



ADVANCE-TB SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS CALL For the 2nd Grant Period

ADVANCE-TB Cost Action 21164 opens the Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM) for the Second Grant Period (2GP) (1st November 2023 - 31st October 2024)

A. PURPOSE OF SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS

Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM) is a grant awarded by the Management Committee (MC) to an individual for supporting physical mobility aiming at capacity building and transfer of knowledge through bilateral/multilateral collaborations during a research stay in a different country.

STSM are exchange visits to a host organization located in a different country than the country of affiliation to carry out specific work as part of a research project. In addition to the research purposes, STSMs aim to support individual mobility, strengthen existing networks, and foster collaboration between COST Action participants.

A STSM should specifically contribute to the COST Action's scientific objectives while allowing those partaking in the missions to learn new techniques and gain access to specific data, instruments, and/or methods not available in their institutions/ organizations.

B. IMPORTANT DATES

The ADVANCE-TB Short-Term Scientific Missions Call will be receiving applications according to the following timetable:

	1 st Round	2 nd Round	3 rd Round	4 rd Round
Open Application Round	24th Oct 2023	01st Jan 2024	01st Apr 2024	01st Jul 2024
Deadline for application	24th Nov 2023	31st Jan 2024	30th Apr 2024	31st Jul 2024
Notification of decision applicants until	15th Dec 2023	15th Feb 2024	15th May 2024	15th Aug 2024
Start of STSM	Within 6 months after approval notification			

Please note that all STSM should be completed before 30th September 2024

C. SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS ELIGIBILITY RULES

Call applicant should be:

- ✓ Action Member of the ADVANCE-TB Cost Action 21164
- ✓ Action Member with a primary affiliation to a legal entity located in one of the:
 - a COST Full or Cooperating Member country
 - a COST Near Neighbor Country or a European RTD Organization
- ✓ The applicant and/or home research group might have previous experience in projects related to the Action focused on tuberculosis, non-tuberculous mycobacteria infections or any other related aspects.
- ✓ First-time GP applicants will be prioritized.
- ✗ STSM proposals received out of the timetable will automatically be discarded.

STSMs should have a minimum duration of 5 calendar days, including travel. There is no maximum duration for the STSM, though the budget is limited to EUR 2,000 per Month (see section E below for details) and may depend upon the ongoing GP funding and the number of approved applications.

D. HOW TO APPLY

Eligible applicants shall follow these steps, according to the corresponding timetable. It is recommended that applicants have the CV updated profile in the e-cost platform.

1. Obtain a Confirmation or Acceptance Letter from the Host institution (including country, dates and duration)
2. Download and complete all the fields of the STSM grant application template, available here: https://www.cost.eu/STSM_GrantApplication
 - Host Institution (city, country), URL information and host contact person (name and e-mail)
 - Dates and duration of the STSM
 - Goals and purpose of the STSM
 - Working Plan to be carried out by the applicant
 - Expected outputs and contribution to the Action objectives and deliverables.
3. Complete the grant application online at <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>
 - Select the Action of interest (21164) and Apply for New Grant
 - Select Mobility of Researchers and Innovators → STSM
 - Fill the corresponding sections directly on the platform
 - Add the supporting documents:
 - i. STSM grant application template completed (step 2)
 - ii. CV (including a list of academic publications - if applicable)
 - iii. Motivation letter including expected new knowledge or access to new equipment or techniques and the clear link with the ADVANCE-TB objectives (1.000-3.000 words)
 - iv. Confirmation or Acceptance Letter from the Host institution
 - v. Budget requested. More details on Section E-Financial Support
 - Click on Submit application

The eligible applicants will get a confirmation e-mail for the successful reception of their application from the e-cost platform.

E. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Financial support for networking activities organized through a Grant Awarding Process is a grant awarded to individuals, not intended to cover employment costs. The scope will be to contribute (but not necessarily cover all) for travel, accommodation, and subsistence expenses, implementation of the project, delivery of the report to the COST Action MC, and overall effort. The cost of research materials is not eligible for consideration as part of the grant.

