

**CA15206 - COST ACTION PAYMENTS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES
(PESFOR-W)
SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM) DEADLINES & RULES
FOURTH GRANT PERIOD (MAY 2019 – APRIL 2020)**

AIM

The aim of a STSM is to foster research collaboration to contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST action PESFOR-W. Early Career Investigators (within 8 years of completing a PhD) and those from Inclusiveness Target Countries and under-represented groups are especially encouraged to apply.

SECOND STSM CALL IN THE FOURTH GRANT PERIOD

STSM call submission deadline: Open call

All applicants will be contacted by the STSM coordinator and Grant holder. Successful applicants will receive a Grant letter, confirming approval and indicating the level of the financial grant given. Within four weeks after the end of the STSM, grantees are required to submit a scientific report of max 2000 words to the host institution and the STSM coordinator.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

The Applicant must use the on-line registration, available on www.cost.eu/STSM. The formal STSM application (i) should be downloaded from the above website for your own record. In your emails, please always add your STSM-reference number, automatically generated by eCOST, after your on-line registration.

Applicants are responsible for obtaining (ii) the agreement of the host institution before the submission of their application. To complete the application, (iii) your brief CV including relevant publications, (iv) motivation letter, (v) letter of support from the home institution, has to be sent to the STSM coordinator as well as the future Host institution (**information on potential host institutes will be put on the PESFOR-W website**). All documents (i-v) regarding the application should be delivered to the Grant holder pesforw.tesaf@unipd.it, STSM coordinator sarvasova@nlcsk.org and copy to STSM vice-coordinator kazimierz_banasik@sggw.pl, as well as to vice-chair of Action gebhard.schueler@forestclim.eu.

Please follow also the COST Vademecum (www.cost.eu/download/COSTVademecum). The financial support will be a fixed grant based on the Applicant's budget request.

Please keep in mind that the applicant should be engaged in a research programme as a PhD student, postdoctoral fellow, or be employed in an institution with a research remit in a country having accepted the MoU of the Action PESFOR-W.

ASSESSMENT OF THE STSM

The STSM coordinator is in charge of arranging the assessment of STSM applications by Core Group (CG) members.

The following criteria will be used by CG members to assess applications:

- **Priority will be given to specific STSM topics described in MoU**
- Applications must be relevant to the COST Action PESFOR-W and STSM call
- The applicant and the host must be based in two different member countries
- Quality of the proposal and work plan
- Applicant qualifications and publications
- Contribution to the COST Action
- Specific output, e.g. draft article, application of method to specific research issue, etc.
- Costs (purposeful costs; shorter vs. longer stays)

Priority topics under this call include:

1. Engagement with policy-makers on best governance of new woodlands for water PES schemes and exploring potential for citizen science to monitor schemes: developing guidelines for qualitative data collection and stakeholders' engagement
2. Methodology and evidence review on assessing the effectiveness of woodland creation measures and providing guidance on the strengths and weaknesses: opportunity mapping;
3. Forest water interactions under climate change and robust adaptive strategies;
4. Review of demand-side and climate change factors influencing cost-effectiveness of woodlands for water PES;
5. Socio-economic evaluation of woodlands for water PES schemes;
6. Collecting data on woodlands for water PES schemes for Case Study fact sheets;
7. Analysing forest owners' attitudes and perspectives towards adopting PES schemes
8. Analysing biophysical, governance and social-cultural preconditions for PES

The application will be evaluated by STSM coordinator, Vice Chair and other respective CG members. Upon acceptance, positively evaluated applicants will be supported within budget possibilities. Upon approval of the scientific report by the STSM coordinator and the Vice Chair, the grant will be paid directly to the applicant.

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