

COST Action CA17133

Circular City

Implementing nature based solutions for creating a resourceful circular city

COST Action CA17133 focuses on the implementation of nature-based solutions (NBS). It unites a heterogeneous group of scientists, researchers and SMEs from across the EU to better understand the circular flow systems that implement the nature based approaches in managing nutrients and resources within the urban biosphere. The domains of the Working Groups lie within the built environments, the urban water, the resource recovery, the urban farming, and transformation tools connecting the WGs and the socioeconomic impact. COST Action CA17133 runs from 22 October 2018 to 21 October 2022. It welcomes participation and collaboration, and also creates opportunities for education and innovation through Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) and Training Schools.

STSMs facilitate scientists going to an institution or laboratory in another country to foster collaboration, to learn a new technique or to take measurements using instruments and/or methods not available in their own institution/laboratory. Eligible are PhD students and Early Career Investigators (ECI, up to 8 years after award of a PhD).

Funded Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM):

Mapping and assessment of indicators to measure circularity at urban level

COST Action CA17133 is offering financial support to eligible applicants to carry out a STSM that will specifically contribute to the scientific objectives of this COST Action.

Circular approaches aim to manage resources more efficiently, redefining the current mode of "linear" consumption towards a model in which waste is valued and reused as a new resource. Cities are ideal places to experiment with circular approaches in different sectors. Cities are in fact areas with a high density of population, resources, capital, data and innovation, which stimulate high consumption and, at the same time, are characterized by significant structural waste, in sectors such as built environment, water, food, energy and mobility. Several local administrations in Europe and beyond are developing and implementing "circular" strategies and policies, which promote an innovative transformation of their city. The analysis and measurement of circularity in cities is a key aspect to monitor the effectiveness and implementation of these policies. Several evaluation frameworks and set of urban indicators currently exist to evaluate urban sustainability or specific social, environmental and economic aspects. However, indicators specifically applied to circularity in cities are less frequently adopted.

The aim of this STSM is to identify the main dimensions of urban circularity and map the relevant indicators to measure the current degree of circularity in cities. Several sources will be investigated at this purpose: existing evaluation frameworks, city rankings, awards, as well as scientific and grey literature. Specific case studies of cities that have applied circularity indicators will be considered.

Expected outcomes of the STSM are: (i) joint paper to be written with the hosted researcher, (ii) contribution to all Working Groups of the CA17133 by providing a cross-cutting analysis of circularity indicators applied in cities.

We are looking to award one grant to undertake a Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM) for **90 days** from September-December 2019 in order to conduct the study outlined above.

The deadline for this open call is **15 June 2019**.

The successful applicants will be informed by **28 June 2019**.

The STSMs should start after **1 July 2019** and be completed by **31 November 2019**.

Applicant and Host Institution

The researcher will be hosted by the **Bocconi University** – GREEN – Centre for Research in Geography, Resources, Environment, Energy and Networks (www.green.unibocconi.eu). The host, Dr. Edoardo Croci (edoardo.croci@unibocconi.it) can provide additional information on the project.

Applicants should be engaged in a research program as a postgraduate student or postdoctoral fellow, or be employed by or officially affiliated to an institution or legal entity located in a Participating COST country or in an approved NNC Institution which has accepted the Memorandum of Understanding of this Action¹. Note that the applicant and host must be in two different Participating COST countries. According to COST regulations, STSMs are intended to facilitate scientists going to an institution or laboratory in another country; applicants from institutions in Italy are therefore ineligible.

PhD students and Early Career Investigators (ECI, up to 8 years after award of a PhD) from Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC)² will be given priority.

The nationality of the applicant is not a bar to eligibility.

Financial Support

STSM in this Call should have a duration of **90 days**, starting on **1 July 2019**, ending on **31 November 2019**.

Up to a maximum of EUR 2 500 in total can be afforded to a successful applicant

STSM grants are a fixed contribution based on the budget requested by the applicant and the evaluation of the application by the Action Chair/STSM Coordinator and/or Committee. This grant will not necessarily cover all expenses; it is intended only as a contribution to the travel and subsistence costs of the participant.

The calculation of this contribution for a STSM is based on the rules³ outlined in Vademecum of the COST.

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

Please note the grant will only be paid to the grantee after the STSM has been completed and the STSM report, which is submitted by the grantee, has been approved by Chair and the STSM coordinator.

Application procedures for an STSM

1. Obtain the written agreement of the host scientist before submitting his/her application. It is essential that the applicant outline in detail to the host scientist what they would like to do for the STSM, provide a CV, provide the host scientist with the Action web site (<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA17133/#tabs|Name:overview>), and agree with the host scientist about the details of the proposed STSM that should of course fit into the Action goals.

¹ The complete list can be found here: <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA17133/#tabs|Name:parties>

² COST Inclusiveness Target Countries: 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. More information: <https://www.cost.eu/who-we-are/cost-strategy/excellence-and-inclusiveness/>

³ For details see COST Vademecum: <https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Vademecum-May-2019.pdf>

2. Complete the online application form till **15 June 2019**. For this you have to log in into e-COST and click on the STSM application tab (<https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>). Note that the on-line system only has room for abbreviated CVs and work plans. The on-line registration tool will create a formal STSM application file, which the applicant can download.
3. Send the application file till **15 June 2019** also as an e-mail attachment to the STSM Coordinator Ranka Junge (ranka.junge@zhaw.ch) and in cc to ca17133@boku.ac.at together with the following supporting documents: CV (max 2 pages), list of publications, full work plan (between 2-5 pages), a letter of motivation by the applicant with a detailed explanation about how the STSM will contribute to the Action CA17133 aims (important), letter of agreement by the host scientist to accept and supervise the applicant to the STSM host institution.

The application will be reviewed till **28 June 2019** and, if approved, an acceptance letter containing the level of financial support will be e-mailed to the applicant. The most important criterion of assessment is how effectively the STSM will contribute to the scientific aims of Action CA17133.

NOTE: For the period of the STSM, neither the Grant Holder of the Action, Management Committee of the Action, etc., nor the COST Office may be considered as the employer of the grantee, and grantees must make their own arrangements for all health insurance, travel insurance, social security, personal security and pension matters as may be needed and appropriate to the grantee.

After the STSM

The STSM Grantee has 30 calendar days from the end date of the mission to submit a scientific report to the host scientist, the Action Chair and the STSM coordinator. The template for the report is available on the eCOST and must be uploaded. It contains:

- General information with applicant's name, affiliation address, e-mail, name of the host scientist and institute
- Purpose of the STSM;
- Description of the work carried out during the STSM;
- Description of the main results obtained;
- Future collaboration with the host institution (incl. foreseen publications resulting from the STSM);

A letter of confirmation by the host scientist of the successful execution of the STSM must be uploaded to the eCOST.

According to the MC decision of CA17133, the Grantee has to send to STSM Coordinator also a short abstract and a photo of the STSM for communication purposes.

The Action Chair and STSM coordinator are responsible for approving the scientific report. The failure to submit the scientific report and the additional documents until the deadline will effectively cancel the grant. Once approved, payment of the STSM grant will be made by bank-to-bank transfer to the grantee.