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 **Annotated Rules for Cost Actions**).

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!

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 by the **end of September 2025,** 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 Assessment Committee will verify that the duration proposed for the visit is in line with the proposed goals and activities.

Deadline for applications

This call will be **open for continuous applications** during the entire 2nd Grant period as long as there is budget available.

Application Procedure

The documents necessary for the application and the outline of the grant can be found at the official website of the **REMINDNET** under the Activities - STSM section. Please read all uploaded documents beside the **Annotated Rules for Cost Actions**, **Grant Awarding User Guide** carefully before applying!

An applicant must have a profile on the e-COST platform. After that, it is necessary to follow the steps detailed below:

- **Application for Grant** 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).
- **Application Form** includes STSM details, goals, work plan, and expected outputs.
- **Confirmation of the host institution** is an invitation or agreement letter 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.
- **Brief CV** with max. 2 pages in the form of **Europass CV**
- **Motivation Letter** is a brief letter summarizing the main scientific goals, as well as its relevance for the applicant, home/host institutions, the REMINDNET Action, etc.
- ***Letter of Support** is necessary by a senior researcher from the home 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 Support

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 Assessment Committee 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 Assessment Committee (Grant Awarding Coordinator, Action Chair, Action Vice Chair and Core Group Members) on the basis of the perceived contribution that the participation will make to the scientific objectives outlined in the Action's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The applicant will be formally notified of the outcome of their grant application by the Grant Holder Manager no more than 15 days after the meeting of the Assessment Committee holding monthly.

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 Assessment 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 within 30 days after the STSM has been completed or by the end of September, whichever date comes first.

The applicant is also required to upload 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).

Grants are paid directly to the grantee within 30 days by the Grant Holder after the completion of the activity and approval of all required report/documentation by the Assessment Committee.

Please note that COST can request additional information to substantiate the information contained within the documents submitted by STSM applicants.

Contacts

1. Grant Awarding Coordinator – Tansel Dogan 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 / Stefan Möllerherm Stefan.Moellerherm@thga.de (questions related to the REMINDNET objectives)
3. Action Grant Holder Manager – Eva Kluzova eva.kluzova@vsb.cz (questions related to the e-COST, Grant Letter and financial matters)