STSM application. Send this application electronically, together with any necessary document which you think is helpful to support the application at the evaluation progress (such as CV, list of publications, motivation letter, letter of support from the home institute, etc.) to:
 - The future Host of your STSM, and
 - The COST Action's STSM coordinator, marjolein.elings@wur.nl
4. If your application is approved you will receive an acceptance letter. You need to return the letter with your signature back to the COST Office. You will also receive a payment request form.
5. After completing the STSM you need to submit a short scientific report to the STSM coordinator on the visit within 4 weeks after your stay.
6. The MC Chair and the coordinator are responsible for approving the final report and sending the approval to the COST Office.
7. The COST Office will transfer the payment of the fixed grant when they receive the notice of completion by the MC, completed payment request and a summary of scientific report.

The following website gives further information on STSMs:

http://www.cost.esf.org/fileadmin/cost_documents/guidelines/Financial_Instruments/3-STSM.pdf

When should you apply?

The deadline is the 1st of July 2008. Before this deadline you should register yourself on the COST website and return the formal application with your CV and list of publications to the STSM coordinator. This deadline is only open for people who would like to travel this year (2008). Later this year there will be a call for persons who have the intention to go on a STSM in 2009.

Where can you ask for further information?

If you have any questions do not hesitate to ask. The coordinator for the STSM is Marjolein Elings. You can reach her at: marjolein.elings@wur.nl or by telephone 0031 317 480 549.