

COST OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCHERS' MOBILITY

Dr LETICIA BOTELLA SANCHEZ - MENDEL UNIVERSITY IN BRNO

25TH FEBRUARY 2022

**”Urban Tree Guard -
Safeguarding European urban trees
and forests through improved
biosecurity (UB3Guard)”**

COST ACTION CA20132

2021-2025



MOTIVATION BEHIND URBAN TREE GUARD (CA20132)

- ❖ 70% of the EU population (about 335 Million people) in cities, towns and suburban areas
- ❖ Trees provide multiple essential ecosystem services for people
- ❖ The threat: entry points for pest and pathogens



To develop strategy to support climate adaptation capacity and sustainable development in the urban areas

HEALTHY TREES FOR PEOPLE

Entomology

Biology

Urban
forestry

Forest
sciences

Pathology

Social
sciences

WORKING GROUPS

WG 1 - Identification

Finding the relevant stakeholder groups and mapping their needs.

WG 3- Integration
Informing policy, identifying obstacles and suggesting measures for policy implementation.



WG 2 - Innovation

Mapping and recommending available tools and measures for urban biosecurity.

WG 4 - Information

Transparent and rapid communication and dissemination activities and knowledge exchange.

RESEARCH COORDINATION OBJECTIVES

RCO1. Compile scientific and stakeholder knowledge about the tree species and genotypes with high relevance as urban trees, the resistance and vulnerability traits of these species, and management practices that may increase/reduce their vulnerability to pests.

RCO2. Detail (describe and where possible quantify) the risks along the known **pathways for introduction of pests into urban settings and beyond**, using selected urban areas and the most frequently used tree species as case studies.

RCO3. Map and evaluate the documented and potential **wider consequences of these risks** for the society and environment (multiple ecosystem services).

RCO4. Compile and evaluate information on the **tools and measures** that are currently available and feasible to use in detection, early eradication and containment of tree pests in urban settings.

RCO5. Conduct a **horizon scanning of emerging innovative concepts and technologies** for rapid early detection and effective monitoring of pest situations and urban tree health.



RESEARCH COORDINATION OBJECTIVES

RCO6. Develop a **multicriteria decision support tool** to identify tree species, suitable for planting in urban areas, that will tolerate and resist the expected problems with introduced pests.

RCO7. Describe **regulatory, institutional challenges in the efficient implementation of EU policies** related to prevention and containment of tree health problems across different scales of governance and countries; suggest measures for better implementation of these policies.

RCO8. **Inform policy and practice** in a rational and problemsolving manner by communicating and interacting with the relevant national and international decision-making forums, across the different scales of governance.

RCO9. **Identify knowledge gaps where new European research initiatives** are needed to promote tree health and reduce the risk of the negative effects due to pests in urban settings.



CAPACITY-BUILDING OBJECTIVES

- **CBO1. Establish a multinational, multidisciplinary and multisectoral network** of researchers, professionals and relevant organisations to create a platform for knowledge exchange regarding urban tree health and biosecurity issues related to it.
- **CBO2. Promote inclusive, innovative and translational research** by increased opportunities for development of multinational (pan-European and global) collaborations, facilitating participation of ITC countries while supporting long-term commitments and actions in research on urban tree health.
- **CBO3. Foster the competence and career development of next generation of professionals and research leaders** by creating an inclusive and open environment, promoting equality among genders, age-groups and nationalities, by assigning Early Career Researchers to leadership roles.



CAPACITY-BUILDING OBJECTIVES

- **CBO4. Promote innovation, creativity and entrepreneurial mind-sets** of researchers and stakeholders by organising a series of MAKEATHONS, result-oriented workshops where participants with diverse backgrounds and experiences will come together and focus on creating and making something (e.g., a prototype or a practical application) over a limited period of time (usually two days).
- **CBO5. Ensure open and rapid knowledge exchange, and support awareness raising** by co-creating an “Urban Forest Health” Wiki, a wiki-based hypertext publication that functions as an open repository for relevant information regarding tree health in urban settings.
- **CBO6. Support education in urban tree health** by developing an online repository of “Teaching Tools in Urban Forest Health”.



