Call for Short-Term Scientific Missions with COST Action CA23140 – ESENBURN – CALL 2026-2027

The COST Action CA23140 ESENBURN is pleased to announce its Call for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs).

STSMs are exchange visits aimed at supporting individual mobility, strengthening existing networks and fostering new collaborations between COST Action Participants.

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 institutes. The work undertaken in the STSM needs to be aligned with the objectives of ESENBURN.

TERM FOR EXECUTION

This STSM open call is for stays to be carried out before **October 31, 2027**. We recommend that STSM have a minimum duration of 5 calendar days (including travel) and a maximum duration of 90 days.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS

- To consolidate existing networks and create new ones among Action participants, through joint research, proposals, manuscripts etc.
- To facilitate transfer of knowledge and training in new techniques, research equipment etc.
- To provide opportunities for career development for Early Career Investigators (ECIs), through mentoring by qualified researchers in the Action.

SCIENTIFIC TOPICS

The experimental work plan of the STSM proposal must fit within the scope of any of the Action Working Groups:

- WG1. Boost and secure access to ATMP for each burn patient who needs
- WG 2. Propose standardized burn models for pre-clinical validation
- WG 3. Improving expertise of medical centers in the use of ATMPs for burns
- WG 4. Clinical registry for patient with severe burns

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants and/or their supervisors must be members of the Action.

- STSMs are open for PhD candidates, postdoctoral researchers, and advanced career researchers/clinicians employed at institutions in countries participating in the ESENBURN action, or at approved institutions. STSMs must be performed between COST Members of different Participating Countries – researchers cannot apply for an STSM within their own country.
- Awards throughout the annual grant period will be made to support scientific excellence, and to support a variety of researchers in terms of gender, career stage, affiliation and nationality. Particular consideration will also be given to candidates moving from/to COST Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs).

For more information about eligibility, please consult the information contained in the Cost Rules (COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V4.0-final-clean.pdf).

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Up to a maximum of EUR 2500 in total can be afforded to three successful STSM applicant in this call.
- STSM grants do not necessarily cover all expenses related to undertaking a given mission. A STSM grant is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation, and meal expenses of the grantee. The cost of research materials is not eligible for consideration as part of the grant.
- Following the COST rules, the grant is paid after the completion of the STSM and the scientific report approved. Therefore, the applicant must have approval and prior financial support e.g., from their own institution.
- The grant will be paid directly to the bank account entered in the e-COST system.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants must complete and submit their STSM application form online at: https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants



The applicant will need to upload the following documentation:

1. To be filled in e-COST:

- Title
- Start and end date (within the active Grant Period, i.e. no overlap across two consecutive Grant Periods)
- Budget requested by the applicant
- Information about the host institution and contact person. Location of host institution must be in a different country than the country of affiliation of the applicant

2. To be uploaded to e-COST:

- STSM Application Form describing: Professional and academic affiliation of the candidate, Goals, description of the work to be carried out by the applicant, expected outcomes and description of the contribution to the Action MoU objectives
- Confirmation of the agreement from the host institution in receiving the applicant
- CV of the applicant (1 page)

You will receive a response in the 15 days following your application.

Incomplete applications will not be accepted. The committee can request additional information if it is considered necessary.

EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSALS

As soon as the Grant application is submitted, the applicant and the Grant Awarding Coordinator (GAC) will receive the notification through e-COST.

Evaluation of the applications is performed by the STSM Grant Evaluation Committee Members (Luis Cabral, Rocio Garcia de la Cruz Valencia and Anthony de Buys Roessingh),

- The evaluation criteria will consider the scientific scope of the proposal, how the mission can support the Action in achieving its scientific objectives, and how the mission will contribute to the professional development of the applicant.
- The selection of successful STSM applicants will also consider the academic excellence of the candidate (or promise of excellence in case of Early Career Investigators).

Please note that priority is given to applications proactively addressing the agenda of the COST Action and the individual working groups.

In case of rejection, a justification needs to be encoded. The justification will be included in the e-notification to the applicant.

AFTER COMPLETION OF THE STSM

After the STSM, the candidate submits a scientific report to the STSM Host and GAC within 30 days of completing the STSM.

The report must include:

- The purpose of the mission; description of work carried out
- Description of main results; plan of future collaborations with Host (if applicable)
- Planned publications resulting from STSM (if applicable)
- Confirmation of successful STSM by Host
- Certificate of bank account ownership

The template for the final report can be found attached to this call.

For dissemination purposes, the successful applicants will be required to prepare a brief summary for the Action's website including: name, institution, research interest, photos and summary of research completed in STSM.

The Grant Awarding Coordinator and Action Chair (or Vice-Chair, in case of any conflict of interest) approve the final report. The Grant Holder executes payment to the STSM Applicant within 30 days.

The failure to submit the Scientific Report within 30 days of STSM termination will effectively cancel the grant.

Dissemination of the results obtained during STSM activities is obligatory by the granted applicant whether at webinars, or through publications, and presentations at Conferences organized by third parties. Please add the following acknowledgment if the results from STSM visit will be published in a scientific journal or presented at any national or international conference (oral or poster):"This article/publication is based upon work from COST Action ESENBURN (CA23140), supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology, www.cost.eu)".

CONTACT

For more information and enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact :

- The Chair at rocio.valencia@kispi.uzh.ch
- he Grant Awarding Coordinator Luis Cabral at jlacabral@gmail.com
- The Grant Awarding co-leader Anthony de Buys Roessingh Anthony.debuys-roessingh@chuv.ch
- The Grant Holder Manager at charlotte.besnard@lip-lyon1.fr

LINKS

Annotated Rules for COST Actions (COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V4.0-final-clean.pdf)

Grant Awarding User Guide (https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/01/COST-Grant-Awarding-user-guide.pdf)