Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) Applications

CA15137
European Network for Research Evaluation in the Social Sciences and the Humanities (ENRESSH)

Call Number 3_1
for Grant period 2 (01/05/2018 to 30/04/2019)
implementation from 1st June to 30th October 2018

What is the purpose of an STSM?

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) are aimed at strengthening existing networks and fostering collaborations by facilitating Researchers participating in a given COST Action to visit an institution or laboratory **in another <u>Participating COST Country</u> / an <u>approved NNC institution</u> or an <u>approved IPC institution</u>**. A STSM should specifically contribute to the overall scientific objectives of the COST Action*, whilst at the same time enable eligible researchers to learn new techniques or gain access to specific expertise, instruments and/or methods not available in their own institutions.

*CA15137 – ENRESSH
ENRESSH - European Network for Research Evaluation in the Social Sciences and the Humanities
The challenge of the Action is to enable the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) to better demonstrate their true place in academia and society. To do so, the Action proposes to bring together different strands of work consecrated to SSH research evaluation, currently under development in different parts of Europe, in order to gain momentum, to exchange best practices and results, and to avoid unnecessary duplication.

A call for 5 topics has been opened:
T1.1 Preparation of survey on evaluation and career (WG1);
T1.2 Peer Review as an Evaluation Process in the Social Sciences and Humanities (WG1);
T2 Delineating the field of SSH impact: lessons from an expert survey (WG2);
T3.1 Metadata standards in the frame of the ENRESSH-VIRTA information service (WG3);
T3.2 Coverage of SSH publications in major international indexes (WG3).

Topic 1.1 Preparation of survey on evaluation and career (WG1)

Host institution: FORS, located at the University of Lausanne (Switzerland)

Description of the topic: During this STSM, the grantee will develop a standardized questionnaire on the topic of evaluation and career. She or he will also develop a concept for the fieldwork for the international survey that will be conducted shortly after the STSM. The grantee will use the preliminary analyses of the qualitative interviews conducted within the

SIG EIC and the draft questionnaire developed in the SIG ECI-STSM of GP2 as a basis for the final questionnaire. FORS will provide expert knowledge on questionnaire development and survey design (question formulation, scale development, translation, sampling, fieldwork management, web-survey programming and management). The questionnaire development will be driven by findings of the qualitative interviews and the potential future analyses with the quantitative data in cooperation with the host and SIG EIC.

Objectives: This STSM will lead to a prepared fieldwork for a survey on evaluation and career among early career researchers. It is necessary for achieving the GAGP 10 "To release a questionnaire about the evaluation of ECI in various COST countries" and GAPG 2 "To understand the impact of evaluation practices on ECI careers". It further helps to advance the understanding of knowledge production and dissemination in the SSH (Task 1 of WG1).

Special criteria for this STSM: the applicant is willing to, and capable of, developing a survey on evaluation and (early) career with the support of the host institution.
Results: The proposed STSM will result in a questionnaire. Fieldwork for the survey will be prepared. Thus, the STSM contributes to the policy papers "Recommendations for better adapted approaches to research evaluation" (GAPG 6) and "Recommendations for better adapted criteria and indicators" (GP4). It will be a crucial input for the second Training School.

Practical details:
Working group: WG1 (conceptual frameworks for SSH research evaluation)
Duration and timing: between 2 to 4weeks in September/October 2018.
Location: FORS, Géopolis, CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland
Contact: Michael Ochsner (ochsner@evalhum.eu; michael.ochsner@fors.unil.ch)

Topic 1.2: Peer Review as an Evaluation Process in the Social Sciences and Humanities (WG1)

Host institution: University of Copenhagen, Department of Information Studies (Denmark).

Description of the topic: The role of peer review in SSH is to give scholars feedback on un-published manuscripts so that they can improve their research. Often it is referred to as the 'gold standard' of evaluation; yet, as a vetting process, it is time consuming, difficult to reproduce, subject to bias, and understudied (Campanario, 1998; Lee et al., 2013; Sayer, 2014). Little is known about the 'quality' of reviewing techniques and the effect that it is having on research products. In fact "there can be a huge variation" in how reviews are written, "from deep and insightful to shallow and misinformed" (Flier, 2016).[2] Across the humanities in particular, scholars generally believe that "there is a lack of consensus on quality criteria" and that "comparing or assessing research quality is impossible" (Hug et al., 2013, p. 370).[3] Guidelines are usually available to scholars concerning review practices; however without a sound body of research related to this, focused on large datasets of review texts, we have no evidence-base proxies for what we might call review 'quality' in the SSH.
The aim of this STSM is to investigate the peer review process both in terms of authors' observations concerning manuscript reviews, as well as the thematic content of review texts themselves (i.e., manuscript referee reports). The research is designed to operate inductively (i.e., identifying themes/concepts as they occur in full-text) rather using a hypothetico-deductive approach to the study of peer review. Our project will be guided; therefore; by three major research questions: 1) What 'proxies' of quality are prevalent in referee reports produced for journal articles/books in the SSH? 2) Do these proxies of 'quality' differ for

