

Call Short Term Scientific Missions COST Action GroupHouseNet 2018-2019

With this Call, we would like to invite all scientists working in the area of damaging behaviour of pigs and laying hens to propose short term scientific missions, where travel, accommodation and meal expenses will be supported by the COST Action GroupHouseNet (www.grouphousenet.eu) in the form of a fixed grant. Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) are exchange visits aimed at supporting individual mobility, strengthening existing networks and fostering collaboration between researchers. STSMs within GroupHouseNet 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 institutions or organisations.

Evaluation criteria:

- STSM applicants must be engaged in an official research programme as a PhD Student or postdoctoral fellow or can be employed by, or affiliated to, an Institution or legal entity which has within its remit a clear association with performing research.
- Proposed STSMs should be clearly associated with the objectives of GroupHouseNet, linked to the three Working Groups.
- Early-career investigators (ECIs) are encouraged to participate in the Action activities and their applications will be prioritised. An applicant can be considered as being an ECI when the time that has elapsed between the award date of his/her PhD does not exceed 8 years.
- Applicants coming from Inclusiveness Target Countries¹ will be prioritised, but others will be considered as well. The country of origin and the host country must be members of the GroupHouseNet consortium.
- Gender-balance will also be considered when evaluating STSM applications. We will strive to offer equal gender opportunities.
- Applicants who have not previously received an STSM grant within the lifetime of this Action will be prioritised.

STSMs in general should contribute to the tasks of Working Groups (WGs). For more information on the work of WGs, please contact WG Leaders. They may also be able to help you identify a host institution:

- WG1 Genetics and damaging behaviour: Dr. Laurence Liaubet, INRA Toulouse, France (laurence.liaubet@toulouse.inra.fr)
- WG2 Development of damaging behaviour: Dr. Elske de Haas, Wageningen University, The Netherlands (endehaas@gmail.com)
- WG3 Health and environmental effects on damaging behaviour: Dr. Anna Valros, University of Helsinki, Finland, (anna.valros@helsinki.fi)

For more general information on STSMs, please contact the STSM coordinator (Dr. Bas Rodenburg, Utrecht University, The Netherlands, t.b.rodenburg@uu.nl).

¹ Inclusiveness Target Countries: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Serbia and Turkey.

Scientific report:

After the STSM is finished, the grantee is required to submit a short scientific report to the host institution and to the STSM Coordinator no later than 30 days after the end date of the STSM for approval.

The report should not be less than 5 pages and include the following:

1. Aims and objectives of the STSM
2. Description of work undertaken
3. Main results
4. Future collaboration possibilities with the host institution
5. Future plans, including potential future publications
6. Outputs produced (e.g. academic paper, funding application, new dataset etc.)

In addition the grantee should provide the following:

- A letter from the host institution which confirms that the applicant has successfully completed your stay.
- A short blog type report for the GroupHouseNet website. The report can be creative: (just a written report; or with photos of the work; or a short video, etc.).

Failure to submit the scientific report within 30 days will effectively cancel the grant. The STSM Coordinators Team is responsible for approving the scientific report and informing the Grant Holder that the STSM has been successfully accomplished. After receipt of the approval by email, the Grant Holder will execute the payment of the grant. Please note that the reimbursement of STSM grantees will be done after the mission is over and the final report is submitted by the STSM participant. Exceptions to this rule cannot be granted. The final report will be uploaded to the GroupHouseNet website.

Applications

Applications should be submitted through the eCOST system:

<https://e-services.cost.eu/user/login/STSM>.

Please fill out the electronic form. The number of the GroupHouseNet COST Action is CA15134. In addition to the electronic form, you will need to submit three supporting documents through the same system:

1. A letter of support from the home institution
2. A written agreement from the host institution, confirming that the STSM applicant can perform the activities described on the agreed dates
3. A CV (including a list of academic publications - if applicable)