



The [Cost Action 18207 Bottoms-Up](#) is excited to announce its 1st call for STSM applications for missions which will take place between 1st January 2020 and 15th April 2020. Please note that dates are flexible, the duration of the mission may vary from 1 week to the entire period, in fact all STSM activities must occur in their entirety within the dates specified above.

Purpose of STSM

To foster exchange between scientific institutions and organizations with the aim of learning new methods. In particular, the STSM has to advance knowledge related to the topic of the Cost Action 18207 “Biodiversity Of Temperate forest Taxa Orienting Management Sustainability by Unifying Perspectives”; especially of work groups 1 (Towards common tools for forest multi-taxon research and monitoring), working group 2 (Effect of management on biodiversity based on observations) and working group 3 (Effect of management on biodiversity based on experiments) (see also [here](#) for an overview).

The foreseen STSM will serve in particular the following aims: Developing a handbook for multi-taxon sampling in forests; building a European platform for forest multi-taxon and structure information; and developing a coordinated network of forest manipulation experiments including monitoring of multiple taxonomic groups.

Financial support

The following conditions apply:

- 1) A maximum amount of 2 500 Euros can be requested and deducted, this amount raises to 3 500 Euros for researchers having received their PhD less than 8 years ago with a mission length of more than 3 months.
- 2) The rules of the COST Vademecum apply [[Link](#)]. Please read the document carefully in advance and acknowledge in your application that you strictly follow it.

Financial support is limited to cover travel expenses, accommodation, meal expenses on a per day (160 Euros) basis and is paid in the form of a grant. The amounts granted for each individual STSM will be determined during the evaluation process by the STSM panel. The selection is based on the scientific scope of the application, which must clearly compliment the overall objectives of the Action and be related to one specific working group.

Who can apply

Researchers from one of participating Cost [countries](#). Desired host institutions are Sapienza University of Rome (contact: Sabina Burrascano [Email](#)) and University of Padua (contact: Tommaso Sitzia [Email](#)) in Italy, Centre for Ecological Research (contact: Peter Ódor [Email](#) or Flóra Tinya [Email](#)) in Hungary but other host institutions are also possible.

How to apply

Please send the following documents to the coordinator of the CA18207 STSMs Dr. Johannes Penner via [Email](#) as a single pdf file (max. 5mb) containing the following documents:

- 1) A letter of motivation, including a scientific research proposal for the envisioned activities at the host institution. A clear link to the scientific topics of the Cost Action and its working groups is required (maximum of 3 pages).
- 2) A letter of support from the home institution.
- 3) A letter of invitation from the host institution.
- 4) A brief CV (maximum 2 pages) with a list of publications.
- 5) List of estimated costs for the requested STSM.

Deadline

The application has to be submitted until 15th December 24:00 CET.

Evaluation

The STSM panel will rank applications based on their scientific quality, feasibility, diversity of contributions to the Cost Action and diversity of applicants. Applications from Early Career Investigators (ECI, maximum 8 years after receiving the PhD) and Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) are especially encouraged.

Requirements

Latest 30 days after the end date of the STSM (but anyway until 15th April 2020), the successful applicant must submit a scientific report to the host institution, the STSM coordinator (Johannes Penner) and the Action Chair (Sabina Burrascano). The scientific report has to cover a statement of how the project aims were achieved, a description of the work carried out and the outcome/results as well as expected publications that may arise from the STSM (if applicable). The applicant is also responsible for acquiring an official acceptance letter or 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 send to the Grant Holder (Sabina Burrascano) and the STSM coordinator (Johannes Penner) for archiving purposes. Failure to submit the scientific report within the deadline will cancel the grant. (Please note that the COST Association can request additional information to substantiate the information contained within the documents submitted by STSM applicants).

Useful links

To Memorandum of Understanding of CA18207 at the bottom page following this [link](#).

If you do have specific questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

Johannes Penner (STSM coordinator), Email: johannes.penner@wildlife.uni-freiburg.de

Sabina Burrascano (Action Chair), Email: sabina.burrascano@uniroma1.it

Sebastian Kepfer Rojas (STSM panel members), Email: skro@ign.ku.dk

Dimitrios Fotakis (STSM panel members), Email: fotakis@fri.gr