various disciplinary/subject areas?   3) Which 'proxies' of quality do SSH scholars perceive to be helpful in terms of stimulating specific types of actions?

Objectives: The first stage of data collection will involve the development and implementation of a questionnaire survey, with a specific crowd sourcing function: scholars from the SSH will be asked to respond to questions concerning their experience of a manuscript review process, and then submit copies of their received referee reports.   Use of this data will involve tagging, coding, and extracting concepts from the referee reports, and comparing them to the questionnaire responses. It is based on the notion that "text mining [via natural language processing] and qualitative research are epistemologically compatible" (Yu et al., 2011).6   The second stage will involve analysing the survey results and evaluating them in connection with the referee reports using a combination of statistics, computational linguistic methods, with the integration of hermeneutics and social simulation to the mixed-methods design..

Special criteria for this STSM: The applicant must have knowledge of SSH research in his or her country and ideally possess the following:
- Masters degree or Ph.D. in social science/humanities research, relevant to the study description and objectives outlined above;
- A sound scientific background relevant to peer review research;
- Excellent skills related to the development of and analysis of questionnaire-based surveys;
- Excellent skills in quantitative or computational research methods;
- High interdisciplinary openness;
- Excellent English language skills (oral and written);
- High communicative and inter-cultural competence.

Results: The proposed STSM will a) contribute to new insights and indicators related to peer review and SSH research, b) generate empirical evidence for developing better approaches to peer review, and c) result in co-authored publications, as well as further applications for project funding with European granting agencies.

Practical details:
Working group: WG1 (conceptual frameworks for SSH research evaluation);
Duration and timing: between 2 weeks and 1 month from June to November 2018;
Location: University of Copenhagen (Denmark) - http://www.ku.dk/ENGLISH/;
Contact: Alesia Zuccala (mailto:a.zuccala@hum.ku.dk).

Topic 2: Delineating the field of SSH impact: lessons from an expert survey (WG2)

Host institution: CHEPS located at the University of Twente (the Netherlands)

Description of the topic:
Identifying the societal impact of public funded research has become a hot topic that is receiving more attention in both the academic and policy arena. However, to initiate a well-directed debate/discussion on the societal impact of research, a pre-condition is to establish a common vocabulary and understanding of what constitutes research societal impact and what does not. This STSM focuses specifically on deliminating the boundaries of SSH as disciplinary fields and their orientations towards societal impact, asking whether research impact can be provided by the SSH field itself or in combination with other science fields. The STSM will

conduct an exploratory analysis of researchers' reply to a questionnaire in order to identify the myths surrounding what constitutes research societal impact in SSH, to develop a common terminology and understanding for addressing this issue.

Objectives: This STSM aims to advance the understanding of the contextual conditions of SSH societal impact creation (Task 1 of WG2). In particular, the STSM seeks to develop a common language and vocabulary for talking about what matters to SSH impact generation in ways that are relevant to the field and not drawn from other fields. This analysis will complement the work already taken of specific examples of impact creation (STSM 1_1, 2_1) and also provide empirical material to support the theoretical framework developed setting out the problems of complementarity vs contradictions (STSM 2_2). The final output will be an analysis of the most common definitions of various key concepts within SSH valorisation.

Special criteria for this STSM: the applicant has knowledge of the theories, practices and policies for the stimulation of societal impact from SSH research activities. The applicant must also have knowledge of qualitative analysis (ideally narrative analysis or be willing to learn that skill.

Results: The proposed STSM will supplement the existing empirical work undertaken in STSMs 1_1, 2_1 and 2_3, and help to complement the theoretical work undertaken in STSM 2_2. This will result in co-authored publications.

Practical details:
Working group: WG2 (Societal Impact of SSH Research);
Duration and timing: between 2 weeks and 1 month;
Location: CHEPS, University of Twente, the Netherlands;
Contact: Paul Benneworth (p.benneworth@utwente.nl).

