

## **Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) under COST ACTION IS1106 – Offender Supervision in Europe**

The call for applications for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) under COST ACTION IS1106 – Offender Supervision in Europe is now open. This document contains particular information for applicants in 8 sections.

### **1. Aim of the STSM and deadline for submission**

The aim of a STSM as defined by COST guidelines is to contribute to the scientific objectives of a COST Action. These Actions aim at strengthening the existing COST Actions by allowing researcher/scientists to go to an institution or laboratory in another COST country to foster collaboration, to learn a new technique or undertake innovative research. They are particularly intended for young researchers. **Applications can be submitted at any time.**

### **2. Topics**

Offender Supervision in Europe has developed rapidly in scale, distribution and intensity in recent years. However, the emergence of mass supervision (i.e. in the community) has largely escaped the attention of legal scholars and social scientists more concerned with the mass incarceration reflected in prison growth. As well as representing an important analytical lacuna for penology in general and comparative criminal justice in particular, the neglect of supervision means that research has not delivered the knowledge that is urgently required to engage with political, policy and practice communities grappling with delivering justice efficiently and effectively in fiscally straitened times, and with the challenges of communicating the meaning, legitimacy and utility of supervision to an insecure public.

The Action IS1106 aims to remedy these problems by facilitating cooperation between institutions and individuals in different European states (and with different disciplinary perspectives) who are already carrying out research on offender supervision or, in the case of early stage researchers, are attracted to that field. It will review and synthesise existing knowledge and then enrich it through interdisciplinary and comparative work and capacity building. The Action will thus provide a European forum on offender supervision for academics, policy makers, practitioners and interested citizens.

The Action is organized into four Working Groups (WG):

WG 1: Experiencing Supervision

WG 2: Decision-making and Supervision

WG 3: Practising Supervision

WG 4: European Policy and Practice

The Action especially welcomes proposals that enhance collaborative research within the network, with excellence remaining a major assessment criterion. Emphasis is on activities that will contribute to research on one of the topics of the Action's WGs, or on an area of common interest across the working groups. The applicants should specify, when submitting their application, to which of the 4 WGs their proposed mission belongs, and/or, in broad terms, how it advances the overall aims and objectives of the Action. They should furthermore show

clearly in their applications how the planned activities and the selection of the Hosting Institution will contribute to this aim.

### **3. Financial Supports**

A grant usually covers travel and subsistence. The financial support is a contribution to the costs of a STSM and may not necessarily cover all the costs. The maximum award is usually for 2,500EUR, but where early stage researchers are permitted to undertake an STSM of over 3 months this may be increased to a maximum of 3,500EUR.

### **4. Applicant and Host Institution**

The Applicant should normally be engaged in a programme of research as a post graduate student or postdoctoral fellow or be employed in an institution of a COST country having accepted the "Memorandum of Understanding" (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:

- a) 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
- b) 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.

### **5. Duration**

STSMs are minimum one week (5 working days), maximum 3 months, and shall be made within the time frame of the operation identified in the proposal and within the period of the Action (27th March 2012 to 16th March 2016). For Early Stage Researchers (less than PhD + 8 years) the Management Committee may approve an extension to duration beyond 3 months, but normally not more than 6 months in total. The STSM of the first call have to start between the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2012 and end within the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2013.

### **6. Application (5 steps)**

#### **STEP 1 - on-line registration by the applicant**

The Applicant must apply on-line (<https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>) at least 4 weeks before the beginning of the STSM.

#### **STEP 2 – formal STSM application and annexes**

After encoding the information and pressing the "submit" button the on-line registration tool will issue a formal STSM application which has to be downloaded and sent by the applicant electronically together with a detailed explanation about how the STSM will contribute to the aims of Action IS1106 and any necessary document which the Applicant may regard as helpful in supporting the application at the evaluation process (such as CV, list of publications, motivation letter, letter of support from the home institute etc.) send to:

- the future Host of the STSM;
- the Chair of the Management Committee of the Action – Professor Fergus McNeill on [Fergus.McNeill@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Fergus.McNeill@glasgow.ac.uk)

#### **STEP 3 – Assessment of the STSM**

The MC chair will arrange the assessment of the STSM.

**STEP 4 – Approval/Rejection from the Management Committee**

The MC Chair informs the Grant Holder that the proposed STSM has been approved or not.

**STEP 5 – Cost Office Acceptance Letter (Grant Letter)**

The Grant Holder will send to the Applicant an acceptance letter in which s/he is informed about:

- a) the approval of the STSM and;
- b) the level of the financial grant given.

The Applicant has to return this acceptance letter, after accepting the grant with his/her signature.

## **7. After the STSM**

After completion of the STSM the grantee is required to submit to the host institution and MC Chair a scientific report on the visit within 4 weeks after his/her stay.

It should contain the following information:

- Purpose of the STSM,
- Description of the work carried out during the STSM,
- Description of the main results obtained,
- Future collaboration with host institution (if applicable),
- Foreseen publications/articles resulting or to result from the STSM (if applicable),
- Confirmation by the host institution of the successful execution of the STSM.
- Other comments (if any).

The MC Chair is responsible for approving the final report and sending the notice of completion of the STSM to the Grant Holder, with the confirmation that the STSM has been successfully accomplished and that the grant can be paid. Publications resulting from STSM activities should acknowledge COST IS1106 support.

## **8. Further information and rules**

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

1. Full details on COST Vademecum – Grant System section 4. Please read the COST Vademecum carefully.
2. In addition, for further information we recommended to visit the COST website: Short Term Scientific Missions.
3. For support during the application process contact:

Dr. Sandra Scicluna - [sandra.scicluna@um.edu.mt](mailto:sandra.scicluna@um.edu.mt)

Dr. Ineke Pruin - [ineke.pruin@yahoo.de](mailto:ineke.pruin@yahoo.de)

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