

COST Targeted Network 1401
Capacity Building in Forest Policy and Governance in Western Balkan Region-CAPABAL

6th SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM) CALL

DEADLINES AND RULES FOR GRANT PERIOD 5/2017-4/2018

Aim

The aim of Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM) is to contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST Targeted Network TN 1401 – CAPABAL and to foster collaboration of Early Career Investigators (less than 8 years from completing his/her PhD). Further information on the Action is available at http://www.cost.eu/about_cost/strategy/targeted_networks/capabal.

Calls

1. First STSM call submission deadline: 20/3/2015 (finished)
2. Second STSM call submission deadline: 8/7/2015 (finished)
3. Third STSM call submission deadline: 30/10/2015(finished)
4. Fourth STSM call submission deadline: 27/5/2016 (finished)
5. Fifth STSM call submission deadline: 27/1/2017(finished)
6. **Sixth STSM call submission deadline: 15.12.2017.**

All supported STSMs within 6th call have to be completed before the end of April 2018.

This STSM Call is offering special invitation for the Administration officers in Ministries and other Institutions to apply for STSM in Ministry or other relevant Institution in other COST country to exchange experience.

Possible topics for the state administration candidates:

Topic: “Development of international cooperation between forest extension services”

Forest extension organizations and other organizations of state administration responsible for private forestry in Europe do not have established structure of international cooperation - unlike the situation of state forestry (EUSTAFOR) and private forest owners (CEPF). The purpose of this STSM is to provide opportunity for a state administration organization in WB to host an expert on forest extension work from Central or Northern Europe, and to gain new knowledge on how different issues of forest extension are tackled in countries with longer tradition of this kind of activity. Such visit would also serve as a starting point for a longer cooperation that would possibly result with further exchange of experiences, and joint preparation of project proposals.

- **Any other topic related to implementation of EU or other International policies at national level**

Also this Call is open to young researchers which would like to enrich their experience and do the STSM in other COST institution working on several topics:

STSM topics in relation to Working Groups

Working Group 1 (leader: Stjepan Posavec; email: sposavec@sumfak.hr)

Topic: “Analyse of experiences in the implementation of Natura 2000 and possible lessons to share with WB Countries”

According to the Forest Laws, forest management should take in account economic, ecological and social forest functions. Certified (FSC or PFC) state and private forests included in Natura 2000 network have specific measures regarding forest management activities defined with Standard Data Form with specific stand protection measures.

The purpose of the planned STSM would be to analyse experiences in the implementation of NATURA 2000 in WB countries regarding different status of implementation on forest management plans level due to the different country development process and legal framework. The outcomes should present status and trends of implementation Natura 2000 network in practice (policy aspects) and indicate main obstacles, as well as needs for additional (or specific) training in different SEE countries.

- **Other topics related to the objectives of WG1**

Working Group 2 (leader: Todora Rogelja, email: todora.grasic@gmail.com)

Topic: “Assessing governance principles in forest policy in SEE region”

Good governance is often associated with principles such as transparency, participation, and accountability. In the context of international development, the notion of good governance is commonly seen as a critical foundation for achieving positive social, environmental, and economic outcomes. In the opposite, weak governance is often blamed for poor development outcomes, such as poverty and unsustainable levels of natural resource depletion. In the context of forests, a lack of transparency and accountability is often associated with problems such as illegal logging and corruption. Similarly, a lack of open and inclusive decision-making often contributes to the marginalization and impoverishment of forest-dependent communities and indigenous peoples. This scientific mission should go through policy documents in the SEE countries and provide results at which stage are selected countries, and which will be the next steps.

The aim of this STSM is to design the hands-out document for policy makers and practitioners on good forest governance principles (based on previous work of WG2 and with courtesy of GOVOR project). This template will be translated on national languages of Balkan countries, printed and distributed through CAPABAL network. On this way, this STSM will contribute to

increasing capacity of public forest sector, by bringing good forest governance principles on local languages to decision makers

- **Other topics related to the objectives of WG 2**

Working Group 3 (leader: Mirjana Stevanov; email: mzavodj@gwdg.de)

Topic: “Uptake of bioeconomy (strategy) in the Balkan region”

The “transition towards a bioeconomy” is an increasingly debated topic and practice, which is looked at as a rising potential for the future of the Forest sector in Europe. Following on that, the SEE region will need to position itself on the market and adjust to the changes that are coming (e.g. to be a producer as a Northern European country, biodiversity protector as a Central European country or ecosystem services provider as a Mediterranean country, or to offer something different). It is soon to be expected the bioeconomy to be accepted as a starting practice in the Balkan region countries as well. The aim of the STSM would be to explore the opinions of experts on the expected changes in the forest sector in some of the countries, like Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia, Macedonia and Slovenia. It should be done by looking at the regional differences in SEE, as well as how the outlook for the sector differs between countries/region, which has divergent geographical and natural potentials.

