

COST Action “Connecting Theory and Practical Issues of Migration and Religious Diversity” (COREnet) CA20107

4TH Call for Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM) Applications (2025)

APPLY for a STSM!

Interested in gaining new skills and knowledge and bringing expertise to your country? Apply for an STSM within the area of migration and religious diversity.

Propose an STSM relevant to the COST Action “Connecting Theory and Practical Issues of Migration and Religious Diversity (COREnet),” select a Host Institution, and make your innovative proposal.

Deadlines

- Deadline for submission of applications: **January 20, 2025**
- Notification of application outcome: **February 14, 2025**

Summary of the Action

“Connecting Theory and Practical Issues of Migration and Religious Diversity (COREnet)” is an interdisciplinary network that aims at knowledge production, knowledge exchange and capacity building across Europe in the intersection of migration and religious diversity with a particular emphasis on bottom-up research. The background of the network is the pressing social situation that is characterized by the fact that migrants and the Syrian war refugees coming to Europe have become one of the major political issues and social challenges in the past years. Research, capacity building, and exchange are important tools to analyze what lies behind these challenges and possible solutions. The network aims thus to contribute to overcoming divisions within and across European countries with the help of an innovative approach that would add to existing social scientific knowledge on migration and religious diversity, the study of religions, and theological insights explaining the narratives of migrants and refugees. Drawing in researchers from all stages of their careers, and across different European countries, training a new generation of interdisciplinary action researchers capable of connecting the study of religions and theology and the social sciences and working that into action through processes of co-production. This network brings the bridging of knowledge with stakeholders – governmental, non- governmental and media organizations working in the field of diversity management on the local and national levels.

What is a Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM) within COREnet?

A Short-Term Scientific Mission consists of a visit to a host organization located in a country different from the country of affiliation of a researcher to carry out specific work as part of a research project. In addition to research purposes, Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) are aimed to support researchers' individual mobility, to strengthen existing networks and to foster collaboration between individuals. The work on joint publication, following COST requirements, is essential to the STSMs. The purpose of a STSM is thus to gain new partnerships, to learn new techniques and to gain access to specific data, instruments and/or methods not available in their own institutions/organizations.

Short-Term Scientific Missions benefit:

- STSM Grantees: they receive funding for implementing a project with an international team and gain new knowledge or access to equipment or techniques not available in the home institution;
- STSM Hosts: they receive an international partner in their institution and can develop long-lasting collaborations.

STSMs should have **a minimum duration of 5 calendar days** that includes travel. STSMs are financially supported by the COST Action with a fixed grant up to a maximum of **EUR 2000** in total.

A STSM within "Connecting Theory and Practical Issues of Migration and Religious Diversity (COREnet) should specifically contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST Action and relate to at least one of the five working groups, see the [website of the Action](#).

STSM applicants – Eligibility rules

STSMs are open to PhDs, postdocs, and advanced career researchers in, or affiliated to, institutions participating in the Action "Connecting Theory and Practical Issues of Migration and Religious Diversity (COREnet)" or at other approved institutions based in a COST country.

Priority will be given to applicants who have yet to receive a COREnet STSM grant. If the grant recipient applies again, the report of the previous grant will be assessed, too. Besides, Early Career Investigators (ECI) (maximum 8 years since obtaining their PhD at the time of application) and PhD students will also be prioritized during the evaluation process.

STSMs must be performed between COST countries – researchers cannot apply for an STSM within their own country. Consideration will also be given to candidates moving from/to COST Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs), which include Albania, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, The Republic of Moldova, the Republic of North Macedonia, Türkiye, Ukraine.

STSM Host institutions

A Host institution can be any approved institution that engages in research and is based in a different COST country than the country of the Applicant's affiliation. International COST participants may host STSM researchers from European COST countries but may not apply for STSMs themselves.

Further information

STSMs from this call should be carried out between **March 1, 2025, and September 30, 2025**, and last **between 5 and 90 days**.