Topic 3.1 Metadata standards in the frame of the ENRESSH-VIRTA information service (WG3)

Host institution: CSC - IT Center for Science Ltd, Research Information Management and Interoperability.

Description of the topic: ENRESSH-VIRTA is a collaborative project conducted as part of the activities of the working group 3. The project aims at integration of publication information from various countries and organizations. The grantee of this STSM will contribute to both technical and contextual development of the proof of concept VIRTA-ENRESSH-POC into a European research information service. Particularly, he or she will support the project in the context of metadata standards and harvesting and integration of information from various data sources.

Objectives:
- Explore the current technology and data model of ENRESSH-VIRTA;
- Investigate the potential use of international metadata standards, CERIF in particular in harvesting and exporting publication data in the frame of the European research information service.

Results:

- A review on potential of CERIF data model in data harvest and export in ENRESSH-VIRTA information service
- A protocol for mapping heterogeneous data from various national, institutional or local sources into a common standardized data model;
- A plan for automatic generation of publication type information.

Special criteria for this STSM: Preferably the applicant has access to and is familiar with the data infrastructure in their own country or region. Understanding of the CERIF data model is an advantage.

Practical details: Working group: WG3 (databases and uses of data for understanding SSH research);
Duration: between 2 weeks and 2 months;
Location: CSC - IT Center for Science Ltd, Espoo, Finland;
Contact: Hanna-Mari Puuska (hanna-mari.puuska@csc.fi).

Topic 3.2: Coverage of SSH publications in major international indexes (WG3)

Host institution: Centre for R&D monitoring (ECOOM), University of Antwerp.

Topic: Coverage of SSH publications from Central European Countries in major international indexes (e.g. Web of Science, Scopus).

Objectives:

- A recent comparative study of eight European countries (Kulczycki et al, 2018) revealed important differences across countries and SSH disciplines in terms of language use and publication types. Building on this work this STSM will contribute to the further understanding of those differences by studying the coverage of journal publications from Central European Countries in major international indexes;
- Identify trends in terms of coverage by a major international index and disentangle them in terms of changes in publication patterns and indexing of additional journals (cf. Ossenblok, Engels and Sivertsen, 2012).

Results:

- Analysis of the coverage in a major international index of journal publications from two or more CEE countries in recent years;
- Analysis of the scope (regional vs international) and the reputation indicators of the indexed journals that have been published from CEE countries;
- Conference presentation and publication in peer-reviewed journal.

Special criteria for this STSM: The applicant has access to and is familiar with the data infrastructure in a central European country; the applicant is familiar with the interfaces of major international indexes; data collection is anticipated to take place prior to the STSM.

Practical details: Working group: WG3 (databases and uses of data for understanding SSH research);
Duration: between 2 weeks and 2 months;
Location: Centre for R&D monitoring (ECOOM), University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium;
Contact: Raf Guns (raf.guns@uantwerpen.be).

Who is eligible to partake in ENRESSH STSM?

A STSM applicant must be engaged in a research programme as a PhD Student or postdoctoral fellow or can be employed by, or affiliated to, an Institution or legal entity which has within its remit a clear association with performing scientific research.

If the above requirements are satisfied researchers from the following countries (their primary affiliation is held) are eligible to receive an ENRESSH STSM grant:

1. Researchers holding their primary affiliation at an institution located in a <u>Participating COST Country.</u> A list of Participating COST Countries can be found on the respective COST Action Webpage at www.cost.eu.

2. For Researchers holding their primary affiliation in a Near Neighbour Country (NNC), the consideration for being eligible to receive a STSM grant is linked to whether their institution has been <u>formally approved onto the Action or not</u> – <u>The eligibility status of Researchers located in NNC is restricted to those affiliated to approved NNC institutions</u>.
The complete list of NNC can be found at
http://www.cost.eu/about_cost/cost_countries/international_cooperation/nnc. A list of approved NNC Institutions can be found on the respective COST Action Webpage at www.cost.eu.

3. For Researchers holding their primary affiliation at a European RTD Organisation, the consideration for being eligible to receive a STSM grant is linked to whether their institution has been <u>formally approved</u> onto the Action or not. The eligibility status of Researchers located in European RTD Organisations is restricted to those affiliated to <u>approved European RTD Organisations</u>. A list of European RTD organisations is detailed in Annex II of the COST Vademecum Part 1: COST Action (see http://www.cost.eu/participate/guidelines). A list of approved European RTD Organisations can be found on the respective COST Action Webpage at www.cost.eu.

