

LAND4FLOOD (CA16209)

Call for “Short Term Scientific Missions” (STSM)

2nd Grant Period (1. 5. 2018 – 30. 4. 2019)

Collection date for STSMs applications:

- **Deadline 21st September 2018** (proposals to be reviewed by 30th September)

The COST Action LAND4FLOOD encourages and supports exchange visits of PhD students, postdoc fellows and Early Career Investigators (ECI) from participating COST countries with travel grants for STSM for the second grant period.

STSMs have to be finished until the 20.3.2019.

LAND4FLOOD – topic and objectives (short overview)

The Action addresses flood protection measures, that go along grey infrastructure, i.e. dikes. As a complement to them, nature-based green infrastructure solutions such as Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM) are promising options to mitigate flood – but claim more land than traditional methods. Mobilizing private land for temporary flood storage means coordinating different actors and institutions in water management, essentially including landowners in management plans. Agreements which include new forms of temporal and spatial land use need to be supported, and also embedded in communication and negotiation strategies. To foster the implementation of green infrastructure options on private land, there is a need to find and implement ways to better connect academic interdisciplinary knowledge with real world policy formulation and decision-making.

The focus lies on the promotion of an inter- and transdisciplinary understanding of land for flood risk management and an increased actor involvement. **Three working groups** focus on different aspect of the topic, and each STSM should refer to the issues of one working group (learn more here: <http://www.land4flood.eu/working-groups/>).

To learn more about aims and the key questions of COST Action LAND4FLOOD, please look at the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) here: <http://www.land4flood.eu/land4flood-project/>.

For past STSMs see our web-page here: <http://www.land4flood.eu/stsms/>

Application instructions and eligibility criteria

Funding conditions and eligibility requirements

- !! Carefully read the **funding rules, detailed in section 8 of the *COST Vademecum (pp 33 ff)***: <http://www.cost.eu/participate/>. Inform yourself about the funding conditions, e.g. the **financial contribution**!
- As a STSM applicant you must be engaged in an official research program 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 research. Applications from Early Career Investigators (ECIs) (e.g. those with 8 years postdoctoral experience or less) are strongly encouraged.
- A STSM should have a minimum duration of 5 calendar days and a maximum duration of 90 calendar days (for ECIs it can be a minimum of 91 calendar days and a maximum 180 calendar days).
- If you have your own research proposal, get into contact with a host institute where you want to undertake your research. The host institute shall provide a supporting letter which is obligatory for your application, mentioning that your research proposal will be supported by a host supervisor.
- Researchers may only participate in one STSM during the lifetime of LAND4FLOOD.
- The financial support COST offers is a contribution in the form of a fixed grant, to the overall expenses incurred during the STSM. It may not necessarily cover all of the associated expenses incurred. Financial support is limited to cover travel and subsistence expenses and is paid as a grant at the end of the visit.
- A scientific report is required and has to be approved by the Action Chair and a senior researcher affiliated to the host institution (see the funding rules).
- As a STSM grantee you have to make your own arrangements for all provisions related to personal security, taxation, pension matters, health and social security.

A list of potential host organizations with contact details is also listed here:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ZiVWcmBQdvauQZ-PGfAW2cNajDU5rlfc> (folder “Offers for Hosting”), although please note that you can apply for an STSM in any organization and any country that participates in LAND4FLOOD.

Please contact the STSM-coordinator, Dr. Barbara Warner, via email if any queries relating to STSMs occur: Dr. Barbara Warner, warner@arl-net.de

Offering a STSM

Candidates for STSM can only apply, if they know, where. If you as a host-organization can offer a topic and a place for a STSM, just let us know and send us some information! The following basic information should your proposal (about 1 page) include:

- The Topic of the STSM and its content-related links to the COST Action, especially highlighting the contribution to one of the Working Groups agenda (see here: <http://www.land4flood.eu/working-groups/>)
- duration and contact person
- Expected outcome (e.g. conference paper, paper draft...)
- If any expertise of the candidate is required, please specify.

See the **template** for the hosting here: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ZiVWcmBQdvauQZ-PGfAW2cNajDU5rffc>.

Application for a STSM

- Remember the funding rules, mentioned in section 8 of the *COST Vademecum (pp 33 ff)*: <http://www.cost.eu/participate/>.
- The applicant must register on e-COST six weeks before the planned stay abroad.
- encode your STSM application by login into e-COST (you need a Login to apply!) and fill in the STSM profile. The following documents are required:
 - Motivation letter (1-2 pages, including contact details; a project title; proposed start and end of the STSM; contribution to the objectives of LAND4FLOOD and at least one of their working groups, and clear justification for choosing the hosting institution);
 - Written agreement from the host institution (stating name of applicant, time period of the STSM, and acceptance of the work plan, which has to be performed on the agreed dates);
 - Letter of support from the home institution;
 - Short work plan (1-2 pages) with expected outputs from the STSM (e.g. scientific paper, new dataset etc.);
 - CV (1-page), including publications and previous visiting fellowships.
- The STSM-Manager and the Chair of the Action will check the application documents and if eligibility requirements are met, the Workplan is in line with the Action's objectives and funding allows. The STSM committee will be established to decide upon missions to be funded.
- If the application has been approved, the grantee will receive a grant letter and a payment request form from e-COST; the grantee must return the signed grant letter to the COST office before going abroad and inform the STSM-Manager.
- In any case: send a letter of interest (your aims and interests for the STSM, concerning to the topics of LAND4FLOOD) to the STSM-coordinator Dr. Barbara Warner (warner@arl-net.de)

Evaluation criteria

The key will be the scientific focus of the mission (if it is in line with the LAND4FLOOD objectives and the objectives of the working groups). Please point out, how your work could contribute to at least one working group (<http://www.land4flood.eu/working-groups/>).

The attention will also be put to expected outputs. That could be a contribution to a conference or a draft of a paper. The outcome of the STSM has to be cleared already with the host organization.

We are ready to fund still up to 4 STSMs in the 2nd Grant Period. In case of more high quality applications, ECIs, women and researchers from inclusiveness countries will be prioritized. In case of remained resources in the budget we might increase the number of STSM.

... After finishing the STSM

- The applicant has to submit a scientific report (about 5-10 pages) to the host institution (for approval), and the STSM-Manager within 30 calendar days after the end date of the STSM. The report should include the following:
 - Aims of the STSM; work undertaken; main results; future plans (e.g. further cooperation with the host-institution, potential future publications etc.);
 - Outputs (e.g. academic paper, funding application, new dataset etc.);
 - Letter from the host institution which confirms that the applicant has successfully completed his/her stay.
- The final report must be completed and approved within 30 days for the money transfer to take place.

Please note: The STSMs of the second grant period have to be finished **until the 20. 3. 2019!**

If you have any questions, please contact the STSM-Manager Dr. Barbara Warner via email: warner@arl-net.de