STSM awards may be combined with other funding sources, these must be acknowledged in the application with a declaration of non-double financing. The amounts granted for each STSM will be determined during the evaluation process by the STSM committee.

- STMS maximum amount allowed is up to (2,000€ per month) per grant.

Please note that the approved budget is subject to the available total budget, the number of approved applications at a specific Round, and the outcome of their evaluation. The applicant will be informed of the final approved STSM budget.

The selected applicants should wait for the official invitation from the Grant Holder before booking any travel arrangements and paying fees. Grant Holder institution may choose to pre-finance up to 50% of the approved amount, if requested by the STSM grantee and supports the grantee in case of force majeure by informing the applicant about the necessary documents (invoices, tickets, etc) that may be exceptionally required for the reimbursement of the grant or actual expenses.

F. EVALUATION PROCEDURE AND SELECTION OF APPLICANTS

The applications will be evaluated within two weeks after the submission deadline and the results will be communicated to the applicants by the e-cost platform. The system of evaluation assigns points to each item based on the criteria defined on a 0 to 100 point scale.

The coordination process and final approval of grants are in charge of the Grant Awarding Coordinator according to the 2nd Grant Period Budget Plan and the number of applications submitted in every round:

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA (up 100 points)

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	POINTS
1	Applicant and/or host group from ITC country	0 or 10
2	Applicant is YRI	0 or 10
3	Impact on the career of the applicant	15
4	Complementarity between the applicant and the host group	10
5	Multidisciplinarity or interdisciplinarity of the proposal	10
6	CV of the applicant	10
7	CV of the host group, aligned with the objectives of ADVANCE-TB	10
8	Scientific Quality and Relevance to the objectives of ADVANCE-TB	20
9	Creation of new collaborations within ADVANCE-TB partners*	0 or 5

*-Scientific productivity, training capacity and available infrastructure referred to the last 5 years

Please make sure to provide the required information for each of the evaluated items

TOTAL POINT RATE	EVALUATION DECISION
0 – 50	Low recommendation application
51 - 80	Medium recommendation application
81 - 100	High recommendation application

In case the Grant Awarding Coordinator detects that requested documents are missing and/or needs additional information during the evaluation process, the applicant will be contacted and missing details will be requested. In order to include missing files, the application will be rejected and afterwards, the applicant will be able to edit the application and re-submit with the corresponding documentation. This process can modify the date of notification of the final decision.

Please note that high priority will be given to STSM proposals that strongly promote the ADVANCE-TB COST Action, either by pushing forward the current initiatives or by leading to new initiatives.

Special considerations concerning supporting COST policies on promoting gender balance, enabling Young Researchers and Investigators (YRI), and broadening geographical inclusiveness will be taken into account.

G. REPORTING AND REIMBURSEMENT

Once the activity has ended and within 30 calendar days after the end date of the activity, the grantee needs to submit a report and relevant documentation.

1. Download and complete all the fields of the STSM Report template, available here:
→ https://www.cost.eu/STSM_Report
2. Upload the report on e-cost

In addition to the scientific report, the Grantee is expected to prepare a communication activity for a larger audience that will be published on the ADVANCE-TB website. For the type and the preparation of the communication activity, the Grantee will be in contact with the WG4 leader and co-leader.

Payment of the Grant is subject to the STSM scientific report being approved by the STSM Committee. Written approval of the STSM scientific report will be uploaded in e-COST for archiving purposes.

Grant Holder Institution will proceed with the final payment once the completion of the activity and approval of all required reports and documentation (including bank account details and ID number)

More information can be found in the [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#) and [Funding Documents & Guidelines](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further information (advance_tb@igtp.cat).



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Badalona (Spain), 01st of Oct of 2023