



## Call for applications for Short-Term Scientific Missions

The use of crowdsourced and volunteered geographic information is growing rapidly. It is a significant source of information and understanding how it can be used for societal benefits is receiving attention of researchers from fields as diverse as physics, computer science and geography. This call is aimed to offer researchers a unique opportunity to improve their research skills, to foster new collaborations with some of the most prominent scholars in the field and to conduct high quality scientific research through short-term study visits in some of the main research laboratories in Europe which work with crowdsourced geographical data, volunteered geographic information and user generated contents.

These visits (or Short-Term Scientific Missions or STSM) are funded as part of the “European Network Exploring Research into Geospatial Information Crowdsourcing” (ENERGIC). This is a research network funded by the European Science Foundation, COST Action IC1203. The main objective of the Action is to build an open and flexible European network of experienced scholars, young researchers and industry representatives working on volunteered geographic information (VGI) and user generated geographic contents. The four domains of the Action are the following: VGI taxonomy and data sources; VGI producers and users; Semantics and data analysis and modelling, data integration and visualization; VGI high quality multidisciplinary applications.

**Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM)** allow scientists to conduct short research and study visits to a research institution or laboratory in another COST Country (see details on COST website and Vademecum document) in order to strengthen the existing networks and to foster collaboration, to learn a new technique or to use instruments and/or methods not available in their own institution and to contribute to the scientific objectives of the Action.

**Who can apply:** any employee, postgraduate student or postdoctoral fellow - young scientists in particular - working in a research institution in a country that is participating to the Action (see below). Preference will be given to applications from institutions that are actively participating in the Action (see below), or that express their will to participate by committing to sign the Action’s Memorandum of Understanding.

**Where may the mission take place:** any research institution in another COST participating country or a formally approved host institution in a non-COST country (see below). Several offers for targeted missions are available on the Action web-site.

**Duration and financial support:** duration of the visit shall be from one week to 3 months, and up to 6 months for Early Stage Researchers (within 8 years of PhD completion). Financial support will only reimburse travel costs (up to EUR 300) and subsistence expenses (EUR 60 to 90 per day), up to a maximum of EUR 2500. In this call, preference will be given to two-three weeks missions.

**How to apply:** applicants must send a one-two pages work plan for the mission and a CV to the Action chair, vice-Chair and STSM coordinator (see below). The work plan should state clearly what are the immediate and the long-term expected outcome of the mission, how it is intended to contribute to the Action aims and to the activities of the Action’s working groups, and which specific products will result from the mission and will be made available to the other participants and to the scientific community (eg. dataset, tools, short papers, web entries, etc.). Contact details are required of the person in the host institution which agreed to support the application and to provide collaboration during the mission.

Once approved, the applicant should fill in the form on COST website on the Networking page.

**Deadlines:** deadlines for proposals to be submitted at least one month before the STSM.

**Selection procedure:** the selection of the applicant is the responsibility of the Management Committee of the Action. Criteria will be the following: applicant’s CV and publications (50%); quality and scientific relevance of the work plan (30%); coherence with the objectives of the Action (20%).

**Participating countries and institutions:** Austria (Vienna University of Technology) Belgium (Ghent University, KU Leuven) Croatia (University College for Applied Computer Engineering, University of Zagreb) Denmark (Aalborg University) Estonia (Tallin University) Finland (Finnish Environment Institute, Finnish Geodetic Institute, University of Helsinki) France (Institut Géographique National, Institut national de l’information géographique et forestière) Germany (University of Bamberg, Heidelberg University, University of Muenster) Greece (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Hellenic Army Geographical Service, National Technical University of Athens) Hungary (Budapest University of Technology and Economics, University of West Hungary) Ireland (National University of Ireland Maynooth, University College Dublin) Italy (University of Siena, University of Rome La Sapienza) Macedonia (Goce Delcev University, University Ss. Cyril and Methodius) Malta (University of Malta) Netherlands (University of Twente) Portugal (Portuguese Geographic Institute, Universidade de Coimbra) Serbia (University of Novi Sad) Slovenia (University of Ljubljana) Spain (Universidad Politécnica de Madrid) Sweden (University of Gävle) Switzerland (University of Zurich) United Kingdom (University College London, University of Canterbury, Oxford Internet Institute, University of St Andrews). **Host institutions in non-COST countries:** Australia (University of Melbourne), California (Santa Barbara).

**Additional information on the COST Action ENERGIC:** [www.vgibox.eu](http://www.vgibox.eu), [www.cost.eu/domains\\_actions/ict/Actions/IC1203](http://www.cost.eu/domains_actions/ict/Actions/IC1203)

**Additional information on STSM guidelines and procedures:** [www.cost.eu/module/download/8321](http://www.cost.eu/module/download/8321)

**Contacts:**

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