

## **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.

#### **Call deadline: 31st October 2016**

#### **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 1st April 2017;

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.

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:

- from a home institution in a COST participating country to a host institution in a COST participating country or to a formally approved host institution in a non-COST country;
- from a formally approved home institution in a Near Neighbour country to a host institution in a COST participating country.
- 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 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](mailto:alan.archibald@roslin.ed.ac.uk)
- the STSM coordinator – Dr Andreia Amaral [andreiaamaral@fm.ul.pt](mailto:andreiaamaral@fm.ul.pt)
- the Secretary of the Action – Liz Brown [liz.brown@roslin.ed.ac.uk](mailto: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](#)