

COST ACTION CA18107 Climbats Specific Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 10th April 2022

For specific short mission in May 2022

COST (www.cost.eu) is the longest-running European framework supporting trans-national cooperation among researchers, engineers and scholars across Europe.

COST Action CA18107 Climbats (<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA18107/>) aims at gathering a critical mass of international researchers and coordinating them as a team that develops and evaluates a transdisciplinary framework for **assessing and predicting effects of climate change on bat populations in Europe, establishing a network to monitor distributional changes of bat populations, and evaluate the effects of climate change on the insectivory provided by bats.**

1) What is a Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM)?

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) are exchange visits aimed at supporting individual mobility, strengthening existing networks and fostering collaboration between researchers. A STSM 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.

STSMs are particularly intended, but not limited to, for Early Career Investigators (ECIs), i.e. a researcher whose career spanned less than 8 years between the date of the PhD/doctorate (or similar experience) and the date of involvement in the Action.

2) Eligibility Rules: adherence to the scientific objectives of Climbats WG1

This STSM must contribute to the scientific objectives of Climbats Working Group 1 (WG1). This specific STSM is for advanced functional analysis of modelling outputs for all European bat species.

Potential applicants are encouraged to directly contact Working group Leader for clarifications or for questions on the scientific objectives and activities of the Action.

WG1 - Quantification of current and future effects of climate change on bats

The aim of this WG is to identify the traits that make bats vulnerable to climate change and synthesize the available information on observed and predicted bat responses to it. The WG will identify the traits that make species most sensitive to the effects of future climate change and establish risk classes for all European bat species.

Working group Leaders: Orly Razgour – O.Razgour@exeter.ac.uk ; Luca Santini luca.santini.eco@gmail.com

Full description of WGs and scientific objectives are found in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at:

https://e-services.cost.eu/files/domain_files/CA/Action_CA18107/mou/CA18107-e.pdf

Applicants are encouraged to read the MoU.

3) Eligibility Rules: Applicants' status

STSM applicants must be engaged in a research programme as a PhD Student or postdoctoral fellow or can be employed by, or affiliated to, an Institution or legal entity that has within its remit a clear association with performing research.

For this specific STSM, we are looking for applicants with extensive species distribution modelling experience, who are proficient users of R.

4) STSM financial contribution

An STSM grant is a fixed financial contribution assigned after evaluation of the applicant's request and mission duration. STSM Grants do not necessarily cover all expenses related to undertaking the approved mission. A STSM Grant is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation and meal expenses of the Grantee.

Financial Contribution For All Applicants (Including ECIs):

STSMs and financial contribution follow the following criteria:

1. minimum duration: 5 days;
2. maximum duration: 90 days;
3. STSMs need to be carried out in their entirety within a single Grant Period and always within the Action's duration;
4. maximum contribution per day: 160 €
5. maximum contribution for travel expenses: 500 €

6. maximum total contribution: 2500 €

The COST Association and the Grant Holder of the Action are not to be considered as being an STSM Grantee's employer. STSM Grantees must make their own arrangements for all provisions related to visas, personal security, health, taxation, social security and pension matters.

The STSM Committee can approve differentiated country rates to cover accommodation and meal expenses based on the perceived cost of living in the host country.

PLEASE NOTE:

Specific provisions have been made to encourage the application submission by researchers from Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs)¹. STSM applicants affiliated to an institution in an ITC country can request a prepayment of 50% of grant. This is payable under 2 conditions: that the Grant Holder has sufficient funds to cover 50% of the grant in advance, and that the host confirms to the Grant Holder that the mission has started.

¹. List of ITCs: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Serbia and Turkey.

5) STSM Application process

PLEASE NOTE:

- STSMs MUST START AFTER 1st May 2022.
- STSMs MUST BE FULLY COMPLETED BY 1st April 2023
- STSMs ARE NOT INTENDED TO COVER EXPENSES FOR THE PARTICIPATION TO CONFERENCES

All eligible applications **submitted by 10th April 2022** will be reviewed and approval/rejection decisions will be communicated to applicants **by 30th April 2022**.

PLEASE NOTE:

- STSMs MUST BE APPROVED BY THE STSM COMMITTEE BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE TRAVEL

- ONCE THE STSM HAS BEEN COMPLETED, THE GRANTEE MUST SUBMIT A SCIENTIFIC REPORT TO THE STSM COMMITTEE AND TO THE HOST INSTITUTION

Payment of the Grant will be carried out **AFTER** the mission will have been completed **AND IS SUBJECT TO** the scientific report being approved by the STSM Committee and a senior researcher affiliated to the Host institution.

6) HOW TO APPLY:

Send a short CV (maximum 2 pages) and a short motivation paragraph explaining why you want to do this STSM and your relevant experience to:

leonardo.ancillotto@unina.it by 10th April 2022.

Applicants selected by the STSM committee and working group leaders will then have to apply on the COST platform before commencing their STSM:

A) Register to <https://e-services.cost.eu>

B) Go to cost.eu/STSM and provide:

1. Letter of invitation from a senior researcher affiliated to the Host institution
2. STSM application form
3. Motivation letter including a work plan detailing the proposed activities (please limit to three pages)
4. A support letter / email from the Home Institution
5. Applicant's full C.V. (including a list of publications – if applicable)

Please note: it is very important to specify in the workplan and in the motivation letter why and how your mission will contribute to the Climbats objectives, and, in details, which WGs will benefit from your mission.

C) Send an email to Climbats STSM Coordinator (leonardo.ancillotto@unina.it) and Chair (danrusso@unina.it) providing (same as above):

- Letter of invitation from a senior researcher affiliated to the Host institution
- STSM application form (attached to the email as a pdf document)
- Motivation letter including a work plan detailing the proposed activities (please limit to three pages)

- A support letter / email from the Home Institution
- Applicant's full C.V. (including a list of academic publications – if applicable)

D) Applicants need to receive **before** STSM initiation:

- MC pre-approval (email from delegated person). Please allow at least two weeks from the application submission to the pre-approval
- The formal Grant Notification letter

E) The following information is needed **after** the STSM has been completed:

- Scientific Report (max five-pages) detailing the activities undertaken: **it is necessary to give full information about why and how your mission has contributed to the Climbats objectives, and, in particular, which WGs has benefited from your mission, and how**
- An official letter / Email confirmation from a senior Researcher affiliated to the Host institution formally accepting the scientific report

F) Applicants will receive:

- Official approval from commission (or from delegated person) – before STSM payment
- STSM payment
- Applicants of successful STSMs are kindly requested, in case of publication of the results partly coming from the mission work, to acknowledge Climbats in the following way: “supported by a STSM Grant from EU COST Action 18107 “Bats and Climate Change: from science to conservation (Climbats)”

7) For further details please refer to:

- the COST website at www.cost.eu
- the COST Vademecum at www.cost.eu/module/download/49478
- Climbats project at <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA18107>
- the Climbats Memorandum of Understanding at https://e-services.cost.eu/files/domain_files/CA/Action_CA18107/mou/CA18107-e.pdf
- contact STSM coordinator and Action Chair:
leonardo.ancillotto@unina.it
danrusso@unina.it

- contact your country's Management Committee member or Working Group leaders:
<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA18107/#tabs|Name:management-committee>