

ADVANCE-TB SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS GRANT CALL For Grant Period 3

ADVANCE-TB COST Action 21164 opens a call for Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) Grants, for the Grant Period 3 (1st November 2024 - 31st October 2025). Before applying for the Grant please see [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#) that govern all activities of COST Actions.

A. PURPOSE OF SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION GRANT

Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSMs) is a grant awarded by the Grant Awarding Coordinator and the Grant Evaluation Committee, if appointed, with evaluation criteria set up by the Action Management Committee (MC), to an individual for supporting physical mobility aiming at capacity building and transfer of knowledge through bilateral/multilateral collaborations during a research stay in a different country.

STSMs are exchange visits to a host organization located in a different country than the country of affiliation of the applicant to carry out specific work as part of a research project. In addition to the research purposes, STSMs aim to support individual mobility, strengthen existing networks, and foster collaboration between COST Action participants.

A STSM should specifically contribute to the COST Action's scientific objectives while allowing those partaking in the missions to learn new techniques and gain access to specific data, instruments, and/or methods not available in their institutions/ organizations.

B. IMPORTANT DATES

The ADVANCE-TB Short-Term Scientific Missions Grant Call will be receiving applications according to the following timetable:

	1 st Round	2 nd Round
Open Application Round	9 th Dec 2024	1st June 2025
Deadline for submitting application	3rd March 2025	30th June 2025
Notification of decision applicants until	17th March 2025	15th July 2025
Start of STSM	Within 6 months after approval notification*	

*Please note that all STSMs should be completed before **30th September 2025**.

C. SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS ELIGIBILITY RULES

Call applicant should be:

- ✓ Action Member of the ADVANCE-TB COST Action 21164
- ✓ ADVANCE-TB Member with a primary affiliation to a legal entity located in one of the following (please see the [Country Organization Table](#) for details):
 - a COST Full or Cooperating Member country
 - a COST Near Neighbour Country or a European RTD Organization
- ✓ The applicant and/or home research group might have previous experience in projects related to the Action focused on tuberculosis, non-tuberculous mycobacteria infections or any other related aspects.
- ✓ First-time GP applicants will be prioritized.
- ✗ STSM proposals received out of the timetable will automatically be discarded.

STSMs should have a minimum duration of 5 calendar days, including travel. There is no maximum duration for the STSM, however the maximum available budget for the whole stay is €4,000 (see section E below for details) and may depend upon the ongoing Grant Period funding and the number of approved applications.

D. HOW TO APPLY

Eligible applicants shall follow these steps, according to the corresponding timetable:

1. Obtain a **Confirmation or Acceptance Letter** from the **Host institution** (including country, dates and duration)
2. Download and complete all the fields of the STSM grant application template, available here: https://www.cost.eu/STSM_GrantApplication
3. Complete the grant application online at <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>
 - Select the Action of interest (CA21164) and **Apply for New Grant**
 - Select **Mobility of Researchers and Innovators** → STSM
 - Fill the corresponding sections directly on the platform
 - Add the **supporting documents**:
 - i. STSM grant application template completed (step 2)
 - ii. CV (including a list of academic publications - if applicable)
 - iii. Motivation letter including expected new knowledge or access to new equipment or techniques and the clear link with the ADVANCE-TB objectives (1.000-3.000 words)
 - iv. Confirmation or Acceptance Letter from the Host institution

- v. Budget requested. More details on Section E-Financial Support
→ Click on **Submit application**

The eligible applicants will receive a confirmation e-mail for the successful reception of their application from the e-COST platform.

E. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Financial support for networking activities organized through a Grant Awarding Process is a grant awarded to individuals, not intended to cover employment costs. The scope will be to contribute to (but not necessarily cover all) travel, accommodation, and subsistence expenses, implementation of the project, delivery of the report to the COST Grant Awarding Coordinator, and overall effort. The cost of research materials is not eligible for consideration as part of the grant.