LEADERSHIP POSITIONS (CORE GROUP)

Role	Leader
Action Chair	Prof Johanna WITZELL (LINNÆUS UNIVERSITY, SE)
Action Vice Chair	Prof Roeland SAMSON (UNIVERSITY ANTWERPEN, BE)
Grant Holder Scientific Representative	Prof Johanna WITZELL
Science Communication Coordinator	Dr Laura VERBRUGGE (UNIVERSITY HELSINKI, FI)
Grant Awarding Coordinator	Dr Leticia BOTELLA SÁNCHEZ (MENDELU, CZ)
WG1 Leader	Dr Mariella MARZANO (FOREST RESEARCH, UK)
WG2 Leader	Dr Diana MARČIULYNIENĖ (INSTITUTE OF FORESTRY, LI)
WG3 Leader	Dr Dijana VULETIC (CROATIAN FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE)
WG4 Leader	Dr Kathrin BLUMENSTEIN (UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN, D)

Administrative Officer: Ms Milena STOYANOVA



CTRY *	Title	Firstname	Lastname	Group	Position	Institution
SE	Prof	Johanna	Witzell	MC Members	MC Chair	Linneuniversitetet
BE	Prof	Roeland	Samson	MC Members	MC Vice-Chair	University of Antwerp
AT	Dr	Michael	KIEHN	MC Members	MC Member	University of Vienna
AT	Ms	Yasmin	Dorfstetter	MC Members	MC Member	University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences
CZ	Dr	Leticia	Botella Sánchez	MC Members	MC Member	Mendel University
CZ	Dr	Martin	Mokroš	MC Members	MC Member	Czech University of Life Sciences Prague
DE	Dr	Kathrin	Blumenstein	MC Members	MC Member	Georg-August University Göttingen
DE	Dr	Somidh	Saha	MC Members	MC Member	Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
ES	Prof	Julio Javier	Diez Casero	MC Members	MC Member	FUNDACION GENERAL DE LA UNIVERSIDAD DE VALLADOLID
ES	Dr	Jorge	Martín García	MC Members	MC Member	University of Valladolid
EE	Dr	Rein	Drenkhan	MC Members	MC Member	Estonian University of Life Sciences
EE	Dr	Kalev	Adamson	MC Members	MC Member	Estonian University of Life Sciences
MD	Dr	Tatiana	Sirbu	MC Members	MC Member	"Alexandru Ciubotaru" National Botanical Garden (Institute)
FR	Dr	Cécile	ROBIN	MC Members	MC Member	INRAE
FR	Dr	Hervé	Jactel	MC Members	MC Member	French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment
FI	Dr	Laura	Verbrugge	MC Members	MC Member	Aalto University
FI	Dr	Eeva-Maria	Tuhkanen	MC Members	MC Member	Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)
UK	Prof	Stephen	Woodward	MC Members	MC Member	University of Aberdeen
UK	Dr	Mariella	Marzano	MC Members	MC Member	Forest Research
EL	Dr	Agisilaos	ECONOMOU	MC Members	MC Member	National Technical University of Athens
EL	Prof	Kalliopi	Radoglou	MC Members	MC Member	Department of Forestry and Managemnt of the Environment and Natural Resources
HU	Dr	Katalin	Tuba	MC Members	MC Member	University of Sopron, Institute of Natural Resources and Forest
HU	Mr	Ferenc	Lakatos	MC Members	MC Member	University of Sopron
HR	Dr	Dinka	Matosevic	MC Members	MC Member	Croatian Forest Research Institute
HR	Dr	Milan	Pernek	MC Members	MC Member	Croatian Forest Research Institute
IT	Dr	Alberto	Santini	MC Members	MC Member	Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche
IT	Dr	Anna Maria	Vettraiño	MC Members	MC Member	University of Tuscia
IE	Dr	Nick	McCarthy	MC Members	MC Member	Waterford Institute of Technology
IS	Dr	Brynja	Hrafnkelsdóttir	MC Members	MC Member	Icelandic Forestry research
LT	Dr	Diana	Marčiulynienė	MC Members	MC Member	Institute of Forestry
LT	Dr	Daiva	Burokienė	MC Members	MC Member	Nature Research Centre
MK	Prof	Irena	Papazova-Anakieva	MC Members	MC Member	Faculty of Forestry

