



Call for Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM)

COST Action CA15112- Functional Annotation of Animal Genomes - European network (FAANG-Europe)

Summary

We are looking to fund short-term scientific missions to develop linkages and scientific collaborations between participating institutions involved in the FAANG COST Action.

Objective

FAANG-Europe aims to establish a collaborative framework to enable functional annotation of animal genomes as well as to develop a shared research agenda to deliver improved functional annotation of animal genomes. STSM should contribute to this aim as well as to train research scientists and students in a) assays by sequencing, b) analysis of functional sequence data, c) use of annotated genome sequences and functional annotation data.

Important note: FAANG-Europe does not cover expenses related with research experiments, only funds the mobility of researchers (accommodation and travel expenses).

This call will be continuously open until the end of grant year April 2018, given that STSMs work-plan should end 15 April 2018, the report should be delivered by 20 April 2018 in order to allow processing of report and reimbursement. Even for ECIs, given the remaining time frame at this point it will not be possible to approve STSM workplans that exceed the 15 April.



Duration

Standard STSMs need to take place according to the following rules:

- Be a minimum duration of 5 days;
- Be a maximum duration of 90 days;
- Needs to be carried out in their entirety within a single grant period and within the Action's lifetime.
- **STSM should end before 15 April 2018;**

Specific additional provisions have been adopted by the CSO to encourage the participation of Early Career Investigators (ECI) in STSM.

- Be a minimum duration of 91 days;
- Be a maximum duration of 180 days;
- Needs to be carried out within their entirety within a single grant period and within the Action's lifetime.

Financial Support

An STSM grant is a fixed financial contribution which takes into consideration the budget request of the applicant and the outcome of the evaluation of the STSM application as determined by the Action Chair (or Vice Chair if the Action Chair is affiliated to the Grant Holder Institution) and / or the STSM Coordinator / Committee. STSM Grants do not necessarily cover all expenses related to performing a given mission. The Grant is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation and meal expenses of the Grantee. The calculation of this contribution for a STSM must be based on the following rules:

- up to a maximum of EUR 2 500 in total can be afforded to each successful STSM applicant;
- up to a maximum of EUR 160 per day can be afforded for accommodation and



meal expenses.

For ECIs (Early Career Investigators), the calculation for an increased financial contribution must respect the following criteria:

- up to a maximum of EUR 3 500 in total can be afforded to ECIs for missions with a duration of between 91 and 180 days;
- up to a maximum of EUR 160 per day can be afforded for accommodation and meal expenses.

For applicants from ITC (Inclusiveness Target Countries) 50% of grant reimbursement will be performed upon the completion of the STSM 1st day.

The Action Chair (or Vice Chair if the Action Chair is affiliated to the Grant Holder Institution) or the appointed STSM Coordinator / Committee can approve differentiated country rates to cover accommodation and meal expenses based on the perceived cost of living in the host country.

Eligibility

The Applicant should normally be engaged in a program of research as a post graduate student or postdoctoral fellow or be employed in an institution of a COST Country having accepted the MoU of the Action. This institution shall be actively participating in the COST Action. The home and the host institution can be public or private. A STSM may only be approved:



Home Institution	Host Institution
STSM from a Participating COST Full Member/ COST Cooperating Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To another Participating Full Member/ COST Cooperating Member ✓ To a COST partner member ✓ To an approved NNC institution ✓ To an approved IPC institution ✓ To an approved EC Bodies or Agency/ an approved European RTD Organisation/ an approved International Organisation
STSM from an approved NNC institution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To a Participating COST Full Member/ COST Cooperating Member
STSM from an approved European RTD Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To a Participating COST Full Member/ COST Cooperating Member

- The Applicant is responsible for obtaining the agreement of the host institution, before submitting his/her application.
- Early career investigators as well as researchers from COST Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) will be prioritized.

Application

Within COST Action CA15112, applications should be submitted according the procedure detailed below:

Step 1 – Formal agreement and on-line registration by the applicant

- Obtain the written agreement of the host institution, before submitting an application;
- Complete the online application form (see [on-line registration tool](#));

Step 2 – Formal STSM application and annexes

Send the completed online application form as e-mail attachment together with



the following necessary supporting documents:

- CV
- list of publications
- letter of support from the host institution
- full work plan discussing the methodology and the connection with functional annotation of animal genomes (max 2 pages)

to:

- the future Host of the STSM
- the Chair of the Management Committee of the Action - Prof Alan Archibald alan.archibald@roslin.ed.ac.uk
- the STSM coordinator – Dr Andreia Amaral andreiaamaral@fm.ul.pt
- the Secretary of the Action – Liz Brown liz.brown@roslin.ed.ac.uk

Step 3 – Assessment of the STSM

The STSM Coordinator will perform the scientific and budgetary assessment of the applications considering the Action objectives and define an acceptable funding level.

Step 4 – Approval from the Management Committee

Once positively assessed by the STSM Coordinator and approved by the Management Committee, the Grant Holder needs to receive the approval from the Management Committee and then send a grant letter generated from e-COST to the applicant.

The signed Grant Letter must be returned within 10 days to the financial manager of the action.

After the STSM

The grantee is required to submit a scientific report (3-5 pages) to the host



institution, MC Chair the STSM coordinator for approval within 30 days after the end date of the STSM containing:

- 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 (if applicable);
- Foreseen publications/articles resulting from the STSM (if applicable);
- Confirmation by the host institution of the successful execution of the STSM;
- Other comments (if any).



The failure to submit the scientific report within 30 days will effectively cancel the grant.

The MC Chair (or the STSM coordinator) is responsible for approving the scientific report and informing the Grant Holder that the STSM has been successfully accomplished. After receipt of the approval by email, the Grant Holder will execute the payment of the grant.

Further information and rules

Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the detailed information provided by COST.

- Full details on COST VADEMECUM
- COST website: [Short Term Scientific Missions](#)
- The awarded researchers as well as the Host and the Departure Institutions must release all data produced in an open access matter, rapidly and before publication, in adherence to the “FAANG Data Sharing Statement” which included both the “Toronto Statement” about pre-publication data sharing and the “Fort Lauderdale Principles” about the release of data and materials prior to publication. (please go to www.faang.org). Therefore data must be submitted to the FAANG Data portal at <http://data.faang.org/home>.

COST participating countries

Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, FYR Macedonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, United Kingdom.



COST participating Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs)

Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia.

Approved Institutions in International Partner Countries

Iowa State University (USA)

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
(Australia)

AgResearch (New Zealand)

Approved European RTD Organization

European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI)

FAANG-Europe Participants aiming to receive researchers

- FAANG data analysis/pipeline development:
 - Wageningen University and Research: please contact Prof. Martien Groenen (martien.groenen@wur.nl) or Dr Richard Crooijmans (richard.crooijmans@wur.nl)
 - Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences: please contact Prof. Joanna Szyda (joanna.szyda@up.wroc.pl)
 - Diagenode: please contact Mr Geoffrey Berguet (geoffrey.berguet@diagenode.com)

- Contribute to the generation of FAANG data:
 - Wageningen University and Research: please contact Prof. Martien Groenen (martien.groenen@wur.nl) or Dr Richard Crooijmans (richard.crooijmans@wur.nl)