

**CA15206 - COST ACTION PAYMENTS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES  
(PESFOR-W)  
SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM) DEADLINES & RULES  
FIRST GRANT PERIOD (NOV 2016 – APRIL 2017)**

**AIM**

The aim of a STSM is to foster research collaboration to contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST action PESFOR-W. Early Career Investigators (within 8 years of completing a PhD) and those from Inclusiveness Target Countries and under-represented groups are especially encouraged to apply.

**There is only one STSM CALL FOR FIRST GRANT PERIOD FOLLOWING MoU AND MC DECISION IN TWO TOPICS:**

1. Linked to WG2:  
**Effectiveness of woodland creation for reducing agricultural diffuse pollution**
2. Linked to WG3:  
**Approaches to quantifying cost-effectiveness of woodlands for water PES**

**STSM call submission deadline: 20 December 2016**

**All supported STSMs have to be completed before end of April 2017.**

All applicants will be contacted by the STSM coordinator and Grant holder. Successful applicants will receive a Grant letter, confirming approval and indicating the level of the financial grant given. Within four weeks after the end of the STSM, grantees are required to submit a scientific report of max 2000 words and following COST to the host institution and the STSM coordinator.

**HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION**

The Applicant must use the on-line registration, available on [www.cost.eu/STSM](http://www.cost.eu/STSM). The formal STSM application should be downloaded from the above website for your own record. In your emails, please always add your STSM-reference number, automatically generated by ecost-office, after your on-line registration.

Applicants are responsible for obtaining the agreement of the host institution before the submission of their application. To complete the application, your brief CV including relevant publications, motivation letter, letter of support from the home institution, has to be sent to the STSM coordinator as well as the future Host institution (**information on potential host institutes will be put on the PESFOR-W website**). All documents regarding the application should be delivered to the **Grant holder** – [claire.holmes@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:claire.holmes@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) STSM coordinator [sarvasova@nlcsk.org](mailto:sarvasova@nlcsk.org) and copy to the vice-chair of Action [gebhard.schueler@forestclim.eu](mailto:gebhard.schueler@forestclim.eu)

Please follow also the COST Vademecum ([www.cost.eu/download/COSTVademecum](http://www.cost.eu/download/COSTVademecum)). The financial support will be a fixed grant based on the Applicant's budget request.

Please keep in mind that the applicant should be engaged in a research programme as a PhD student, postdoctoral fellow, or be employed in an institution with a research remit in a country having accepted the MoU of the Action PESFOR-W.

## **ASSESSMENT OF THE STSM**

The STSM coordinator is in charge of arranging the assessment of STSM applications by Core Group (CG) members.

The following criteria will be used by CG members to assess applications:

- Applications must be relevant to the COST Action PESFOR-W and STSM call
- Applicants and host must be from two different member countries
- Quality of the proposal and work plan
- applicant qualifications and publications
- input to the COST Action
- concrete output, e.g. draft article, apply method to specific research, etc.
- costs (purposeful costs; shorter vs. longer stays)

**The application will be evaluated within 2-3 weeks following the deadline by STSM coordinator, vice chair and other respective CG members. Upon acceptance, positively evaluated applicants will be supported on budget possibilities. Upon approval of the scientific report by STSM coordinator and vice chair the grant will be paid directly to the applicant.**

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