Action CA19134
Distributed Knowledge Graphs (DKG)

Short-term Scientific Missions (STSM)
10th Call for Applications

The goal of the Distributed Knowledge Graphs (DKG) COST Action is to build a network of researchers, practitioners, and application domain experts that investigate, create, and deploy distributed knowledge graphs with the scope of advancing coordinated research and to disseminate knowledge about the underlying DKG technologies. To this end the DKG COST action is making available a number of Short-term Scientific Missions (STSMs) during this period.

In this call, STSMs tackling the following topics shall be prioritized:
- Benchmarking of tools or approaches for producing and consuming distributed knowledge graphs and
- Developing curricula and teaching materials related to distributed knowledge graphs.

STSMs are funded exchange visits aimed at strengthening the existing research network and intended to foster collaboration between participants in the COST action. Scientists and researchers can visit an institution or laboratory in another COST country and contribute to the scientific objectives of the action, while at the same time partake in the mission to learn new techniques, gain access to specific data, instruments and/or methods not available in their own institutions/organizations.

More information regarding STSMs can be found in Section A2-2.3 of the Annotated Rules for COST Actions.

Funding Available

In the 10th call, we plan to fund 5 STSMs.

The grant for each STSM shall respect the following criteria:
- A maximum of € 2,200.00 can be awarded to each successful applicant; and
- A maximum of € 160.00 per day can be afforded for accommodation and meal expenses.

Specific provisions have been introduced to enable researchers from Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) participating in the COST Action to request a pre-payment of 50% of their STSM grant when they complete the first day of their STSM.

Please note that the financial support available via this scheme is a contribution towards the travel and subsistence cost of a STSM and may not necessarily cover all the costs.

Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals with a high benefit/cost ratio.

Eligibility Criteria

1. The research proposal of the STSM must contribute to the objectives of the DKG COST action;
2. The 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, organization or legal entity which has within its remit a clear association with performing research.
3. The Applicant's Home Institution and the Host Institution must be from different COST member countries;
4. The STSM must have a minimum duration of 5 calendar days and must be carried out within a single grant period (this grant period lasts from November 1, 2022 to October 31, 2023)

Application Procedure

Prospective applicants are encouraged to read carefully Section A2-2.3 of the Annotated Rules for COST Actions.

The Applicant must use the e-COST portal to apply for an STSM (see the Grant Awarding User Guide for more information).

The Applicant applies for a grant from the Grant Applications tab. After filling in the Short-term Scientific Mission grant application form, the Applicant must upload additional supporting documents:

- STSM Grant Application based on e-COST template (in addition to the information defined by the e-COST template, the Applicant must provide a budgetary breakdown comprising of at least travel costs & costs of stay);

- Letter of Support from the Home Institution;

- Confirmation of the Host Institution on the agreement from the Host Institution in receiving the Applicant; and

- Applicant's CV (including a list of academic publications - if applicable).

Note: If you are not able to submit an application through the e-COST platform, try again later as it is expected that the e-COST platform won't be operational few weeks during the application period.

Evaluation Procedure

After the deadline for applications, the Grant Awarding Coordinator will check whether the submitted applications are eligible (see Eligibility Criteria above). All eligible applications will be evaluated by the STSM Committee and approved by the Core Group.

The evaluation criteria include (the threshold of 50% will be applied to each evaluation criteria):
- COST rules (30 points)
  - excellence and inclusiveness (age, gender, and geography).

- STSM proposal contents (60 points)
  - contribution to the overall objectives of the COST action;
  - proposed outcomes (e.g. publication, workshop presentation, future collaborations);
  - benefits for the applicant;
  - benefits for the host institution;
  - quality of the method and workplan; and
  - clarity of proposal.
- other criteria (10 points)
  - host institution appropriateness for STSM and overall status;
  - applicant's profile;
  - prioritization of working groups without any STSMs; and
  - budget considerations.

If the application is approved, the Grant Awarding Coordinator will send the application to the Grant Holder Manager. The Grant Holder Manager will send the Grantee the Grant Letter via the e-COST portal indicating that the STSM can start on the approved dates.

If the application is rejected, the Grant Awarding Coordinator will send the notification to the Applicant via the e-COST portal with the adequate justification to help him/her in re-submitting the application for a future call.

Reporting and Payment Procedure

After the completion of the STSM, the Grantee has to submit a scientific report (following the available template) and an acceptance letter signed by the Grantee and the Host to the Grant Awarding Coordinator via the e-COST portal platform.

The documents must be submitted within 30 days from the end of the STSM or within 15 days from the end of the grant period (whichever is shorter). Failure to submit the documents by the deadline will cancel the grant.

The STSM Committee will evaluate the report. If the report is incomplete, does not respect the template or if is not evaluated positively, the Grant Awarding Coordinator will request the Grantee via the e-COST portal to amend the report and resubmit it within 5 days.

After approval of the report, the Grant Awarding Coordinator will inform the Grant Holder Manager that the STSM has been successfully accomplished. After receipt of the approval, the Grant Holder Manager will execute the payment of the grant.

Important Dates

Call	Application Deadline	Notification by	Number of Grants
10th	July 7, 2023	July 14, 2023	5

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