The budget will be allocated for **9 (nine) grantees**, and up to a **max of EUR 2000** in total can be afforded to each successful STSM applicant. Financial support is limited to cover travel, accommodation, and meal expenses and is paid in the form of a Grant. The cost of research materials is not eligible for consideration as part of the grant. STSM awards may be combined with other funding sources, but the application must acknowledge these. The amounts granted for each STSM will be determined during the evaluation process by the STSM committee.

Please note that the awarded grant will be paid only after the STSM has been completed – therefore, the applicant must cover his/her own expenses during the STSM. Nevertheless, researchers may ask for a 50% grant payment on the first day of arrival at the host institution. For detailed eligibility and financial support rules, please see the relevant sections of the Annotated Rules for Cost Actions.

How to apply

This is a step-by-step guide to applying for an STSM:

1. Applicants should carefully read the funding rules detailed in the Annotated Rules for COST Actions.
2. Applicants must complete the required information and submit their STSM applications and supporting documents online [here](#).
3. If you do not already have an e-COST account, you will first need to create an account - which will include providing the details of the bank account where the grant will be lodged if your STSM application is approved and the STSM is successfully completed.
4. Applicants must fill in the required information on the Application page and upload the required supporting documents (see the list below).

On the application page and the grant application, applicants have to indicate:

- start and end date of the mission;
- goals and description of the work to be carried out by the applicant;
- expected outcomes, description of the contribution to the Action MoU objectives;
- budget requested by the applicant.

List of supporting documents (in English) to be submitted for the evaluation:

1. STSM grant application (based on e-COST template that may be downloaded from [here](#));
2. Letter of support for the applicant from his/her home institution (Annex 1);
3. Letter of invitation to the applicant from a senior Researcher at the Host institution confirming that they can undertake the STSM on the given dates should their application be approved (Annex 2);
4. An overview of the proposed activities that will be performed, a workplan for the visit, a description of the proposed contributions to the scientific objectives of the Action, an outline of the host's scientific expertise/resources in support of the STSM (maximum 8 pages, the font should correspond to Times New Roman size 12 pt with single line spacing and standard margins of 2 cm);
5. A full CV (including a list of academic publications – if applicable);
6. A certificate or confirmation of Applicant's position as PhD student, postdoc, or other position eligible for STSM grants.

Evaluation

The Action's STSM Coordination Team organizes the assessment of the STSM proposals. STSM funding will be awarded according to the COST key principles of:

- Excellence
- Inclusivity
- Balance (gender and nation)

The STSM Coordination Team will select applicants based on the scientific scope of the STSM applications, which must clearly compliment the overall objectives of the Action and be related to a specific Working Group. Criteria for evaluation will be as follows:

1. The relevance of the proposed STSM to the research field of COREnet. A detailed work plan will help to determine if the scientific aims of the proposed work are relevant and applicable to COREnet's aims (1-10 points; minimum 3 points).
2. The quality and clarity of the proposed research. The STSM application should be of high quality, arguing clearly and cogently the importance and timeliness of the research (1-10 points; minimum 3 points).
3. The choice of Host institution and benefits of the STSM for the applicant. The applicant must provide specific scientific reasons for visiting their chosen Host institution. (1-10 points).
4. The profile of the researcher. The STSM Coordination team will consider the researcher's potential of completing the STSM based on their previous work and achievements commensurate with their career stage (1-10 points). In line with COST policy, we will preferentially award STSMs to Early Career Investigators (PhD + <8 years). This should not discourage more experienced researchers from applying. Priority will be given to those applicants who are actively participating and contributing to the activities of the Action's working groups.

5. The publication/output potential of the proposed STSM. Assessment will be based on the STSM work plan and detailed publication/output plan (1-10 points). Priority will be given to those STSM applications with a detailed plan of a scientific publication as a result, with acknowledged authors, abstract, and the name of the journal to which the publication will be submitted. Publications resulting from the STSM have to meet the following requirements:

- Be the result of the work of the COST Action;
- Be authored by Action participants from at least two different COST Member countries;
- Scientific publication must be in Open Access.

