

## **WECANet COST Action (CA17105)**

### **First Call for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) Applications**

for Missions occurring between 17/12/18 and 31/03/2019

WECANet network is pleased to announce the first call for STSM applications. We encourage all potential applicants to consider the objectives of WECANet and to apply according to the STSM guidelines. The STSMs must fit in the scientific objectives of one or more WECANet Working Groups (WGs):

- **WG1 Numerical hydrodynamic modelling for WECs, WEC arrays/farms and wave energy resources** (accuracy, uncertainty, coupling, applicability, usability);
- **WG2 Experimental hydrodynamic modelling and testing of WECs, WEC arrays/farms, PTO systems, and field data** (accuracy, uncertainty, testing facility suitability, measurement techniques);
- **WG3 Technology of WECs and WEC arrays:** The activities of WECANet aim to reduce costs and risks of wave energy technologies, and to contribute to the advancement of the sector;
- **WG4 Impacts and economics of wave energy and how they affect decision- and policy-making:** The activities of WECANet aim to reduce uncertainties when deciding on wave energy investments, and to contribute to increasing confidence of potential investors.

Detailed information regarding the objectives and activities of each WG are presented in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of the present Action [http://www.cost.eu/COST\\_Actions/ca/CA17105](http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/ca/CA17105)

#### **Deadlines:**

Deadline for applications to be submitted: 03/12/2018

Notification of application outcome: 14/12/2018

Period of STSM: between 17/12/2018 and 31/03/2019

## **SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS**

### **General information**

**Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)** are exchange visits aimed at supporting individual mobility, serving as a key tool to support WECANet (CA17105). They allow participating scientists to visit an institution or laboratory in another Participating WECANet COST Country. STSMs are aimed to promote research collaborations, to learn about new research techniques or to perform numerical modelling or

COST Action 17105 - WECANet experiments using instruments/tools and/or methodologies not available in or of interest for the home institution/laboratory of the Applicant. An STSM should specifically fit in the scientific objectives of the WECANet COST Action.

General instructions for application and eligibility criteria are reported below. All rules and regulations of COST <http://www.cost.eu/Vademecum> do apply (see section 8 for STSM).

## **STSM – Application Guidelines**

### **Criteria**

In order to apply for an STSM, the following criteria must be fulfilled:

- The Applicant must be based within an institution in one of the countries participating in the WECANet COST Action [http://www.cost.eu/COST\\_Actions/ca/CA17105?parties](http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/ca/CA17105?parties)
- The Applicant and its Host Institution must be located in two different countries;
- The Applicant should be engaged in a research program as a graduate or post-graduate student, postdoctoral fellow or affiliated to an Institution or legal entity that has within its remit a clear association with performing scientific research;
- The Applicant is responsible for obtaining the agreement of the Host institution BEFORE the application is submitted;
- Application needs to be submitted before the deadline of an STSM call.

### **STSM Financial Rules**

An STSM grant is a **fixed financial contribution**, taking into consideration the requested budget and the STSM outcome but not necessarily covering all expenses. An STSM grant is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation and meal expenses of the Grantee. The calculation of the financial contribution for accommodation and meal expenses must respect the following criteria:

- The mission must have a **minimum duration of 5 calendar days**.
- The mission must have a **maximum duration of 90 calendar days**.
- STSMs need to be carried out in its entirety within a single Grant Period and always within the Action's lifetime.

Specific additional provisions have also been made possible to encourage the participation of Early Career Investigators (ECIs) (post-doctoral, with no more than 8 years of experience following the award of their PhD) in STSM. To qualify for these specific provisions, the following conditions apply:

- The mission must have a **minimum duration of 91 calendar days**.
- The mission must have a **maximum duration of 180 calendar days**.
- STSMs need to be carried out in its entirety within a single Grant Period and always within the Action's lifetime.

