8th CALL for
Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)
Dec. 2025

1. STSM

This is the 8th Call for applications for Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) funded by the COST Action CA22168 “Physical layer security for trustworthy and resilient 6G systems (6G-PHYSEC)”.

STSMs allow researchers to conduct short research and study or visits to a research institution or laboratory in another country to strengthen the existing networks and to foster collaboration, learn a new technique or use equipment, data and/or methods not available in their own institution and contribute to the scientific objectives of the Action.

6G-PHYSEC is organized into 5 Working Groups (WGs). STSMs are considered as a great opportunity for participants to focus their work on research topics that have been highlighted by WGs and introduce new ideas addressing the 6G-PHYSEC objectives.
Details on the content and goals of WGs is available in the Action’s Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**).

2. Guidelines for applicants

In the framework of this Call, 6G-PHYSEC offers around 10 positions or more, depending on the available budget, supporting financially travel grants to individuals. Grantees need to make their own arrangements for traveling, accommodation, etc.

STSMs have to be accomplished within the 2nd Grant Period of the Action and are planned to take place between **01/04/2026 to 31/07/2026**.

The amount of STSM grants for this period is awarded from **1.000,00 € to 2.000,00€** for each applicant. For experimental mission, an additional 500,00 € can be supported, i.e., max. 2.500,00€, subject to budget availability. The maximum daily allowance that can be claimed for accommodation, meals, and short-distance travel is **170** €. Applicants are also requested to consult the Annotated Rules for COST Actions. **Any additional funding from other sources should be clearly explained in the application.**

The call will be open from the 10th of December 2025 until the 31st of January 2026 (GMT+2) and applications will be evaluated within 5 weeks after the application deadline.

Who is eligible to apply for an STSM?

- The applicant must develop the proposal jointly with a Host institution.
- A list of teams that have indicated an interest in hosting an STSM should be made available.
- This call is open to Researchers aiming at visiting a host organization located in a different country than the country of affiliation for carrying out specific work for a determined period of time.

- Any researcher affiliated to a legal entity located in a COST Full/Cooperating Member/Near Neighbor countries can apply for STSMs.
- The activity of STSMs can take place anywhere in the world.
- Priority will be given to Young/Female Researchers (under the age of 40).
- In any publications/ dissemination activities, the grantee must mention explicitly and acknowledge the support of the COST Action CA22168 6G-PHYSEC according to the COST guidelines.

3. Application instructions

Applications for STSMs are managed through the e-COST management tool. All applicants must have an e-COST profile. The applicant must use the e-COST management tool to register the STSM application request. The applicant should complete and upload via the dedicated COST online tool the following **mandatory documents**:

1. The COST STSM application form available at https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants .
2. A motivation letter including the details of the contribution to 6G-PHYSEC's WGs or the Action (if any).
3. The CV of the applicant has to be uploaded directly to the e-cost profile of the applicant**.**
4. The applicant can list up to 15 selected publications and the link to their research profile.
5. A letter of invitation from the Host institution, stating that the STSM can be performed on the given dates should the application be approved.
6. A letter of support from the home institution.
7. A document details the requested budget (long-distance travel, daily allowance-max. **170** €, subsistence including visa fee) and the snapshots of the price of the possible long-distance travel, visa fee for the proposed period. *Note that on the date of departing for STSM, 100% DA is reimbursed while only 40% DA is accounted for the date of coming home from STSM***.** If one stays at free accommodation, only 20% DA can be claimed. ***The template is on the application guide of the Action's site.***
8. A dissemination and communication plan within and outside the Action for the STSM activities.
9. The applicant has to submit a document/text explicitly declare whether he/she has any potential conflict of interest with any of the Core group members, who will evaluate the applications **(**https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA22168/#tabs+Name:Main%20Contacts%20and%20Leadership **).**

If the applicant received the Action's grants to do STSM or attended the Action's training schools, the outcomes of those activities should be mentioned in the motivation letter, and/or attach associated documents such as manuscript/publications/project proposals etc.

For additional information on the submission via the e-COST system, applicants may visit the Grant Awarding User Guide.

To prepare a good application, interested applicants should refer to the guide at https://6gphysec.org/application-guide/

Once the STSM has ended, the grantee must submit the following documents:

- A short report on the outcomes of the visit.
- The bookings for hotel and long-distance travel and the associated invoices/receipts
- The receipts for other subsistence if requested

The documents need to be submitted within 14 days after the end date of the STSM or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period (whichever date comes first). It is noted that if the applicant does not submit the required documents on time, the grant is cancelled.

The grant payment is expected to be deposited within 30 days after the approval of the report. The grantee will present their outcomes to the Action and participate in the dissemination activities in collaboration with the Action dissemination team.

4. **Evaluation criteria**

- Eligibility (according to COST rules).
- Relevance to Action 6G-PHYSEC's objectives (primary and secondary) and the WG objectives.
- Researcher mobility should aim at strengthening existing networks and fostering collaboration between researchers.
- Expected outcome.