

## Seventh Call for Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM)

This is a call for applications for STSM in the framework of the COST Action SAGA (CA17131), Grant Period 5:

- Open call: December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.
- **The call will remain open until January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**
- Missions should start 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 and be completed by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.
- Please note that interested applicants should familiarise themselves with the COST Action SAGA aim and objectives (described in the proposal published here: <https://riojournal.com/arti-cle/31648/>) and read the ANNOTATED RULES FOR COST ACTIONS: <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2022/10/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V1.3-.pdf> to establish whether they are eligible to apply for an STSM.

### What is an STSM?

An STSM facilitates Researchers from COST Countries participating in COST Action SAGA to go to an institution, organisation or research centre in another participating COST Country to foster collaboration and to perform research.

## Who can apply?

Participation of young researchers and innovators in STSMs is particularly encouraged. An applicant can be considered as being an ECI when the time that has elapsed between the award date of the applicant's PhD and the date of the applicant's first involvement in the COST Action SAGA does not exceed 8 years. PhD students are also eligible to partake in STSM.

The STSM must specifically contribute to the research coordination and capacity building objectives of COST Action SAGA. For this Grant Period (GP) 5, STSM aiming to address the specific objectives and tasks of Working Group (WG) 1, WG 2 and WG 3, detailed in SAGA's proposal (link at the end of the document) will be prioritised.

## How much?

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.

Maximum amount is up to 4000 EUR per grant. However, general STSM grant allocations are ~2000 EUR. A budget indicating estimated costs must be included in the application.

STSM Grants do not necessarily cover all expenses related to undertaking a given mission. A STSM Grant is a contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses.

## How to apply?

Interested researchers must carefully read the funding rules detailed in ANNOTATED RULES FOR COST ACTIONS (link at the end of the document).

Applicants can apply by following the directions below. In addition, they are welcome to request more information

or clarification to our STSM Coordinator Dr Elina Aidona (email: [aidona@geo.auth.gr](mailto:aidona@geo.auth.gr)).

### **Instructions for submitting the online application**

Firstly, all applicants must register for an e-COST profile (link at the end of the document).

Applications for STSM are managed through the e-COST management tool.

In order to do access to the online STSM application, you need first to log in using your e-COST profile.

The Applicant must use the online e-COST tool to register the request for an STSM. The following information must be encoded with the registration:

1. To be filled in e-COST:

- Title
- Start and end date (within the active Grant Period);
- Budget requested by the applicant;
- Information about the host institution and contact person.

2. To be uploaded to e-COST:

- Application form (template available on e-COST) describing: Goals, description of the work to be carried out by the applicant, expected outcomes and description of the contribution to the Action MoU objectives;
- Confirmation of the host (generally the Head of Department) on the agreement from the host institution in receiving the applicant;
- Full CV of the applicant (including a list of academic publications, if applicable).

## Instructions for writing the Work Plan

A complete proposal must include the following sections:

1. Aim and motivation: Explain the purpose of the STSM and what scientific and/or other outcomes you aim to accomplish with the STSM. State which WG covers the aims of the STSM best. **Very importantly, explain how the STSM aims and outcomes relate to the specific scientific objectives of SAGA and specific WGs objectives/tasks** (these are detailed in SAGA's proposal and the link to the proposal can be found at the end of the document). Explain your choice for the Host institution (including a description of the Host Laboratory's expertise and link to their website, max 200 words).
2. Methods: Detail what methods /techniques you may learn to use, if applicable.
3. Work plan: Detail the steps you will take to achieve your proposed aims.
4. Expected output of the STSM: foreseen publications, future collaboration, etc.

## Selection of applicants

The applications will be pre-processed by the STSM Coordinator who will then distribute a list of applications (containing an informative summary as well as the

names of the Home and Host institutions) to be ranked by the STSM Selection Committee (i.e. SAGA's Core Group: Chair and Vice- chair,

WG leaders, STSM Coordinator and other SAGA coordinators.

To guarantee a fair and objective evaluation, evaluators should not hold an affiliation with neither the Home nor the Host institution of the STSM proposal in question.

Evaluation will be based on the scientific excellence of the applicant, the research proposal, and the relevance of the work plan for the achievement of COST Action SAGA objectives.

There should be special considerations with respect to supporting COST policies on promoting gender balance, enabling Early Career Investigators (ECI) and broadening geographical inclusiveness.

Successful applicants will receive a Grant letter/email confirmation from the Grant Holder, stating the official approval of the STSM application and the granted budget. The applicant has to notify acceptance of the Grant to the Grant Holder via email (SAGA's Chair & STSM Coordinator should be cc'd).

## After the STSM

The grantee is required to upload into e-COST a scientific report and Host approval of the report within 30 days after the end date of the STSM\*. The scientific report will require the approval of the Core Group in order to effect the payment of the Grant.

The submission of the supporting documents is mandatory, or the Grant is cancelled. Late submission beyond the deadline can also lead to the cancellation of the Grant.

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

Successful applicants will be asked to submit a brief summary of the STSM outputs for the Action's website describing the scientific report which will also be made available online.

*\*NOTE: For STSM ending close to the end of the Grant Period 5, the completion report must be returned by April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, so that the reimbursement procedure can be completed within the budget period.*

# Acknowledgement of COST Action SAGA

If work resulting from an STSM visit is published in a journal, please add the following acknowledgement:

***“This research was supported by a STSM Grant from COST Action SAGA: The Soil Science & Archaeo-Geophysics Alliance - CA17131 ([www.saga-cost.eu](http://www.saga-cost.eu)), supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology ([www.cost.eu](http://www.cost.eu))).”***

If the work is presented in a conference or other event, the oral or poster paper must

clearly display the:

- **SAGA logo**
- **SAGA’s website:** <http://www.saga-cost.eu>
- **COST Association and EU logos**

Please contact SAGA’s Science Communication Manager (Dr Agnese Kukela: [agnese.kukela@gmail.com](mailto:agnese.kukela@gmail.com)) for more information and high-resolution logo files.

## Links to key webpages and documents

- SAGA’s website: <https://www.saga-cost.eu>
- COST Action SAGA proposal: <https://riojournal.com/article/31648>
- SAGA’s admin site in COST Association website: <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA17131/#tabs|Name:overview>
- MoU (COST Action SAGA): <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA17131/#tabs|Name:overview>
- ANNOTATED RULES FOR COST ACTIONS: <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2022/10/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V1.3-.pdf>
- Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) User Guide: [https://www.cost.eu/grants\\_user\\_guide](https://www.cost.eu/grants_user_guide)
- Create an e-COST profile: <https://e-services.cost.eu>
- Online application form: <https://e-services.cost.eu/STSM> (this requires of an e-COST profile)

For further information please contact the STSM Coordinator:  
Dr Elina Aidona  
([aidona@geo.auth.gr](mailto:aidona@geo.auth.gr))



# SAGA

The Soil Science & Archaeo-Geophysics Alliance

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