

R2.V1 – Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM)

10.04.2026

- A STSM grant funds a visit to a host organization located in a different country than the country of affiliation of a researcher or innovator for specific work to be carried out and for a determined period of time.
- STSMs promote mobility and collaboration, enable access to equipment, models, or expertise unavailable at home institution, support development of standardized methodologies in {photoantimicrobial} research.
- These rules apply to STSM applications for stays scheduled to start and end within the period from 25 May 2026 to 30 September 2026 (inclusive) of the first Grant Period.
- Each STSM must have a minimum duration of 5 days and a maximum duration of 90 days, in line with the COST STSM rules
- The evaluation will be documented and stored for the duration of the Action.
- The grant might be lower than the requested amount, but will clearly specify which costs shall be covered .
- These rules are subject to change. Grantees should verify the latest version at paneucopt.eu.

1. Scope | Applications are invited for STSMs that contribute to:

- development and validation of photoantimicrobial testing protocols (WG3)
- characterization of illumination systems and dosimetry (WG4)
- learning new techniques not available in the home institution that support photoantimicrobial research; ideally, these should be aligned with WG3 and/or WG4, but other well-justified topics will also be considered

2. Duration and Timing |

- STSMs may last between 5–90 days
- must take part between 25th May 2026 and 30th September 2026

3. Eligibility | Applicants must:

- be participants of the PanEuCOPT Action
- align with at least one WG
- contribute to PanEuCOPT objectives

Priority will be given to:

- Young Researchers and Innovators (YRI)
- applicants from ITC countries
- 1st time applicants

4. Financial Support | up to EUR 3000 per STSM

- Grant covers travel, accommodation, subsistence
- The financial support may not cover the whole cost of the mission. The applicants are requested to ask the home institution for additional support.

5. Application Procedure | Applications must be submitted via e-COST.

Required:

1. Online application form
2. Work plan (goals, methods, expected outcomes)
3. Host institution confirmation letter
4. Motivation letter (up to 1 page)
5. Short CV (up to 2 pages + list of publications if applicable)
6. Budget breakdown (up to 1 page)
7. In the case of Master's or PhD students, a support letter from thesis supervisor

6. Application deadlines |

Applications will be accepted during 3 periods (see below). Please note that the STSMs need to be concluded by September 30, 2026.

#1 First call: The deadline for the application is May 25th. The results of this first call will be published as soon as possible, by 10 June at the latest.

Second call: The deadline for the application is June 1st. The 2nd call results will be published on June 15th.

Third call: The deadline for the application is July 10th. The 3rd call results will be published on July 27th.

A fourth call may be issued if residual or additional funds will be available.

Please note that applicants of the first or second call may select to spend a period abroad also after July 10th, but it must end by September 30th.

7. Evaluation Criteria | Applications will be evaluated based on:

- scientific quality
- relevance to PanEuCOPT objectives and WG(s)
- feasibility
- expected outputs
- applicant profile

The applications will be evaluated by 2 Action members appointed by the Grant Awarding Coordinator, or 3 in case of inconclusive results. The GAC will take into consideration to avoid a conflict of interest.

The applications will be given a score of 1–6 per criterion → sum.

Applications will be evaluated for their quality and for their relevance to the objectives of PanEuCOPT and its Working Groups. To avoid time-wasting, each application will first be screened by the Grant Awarding Coordinator to check that it is complete and that it is relevant to the Action. Incomplete applications are rejected with the possibility to resubmit. Irrelevant applications (confirmed by AC and VAC as such) are also rejected and cannot be resubmitted.

8. Selection Process

After the evaluation process, the selection committee (Action Chair, Action Vice-Chair, and GAC) will select the applications to be supported and will decide the final amount of financial support.

9. Reporting and Payment

After completion:

- submission of scientific report (within 30 days or 15 in case of missions taking place in September)
- host confirmation
- dissemination materials for Science Communication Team (poster/video/0,5 page summary), as found in the Visual Identity section of the PanEuCOPT webpage.
- photo of the grantee in the host institution, possibly with the collaborators for social media promotion

Payment:

The Grant Holder Institution pays grants after the completion of the activity and approval of all required reports/documentation.

However, STSM grantees may request up to 50% pre-payment of the approved grant. This amount is subject to the availability of funds and approval by the Grant Holder Institution.

Document change log

Version	Date	Author	Description of change
1.0	2026-04-30	PanEuCOPT MC	Initial version
1.1	2026-05-12	PanEuCOPT Grant Selection Committee	Changed the date of the results from defined date (i.e., 10 th of June) to “asap but no later than”, removed typos, so that it reads the result of the 2 nd and 3 rd call instead of always 1 st call. Added COST logo