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COST Action CA21106

“COSMIC WISPers in the Dark Universe: Theory, astrophysics and experiments”

Short Term Scientific Missions Call – April 2026

Deadline for applications: 15th May 2026

The aim of COST Action CA21106 “COSMIC WISPers” is to coordinate and support WISPers searches in a synergic way at the boundary between particle physics, astrophysics and cosmology. In addition, our goal is to educate young scientists that will be competent both in theoretical and experimental aspects of this research.

One of the means of reaching these goals are Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs). The COSMIC WISPers Action is now opening a call for STSM applications.

Short Term Scientific Missions

STSMs are a networking tool offered by COST, aimed at supporting individual mobility, strengthening existing networks and fostering collaboration between COST Action Participants. A STSM should specifically contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST Action CA21106, whilst at the same time allowing those partaking in the missions to learn new techniques, gain access to specific data, instruments and/or methods not available in their own institutions.

STSM applicants must be engaged in an official research programme as a PhD student or postdoctoral fellow, or be employed by, or affiliated to, a research institution. The institutions where applicants pursue their strand of research are considered as **Home Institutions**. The **Host Institution** is the institution that will host the **STSM grantee**. Any COSMIC WISPers participant from a COST Full Member or Near Neighbour country is eligible for a STSM, while a Host Institution can be any research institution located in a different country than the country of affiliation of the researcher.

COSMIC WISPers Call – 2026

STSMs must respect the following criteria:

- They must have a minimum duration of 5 calendar days that includes travel;
- They need to be carried out in their entirety within a single Grant Period and always within the Action’s lifetime;

- There is no upper limit on the duration of STSM. However, the total expenses can be covered up to **max. EUR 2'000** per mission.

STSM process

Before the STSM:

Eligible STSM applicants must complete an online STSM application at:

<https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants/add?type=STSM>

They will have to fill:

- Title;
- Start and end date (within the active Grant Period);
- Budget requested by the applicant;
- Information about the host institution and contact person.

The following documents need to be uploaded to e-COST:

- Application form (template available on e-COST) describing: Goals, description of the work to be carried out by the applicant, expected outcomes and description of the contribution to the Action MoU objectives;
- Confirmation of the host on the agreement from the host institution in receiving the applicant.

The applicant should also fill the UNIBA Travel Form (<https://agenda.infn.it/category/1857/>) and send it to the Chair of the Action.

Applicants should check the rules for submitting travel expenses as they contain some specifics, and are encouraged to get familiar with the Travel reimbursement rules¹.

Evaluation of the application and selection of the Grantee:

The selection of STSM applicants will be based on the scientific scope of the application and how it can support the COSMIC WISPer in achieving its scientific objectives while taking into account the COST Policy and Rules, with special attention on Inclusiveness and Excellence. The applicant should submit a clearly written work plan, with justification of the requested funds.

¹ <https://agenda.infn.it/category/1845/>

After the STSM:

The STSM grantee is required to upload:

- Scientific Report (to be submitted at the latest 30 days after the end date of the STSM);
- Host approval of the scientific report (to be submitted with the scientific report 30 days after the end date of the STSM).

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Period of STSM 1st July-25th September

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