Number of COST members represented: 30

Number of ITC countries: 18



Country	PI	Name	Address	MC Members	MC Member	Institution
MK	Prof	Kiril	Sotirovski	MC Members	MC Member	"Hans Em" Faculty of Forest Sciences, Landscape Architecture and Environmental Engineering
MT	Dr	Mark	Causon	MC Members	MC Member	Genista research foundation
PT	Dr	Helena	Bragança	MC Members	MC Member	INIAV, I.P. Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária e Veterinária
PT	Dr	Manuela	Branco	MC Members	MC Member	Instituto Superior de Agronomia - ISA
PL	Dr	Magdalena	Kacprzyk	MC Members	MC Member	University of Agriculture in Krakow
PL	Dr	Marta	Belka	MC Members	MC Member	Poznan University of Life Sciences
RO	Dr	Rares	Halbac-Cotoara-Zamfir	MC Members	MC Member	Universitatea Politehnica Timisoara
RO	Prof	Attila	BLENEȘI-DIMA	MC Members	MC Member	Banat University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine "King Michael the 1st", Timisoara
SE	Dr	Michelle	Cleary	MC Members	MC Member	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
SE	Dr	Johan	Östberg	MC Members	MC Member	Nature Based Solutions Institute
SI	Prof	Špela	Pezdevšek Malovrh	MC Members	MC Member	University of Ljubljana
SI	Dr	Bogomil	Breznik	MC Members	MC Member	TRIGLAVSKI NARODNI PARK
SK	Dr	Michal	Pástor	MC Members	MC Member	National Forest Centre
SK	Dr	Zuzana	Dobsinska	MC Members	MC Member	Technická univerzita
TR	Dr	Kahraman	İpekdal	MC Members	MC Member	Ahi Evran University
TR	Prof	Tuğba	LEHTIJARVI	MC Members	MC Member	Isparta University of Applied Sciences
BE	Prof	Roeland	Samson	MC Members	MC Member	University of Antwerp
BA	Prof	Mersudin	Avdibegović	MC Members	MC Member	Faculty of Forestry University of Sarajevo
BA	Prof	Tarik	Trestic	MC Members	MC Member	Faculty of Forestry - University of Sarajevo
BG	Prof	Margarita	Georgieva	MC Members	MC Member	Forest Research Institute, Sofia
BG	Dr	Ivaylo	Tsvetkov	MC Members	MC Member	Forest Research Institute
CH	Dr	Simone	Prospero	MC Members	MC Member	WSL
CH	Dr	Rene	Eschen	MC Members	MC Member	CABI
RS	Dr	Ilija	Djordjevic	MC Members	MC Member	Institute of forestry
RS	Dr	Leopold	Poljakovic-Pajnik	MC Members	MC Member	Institute of Lowland Forestry and Environment



SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS (STSM)



Open call

Deadline for application: 15th March, 2022

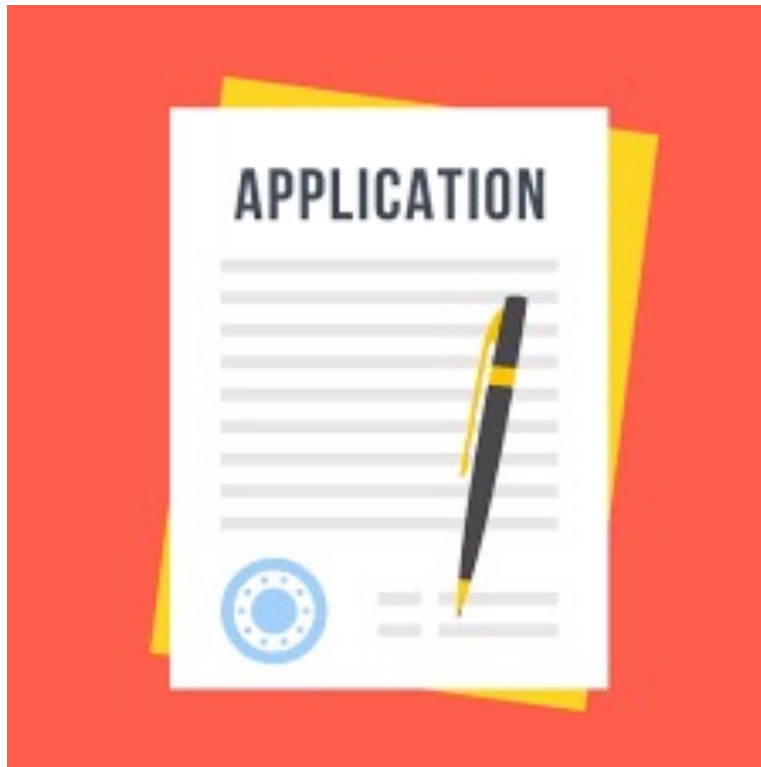
<https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>