The research should be done by looking into the near future but in the same time comparing it to current situation and existing policies. It should be explored if there is a potential for the overall policy frameworks to be changed or adapted significantly or not. In addition, it is interesting to see if there is a potential for developing a bioeconomy strategy either on national or regional level

- **Other topics related to the objectives of WG3**

Topics of general concern – not related to any WG specifically

Topic: “Mapping of research capacities in forestry in Europe”

The first and major hurdle to preparation of competitive project applications is building of consortia; and a side personal and organizational contacts, there is no single overview of European research capacities in Europe. This STSM would tackle this issue by analysing CORDIS data base on all projects that have been funded through ECs framework programmes. The result of the STSM would be a report that includes overview of forestry research capacities by topic, country and by organization in Europe, starting with H2020 and FP7. The report would show which organizations have best topic-specific expertise, and also show trends in topic-specific research across framework programmes.

- **Other topics related to the main CAPABAL objectives**

Duration of STSM

The minimum duration of a STSM is one week (five working days), while the maximum duration is three months. In special cases a STSM with duration of up to six months can be approved.

STSM Financial Support

An STSM grant is a fixed financial contribution. The grant usually covers travel costs, accommodation and meal expenses of the Grantee. The financial support is a contribution to the costs of a STSM and may not necessarily cover all the costs.

The calculation of the financial contribution for each STSM must respect the following criteria:

- Up to max of 2500 EUR in total can be afforded to each successful STSM applicant (up to max 3500 EUR for Early Career Investigators for a missions with a duration of between 90 and 180 days)
- Up to max of 160 EUR per day can be afforded for accommodation and meal expenses

The Action Chair and STSM Coordinator can approve differentiated country rates to cover accommodation and meal expenses based on the cost of living in the host country. Please follow also the COST Vademecum (www.cost.eu/download/COSTVademecum).

Application procedure

Applicants interested in undertaking a STSM must submit their application by using the on-line registration tool: <https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>. The formal STSM application should be downloaded from the above website for your own record. In your communication, please always add your STSM reference number which is automatically generated by e-cost office after online registration.

The application form, together with a motivation letter, CV, letter of acceptance from the hosting institution and letter of support from home institution has to be sent to the CAPABAL's STSM coordinator Špela Pezdevšek Malovrh (spela.pezdevsek.malovrh@bf.uni-lj.si), as well as to the further hosting institution and in the copy to the chair of the Action Dijana Vuletić (dijanav@sumins.hr).

Criteria for the evaluation of STSM

The criteria by which the STSM applications will be evaluated are:

- Contribution to the Action
- Status of an Early Career Investigators (up to eight years after PhD)
- Quality of working plan (outcomes)
- Applicants CV
- Gender balance

The application will be evaluated within 2-3 weeks. The application must be evaluated by more than half of Core Group members. Positively approved applications will be listed according to the evaluation.

After the STSM

Within four weeks after termination of the STSM, it is required that the grantee submit a scientific report to the hosting institution and to the Action chair. The report should contain following:

- purpose of the STSM;
- description of the work carried out during the STSM;
- description of the main results obtained;
- future collaboration with hosting institution (if applicable);
- foreseen publications/articles resulting or to result from the STSM (if applicable);
- confirmation by the hosting institution on successful execution of the STSM;
- other comments (if any).

After receiving of the approval mail and the scientific report, the Grant Holder will execute the payment of the fixed grant directly to the grantee or the host institution as requested in the STSM application. The Chair of the Action and the STSM coordinator are responsible for approving the scientific report and informing the grantee that the STSM has been accomplished, as well as that the grant can be paid.

Important links:

- <https://e-services.cost.eu/w3/index.php?id=91>
- http://www.cost.eu/media/cost_stories/Short-Term-Scientific-Missions
- <http://www.cost.eu/participate/networking>
- http://www.cost.eu/about_cost/strategy/targeted_networks/capabal

STSM TN 1401 - CAPABAL Coordinator

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