



COST Action FP1202

Strengthening conservation: a key issue for adaptation of marginal/ peripheral populations of forest trees to climate change in Europe (MaP-FGR)

III call for Short Term Scientific Mission DEADLINE EXTENDED

~~**Deadline for submission is November 8, 2015**~~

Applications are accepted until February 29, 2016

STSMs must be concluded by March 31, 2016



Map-FGR COST Action

Cost Action MaP-FGR aims to bring together experts in forest genetic resources (FGR) to collect knowledge on FGR in Marginal and Peripheral (MaP) populations throughout Europe. The effects of climate change are likely to be stronger and more rapid in MaP populations than elsewhere. MaP forest populations are at the edges of species ranges where conditions are less suitable for survival. Studying adaptive processes in these populations is crucial in understanding the evolution of species, to develop gene pool conservation, management strategies and networks to cope with global climate change. These populations are not only threatened by climate change but also by other disturbances arising from human activities and they may prove invaluable for adapting the European forestry sector. For more information on COST Action FP1202 MaP-FGR see <http://map-fgr.entecra.it/>

COST MaP-FGR Short-Term Scientific Missions

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) are exchange visits aimed at supporting individual mobility, strengthening existing networks and fostering collaboration between researchers. A STSM should specifically contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST Action, whilst at the same time allowing those partaking in the missions to learn new techniques, gain access to specific data, instruments and / or methods not available in their own institutions / organisations.

STSM applicants must be engaged in an official research programme as a PhD Student or postdoctoral fellow or can be employed by, or affiliated to, an Institution or legal entity which has within its remit a clear association with performing research. The institutions / organisations where applicants pursue their main strand of research are considered as Home institutions. The Host institution is the institution / organisation that will host the successful applicant.

The following table shows the scenarios available to eligible STSM applicants:

Home Institution	Host Institution
From a Participating COST Country or Cooperation State	To another Participating COST Country or Cooperation State
	To an approved NNC institution
	To an approved IPC institution
	To an approved Specific organisation
From an approved NNC institution	To a Participating COST Country or Cooperation State
From an approved European RTD Organisation	To a Participating COST Country or Cooperation State

The selection of successful STSM applicants considers the scientific scope of the proposed mission and how the mission can support the Action in achieving its scientific objectives. There will be special considerations with respect to supporting COST policies on promoting gender balance, enabling Early Career Investigators (ECI) and broadening geographical inclusiveness.

STSM must respect the following criteria:

1. They must have a minimum duration of 5 days.
2. They must have a maximum duration of 90 days.
3. STSM need to be carried out in their entirety within a single Grant Period and always within the Action's lifetime.

Specific additional provisions have been adopted by the CSO to encourage the participation of Early Career Investigators (ECI) in STSM.

To qualify for these specific provisions, the following conditions apply:

1. The mission must have a minimum duration of 91 days.
2. The mission must have a maximum duration of 180 days.

3. STSM performed by ECI need to be carried out in their entirety within a single Grant Period and always within the Action's lifetime.

Grantees must make their own arrangements for all provisions related to personal security, health, taxation, social security and pension matters.

An STSM grant is a fixed financial contribution which takes into consideration the budget request of the applicant and the outcome of the evaluation of the STSM application. STSM Grants do not necessarily cover all expenses related to performing a given mission. The Grant is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation and meal expenses of the Grantee.

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 STSM applicant;
- up to a maximum of EUR 160 per day can be afforded for accommodation and meal expenses.

For ECIs, the calculation for an increased financial contribution must respect the following criteria:

- up to a maximum of EUR 3 500 in total can be afforded to ECIs for missions with a duration of between 91 and 180 days;
- up to a maximum of EUR 160 per day can be afforded for accommodation and meal expenses.

All STSMs must be concluded by March 31, 2016.

Application

1. Before the STSM

In order to receive a STSM grant, the applicant must:

- Obtain the written agreement of the host institution, before submitting an application;
- Complete the online application form (see <https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>);
- Send the completed file as e-mail attachment together with the necessary supporting documents (CV, full work plan, list of publications, motivation letter, letter of support from the home institution etc.) to the STSM host institution and to the MC Chair and the STSM coordinator.

Assessment and Grant Letter:

- The MC (or STSM Coordinator or Committee) will perform the scientific and budgetary assessment of the applications considering the Action objectives and define an acceptable funding level;
- Once approved by the MC (or STSM Coordinator or Committee), the Grant Holder needs to receive the approval and then send a grant letter generated from e-COST to the applicant.

2. After the STSM

The grantee is required to submit a scientific report to the host institution (for information) and MC Chair (or to the STSM coordinator) for approval **within 30 days** after the end date of the STSM with the following contents:

- Introduction
- Objective of the STSM
- Links with Cost Action FP1202 MaP FGR
- Materials and methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusions
- References.

A template will be provided to the STSM grantee to facilitate the preparation of the report.

The failure to submit the scientific report within 30 days will effectively cancel the grant.

The MC Chair (or the STSM coordinator) is responsible for approving the scientific report and informing the Grant Holder that the STSM has been successfully accomplished. After receipt of the approval by email, the Grant Holder will execute the payment of the grant.

Deadlines

Applications will be evaluated as soon as they will be received and case by case by the Core Group of the Action. They will be accepted until February 29, 2016 but please note that missions must be concluded by March 31, 2016.

Applications must be submitted by email to the scientific secretary of the Action **Valentina Garavaglia** (valentina.garavaglia@fao.org).

Applicants will be informed about the acceptance in two weeks after the submission.

Arezzo, November 11, 2015