

COST Action CA19126 - Positive Energy Districts European Network (PED-EU-NET)

Open Call for Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)

Important Dates:

Application: open continuously

Notification of Results: 14 working days after application submission

Mission Period: 1 February 2024 - 30 September 2024

The main objective of the Action is to drive the deployment of Positive Energy Districts (PEDs) in Europe by harmonizing, sharing and disseminating knowledge and breakthroughs on PEDs across different stakeholders, domains and sectors. It will support cities and empower communities to achieve the city-wide positive energy transformation with pioneering ideas, methods and solutions. More information including the Action's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) can be found in the following web page: (https://e-services.cost.eu/files/domain_files/CA/Action_CA19126/mou/CA19126-e.pdf).

This COST Action (PED-EU-NET) encourages Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs). STSMs are research visits 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, whilst at the same time allowing those partaking in the missions to learn new techniques and methods, gain access to specific facilities or instruments not available in their own institution/organization.

STSMs need to be carried out in their entirety within a single Grant Period and always within the Action's lifetime. STSMs are aimed at providing learning opportunities, preferably but not solely to young researchers and innovators¹ through research exchange outside their home country on topics related to Positive Energy Districts. STSM Grant applicants are Action participants with a primary affiliation to a legal entity located in a COST Full or Cooperating Member country, a COST Near Neighbour Country or a European RTD Organisation. The institutions/ organizations where applicants pursue their main strand of research are considered as Home Institutions.

For the present Grant Period, the STSMs must take place between 1 February 2024 and 30 September 2024. It is important that eligibility rules, both for Home and Host institutions are met, and in accordance with the Annotated Rules for COST Actions. Before making an application it is recommended that the interested applicants read all the rules that apply for STSMs specified by COST, in the following two documents:

<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2023/11/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V1.4-Final-.pdf>

<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/12/Grant-Awarding-userguide.pdf>

¹ A researcher or innovator under the age of 40.

Financial Support

The financial support is a contribution to the costs of a STSM and may not cover all costs. The financial contribution for a STSM will be a fixed grant based on the Applicant's budget request and the evaluation of the application by the STSM assessment committee. The total of a STSM shall not exceed EUR 3.000. Grantees must make their own arrangements for all provisions related to personal security, health, taxation, social security and pension matters.

Table for calculating the budget request when applying:

Number of days in the Host Institute	STSM with a Host within Europe	STSM with a Host outside of Europe
<= 1 week	2000	2300
<= 2 weeks	2500	2800
>2 weeks	3000	3000

STSM Application Process

Eligible STSM applicants must:

- ✓ First contact the Working Group (WG) leader(s), which their STSM is linked to, or the Grant Awarding Coordinator to express the interest. The list of contact information can be found at the end of the document.
- ✓ After the agreement is reached, complete an online STSM application at <https://e-services.cost.eu/STSM>.

To be filled in e-COST:

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

To be uploaded to e-COST:

- **Application form** (template available on e-COST: [download here](#)) 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;
- **A written agreement of the Host Institution.**
- **A letter from the Home Institution** to support the mission.
- **CV** (max. 2 pages), including list of publications.

Evaluation of the application and selection of the Grantee:

The applications will be assessed by the STSM Committee, which will perform the scientific and budgetary assessment of the applications based on the perceived contribution that the proposed STSM will make against the scientific objectives outlined in the Action's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The criteria for evaluation include:

1. Aim & Motivation

Does the STSM contribute to the objectives of the Action, and benefit the applicant and the host?

5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Satisfactory 2 Deficient 1 Poor 0 Failed

2. Relevance & Excellence

How appropriate is the STSM, considering the quality, scope, and feasibility of the outcomes?

5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Satisfactory 2 Deficient 1 Poor 0 Failed

How aligned is the STSM with the selected Working Group and objectives?

5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Satisfactory 2 Deficient 1 Poor 0 Failed

3. Methods & Techniques

How practical and feasible are the candidate's selected methods to answer the research questions or meet the objectives? Does the STSM add value to the Action and contribute to innovative solution, method, or theory?

5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Satisfactory 2 Deficient 1 Poor 0 Failed

4. Planning

Is the quality and feasibility of the work plan reasonable and satisfying? Are the STSM objectives, questions, methods, plan, and desired outcomes coherent, balanced and compelling?

