

**CA15206 - COST ACTION PAYMENTS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES
(PESFOR-W)
SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM) DEADLINES & RULES
THIRD GRANT PERIOD (MAY 2018 – APRIL 2019)**

AIM

The aim of a STSM is to foster research collaboration to contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST action PESFOR-W. Early Career Investigators (within 8 years of completing a PhD) and those from Inclusiveness Target Countries and under-represented groups are especially encouraged to apply.

THIRD STSM CALL IN THE THIRD GRANT PERIOD

STSM call submission deadline: 15th January 2019

All supported STSMs have to be completed before the end of April 2019.

All applicants will be contacted by the STSM coordinator and Grant holder. Successful applicants will receive a Grant letter, confirming approval and indicating the level of the financial grant given. Within four weeks after the end of the STSM, grantees are required to submit a scientific report of max 2000 words to the host institution and the STSM coordinator.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

The Applicant must use the on-line registration, available on www.cost.eu/STSM. The formal STSM application should be downloaded from the above website for your own record. In your emails, please always add your STSM-reference number, automatically generated by eCOST, after your on-line registration.

Applicants are responsible for obtaining the agreement of the host institution before the submission of their application. To complete the application, your brief CV including relevant publications, motivation letter, letter of support from the home institution, has to be sent to the STSM coordinator as well as the future Host institution (**information on potential host institutes will be put on the PESFOR-W website**). All documents regarding the application should be delivered to the Grant holder – claire.holmes@forestry.gsi.gov.uk STSM coordinator sarvasova@nlcsk.org and copy to STSM vice-coordinator kazimierz_banasik@sggw.pl, as well as to vice-chair of Action gebhard.schueler@forestclim.eu.

Please follow also the COST Vademecum (www.cost.eu/download/COSTVademecum). The financial support will be a fixed grant based on the Applicant's budget request.

Please keep in mind that the applicant should be engaged in a research programme as a PhD student, postdoctoral fellow, or be employed in an institution with a research remit in a country having accepted the MoU of the Action PESFOR-W.

ASSESSMENT OF THE STSM

The STSM coordinator is in charge of arranging the assessment of STSM applications by Core Group (CG) members.

The following criteria will be used by CG members to assess applications:

- **Priority will be given to specific STSM topics described in MoU**
- Applications must be relevant to the COST Action PESFOR-W and STSM call
- The applicant and the host must be based in two different member countries
- Quality of the proposal and work plan
- Applicant qualifications and publications
- Contribution to the COST Action
- Specific output, e.g. draft article, application of method to specific research issue, etc.
- Costs (purposeful costs; shorter vs. longer stays)

Priority topics under this call include:

1. Demand-side (buyer) motivations for Woodland-for-Water PES schemes, including potential for linking to carbon markets
2. Collecting key data, including financial and socioeconomic information, on Woodland-for-Water schemes for Case Study fact sheets.

The application will be evaluated within 2-3 weeks following the deadline by STSM coordinator, Vice Chair and other respective CG members. Upon acceptance, positively evaluated applicants will be supported within budget possibilities. Upon approval of the scientific report by the STSM coordinator and the Vice Chair, the grant will be paid directly to the applicant.

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