

COST Action CA18119 'Who cares in Europe?'

<https://whocaresineurope.eu>

Call for Applications SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS

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The COST Action CA18119 'Who cares in Europe?' encourages Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs; see below "What are STSMs?").

For the second grant period, there are up to 2 STSMs to be awarded. **The STSM must be completed by December 1, 2020.**

About the Action

The main aim and objective of COST Action CA18119 is to explore the relationships among voluntary associations, families and states in the creation of social welfare in Europe. How did state welfare emerge from social welfare provided by non-profit, non-state institutions and individuals; how did it develop and why, did it enter into crisis in many countries? The Action emphasizes the welfare state's deep historical roots, and will use local case studies to recover the "voices" and contributions of individuals, families and voluntary associations. This will give us a much deeper and richer story about social protection in Europe than is currently available. By analysing the long-term development of welfare within a triadic optic that examines the interactions among families, voluntary welfare associations and states in the creation of social welfare, the Action has the potential to radically shift dominant paradigms in the field of welfare studies. The Action will contribute to welfare policy development and debate by offering a historical perspective on current problems and debates and the principles and premises that underpin them.

What are STSMs?

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) are exchange visits that are aimed at strengthening the existing network by allowing individual scientists/researchers to go to an institution in other COST countries to foster collaboration, learn new methods and gain access to specific resources not available in their own institutions. STSMs shall have

a minimum duration of 5 calendar days, including travel. To learn more about the COST rules on the Short-Term Scientific Missions please check the COST Vademecum that can be downloaded from www.cost.eu/Vademecum.

Financial Support

An STSM grant is a fixed *contribution* which may be used for travel and subsistence costs only, though it might not necessarily cover all such expenses. The contribution is based on the requested budget, which will be evaluated by the STSM Coordinator. The financial support granted is, thus, a contribution to the costs of an STSM and may not cover all costs.

Successful applicants will receive an allowance up to a maximum of **160 EUR per day** and up to a **maximum total budget of 3,500 EUR**. The Management Committee will decide how to allocate the STSM budget. ITC Participants in the COST Action can request a pre-payment of 50% of their STSM Grant when they complete the first day of their STSM.

After the STSM, the STSM participant must submit a scientific report to the Host and to the STSM Coordinator **within 30 days after** the end of his/her stay. The STSM grant will be paid after the exchange visit (acceptance of the grantee's scientific report and a letter from the Host institution are required). Except for ITC researchers, the STSM candidates must therefore *pre-finance* all costs related to the STSM (travel, stay, meals).

STSM Applicant

The selection of STSM applicants¹ is based on the scientific scope of the STSM application, which must be in line with the COST Action CA18119 objectives. Applications from Early Career Investigators (ECI) are privileged.

An ECI is a researcher in the start phase of his/her career with no more than 8 years of experience after the PhD. The STSM applicant must be engaged in a research programme as a postdoctoral fellow or be employed by an institution of a COST Country that has signed the Memorandum of Understanding of the Action. The host institution should be actively participating in COST Action CA18119.

The grantees must make their own arrangements for all health, social, personal security and pension matters.

¹ *STSM applicants shall be engaged in an official research programme as a PhD Student or postdoctoral fellow or can be employed by, or affiliated to, an institution, organisation or legal entity which has within its remit a clear association with performing research.*

2-Step Application procedure

If you are interested in applying, please complete the following procedure (user guide is available at <https://www.cost.eu/funding/how-to-get-funding/documents-and-guidelines/>):

1. **Complete the on-line application** form (log in at <https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>)

Supporting documents include:

- Cover letter, explaining how your work will benefit from this STSM and how this STSM will contribute to the achievement of the COST CA18119 objectives,
 - Work plan specifying what you intend to do (800 words), the start and end dates
 - Written agreement of the host institution,
 - Letter of support from the home institution,
 - CV (2 pages),
 - List of publications.
2. **Download the formal application and send it as an e-mail attachment** together with the necessary supporting documents (listed above) to the STSM Coordinator, e-mail: radka.sustrova@ff.cuni.cz.

Deadline for Application

The COST Action 'Who cares in Europe?' accepts applications sent **by July 20, 2020**. The evaluation results will be communicated shortly after the submission.

After the STSM

The grantee is obliged to submit a short scientific report to the host institution (for information) and to the STSM Coordinator, who will then forward the report to the core group (for approval) within 30 days after the end date of the STSM. The report must contain the following information:

- Purpose of the STSM,
- Description of the work carried out during the STSM,
- Description of the main results obtained,
- Future collaboration with the host institution (if applicable),
- Foreseen publications / articles resulting from the STSM (if applicable),
- Confirmation by the host institution of the successful execution of the STSM,
- Other comments (if any).

Working Groups' Research Directions

(see <https://whocaresineurope.eu>)

WG 1: Families and social welfare

It will investigate the dynamic collaborative links established among families, states and associations, but also the tensions that shape these relationships, such as the recurring pressure from states on families to carry more responsibility for the welfare of their family members. WG1 will examine families in the context of a broad range of political regimes, including fascist, soviet and authoritarian dictatorships in order to reflect more deeply on the civic capacity of families to shape welfare. It will pay close attention to what constitutes a “family” at a given place and time, as very often existing families do not fit easily into those normative frames that too often assume a family that consists of two generations and two genders (a mother, a father, two or more children).

WG 2: The mixed economy of welfare

Through empirical cases the WG 2 will analyse how the public and voluntary sectors collaborate and compete with each other for resources, control and responsibility. The interaction between public and voluntary sectors will be treated as a dynamic process that leads to the emergence of new institutions. The WG asks whether this interaction results in the creation of hybrid welfare structures where the lines between public and voluntary sectors are blurred or clear cut, and asks in which cases (and why) these connections give rise to a “mixed economy of welfare” based on official partnerships.

WG 3: Transnational Voluntary Action

The WG 3 investigates how local, regional and national European welfare traditions have informed transnational organisations and how, in return, transnational welfare shapes local, regional and national welfare patterns. The WG 3 examines the forms of cooperation and conflict that have existed between local, regional and national welfare on the one hand, and transnational welfare on the other.

WG4: Intellectual traditions in European welfare

The WG 4 maps the intellectual and ethical traditions – e.g. social Catholicism, socialism, paternalism, feminism – that have been at the basis of social policies across Europe, their spatial trajectories, the influences, entanglements and adaptations among them. It is the contention of this action that mapping these trajectories will deconstruct the dominant idea of distinct national models in European social policy. This WG also collates and compares the existing research on the state of the art of the various national welfare contexts of Action members.

Please feel free to propose your own research theme that you think might also be of interest for COST Action CA18119.

Assessment

Applications will be assessed by the Cost Action CA18119 WG leaders and the STSM Coordinator according to the following criteria:

- Relevance of proposed topics to the COST Action CA18119,

- Anticipated outcomes with respect to Action objectives,
- Contribution to personal development of the candidate,
- Quality and structure of proposed visit and work plan.

Note: Prior to the award applicants are required to read and abide by the instructions in Section 8 of the COST Vademecum – Short Term Scientific Mission (available at www.cost.eu/Vademecum)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the STSM Coordinator:

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