5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Satisfactory 2 Deficient 1 Poor 0 Failed

5. Diversity and Inclusiveness

Does the applicant promote gender equality? (0-1)

Is the applicant a young researcher or innovator? (0-1)

Is the applicant or the host based in an Inclusiveness Target Country? (0-1)

Does the applicant have a publication plan after the mission? (0-1)

After the STSM:

The STSM grantee is required to submit a Scientific Report to the Grant Awarding Coordinator for formal approval within 30 days after the end date of the STSM or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period, whichever date comes first. The Scientific Report Template can be downloaded [here](#). The Report should contain the following information:

- ✓ Purpose of the STSM,
- ✓ Description of the work carried out during the STSM,
- ✓ Description of the main results obtained,
- ✓ Foreseen publications / articles resulting from the STSM (if applicable).

Besides Scientific Report, as a second document, applicant must upload in E-Cost Written Approval of the Scientific Report from the Host.

Grantees are also required to provide a short description of the mission along with a photo to be published in the Action website.

The failure to submit the Scientific Report on time will effectively cancel the grant. The Grant Awarding Coordinator will inform the Grant Holder about the acceptance of the report via e-mail. Afterwards, the Grant Holder will execute the payment of the fixed grant directly to the grantee.

WG overview

WG overview is given below. If you are interested in undertaking STSM mission please contact the WG leaders for further discussion.

WG1- PED Mapping, Characterisation and Learning

WG1 aims at mapping existing concepts, strategies, projects, socio-technical innovations related to PEDs in Europe. It will identify the main PED characteristics and key performance indicators (KPIs), scientifically validate PED definition, advance understanding on socio-technical measures and devise roadmap for the implementation of PEDs.

Topics of interest for this Grant Period:

1. Populating PED Database with case studies of PED/PED-relevant/PED Lab projects. (Task 1.1)
2. Architecture and IT development of the PED Database (Task 1.1)
3. Developing a story-telling framework and collecting stories to enable learning from past PED cases to overcome challenges, barriers and unlock new potentials. (Task 1.4)
4. Developing a Decision support system roadmap for PED implementation (Task 1.5)

Contacts: Michal Kuzmic (Michal.Kuzmic@cvut.cz) and Paolo Civiero (Paolo.CIVIERO@uniroma3.it)

WG2- PED Guides and Tools

WG2 aims at developing guides and tools to support the implementation of PEDs. It will synthesize existing knowledge in a coordinated manner across traditionally technical domains (digital planning, building information management, etc.) and acknowledged crucial governance concerns (e.g., institutional structure, funding and business models) and generate insights into new guides and tools for optimizing the design, operation, financing and opportunities of PEDs.

Contacts: Nienke Maas (nienke.maas@tno.nl) and Savis Gohari Krangsås (savisgk@oslomet.no)

WG3- PED Laboratories, Monitoring and Replication

WG3 aims at developing common protocols for monitoring and evaluation of PEDs and PED Labs across Europe to track progress and provide feedback on improvement and adaptation in the PED demonstration projects. For this we will review the existing monitoring concepts, demonstration projects and facilities relevant for monitoring PED Labs. Based on this review we will identify and evaluate current methods applied in the monitoring, evaluation, and replication of PEDs/PED Labs.

Contacts: Ghazal Etminan (ghazal.etminan@ait.ac.at) and Oscar Seco (oscar.seco@ciemat.es)

WG4- Dissemination, Outreach and Exploitation

WG4 aims at broadening the impacts and outreach of the COST Action, raising the awareness of PEDs and highlighting their relevance to different stakeholders so as to ensure the transfer of knowledge and translation of experience within and beyond the network Leaders/contact people:

Contacts: M-Beatrice Andreucci (mbeatrice.andreucci@uniroma1.it) and Mari Hukkalainen (mari.hukkalainen@vtt.fi)

Interconnection between WGs

One of the objectives of the Action is to increase synergy, inter- and intra- disciplinary collaboration between different aspects of PEDs. Thus, this call encourages those candidates that want to contribute to development of the conceptual and operational interconnection between PEDs topics.

Contacts: Laura Aelenei (laura.aelenei@lneg.pt) and the Grant Awarding Coordinator Jelena Brajković (jelena.brajkovic@arh.bg.ac.rs)