

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):

NBS in city policies: mapping the terrain

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.

H2020 Project proGReg (<http://www.progreg.eu/>) is currently elaborating a spatial analysis of its partner cities (seven European and one Chinese) and a stakeholder mapping in the cities. This includes the collection of their current policies on Green Infrastructure and nature-based solutions and plans how to involve stakeholders and civil society in co-design and co-creation of NBS. The task of the STSM is to establish a comparative analysis across the eight case study cities reflecting the status quo of NBS integration in urban planning and to identify gaps and potentials for better policies on NBS on the city level.

Expected outcomes of the STSM are: (i) a joint paper to be written with the hosted researcher, (ii) contribution to the Working Group 5 (Transformation tools) of the CA17133 by mapping the existing practices, and (iii) additional sub-focus on WG 4 may be set by the proGReg focus on productive Green Infrastructure.

We are looking to award one grant to undertake a Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM) for a period between 6 to 8 weeks in the period of September to-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 RWTH Aachen University, Institute of Landscape Architecture (<http://www.la.rwth-aachen.de/cms/~nbfid/LA/?lidx=1>). With more than 45,000 students RWTH is the largest technical university in Germany located in the culturally diverse border triangle between Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. The STSM will be supervised by Dr.-Ing. Rieke Hansen, work package leader of the spatial analysis, and Dr.-Ing. Axel Timpe, coordinator of proGReg.

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 Iceland 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 minimum duration of one month, 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.

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.
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), full work plan (between 2-5 pages), list of publications, 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.

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>

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.