



**COST Action FP1202**

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

## **2014 First call for Short Term Scientific Missions**

**Deadline for submission is April 6, 2014**



### **Map-FGR COST Action**

MaP-FGR Action 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 and to develop gene pool conservation and 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 the COST Action FP1202 MaP-FGR see <http://map-fgr.entecra.it/>

## **COST MaP-FGR Short-Term Scientific Missions**

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) are aimed at supporting individual mobility and at strengthening the existing networks and fostering collaborations by allowing scientists to visit an institution or laboratory in another Participating COST Country or an approved NNC institution or an approved IPC institution. A STSM should specifically contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST Action, while at the same time allowing applicants to learn new techniques or gain access to specific instruments and/or methods not available in their own institutions.

STSMs in the context of MaP-FGR Action are encouraged, paying particular attention to the following objectives:

- ✓ to collect, collate, analyze and synthesize information from past and ongoing projects related to genetic diversity and impacts of climate change;
- ✓ to record and list existing conservation efforts and status, in order to identify gaps and set conservation priorities;
- ✓ to analyze and raise awareness on the role of FGR in the adaptation of MaP populations;
- ✓ to perform meta-analysis of collected data to identify common trends on the dynamics of genetic diversity in relation to the adaptation to the effects of the global change.

### **Eligibility**

STSM applicants must be engaged in a research programme as a postgraduate student or postdoctoral fellow, or be employed by or officially affiliated to an institution or legal entity. This institution is considered as the Home institution. Institutions may be public or private entities.

Possible STSM scenarios are:

<b>Home Institution</b>	<b>Host Institution</b>
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

During an STSM neither the MC, nor the COST Office nor the Grant Holder may be considered as an employer. Grantees must make their own arrangements for all health, social, personal security and pension matters.

## **Duration**

Standard STSMs need to take place according to the following rules:

1. Be a minimum duration of 5 days;
2. Be a maximum duration of 90 days;
3. Needs to be carried out in their entirety within a single grant period and within the Action's lifetime.

Specific provisions had been adopted to foster the participation of Early Stage Researchers (ESR) (COST 295/09).

ESR may extend the duration of the STSM beyond the 90 days; in this case, ESR STSM must take place according to the following rules:

1. Be a minimum duration of 91 days;
2. Be a maximum duration of 180 days;
3. Needs to be carried out within their entirety within a single grant period and within the Action's lifetime.

## **Financial support**

A STSM grant is a fixed contribution based on the budget requested by the applicant and the evaluation of the application by the MC Chair /STSM Coordinator or Committee. The aim of this grant is to support the costs associated with the exchange visit. This grant will not necessarily cover all expenses; it is intended only as a contribution to the travel and subsistence costs of the participant.

The calculation of this contribution for a STSM must be based on the following rules:

- The reimbursement rate per day is EUR 160 maximum;
- Up to EUR 500 may be attributed for the travel expenses;
- A maximum EUR 2 500 in total can be afforded to the grantee.

The calculation of this contribution for an ESR STSM (for a duration of more than 91 days) must be based on the following rules:

- The reimbursement rate per day is EUR 160 maximum;
- Up to EUR 500 may be attributed for the travel expenses;
- A maximum EUR 3 500 in total can be afforded to the grantee.

In all cases the MC can approve differentiated country rates for subsistence per day, based on the cost of living in each respective country.

## **Available Funding**

According to the total budget for this call (about EUR 32 500), about 13 STSMs will be financed, according to the approved budget plan proposed by the Applicant.

## **STSMs application and approval**

### **Criteria for assessing STSM proposals**

The following criteria will be used to assess applications:

- ✓ Contribution of the proposed STSM to the goals of the MaP FGR Action (to be described in the applicant's reasoning);
- ✓ Applicant's involvement in MaP FGR Action;
- ✓ Applicant's eligibility according to the requirements set out in Cost Vademecum (see Vademecum attached);
- ✓ Respect of gender and geographic balance.

More detailed criteria may be established by the Management Committee with reference to each call for STSMs.

### **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 or 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 short 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 containing:

- 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 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**

All applications must be submitted by email to the STSM Coordinator **Christophe Besacier** (*christophe.besacier@fao.org*) and the scientific secretary of the Action **Valentina Garavaglia** (*valentina.garavaglia@fao.org*) by **April 6, 2014**.

Applicants will be informed about the application result by **April 18, 2014**.