

## **COST ACTION IS1302 Call Number 3 2016 for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) Applications**

Call for STSM Applications for Missions occurring between the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2017.

All STSM activities must occur in their entirety within the dates specified above

### **Purpose of a Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM)**

STSM facilitates Researchers from COST Countries participating in COST Action **IS1302** to go to an institution or research centre in another participating COST Country to foster collaboration and to perform empirical research. Participation of "Early-Stage Researchers" (ESR) in STSM is particularly encouraged.

STSM applicants must be engaged in a research programme as 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 scientific research.

### **Specific information concerning STSM**

#### *Background*

The primary aim of Working Group 3 is to gain knowledge about the specific needs brought about by (severe) psychiatric symptoms and long-term residence in a highly restrictive setting and, on how meeting these specific needs might optimize the quality of life of patients in long-term forensic psychiatric care.

More concretely, this core area involves the determination of patients' needs for psychosocial, mental health and physiological care. What are the experiences of patients residing in long-term forensic care, and what do they need in order to reside for a (life) long period of time in a highly restrictive environment? These are the type of questions being addressed in this core area.

Another closely related key issue is the experienced quality of life of patients. This entails a subjective evaluation of the more objective needs. It is defined as an overall sense of well-being and satisfaction by people under their current living conditions. The Action aims to catch the experiences of long-term forensic psychiatric patients and their perception on these experiences by determining needs and defining quality of life.

#### *Objective STSM*

The STSM must be linked to the aims of Working Group 3. This call is directed at (early stage) researchers who are interested in exploring the concept of QoL in forensic psychiatric services. The Forensic inpatient Quality of Life questionnaire – Short Version (FQL-SV) has been used in the Netherlands, Italy and Slovenia to assess the quality of life of forensic psychiatric patients. The aim of this STSM is to collect demographic and clinical data (e.g. diagnosis, age, index offense), and to assess other more objective QoL variables that are related with the subjective experience of QoL such as daily activities, enclosure and/or leave. The final objective is to have matching data sets of at least two countries (the Netherlands and Italy) which are available for analysis. The data sets should be qualitatively high and facilitate scientific publications.

This STSM will take place in The Netherlands.

### *Duration*

STSM can have a duration of between 5 days and 90 days (and up to 180 days if the applicant is an ESR<sup>1</sup>).

### *Funding*

The following funding conditions apply and must be respected:

1. Travel expenses cannot exceed EUR 500;
2. For accommodation and meal expenses, a maximum amount of EUR 160 per day can be considered;
3. A grantee can be afforded up to a maximum of EUR 1125;
4. STSM activities must occur in their entirety within the dates specified in this call.

Financial support is limited to cover travel and subsistence expenses and is paid as a grant after the coordinator has received the end report and the post-approval e-mail has been sent.

For this call, the Management Committee of COST Action IS1302 Towards an EU research framework on Forensic psychiatric care has allocated a total budget of EUR 1125 for 1 STSM. The amount granted for the STSM will be determined during the evaluation process by the nominally appointed person(s). The selection of applicants is based on the scientific scope of the STSM application, which must clearly compliment the overall objectives of the Action.

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<sup>1</sup> An applicant can be considered as being an "Early-Stage Researcher" when the time that has elapsed between the award date of the applicants PhD and the date of the applicants first involvement in the COST Action **IS1302** does not exceed 8 years. PhD students are also eligible to partake in STSMs.

## How to apply for an STSM:

Interested researchers are advised to follow the directions provided below and submit their application and supporting documents to the STSM coordinator: **Denise van Eeden** ([dvaneeden@efp.nl](mailto:dvaneeden@efp.nl)) by the deadline of the **31<sup>st</sup> of July 2016**.

## THE APPLICATION PROCESS IS AS FOLLOWS:

1. All applicants must carefully read the funding rules detailed in section 6 of the *COST Vademecum: COST Action Part 1 - Short Term Scientific Mission (pages 32-35)*. This document is available at: <http://www.cost.eu/participate/guidelines>.
2. All applicants must register for an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/> - adding their bank account details to their profile.
3. All applicants must obtain a letter of invitation from the Host institution confirming that they can undertake the STSM on the given dates prior to submitting an application. Changing of dates is only possible in specific cases and needs to be communicated with the coordinator before taking the STSM.
4. All applicants must complete, submit and download their STSM application online at: <https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>.
5. All applicants must send their submitted STSM application form and the relevant supporting documents to Denise van Eeden ([dvaneeden@efp.nl](mailto:dvaneeden@efp.nl)) for evaluation before the application submission deadline expires.

The list of supporting documents to be submitted for the evaluation are:

- Letter of invitation to the applicant from a senior Researcher affiliated to the Host institution
  - The submitted STSM application form (downloadable when the online application is submitted - see point 4 above)
  - A motivation letter including an overview of the proposed activities that will be performed which must contain a plan of work for the visit highlighting the proposed contribution to the scientific objectives of the respective COST Action;
  - A letter of support from the Home Institution;
  - A Full C.V. (including a list of academic publications – if applicable).
6. The application will then be assessed by the STSM coordinator against the perceived contribution that the proposed visit will make against the scientific objectives outlined in the Action Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
  7. The applicant will be formally notified of the outcome of their STSM application by Denise van Eeden on the [12/08/2016].
  8. Within 30 days from the end date of the STSM, the successful applicant must submit a scientific report to the Host institution and to Denise van Eeden. The applicant is also responsible for acquiring an official acceptance letter / Email confirmation of acceptance from a senior Researcher affiliated to the Host institution formally accepting the scientific report. This formal acceptance of the scientific report has to be sent to the Grant Holder (Ellen Vorstenbosch - [isch1302@gmail.com](mailto:isch1302@gmail.com)) and Denise van Eeden ([dvaneeden@efp.nl](mailto:dvaneeden@efp.nl)) for archiving purposes.

Failure to submit the scientific report within 30 days from the end date of the STSM will effectively cancel the grant.

**Please note that COST can request additional information to substantiate the information contained within the documents submitted by STSM applicants.**

**Deadline for applications to be submitted: 31/07/2016**

**Notification of application outcome: 12/08/2016**

**Period of STSM: between 15/08/2016 and 31/03/2017**