

Call Short Term Scientific Missions GroupHouseNet 2017

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 covered by the COST Action GroupHouseNet. 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 / 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 (please see list of priority topics below). Persons proposing one of the priority topics will be prioritised, but other topics will be considered as well.
- 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 Countries 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 for an equal gender balance.
- Applicants who have not previously received an STSM grant within the lifetime of this Action will be prioritised.

STSMs in general aim to be a focus for researchers wishing to 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. Jo Edgar, University of Bristol, United Kingdom (j.edgar@bristol.ac.uk)
- 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, Wageningen University, The Netherlands, bas.rodenburg@wur.nl).

The applications will be assessed the STSM Committee members.

Priority topics (please contact the proposed host if you are interested in one of these topics):

1. WG1 Biomarkers for piglet survival and robustness, Host Laurence Liaubet, INRA, France laurence.liaubet@toulouse.inra.fr
2. WG1 Interpreting metabolomics data, Host Laurence Liaubet, INRA France (suggestion for Dutch Topigs Norsvin employee) laurence.liaubet@toulouse.inra.fr
3. WG1 Automatic tracking – linking phenotype to technology, exploratory analysis (Host Tomas Norton, Leuven, Belgium (tomas.norton@kuleuven.be) or Bas Rodenburg, Wageningen, The Netherlands) bas.rodenburg@wur.nl
4. WG1 Ethics of laying hen breeding, Host Morten Tonnessen, Stavanger, Norway, (Collaborators Mike Toscano, Christine Nicol, Teun van de Braak) – Ethical considerations of laying hen breeding companies. morten.tonnessen@uis.no
5. WG2 Aggression and injurious pecking during early lay in laying hens housed in enriched cages, hosted by Anja Riber, Aarhus University, Denmark. The project involves data collection

at the experimental facilities at AU-Foulum. Time period: January-April 2018. Duration: 3-4 months Anja.Riber@agrsci.dk.

6. WG2 On-farm welfare assessment of laying hen housed in enriched cages, hosted by Anja Riber, Aarhus University, Danish project using a defined protocol. Time period: Aug-Oct 2017. Duration: approx. 1 month Anja.Riber@agrsci.dk.
7. WG2 Maternal care/brooding effects on feather pecking & a study on naturally inspired intermittent lighting schedules on behavioural synchronisation and damaging behaviour in pullets. Host: Jo Edgar, Bristol University, UK. J.Edgar@bristol.ac.uk
8. WG2 Monitoring damaging behavior in pigs (using sensors or the "farmer eye"), hosted by Armelle Prunier, INRA-St Gilles (ERANET Anihwa project) armelle.prunier@inra.fr
9. WG3 E.coli and feather pecking, suggestion for a Greek student visiting Oslo (Host: Janicke Nordgreen, Norway, suggested by Eva Sossidou & Janicke Nordgreen) janicke.nordgreen@nmbu.no
10. WG3 Incidence of FP and TB and economic impact in Greece (Host: Eva Sossidou, Greece) sossidou.arig@nagref.gr
11. WG3 Using the SIKAVA data to study links between health/environment and tail docking (Host Anna Valros & Jarkko Niemi, Finland). Any time after October 2017. anna.valros@helsinki.fi
12. WG3 Lesions in suckling piglets and relation to housing & management (farm visits) (Host: Sabine Dippel, Germany). August-November 2017. Sabine.Dippel@fli.bund.de
13. WG3 Tail lesions in slaughter pigs (abattoir scoring), connections to respiratory disease and risk factors (Host Laura Boyle, Ireland). Any time from September 2017. Laura.Boyle@teagasc.ie
14. WG3 Collecting information on case farms that have managed well – success studies based on farm visits/farmer interviews (Suggested by Alex Eggen, Host: Andrew Janczak) andrew.janczak@nmbu.no

STSMs need to take place according to the following rules:

- Be a minimum duration of 5 days;
- Be a maximum duration of 90 days (for ECIs option to apply for a longer stay (91-180 days))
- Needs to be carried out in their entirety within a single 1-year grant period and within the Action's lifetime (e.g. STSM finished before May 2018).
- The COST Association and the Grant Holder of the Action cannot be considered as being an STSM Grantee's employer. Grantees must make their own arrangements for all provisions related to personal security, health, taxation, social security and pension matters.
- For more details regarding the regulations related to STSM, please refer to the COST Vademecum (<http://www.cost.eu/download/COSTVademecum>), pages 35 and 36.

Financial support:

Financial support is limited to cover travel, accommodation and meal expenses and is paid in the form of a grant.

Specific GroupHouseNet rules concerning financial support for STSMs

- The management committee (MC) has budgeted for 10 STSMs of EUR 2500 for this year.
- Financial support is limited to cover travel, accommodation and meal expenses and is paid in the form of a grant.
- The reimbursement rate per day to cover meals and accommodation is a flat rate up to 160€ (Important! see table below for flat rate per country). Up to EUR 500 may be attributed for the travel expenses; expected travel expenses must be specified in the budget and be reasonable.
- A maximum EUR 2,500 in total can be afforded to the grantee for the full STSM including travel expenses for STSMs of 90 days (typically STSMs last about 30 days).
- In case of extended stays for ECIs a maximum of EUR 3,500 can be afforded to the grantee for the full STSM.

Daily flat rate per Country:

Parties							
Country	Amount	Country	Amount	Country	Amount	Country	Amount
Austria	140	Belgium	140	Bosnia and Herzegovina	100	Bulgaria	100
Croatia	100	Czech Republic	100	Denmark	160	Estonia	100
France	140	Germany	140	Greece	120	Hungary	100
Iceland	140	Ireland	160	Italy	120	Latvia	100
Netherlands	140	Norway	160	Poland	100	Portugal	120
Romania	100	Serbia	100	Slovakia	100	Slovenia	100
Spain	120	Sweden	160	Switzerland	160	Turkey	100
United Kingdom	160	fYR Macedonia	100	Tunisia	100	Palestine	160
Israel	160						

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)