



PIMo STSMs – FAQs:

1 – Question: Which are the “Participating COST Full Member” countries in PIMo? Is there a list available?

Answer: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom. (<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA18140/#tabs|Name:parties>)

2 – Question: Which are the “COST Cooperating Member” countries in PIMo? Is there a list available?

Answer: Israel

3 – Question: Which are the “Participating COST Partner Member” countries in PIMo? Is there a list available?

Answer: Same as #1

4 – Question: Which are the ‘Approved IPC (International Partner Country) Institutions’? Is there a list available?

Answer: La Trobe University (Australia), The University of Western Australia (Australia), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (United States), University of Cape Town (South Africa)

5 – Question: Which are the COST ITC (Inclusiveness Target Countries)? Is there a list available?

Answer: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Serbia and Turkey (<https://www.cost.eu/who-we-are/cost-strategy/excellence-and-inclusiveness/>).

6 – Question: Which are the ‘Approved NNC (Near-Neighbour Country) Institutions’? Is there a list available?

Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes (Morocco)

7 – Question: What is ‘an Approved European RTD Organisation’? Is there a list available?

Answer: RTD Organisations are the European intergovernmental scientific research organisations responsible for infrastructures and laboratories whose members are States, the majority of which are COST Full Members. To date, they are limited to: CERN, EMBL, ESA, ESO, ESRF, European XFEL, ILL, EFDA, JET.

8 – Question: What is ‘an Approved International Organisation’? Can an NGO qualify as an ‘an Approved International Organisation’?

Answer: Yes; in fact the two MC Members from Lithuania are affiliated to NGOs.

9 – Question: Early Career Investigators may apply for STSMs that exceed 90 days. Is there a maximum duration for their STSMs?

Answer: Yes, the maximum is 180 days.

10 – Question: Is there a maximum amount of money that can be granted to a single STSM regardless its duration and home/host country combinations?

Answer: Yes: up to a maximum of EUR 2,500 in total can be granted to each successful applicant. For ECIs up to a maximum of EUR 3,500 in total can be afforded for missions with a duration between 91 and 180 calendar days.

11 – Question: Can I apply for an STSM to participate at a conference? And in a summer school?

Answer: No.

12 – Question: Can I apply for an STSM to collaborate with my host institution through teaching? That is, can an STSM become a means to allow a participant to teach at a host institution?

Answer: Yes as long as there are evident benefits for PIMo – we would recommend applicants to consider applying for an Erasmus+ Teaching Mobility grant for Academic Staff whenever possible.

13 – Question: What if my STSM proposal does not envision any immediate publication results? Will my application be considered in that case?

Answer: Preference will be given to proposals likely to translate into tangible outputs.

14 – Question: What if the host institution of my STSM is an NGO and my participation at the programme is more hands-on rather than strictly academic? Will my application be considered in that case?

Answer: Preference will be given to proposals likely to translate into tangible outputs (either academic publication or other dissemination/outreach outcomes).

15 – Question: Can the STSM funding cover research materials, visa applications and health insurance?

Answer: No. An STSM Grant is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation and meal expenses.

16 – Question: The STSM call states that applicants based in Inclusiveness Target Countries qualify as preferential. What if my host institution is located in an Inclusiveness Target Country? Would that also make my candidateship somewhat preferential even if my home institution is not located in an ITC?

Answer: Yes in that the ITC would benefit from the work of an externally-funded visitor. Still, ITC-based scholars (and particularly junior scholars) with limited access to other funding opportunities are at the top of the preferential list.

17 – Question: My home institution is in the UK. Can I apply for an STSM?

Answer: This will depend on Brexit-related developments.

18 – Question: My host institution is located in the UK. Can I apply for an STSM?

Answer: Yes.

19 – Question: What if I have applied for alternative funding to cover the same research trip as my STSM application but do not yet know the outcome, can I still apply to PIMo?

Answer: Yes, on the proviso that only one can be accepted.

20 – Question: What if I have applied for alternative funding that would only cover *part of* the expenses of the research trip that I am also applying an STSM for? Can I still apply for an STSM?

Answer: Yes, but preference will be given to applicants without access to alternative funding.

21 – Question: I am drafting the budget for my STSM application. Are there any approximate figures/ranges that I can use as a benchmark to calculate my estimations more accurately (in terms of travel expenses, accommodation, and meal allowance)? Which amount of funding (per day) can I realistically expect from an STSM?

Answer: Please consider that 160 EUR is the *maximum* per day for accommodation and meal expenses.

22 – Question: Do the amounts vary in case my host institution is located in an Inclusiveness Target Country?

Answer: No: the amounts do not vary if the host institution is located in an Inclusiveness Target Country.

23 – Question: My home institution is the EUI. Can I apply for an STSM?

Answer: No.

24 – Question: Is it possible that all the STSMs granted in the same call go to the same WG or will there be an attempt to distribute them into different WGs?

Answer: The quality, the feasibility and the relevance of the topic will be the major selection criteria.

On consideration of the ongoing and foreseeable COVID-related travel restrictions, STSMs in PIMo Grant Period 2 (GP2) can only take place between 1 January 2021 and 2 April 2021.