

What is ActInPak

ActInPak is a **COST Action** focused on active, smart and intelligent fiber-based packaging solutions; despite the huge potential showed by such products in the optimization of supply chain, improvement of the shelf-life and development of consumer consciousness in food utilization; very few of the potential solutions have been able to reach the market.

The main objective of the Action is thus to fill the gap among the research innovation, industrial production and commercial exploitation of new products by conducting research actions which encompasses not only the development of scientific and technical solutions, but also the analysis of opportunities for and obstacles to market introduction. The key technical, social, economic and legislative factors to focus on, and possibilities/limitations for successful market introduction will be identified by providing an open, multidisciplinary platform for the complete paper and board packaging value chain to share knowledge and solutions among partners.

What is an STSM

Short Term Scientific Missions are **COST** networking tools aimed at increasing collaborations through exchange of researchers between Partners. **STSMs** are thus exchange visits fostering collaboration, contributing to the scientific objectives of the Action and allowing participants to learn new techniques and to have access to data/instruments/methods not available in their own institution. They are particularly intended for young scientists such as **Early Career Investigators (ECI)**. **STSMs** can be from a Participating COST country:

- To another Participating **COST** country
- To an approved **Near Neighbour Country** (NNC) institution and vice versa
- To an approved **International Partner Country** (IPC) institution
- To an approved **European Organisation** (and vice versa in case of RTD organizations)

Each **STSM** has to be started and concluded in the same Grant Period - that is between June 1st of one year and 30th April of the next year for **ActInPak**.

COST distinguishes between two types of STSM with the following duration and allowed funding:

| | Duration | COSTS |
|---|---------------|------------------------|
| STSM | 5-90 days | 160 €/day up to € 2500 |
| STMS by an Early Career Investigator (ECI) | 91 – 180 days | 160 €/day up to € 3500 |

SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS

Application and selection procedure

Applicants can register online through the following website: <https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>

The following information has to be provided during the registration procedure:

- » the Action number;
- » the title of the planned STSM;
- » the start and end date;
- » the applicant's details, including key academic details and workplan;
- » the applicant's bank details;
- » the host institution;
- » financial data (amount for travel and subsistence)

After encoding the information a formal STSM application will be issued which has to be downloaded and sent by the applicant electronically (by e-mail as attachment) together with CV, full work plan*, list of publications motivation letter, letter of support from the home institute and invitation letter from the host institution and any other documents which the Applicant may regard as helpful in supporting the application at the evaluation process to:

- » the future Host of the STSM;
- » the ActInPak STSM coordinator (Marco Giacinti B.: marco.giacinti@unibo.it).

*In the work plan, elaborate on the expected impact of the STSM on ActInPak as well as the expectations for dissemination of the work (e.g. a presentation during an ActInPak meeting, an external conference presentation, a video pod cast for the ActInPak website, etc.).

The complete application file (as described in the COST Vademecum), including MC approval, must be submitted at least three months before the start date of the proposed STSM.

The STSM coordinator will evaluate the different proposals on the base of the relevance of the topics addressed and of the proposed activities with respect to the COST action focus. Selection will be made every two months (approximately January – March – May – July – September – November) and results will be communicated on the Action Website as well as via mail to the different applicants. Proposals declared as eligible will be funded until the total number of STSM considered for the Grant Period will be completed.

In case the number of proposals exceeds the number of available positions a selection will be made based on the following priorities:

- a) ECI STSM
- b) Industrial STSM (from or to industries)
- c) STSM involving young researchers (Master or PhD students)
- d) Amount of funding requested (lower amount for the same stay will be preferred)

The possibility to fund additional STSM will be discussed within the Steering Committee depending on the budget available.

More information:

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