The STSM Coordination Team will consider the number of applications from each institution to ensure a fair spread of researchers across the network. The STSM Coordination Team will also track the geographical distribution of the Host institutions to ensure there is an evenly spread network for knowledge transfer. The involvement of ITC countries will be a plus. In the case of equal points, priority will be given to applications with the highest marks on criteria 2 and 5.

If approved, the STSM Coordination Team sends the application and its approval to the Grant Holder and Action Chair for the final check. The Grant Holder sends the applicant a grant letter to sign and return. The STSM should only be started once the letter has been signed and returned.

Requirements after completing the STSM

Within 15 days from the end date of the STSM or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period (whichever date comes first), the successful applicant must submit a scientific report, confirmation of the Host institution, and a copy of travel documents to the e-COST system (<http://www.e-services.cost.eu>).

The required report ([maximum four pages long, based on an e-COST template that may be downloaded from here](#)) must include:

- Applicant name;
- Home and Host institutions;
- STSM date and title;
- Explanation about how the STSM contributes to the Action;
- Description of the work carried out during the STSM;
- Description of the main results obtained;
- Mutual benefits for the Home and Host institutions;
- Confirmation of stay document from the host institution
- Future collaboration with the Host institution (if applicable);
- Planned publications/articles or conference presentations expected to result from the STSM (if applicable).

- Photos taken during the STSM.
- Travel documents refer to boarding passes of the travel to the place of the STSM or other relevant travel documents.

The applicant should also submit the report to the Host institution and then to acquire an official letter/e-mail confirmation of acceptance from a senior Researcher affiliated to the Host institution formally accepting the scientific report.

When the STSM Coordination team and Action Chair approves the final report, the Grant Holder executes payment to STSM Applicant. The grant-issuing process after the mission is completed can take up to two or two and a half months. Please note that the COST Association can request additional information to substantiate the information contained within the documents submitted by STSM applicants. Failure to submit the scientific report within 15 days from the end date of the STSM or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period (whichever date comes first) will effectively cancel the Grant.

The STSM dates and duration marked in the application, STSM dates written in the host confirmation letter and travel ticket dates should match. If there are any changes to the dates, the Grant Awarding Coordinator and Grant Holder Manager must be informed before the start of the STSM. Failure to notify the Grant Awarding Coordinator and the Grant Holder Manager of changes to the duration and start/end dates of the STSM prior to the beginning of the mission will result in **the cancellation of the STSM.**

Contacts

- Grant Awarding Coordinator and STSM Coordination Team Leader – Dr. Sinem Abka, sinem.eras@deu.edu.tr.
- Chair of the Management Committee of the Action – Prof. Dr. Milda Ališauskienė, milda.alisauskiene@vdu.lt.
- Grant Holder Manager – Dr. Gintarė Poce, gintare.poce@vdu.lt.

About COST

This call is based upon work from COST Action “Connecting Theory and Practical Issues of Migration and Religious Diversity” (COREnet) CA20107 supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology).

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation.

www.cost.eu

Annex 1

TEMPLATE – LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM HOME INSTITUTION

I, _____ (The responsible person – typically a head of the department at Home institution) from _____ (Home Institution), support the application of _____ (applicant's name) proposing to travel to _____ (Host Institution) to realize a STSM for ____ day(s) from (exact date) _____ to (exact date) _____ to carry out the project _____ (proposal title).

Name of the responsible person from the home institution (typically a head of the lab)

Signature

Stamp

At _____ (city) _____ (country), the __ (day) of __ (month), 2025.

Annex 2

TEMPLATE – LETTER OF INVITATION FROM HOST INSTITUTION

I _____ (The responsible person – typically a head of the department at Host institution) from _____ (Host Institution) support the application of _____ (applicant's name) from _____ (Host Institution) to realize a STSM for ____ day(s) from (exact date) _____ to (exact date) _____ to carry out the project _____ (proposal title).

Name of the responsible person from the host institution (typically a head of the lab)

Signature

Stamp

At _____ (city) _____ (country), the __ (day) of __ (month), 2025.