Timeframe of the STSMs

Call 3_1 for STSM Applications for Missions Occurring between 01/06/2018 and 30/10/2018
Duration of all STSM activities is from 2 weeks up to 3 months (mind topics' variations).

Financial support

The financial support is a contribution to the overall expenses incurred during the STSM and may not necessarily cover all of the associated outgoings. The following funding conditions apply and must be respected:

1. Travel expenses cannot exceed EUR 500;
2. For accommodation and meal expenses, a maximum amount of EUR 160 per day can be considered;
3. A maximum of EUR 2500 in total can be afforded to the grantee.
4. The final amount of the grant is dependent on the duration of the STSM and the level of prices at the host country.
4. STSM activities must occur in their entirety within the dates specified in this call.

Financial support is limited to cover travel and subsistence expenses and is paid as a grant. Payment of the Grant is subject to the scientific report (**after the completion of STMS**) being approved by the Action Chair, STSM Coordinator and a researcher affiliated to the Host institution.

Selection criteria

- **The application of the research to the field of the Action** – a detailed work plan will help determine if the scientific aims of the work will be applicable to the Action's aims.
- **The home institution of the researcher** – We will take into account the number of applications from each institution to ensure a fair spread of researches across the network.
- **The experience of the researcher** – in line with COST Office rules, we will preferentially award STSMs to early stage researchers (PhD + <8 years). This should not discourage more experienced researchers from applying but their chances of being selected are slightly reduced.
- **The publication potential of the research carried out** – a short publication plan as part of the work plan, including intended journal, aim/working title and timescale for submission, will help to identify the most promising research.
- **Geographical and gender balance** issues will be taken into consideration;
- **The research should fit into the host institutions' research profile.**

How to apply for an STSM

Interested Researchers are advised to follow the directions provided below and submit their application and supporting documents to Mimi Urbanc (mimi.urbanc@zrc-sazu.si) by the deadline of the 1/05/2018.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

1. All applicants must carefully read the funding rules detailed in section 6 of the *COST Vademecum: COST Action Part 1 - Short Term Scientific Mission (pages 32–35)*. This document is available at: http://www.cost.eu/participate/guidelines and http://www.google.si/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0ahUKEwi0uOvj77vOAhUC7BQKHQ8aD1IQFggmMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cost.eu%2Fdownload%2FCOST_Vademecum_Part_1_COST_Actions&usg=AFQjCNELzE83WJOCe-263FVg6mdDwY0RVA&sig2=13nkkxBQE404fZRRxjGV0Q&bvm=bv.129422649,d.bGg.

2. All applicants must register for an e-COST profile at https://e-services.cost.eu/ - adding their bank account details to their profile.

3. All applicants must complete, submit and download their STSM application online at: https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm.

4. All applicants must send their submitted STSM application form and the relevant supporting documents to Mimi Urbanc mimi.urbanc@zrc-sazu.si for evaluation before the application submission deadline expires.

The list of supporting documents to be submitted for the evaluation includes:
- The submitted **STSM application form** (downloadable when the online application is submitted - see point 3 above)
- **A motivation letter** including an overview of the proposed activities that will be performed which must contain a **work plan** for the visit highlighting the proposed contribution to the scientific objectives of the ENRESSH COST Action and the general activities of the host institution;
- **A letter of support** from the home Institution;

- **A written agreement** of the host institution
- **A Full C.V** (including a list of academic publications – if applicable). The CV must include the award date of the applicants PhD and their current position.

The applications will then be assessed by the Action Steering Committee and researchers affiliated to the Host institutions.

7. The applicant will be formally notified of the outcome of their STSM application by Mimi Urbanc by 10/05/2018.

8. Within 30 days from the end date of the STSM, the successful applicant must submit a scientific report to the Host institution and to Mimi Urbanc. The applicant is also responsible for acquiring an official acceptance letter / Email confirmation of acceptance from a senior Researcher affiliated to the Host institution formally accepting the scientific report. This formal acceptance of the scientific report has to be sent to the Grant Holder and Mimi Urbanc for archiving purposes.

Failure to submit the scientific report within 30 days from the end date of the STSM will effectively cancel the grant.

(Please note that COST can request additional information to substantiate the information contained within the documents submitted by STSM applicants).

Dates to remember

Deadline for applications to be submitted: 01/05/2018
Notification of application outcome: 10/05/2018
Period of STSM: between 01/06/2018 and 30/10/2018
Submitting the reports: within 30 days from the end date (not later than by 01/12/2018)
Accepting/ rejecting the reports: by 15/12/2018
Execution the payment of the grant: after receipt of the approval (by 15/01/2019).