<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2018/11/STSM-userguide-for-website-Oct-2018.pdf>

- **PhD Student or postdoctoral fellow or can be employed by, or affiliated to, an institution, organisation or legal entity which has within its remit a clear association with performing research.**



EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF APPLICANTS



- **Action MC.** The **Action Chair** (or Vice-Chair if the Action Chair is affiliated to the Grant Holder Institution) or the appointed **STSM Coordinator / Committee**.
- The selection of successful STSM applicants shall be done in consideration of the **scientific scope of the proposed mission and how the mission can support the Action in achieving its scientific objectives**.
- There should be special considerations made by the Action MC with respect to supporting COST policies on promoting **gender balance**, enabling **Early Career Investigators (ECI)**, **broadening geographical inclusiveness**.



CRITERIA FOR STSM

1. Aim & motivation - Please explain the scientific and/or other motivation for the STSM and what scientific and/or other outcomes you aim to accomplish with the STSM.
2. Proposed contribution to the scientific objectives of the Action.
3. Techniques - Please detail what techniques or equipment you may learn to use, if applicable.
4. Planning - Please detail the steps you will take to achieve your proposed aim.

- They shall have a minimum duration of **5 calendar days that includes travel.**
- STSM grantees shall make their own arrangements for all provisions related to personal security, health, taxation, social security and pension matters.
- **No restriction** on the number of STSMs a person can do



CRITERIA FOR STSM

- STSM Grants do not necessarily cover all expenses related to undertaking a given mission. A STSM Grant is a **contribution** to the overall travel, accommodation and meal expenses of the Grantee.
- The calculation of the financial contribution for each STSM shall respect the following criteria:
 - up to a maximum of **3,500 €**
 - up to a maximum of **160 €** per day can be afforded for accommodation and meal expenses
- The Action has money for **6-7 STSMs** within this Action year
- Possible to request a pre-payment of 50% of their STSM Grant when they complete the first day of their STSM.



APPROVING STSM FOR PAYMENT

Please ensure that the following supporting documents are uploaded in order to be able to submit your STSM application:

- Letter of support from the Home Institution
- Written agreement from the Host Institution that the STSM applicant can perform the activities detailed in the STSM work plan on the agreed dates
- CV

- The STSM Grantee has 30 calendar days from the end date of the mission to submit a scientific report to the Action Chair (or to the Vice-Chair if the Action Chair is affiliated to the Grant Holder Institution) / the appointed STSM Coordinator / Committee and to a senior researcher affiliated to the Host Institution.
- Payment of the Grant is subject to a STSM scientific report being approved on behalf of the Action's MC by the delegated person(s) responsible and by a senior researcher affiliated to the Host Institution. Written approval of the STSM scientific report by the aforementioned persons shall be uploaded in e-COST for archiving purposes.



CRITERIA FOR STSM

- STSM need to be carried out **entirety within a single Grant Period and always within the Action's lifetime**
 - The activities **from April 1st to October 15th, 2022**
 - The **grants should be reported latest on October 24th** to ensure that the grant can be paid to the grantee.



