

**CA22145 Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM)****3rd Grant Period****2nd Call**

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) are institutional visits to a host organization located in a different country than the country of affiliation of the grantee. The institution/organisation or legal entity where applicants pursue their scientific mission/research are considered as Home Institutions. The Host Institution is the institution/organisation that will host the successful applicant.

Visits aim to support individual mobility, fostering collaboration between researchers on topics related to the Action.

The primary goal of GameTable is to foster interactions to create innovative computational methods to study and preserve the cultural heritage of tabletop games. Within this outline, we are interested in research related to the cultural understanding of tabletop games, the development of game-related AI techniques and finally the applications of our gaming research for cultural and educational institutions, and industry.

We encourage candidates to refer to the recently updated [Grant Awarding User guide and Annotated Rules for COST Action](#) to ensure the proper implementation of this networking instrument.

**Financial details:**

- An STSM Grant is a fixed financial contribution which takes into consideration the budget request of the applicant and the evaluation of the outcome of the application. STSM Grants do not necessarily cover all expenses related to undertaking a given mission. An STSM Grant is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation and meal expenses of the Grantee.
- EUR 4000 is the maximum amount grantable to each successful applicant. In the event of a high number of applications, the Scientific Committee could propose a cap on the maximum allowances in order to provide more grants.
- Each applicant is requested to provide details about the breakdown of the budget, and justify their expenses plan.
- Grants are paid by the Grant Holder Institution after the completion of the activity and approval of all required report/documentation. However, STSM grantees may request up to 50% pre-payment of the approved grant. This amount is subject to availability of funds and approval by the Grant Holder Institution. The request of pre-payment shall be submitted to the Grant Holder Manager.

**NB:** Please **do not use the Daily Allowance (DA)** rates published in the Annotated Rules to justify the amount of your request. Daily Allowance rate is designed for Meetings and Training Schools, intended for short stays.

### **Eligibility Criteria:**

- Applicants must be members of a GameTable Action Working Group.
- Proposed contributions and outcomes must align with the [Action MoU objectives](#).
- The host organisation must be in a different country than the applicant's home country.
- Applicants from minority groups in each represented field will be prioritised to encourage broader participation in the Action.
- Individuals who received an STSM in the 1st and 2nd grant periods will not be prioritised.
- The STSM needs to be carried out in its entirety within a single Grant Period and always within the Action's lifetime.
- Scientific missions should be undertaken within a time period of 5 to 90 days.

**NB:** note for potential hosts. **Please mind to invite just one applicant per call.** We encourage the mobility of researchers to different Institutions in different COST and ITC countries.

### **How to apply:**

Applicants must submit their STSM applications on the [e-COST website](#), by uploading the following supporting documents:

- Generated STSM COST form with details of involved Institutions, dates and requested amount.
- STSM Grant Application form, using the e-COST template that you can download while applying. In this document you will state the goals, the working plan and the expected outputs of your research mission.
- Letter of Agreement from the host institution, on official letterhead and signed.
- Additional supporting document with a breakdown of the expected expenses: accommodations, VISAs, flight, other transports. (Upload this under 'other documents' label in the application process or in the Application form)
- CV of the Applicant.

**A successful applicant cannot be granted more than once per grant period. Nevertheless, applicants can update and send applications in different STSM calls if they were not granted in the previous call.**

**Deadline:** This call for applications is open from 2nd of February to 2nd of April, 2026.

**Evaluation:**

- Proposals will be evaluated by the Action Grant Awarding Coordinators and the Core Group of the GameTable Network based on their scientific merit and requested budget.
- Applications are reviewed every two months after each call's deadline.
- Priority will be given to researchers under the age of 40.
- STSM applications that clearly outline how the mission could lead to a new publication will receive priority consideration.

**Post STSM requirements:**

The STSM Grantee has 30 calendar days from the end date of the mission to submit a scientific report to the Core Group of the GameTable Network and to a supervisor affiliated to the Host Institution. Payment of the Grant is subject to approval of the STSM scientific report by the GA coordinators and Core Group members of the Action.

*Please note:* The COST Association and the Grant Holder of the Action cannot be considered as being an STSM grantee's employer. STSM grantees must make their own arrangements for all provisions related to personal security, health, taxation, social security and pension matters.