The amounts granted for each STSM will be determined during the evaluation process by the Grant Awarding Coordinator and the Grant Evaluation Committee, if appointed. This will be calculated according to the costs of travel, the Daily Allowance (DA) of the host country and the length of stay (numbers days), with a maximum of €4,000 per grant. The table with the DA amounts per country is public and can be found here:

<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2024/11/2024-Daily-allowance-table.pdf>

During the grant submission, the candidate will prepare a justification of the requested amount by filling in the **Estimated Budget Plan template** (found in ANNEX 1) and submit it with the application. The budget justification should include costs of travel, transportation, accommodation, meals and others.

The selected applicants should wait to receive the official Grant Letter from e-COST before booking any travel arrangements. STSMs grantees may request up to 50% pre-payment of the approved grant. This amount is subject to availability of funds and approval by the Grant Holder Institution. The request of pre-payment shall be submitted to the Grant Holder Manager(advance_tb@igtp.cat).

F. EVALUATION PROCEDURE AND SELECTION OF APPLICANTS

The applications will be evaluated within 15 working days and according to the above timetable in Section B and the results will be communicated to the applicants through the e-COST platform.

The system of evaluation assigns points to each item based on the criteria defined on a 0-100-point scale.

The Grant Awarding Coordinator is responsible for the coordination process and final approval of grants.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA (up 100 points)

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	POINTS
1	Applicant and/or host group from ITC country	0 or 10
2	Impact on the career of the applicant	15
3	Complementarity between the applicant and the host group	15
4	Multi / interdisciplinarity of the proposal	15
5	CV of the applicant	10
6	CV of the host group	10
7	Scientific Quality and Relevance of the STSM to the objectives of ADVANCE-TB	25

Please make sure to provide the required information for each of the evaluated items.

TOTAL POINT RATE	EVALUATION DECISION
0 – 50	Low recommendation application
51 - 80	Medium recommendation application
81 - 100	High recommendation application

In case the Grant Awarding Coordinator and the Grant Evaluation Committee (if appointed), detects that requested documents are missing and/or needs additional information during the evaluation process, the applicant will be contacted and missing details will be requested. In order to include missing files, the application will be rejected and afterwards, the applicant will be able to edit the application and re-submit with the corresponding documentation. This process can modify the date of notification of the final decision.

Please note that high priority will be given to STSM proposals that strongly promote the ADVANCE-TB COST Action, either by pushing forward the current initiatives or by leading to new initiatives.

G. REPORTING AND REIMBURSEMENT

Once the activity has ended and within 30 calendar days after the end date of the activity, the grantee must submit a report and relevant supporting documentation in e-COST. The process is as following:



1. Download and complete all the fields of the STSM Report template, available here:
→ https://www.cost.eu/STSM_Report
2. Upload the **report** on e-COST
3. Send the Grant Holder Manager by email a copy of your ID Card or Passport on advance_tb@igtp.cat

In addition to the scientific report, the grantee will be put in contact with WG4 Leader and Co-Leader for dissemination purposes. Please note that Grants funded by ADVANCE-TB will be posted on the official website and social media.

Payment of the Grant is subject to the STSM scientific report being approved by the Grant Awarding Coordinator and the Grant Evaluation Committee, if appointed.

The Grant Holder Institution will proceed with the final payment once the activity is completed and all required reports and documentation are approved.

More information can be found in the [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#) and [Funding Documents & Guidelines](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further information (advance_tb@igtp.cat).

Dr. Alicia Lacoma, PhD
Senior Researcher
ADVANCE-TB Chair

Dr. Cristina Prat Aymerich, MD, PhD
Senior Researcher
ADVANCE-TB Grant Awarding Coordinator

ANNEX 1: Estimated Budget Plan

The applicant is requested to fill in the below table to justify the requested budget amount for the Grant.

	Euro €
Registration Fee	
Travel Costs	
Accommodation and Meals	
TOTAL	