The calculation of the financial contribution for accommodation and meal expenses must respect the following criteria:

- Typical allowance up to a maximum of EUR 160 per day can be afforded for accommodation and meal expenses (depending on host country)
- Maximum grant of EUR 2500 in total for a duration between 5 and 90 calendar days

For ECIs, the calculation must respect the following criteria:

- Typical allowance up to a maximum of EUR 160 per day can be afforded for accommodation and meal expenses (depending on host country)
- Maximum grant of EUR 3500 in total for missions with a duration between 91 and 180 calendar days

The STSM Committee can approve differentiated country rates to cover accommodation and meal expenses based on the perceived cost of living in the host country.

### **STSM application procedure**

The application procedure follows the STSM User guide, from April, 2017 <http://www.cost.eu/module/download/60300>

#### **1) Before the STSM**

Before the start of the application procedure by (signing in and) logging into the e-COST platform (through <https://e-services.cost.eu> ), and clicking the STSM application tab, the eligible applicants must prepare the following documents:

- **Letter of support** from the Home Institution (see Annex documents);
- **Written agreement** from the Host institution that the STSM Applicant can perform the activities detailed in the STSM work plan on the agreed dates (The Host Institution is the institution/organisation that will host the STSM Grantee) (see Annex documents);
- CV (including a list of academic publications – if applicable);
- Motivation and Work plan summary (limited to 2000 words), containing: Aim & motivation – explain the scientific and/or other motivation for the STSM and what scientific and/or other outcomes you aim to accomplish with the STSM; Proposed contribution to the scientific objectives of the Action; Techniques (please detail what techniques or equipment you may learn to use, if applicable); Planning – detail the steps you will take to achieve your proposed aim;
- Send the completed document “STSM WECANet Application Form” to: [STSM@WECANet.eu](mailto:STSM@WECANet.eu), and complete an **online STSM application** at <https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm> to register the Applicant’s request for an STSM. The latter will be available once the Grant Period of the Action has been activated.

**Annex documents:** Letter of support template, Written agreement template, STSM WECANet Application Form.

After submission of an STSM request, a notification will be sent by e-cost to the STSM Coordinator and the Grant Holder Manager;

**Be aware to precede the STSM request before the deadline of each STSM call!**

**NOTE:** You may need to register through the e-COST platform (through <https://e-services.cost.eu> ) if you do not have an e-COST profile yet in the e-COST platform.

## 2) Evaluation and granting of STSM

The evaluation of STSM applications and selection of STSM Grantees is performed by the Action's STSM Coordinator/Committee on behalf of the Management Committee of the WECANet COST Action. The selection of applicants is based on the scientific scope of the STSM application which must clearly fit in the Action's scientific objectives. The selection takes into account the COST policies on promoting gender balance, enabling Early Career Investigators and broadening geographical inclusiveness.

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR STSM APPLICATIONS	WEIGHT
<b>Scientific scope of the application:</b> adequacy with the CA17105 topic, support the scientific objectives of one of the Working Groups	35 points
<b>Scientific quality of the project:</b> feasibility, originality, potential impact	20 points
<b>Scientific quality of the applicant and Host institution:</b> skills of the applicant, academic CV, or for PhD students, promoter's opinion	15 points
<b>Research environment at the Host institution:</b> methodology available, complementarity between Host and applicant background,	15 points
<b>COST policies:</b> promoting gender balance, ECIs, broadening geographical inclusiveness	15 points

After the evaluation and approval by the STSM Coordinator/Committee, the Grant Holder will notify the STSM Applicant.

## 3. After the STSM

- Within 30 days from the end date of the STSM, the successful applicant must submit a **scientific report**. The report should be assembled accordingly to the template (see Annex documents).
- The applicant is also responsible for acquiring an official acceptance letter from the Host institution formally accepting the scientific report.

**Annex documents:** STSM report [http://www.cost.eu/STSM\\_report\\_template](http://www.cost.eu/STSM_report_template), Host approval STSM report template. The STSM Grantee must save the documents in pdf before uploading it in e-COST.

Failure to submit the scientific report within 30 days from the end date of the STSM will cancel the Grant.

QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO: [STSM@WECANet.eu](mailto:STSM@WECANet.eu)