



## SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS

### OPEN CALL FOR APPLICANTS

### 2<sup>nd</sup> GRANT PERIOD

To promote social inclusion, independent living and active and healthy ageing in society, the NET4AGEFRIENDLY COST Action establishes an international and interdisciplinary network of researchers and stakeholders from all sectors. Its aim is to foster awareness, and to support the creation and implementation of smart, healthy indoor and outdoor environments for present and future generations. NET4AGE-FRIENDLY further aims to overcome fragmentation and critical gaps at both conceptual and pragmatic innovation level on responsive, age-friendly and sustainable environments to address European research and policy challenges.

The main approach of NET4AGE-FRIENDLY (N4AF) is the establishment of local or regional ecosystems in each COST country involved, to work on health and well-being in an age-friendly digital world. The ecosystems consist of citizens, public authorities, businesses/NGOs and researchers. They are supported by four thematic Working Groups (User-centered inclusive design in age-friendly environments and communities. Integrated health and well-being pathways; Digital solutions and large-scale sustainable implementation; Policy development, funding forecast and cost-benefit evaluations). The outcomes of the thematic Working Groups will be integrated by a dedicated Working Group to create a synergised output - the Reference Framework.

NET4AGE-FRIENDLY is a connector for involving and hosting regular themed sessions with local and regional stakeholders and users' representatives from various countries and backgrounds, as well as for fostering the knowledge creation and sharing among researchers. Particular attention will be devoted to promoting the involvement of Early Career Investigators, entrepreneurs and participants from COST Inclusiveness Target Countries.

#### Areas of Expertise Relevant for the Action

- Health Sciences: Public and environmental health
- Computer and Information Sciences: Artificial intelligence, intelligent systems, multi agent systems
- Environmental engineering: Environmental and geological engineering

#### Keywords

- smart
- health
- age-friendly
- environments
- wellbeing

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) are institutional visits aimed at supporting individual mobility, fostering collaboration between individuals. Net4Age Friendly regularly launches calls for potential researchers in any of the related topics to apply for Short Term Scientific missions.

STSMs shall have a minimum duration of 5 calendar days that includes travel. STSMs are financially supported by the Action with a fixed contribution of up to maximum of EUR 4000 in total.

More information about STSMs user guide provided on the STSM Net4AgeFriendly page.

#### APPLY for an STSM!

- Interested in bringing expertise to your country?
- Apply for a STSM within a Specific Area of Interest
- Propose a related STSM area of interest related to the Net4Age-Friendly Cost Action
- Select a Host Institution that has the knowledge you seek to receive
- Make your innovative proposal to study what you cannot in your country
- Make your case, why is your study important, how will you use it to expand understanding in your country and abroad and GO!

The call for applications remains open for the duration of the grant period (until end of Grant Period 2), however submitted applications will be evaluated and processed at pre-defined cut-off dates as follows:

- 15 July 2022
- 1 August 2022
- 15 August 2022
- 1 September 2022

Reports must be completed and submitted 30 days after the STSM is finished, no later than the end of the grant period.

#### Short Term Scientific Missions in Net4Age Friendly

STSMs are research visits to a host institution where the applicant will perform research activities where the applicant will perform research activities to advance the objectives of Net4Age-Friendly. STSMs are financially supported by the Action with a fixed contribution of up to 4000 EUR.

#### STSM Areas of Interest

You may apply for an STSM related to the following areas of interest, or alternatively for an STSM related to the working group descriptions and key themes.

Areas of interest:

- Public health
- Prevention
- Research on active ageing
- Design and ergonomics of smart products for older adults
- Innovative ICT solutions for ageing or older adults
- Innovative housing developments for older adults
- Safe, comfortable and healthy environment assurance for older adults
- Home automation, along with telecare and telehealth services
- Integration of ambient assisted living solutions
- Mobile and wearable sensors
- and others...

## Applying for an STSM

Applications must include:

- An invitation letter from the host institution
- A letter of support from the applicant's home institution
- The applicant's CV, including relevant publications
- A completed application form, including the following items:
  - Aim and Motivation – please explain the scientific and/or other motivation for the STSM and what scientific and/or other outcomes you aim to accomplish with the STSM
  - Proposed contribution to the scientific objectives of the Action
  - Techniques – please detail what techniques or equipment you may learn to use, if applicable
  - Planning – please detail the steps you will take to achieve your proposed aim.

Applications should be made online at the e-COST website, in <https://e-services.cost.eu/user/login/STSM> (more info here [http://www.cost.eu/COST\\_Actions/networking](http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/networking)). Your STSM application will be considered by the STSM Committee for Net4Age-Friendly. You will be notified by the STSM Committee on the decision of your application.

Assessment criteria:

	Description	Grading	Weight
1.	Quality and feasibility of the work plan	1 to 10	20.0 %
2.	Quality and feasibility of the planned outcomes	1 to 10	20.0 %
3.	Suitability of the applicant to work plan objectives	1 to 10	17.5 %
4.	Benefits of the STSM for the applicant (visitor)	1 to 10	17.5 %
5.	Suitability of the STSM for the selected Working Group objectives	1 to 10	25.0 %

Priority will be given to applications that support the objectives of the working group they wish to work within. Please consult the Net4Age Friendly website and the Memorandum of Understanding for details.

The STSM grantee may be invited to present their STSM work at a Net4Age-Friendly Working Group meeting or International Meeting. It is strongly advised that each STSM may produce a scientific publication, and all outcomes from the STSM must include the following text (please see <https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/how-to-acknowledge-COST-funding.pdf>):

*This article/publication is based upon work from COST Action "International Interdisciplinary Network on Smart Healthy Age-friendly Environments" (NET4AGE-FRIENDLY) CA19136"*

*COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation.*  
[www.cost.eu](http://www.cost.eu)

Before filling the application, please consult the STSM rules provided. In case you have any questions about the application procedure or STSM rules, please contact the STSM Committee team at [turukalo@uns.ac.rs](mailto:turukalo@uns.ac.rs).

**After the STSM has taken place**

It is important that within 30 days from the end date of the STSM but not later than the end of the grant period, the successful applicant must submit a scientific report in the STSM platform. The applicant is also responsible for acquiring an official acceptance letter / Email confirmation of acceptance from a senior Researcher affiliated to the Host institution formally accepting the scientific report.

Failure to submit the scientific report until the end of the grant period will effectively cancel the Grant.

NOTICE OF COMPLETION: The STSM coordinator will approve the final report and send the completion notice to the Grant Holder. The Grant Holder will then execute the payment of the grant directly to the grantee.

#### **Net4Age-Friendly COST Action Link**

<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA19136/#tabs|Name:overview>

#### **Grant awarding Committee**

Cost Action MC Core Group

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