



## **REMINDNET opens the Call for Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM)**

These calls are based upon the work performed within COST Action CA22138 - Recovery of Mining District Network (REMINDNET), supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology)

Short-term scientific missions (STSMs) consist of a research visit to a host organization located in a different country than the country of affiliation of a Researcher or Innovator for a specific work package to be carried out and for a determined period of time (please read the [COST ANNOTATED RULES](#)).

These Missions are aimed at strengthening the existing networks by allowing scientists to go to an institution or laboratory in another COST Country to foster collaboration, to learn a new technique or to take measurements using instruments and/or methods not available in their own institution/laboratory. STSM grants cannot be spent on the preparation of proposals for funding from any source.

Note that the aim of any STSM shall be to contribute to the scientific objectives of REMINDNET!

This is an **open call**, which means that the candidates can contact any member of the Action, propose a plan of the visit and ask for their support to host them.

### **Despite the openness, several topics will be given priority:**

1. Developing a common understanding of and definitions for sustainably managing mine legacies.
2. Comparing and harmonising best practices, standards and lessons learnt for a comprehensive and sustainable management of raw materials' extraction legacies
3. Establishing a European mining legacy database
4. Developing a joint research agenda in terms of managing raw materials' extraction legacies
5. Fostering mutual exchange of knowledge between researchers and practitioners

### **Period and Duration of the STSM**

The STSM can take place **in the period from the end of August 2024 to end of September 2024**, and can last from **one week** up to **one month**. The applicant and the host will agree on the duration, and the applicant will specify the time and duration in the application form.

The Evaluation Committee will verify that the duration proposed for the visit is in line with the proposed goals and activities.

### **Deadline for applications**

**August 16<sup>th</sup> 2024** – the applicant can start the STSM from the end of August 2024

## Application Procedure

The documents necessary for the application and the outline of the application process can be found at the official website, under the Activities, STSM section. Please read them, and the [COST ANNOTATED RULES](#), [Grant Awarding User Guide](#), as well as this document carefully before applying!

Generally, the STSM application procedure will be conducted online via the e-COST PLATFORM. The following documents are required:

- ✓ [STSM Application Form](#) filled in on e-COST and downloaded from the system (including STSM title, start and end date, information about the Host Institution and contact person, and the budget requested by the Applicant)
- ✓ [COST Application Template](#) (including STSM details, goals, work plan, and expected outputs; attached alongside this call)
- ✓ **Host Agreement Support Letter** (letter of support from the host institution, signed by the host and the institution's legal representative. The Letter must clearly show the institution's acceptance of the proposed period for the visit and of the proposed work plan of the applicant. Note: the draft of this document will be sent to the host who agrees to host the applicant (for this, contact the Grant Awarding Coordinator)
- ✓ **Brief CV** (max. 2 pages, Europass CV <https://europass.europa.eu/en/create-europass-cv>)
- ✓ **Motivation Letter** (a brief letter summarizing the main scientific goals, as well as its relevance for the applicant, home/host institutions, the REMINDNET Action, etc.)
- ✓ **\*Recommendation letter** by someone from your institution (\*only if you are a PhD student and / or a research assistant!)

## Eligibility Conditions

The STSMs are intended for any researcher affiliated to a legal entity based in either a COST Full/Cooperating Member or a Near Neighbour Country.

## Financial Contribution

An STSM Grant is a contribution up to maximum 4.000 EUR to the overall travel, accommodation, and meal expenses of the Grantee. Please note that this is the absolute maximum and that you should request a realistic amount. Please also note that STSMs don't support research costs. The Core Group decides on the final financial contribution, taking into consideration REMINDNET available resources, the budget requested, the scope, the duration, and the location of the STSM.

## Evaluation of Applications

The STSM Applications are evaluated by the STSM Committee including:

– Grant Awarding Coordinator, Action Chair, Action Vice Chair and a Core Group Member

The STSM committee evaluates all STSM applications within approximately 10 days after the deadline. The selection of successful STSM applications is based on the scientific scope of the proposed mission and, most importantly, how the mission supports REMINDNET in achieving its scientific objectives. Gender balance, career stage, and the distribution of STSMs among different countries will also be considered. The COST Action Evaluation Committee has the right to award less than the requested amount.

Once the selection process is complete the Applicant receives a formal notification through e-COST informing him/her about the outcomes of the selection and whether the request has been approved or not. If the Application is funded, the Applicant receives a Grant Letter stating the approved amount and the conditions for receiving the Grant. **The Applicant CANNOT in any case start his/her mobility period before having received the Grant Letter.**

### Criteria for Awarding the STSM

- The relevance of the proposed exchange towards the REMINDNET Action objectives
  - The quality and clarity of the proposed research, and the motivation behind it
  - The feasibility of the proposed activities
  - The academic profile of the researcher
  - The output potential of the research carried out (deliverables)
  - The coherence between the proposed budget and the duration and destination of the visit.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to consider the COST rules about funding the STSMs when preparing their budget.

### Final Reporting and Grant Payment

After the completion of the STSM, the grantee is required to submit a [scientific report](#) via e-COST and to send it by email to the Grant Awarding Coordinator within 30 days after the STSM has been completed. As the end of the first action period approaches, earlier contributions will be kindly welcomed.

The Applicant and the host are also required to send to the Grant Awarding Coordinator a confirmation letter from the host institution stating the successful achievement of the foreseen goals (with the signature of the local supervisor and/or legal representative). The draft of this letter can be sent to the host by the Grant Awarding Coordinator upon request.

Upon approval of the scientific report by the STSM Committee the Grant will be processed and paid directly to the grantee within 30 days.

### Contacts

1. Grant Awarding Coordinator – Tansel Dogan [tansel.dogan@thga.de](mailto:tansel.dogan@thga.de) (questions related to the application procedure and organization of the STSM)
2. Action Chair / Vice Chair – Jindřich Šancer [jindrich.sancer@vsb.cz](mailto:jindrich.sancer@vsb.cz) / Stefan Möllerherm [Stefan.Moellerherm@thga.de](mailto:Stefan.Moellerherm@thga.de) (questions related to the REMINDNET objectives)
3. Action Grant Holder Manager – Eva Kluzova [eva.kluzova@vsb.cz](mailto:eva.kluzova@vsb.cz) (questions related to the e-COST, Grant Letter and financial matters)

**Important:** The applicants must contact the potential host, discuss the proposal of the envisioned work plan and the week(s) of stay, and obtain a Host Agreement Support Letter which is to be uploaded via e-COST. Note that a Host Agreement Support Letter does not guarantee that you will be selected.