ITC CONFERENCE GRANTS

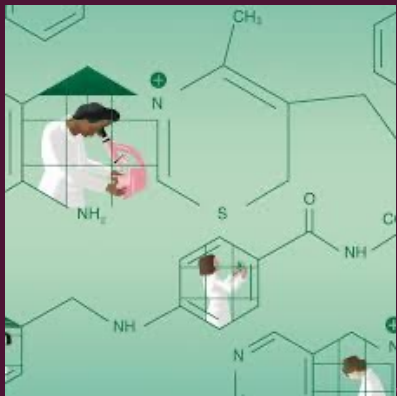
OPEN CALL

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: 15TH MARCH, 2022

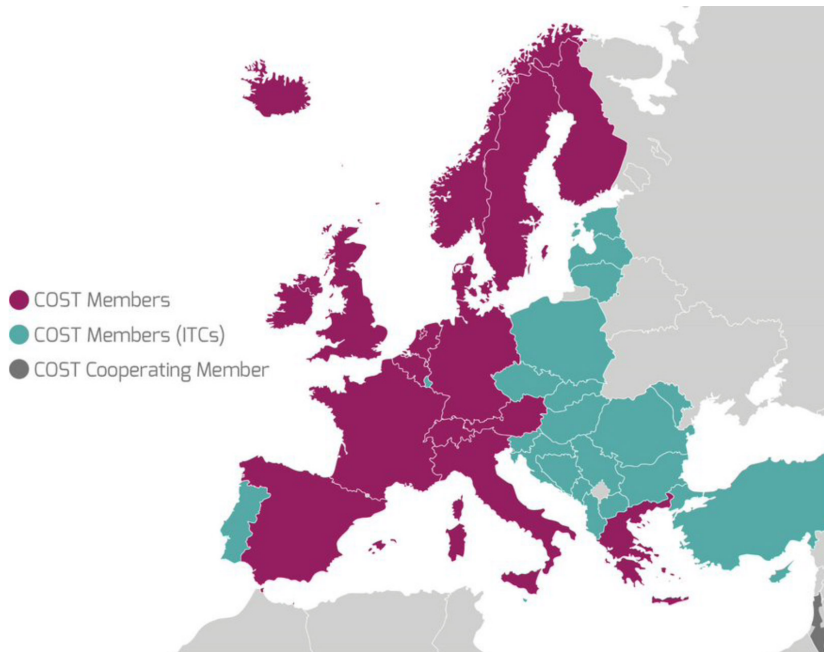
<https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>

<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/12/Grant-Awarding-userguide.pdf>

PhD students, PhD candidates, and employees with a primary affiliation in an institution located in an ITC participating in the Action.



INCLUSIVENESS TARGET COUNTRIES (ITC)



Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Serbia and Turkey.

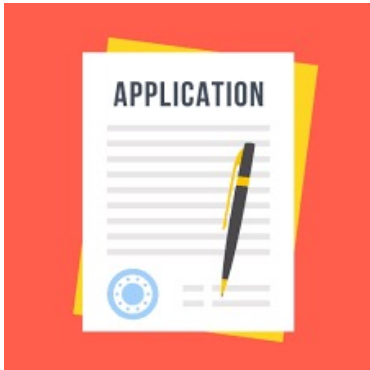


ITC CONFERENCE GRANTS – ELIGIBILITY RULES

- Conference Grants are exclusively reserved for **PhD students, PhD candidates, and ECI's** with a primary affiliation in an institution located in an ITC participating in the Action.
- The applicant shall make **an oral/poster presentation at the conference in question and shall be listed in the official event/conference programme.** The main subject of the oral presentation / poster presentation / speech at the approved conference shall be on the topic of the Action and shall acknowledge COST (see Section 10).
- The participation of each applicant shall be pre-approved by the Action MC.



EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF APPLICANTS



- **Action MC.** The **Action Chair** (or Vice-Chair if the Action Chair is affiliated to the Grant Holder Institution) or the appointed **STSM Coordinator / Committee**.
- The calculation of the financial contribution for each Conference Grant shall respect the following criteria:
- **Up to a maximum of 2 500 €** in total can be afforded to each successful applicant.
- **Up to a maximum of 160 € per day** can be afforded for accommodation and meal expenses.
- **Up to a maximum of 500 €** can be claimed for the conference fees to be incurred by the selected Grantee. Virtual conference fees can be considered eligible provided all other eligibility conditions are fulfilled.



DATES

- The activities **from April 1st to October 15th, 2022**
- The **grants should be reported latest on October 24th** to ensure that the grant can be paid to the grantee.



VIRTUAL MOBILITY (VM) GRANTS

- These grants aim at **strengthening the existing networks by allowing scientists to foster collaboration in a virtual setting**, to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, disseminate the Action results, etc.
- Applicants are Action participants with a primary affiliation to an institution located in a COST Full or Cooperating Member country or MC Observers from a COST Near Neighbour Country.



APPLICATION

- **Main objective** of the Virtual Mobility Grant.
- **Working Plan:** Description of the collaborative initiative to be implemented.
- Plan for Participation: **List of participants** in the collaborative initiative (short description of their expertise and contribution).
- **Main expected outputs:** results and contribution to the progress towards the MoU objectives (either research coordination and/or capacity building objectives can be tackled) and delivery of the MoU objectives.
- **Contribution to the COST Action Strategy:** How will the Virtual Mobility contribute to the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy and plans for stakeholder engagement and promoting participation of researchers from NNC and IPC (COST Global Networking) and to the approved virtual networking strategy, if available



THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION !!

EMAIL: qqbotell@mendelu.cz
Grant Awarding Coordinator

**”Urban Tree Guard -
Safeguarding European urban trees
and forests through improved
biosecurity (UB3Guard)”**

COST ACTION CA20132

