

COST Action IS1410
Digital literacy skills and practices in the early years
(DigiLitEY)
Call Number 6 for
Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) Applications

First call for STSM Applications for Missions occurring between
1st March 2018 and 31st March 2018

All STSM activities must occur in their entirety within the dates specified above

Purpose of COST Action IS1410

The technologies through which children now engage with all forms of knowledge are constantly changing with the widespread use of an array of digital, interactive, converged and personalised devices. These are transforming the skills and literacies needed by even the youngest children to be competent actors in the world while, at the same time, challenging the efforts of parents and teachers to support their learning. The development of relevant skills and knowledge for reading and writing contemporary texts is crucial for educational, economic, social and cultural progress in Europe. This COST Action will create an interdisciplinary network to examine how young children's literacy development is being shaped by changes brought about by the digitisation of communication. The Action will enable researchers collectively to synthesise existing research and identify gaps in knowledge, fostering innovative avenues for future research and more effectively advancing knowledge in this area.

Purpose of a Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM)

STSMs facilitate researchers from COST countries participating in COST Action IS1410 to go to an institution, organisation or research centre in another participating COST country to foster collaboration and to perform empirical research. Participation of "Early Career Investigators" (ECI) in STSMs is particularly encouraged. An ECI is a researcher in the start phase of his/her career: an ECI can be either a PhD candidate or a post-PhD researcher with up to 8 years of experience after the PhD.

Specific information concerning STSMs

STSMs can have a duration of between 5 days and 59 days.

The financial support on offer is a contribution to the overall expenses incurred during the STSM and may not necessarily cover all of the associated outgoings.

The following funding conditions apply and must be respected:

1. Up to a maximum of EUR 2 500 in total can be afforded to each successful STSM applicant.
2. Up to a maximum of EUR 160 per day can be afforded for accommodation and meal expenses.
3. STSM activities must occur in their entirety within the dates specified in this call.

Financial support is limited to cover travel, accommodation and meal expenses and is paid in the form of a Grant.

STSM applicants must meet one of the following criteria:

- Engaged in an official research programme as a PhD student or postdoctoral fellow.
- Employed by, or affiliated to, an institution, organization or legal entity that has within its remit a clear association with performing research.

The institution, organisation or legal entity where applicants pursue their main strand of research is considered as the Home institution and will host the successful applicant.

For this call, the Management Committee of COST Action IS1410 “Digital literacy skills and practices in the early years (DigiLitEY)” has allocated a total budget of 14.000 euro for up to 7 STSMs. The amounts granted for each individual STSM will be determined during the evaluation process by the formally appointed persons. The selection of applicants is based on the scientific scope of the STSM application which must clearly compliment the overall objectives of the Action.

How to apply for an STSM:

Interested researchers can apply by following the directions provided below and submitting their application and supporting documents to **Prof. Dr. Roel van Steensel at vansteensel@essb.eur.nl** by the deadline of **21st February 2018**.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS IS AS FOLLOWS:

1. All applicants must carefully read the funding rules detailed in Section 7 of the *COST Vademecum*. This document is available at <http://digilitey.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/COSTVademecum-Updated-May-2017.pdf>.
2. All applicants must register for an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/user/registration/register> adding their bank account details to their profile.
3. All applicants must obtain a letter of invitation from the host institution confirming that they can undertake the STSM on the given dates prior to submitting an application.
4. All applicants must complete, submit and download their STSM application online at: <https://e-services.cost.eu/user/login/STSM>
5. The list of supporting documents to be submitted for the evaluation are:
 - Letter of invitation to the applicant from a senior researcher affiliated to the host institution.
 - The submitted STSM application form (downloadable when the online application is submitted – see point 4 above).
 - A motivation letter including an overview of the proposed activities that will be performed which must contain a plan of work for the visit highlighting the proposed contribution to the scientific objectives of the respective COST Action.
 - A letter of support from the home institution.
 - A full C.V. (including a list of academic publications – if applicable).
6. The application will then be assessed by at least two reviewers from the Action’s STSM review committee against the perceived contribution that the proposed visit will make against the scientific objectives outlined in the Action’s Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
7. The applicant will be formally notified of the outcome of their STSM application by Roel van Steensel on **28th February 2018**.
8. Within 30 days from the end date of the STSM, the successful applicant must submit a scientific report to the host institution and to Roel van Steensel. The applicant is also responsible for acquiring an official acceptance letter/email confirmation of acceptance from a senior researcher affiliated to the host institution formally accepting the scientific report. This formal acceptance of the scientific report has to be sent to the Grant Holder and Roel van Steensel for archiving purposes.

Failure to submit the scientific report within 30 days from the end date of the STSM will effectively cancel the Grant.

(Please note that the COST Association can request additional information to substantiate the information contained within the documents submitted by STSM applicants).

Deadline for applications to be submitted: 21st February 2018

Notification of application outcome: 28th February 2018

Period of STSM: between 1st March and 31st March 2018