



COST Action “Unifying Approaches to Marine Connectivity for improved Resource Management for the Seas” (SEA-UNICORN)

CA19107



Funded by the Horizon 2020
Framework Programme of the
European Union

1st CALL FOR SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS (6 STSMs)

PERIOD MAY 2021 – AUGUST 2021

Deadline for applications : **April 15 2021**

We are pleased to announce the opening of the 1st Call for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) of the COST Action SEA-UNICORN (CA19107)

(<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA19107>)

(https://eservices.cost.eu/files/domain_files/CA/Action_CA19107/mou/CA19107-e.pdf)

WHAT ARE STSMs?

STSMs are institutional visits aimed at supporting individual mobility, fostering collaboration between researchers and are primarily addressed to PhD students or postdoctoral fellows. In any case applicants should have defended their PhD within the last 8 years.

A STSM grant is a fixed contribution based on the requested budget which is evaluated by the STSM Coordinator. The grant is for travel and subsistence costs only. It does not necessarily cover all such expenses.

STSMs must have a minimum duration of 5 calendar days and a maximum duration of 90 calendar days.

The financial contribution for each STSM is up to a maximum of 2.000 EURO in total and up to a maximum of 160 EURO per day for accommodation and meal expenses.

After the STSM, the STSM participant must submit a scientific report to the Host and to the STSM Coordinator within 30 days after the end of his/her stay.

The STSM has to take place abroad (in other COST country) and the candidate should get in touch with the proposed hosting institution individually.

The STSMs of this call have to take place between 15 May and 31 August 2021, and up to 6 STSM Grants are available. ***As long as COVID-19 pandemic impacts travel, grant dates will be considered well willingly.***

To learn more about COST rules and about Short-Term Scientific Missions please check the COST Vademecum that can be downloaded from: www.cost.eu/Vademecum

PROPOSED TOPICS

We invite you to apply for one of proposed topics related to specific Working Group objectives:

WG1 - Improving knowledge on MFC and its drivers (coordinators: Dr. Guiomar Rotllant (Spain) & Dr. Susanne Tanner (Portugal)). This WG aims at providing a coordination frame that would allow overcoming the important inter-disciplinary barriers that currently preclude the development of accurate knowledge on marine functional connectivity (MFC) and its drivers. WG1 critically evaluates the current state of knowledge on MFC (including at the sea-continent interface) and its evolution in the face of environmental changes. It will unify concepts and approaches to harmonize MFC research across disciplines and allow a more efficient use of resources at all levels (from sampling to results exploitation). Finally, it will seek to build comprehensive MFC descriptors, applicable to diverse taxa, regions and habitats and encompassing all the lifetime movements of marine organisms.

WG2 - Incorporating MFC knowledge into forecasting (coordinators: Dr. Angel Perez-Ruzafa (Spain) & Prof. Myron Peck (the Netherlands)). This WG fosters the integration of ideas between MFC scientists and complementary research fields (e.g. Theoretical Ecology, Functional Ecology, Biogeography) to help produce operational MFC data that could feed the innovative demographic, food-web, ecosystem and stoichiometric models currently developed in the emerging disciplines of Seascape Genetics, Spatial Ecology and Ecological Stoichiometry. The goal is to improve assessments of the vulnerability of marine species, communities and ecosystems to changes in global connectivity by contributing to the development of projection models that would integrate MFC data (at sea but also at the sea-continent interface) to better forecast the evolution of marine populations, communities and related ecosystem services.

WG3 - Producing relevant MFC data for management and policy-making (coordinators: Dr. Maria Beger (UK) & Dr. Rigers Bakiu (Albania)). This WG oversees the integration of the improved knowledge gathered by WG1 and WG2 into policy making and management strategies, in Europe and beyond. Its main aims will be to ensure that developments in the field of MFC are focused on societal needs, improve the quality of the scientific information produced to facilitate its incorporation into decision support tools and decision-making processes and to ensure that developments in MFC science are communicated effectively to a wide audience of stakeholders and end-users (e.g. ecosystem managers, national and international policy makers). By defining the policy and management context in which marine connectivity science needs to operate, WG3 will play a fundamental role in determining the direction and scope of work in the other two WGs.

DEADLINE AND APPLICATION

The regular call application is open from April 7 to April 15 2021. The evaluation results will be communicated within 4 weeks after submission.

If the 6 STMS grants are not taken or the total budget is not spent after this regular call, applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until May 31 2021 (until the 6 places are taken or the total budget is spent).

The STSM must be completed by August 31 2021!

If you are interested in applying, please follow the procedure:

- complete the on-line application form (at <https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>)
- download the formal application and send it as an e-mail attachment mentioning SEA-UNICORN STSM in the subject line to the STSM Coordinator (filip.volckaert@kuleuven.be) together with the necessary supporting documents:
- Full CV including award date of the applicant PhD, their current position and a list of academic publications (if applicable)
- Work plan proposal addressing one of the scientific WG of CONTEXT Cost action
- Motivation letter
- Letter of support from the home institution
- Letter of invitation from the host institution

The evaluation of applications will be performed by the Core Group, on behalf of the MC.

Selection criteria will consider:

- Scientific quality of application (30%)
- Relevance to proposed topic for the CONTEXT Cost Action (30%)
- Contribution to personal development of the candidate (10%)
- Curriculum vitae of the applicant (20%) (specific encouragement for Early Career investigators)

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us:

Prof. dr Filip Volckaert (STSM Coordinator) (filip.volckaert@kuleuven.be)

END