

ENCoRe COST Action IS1107

*Call for Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM), Year 1
June 15, 2012*

The COST Action IS1107 “European Network for Conflict Research” (ENCoRe) invites applications by participating institutions to the first call for Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM), to take place between **July 15 and November 1, 2012**.

The ENCoRe COST Action

The upheavals in North Africa and the Middle East in early 2011 caught most analysts and decision makers by surprise. In order to better prepare researchers and policy makers for future conflicts, this COST Action builds a new network called the “European Network of Conflict Research” (ENCoRe). Bringing together scholars in over a dozen COST countries, the network is supported by innovative tools for data integration and analysis. The aim of the action is to coordinate and accelerate the construction and maintenance of conflict datasets with the help of an integrated online portal that allows researchers and policy makers to analyse and predict the outbreak and course of conflict processes around the world. Focusing on civil war and related types of political violence such as violent protest, riots, state repression and terrorism, our goal is to overcome institutional fragmentation currently hindering progress in European conflict research and to complement country-based analyses of countries with integrated data that enable scholars to study a wide range of risk factors.

Goals of the STSM

The purpose of this initial call for STSM is to support the first two goals of the ENCoRe cost action, (1) dataset coordination activities and (2) database development. The former focus on coordinating and managing the key resources of conflict research, which includes meetings to discuss coding standards, interface projects to link datasets with each other, and efforts integrate individual, new datasets to the central database. The latter foster the creation of a new platform for European conflict datasets called GROWup (Geographic Research On War: Universal Platform), which supports the creation, coordination, maintenance, storage, use and dissemination of conflict data.

While STSM focussing on the development of the joint database and the coordination of datasets will be prioritised in this first call, activities surrounding the analysis of data included in this effort, forecasting on the basis of such analyses, as well as training activities are eligible for application as well, as long as they contribute to the overall goal of the ENCoRe COST action.

Selected Information on STSM

- *Eligibility.* Postgraduate students, postdoctoral fellows and other faculty and staff of institutions that are active in this action and in countries that are a member of this action are eligible to apply. (See Appendix A for an overview of eligible institutions upon publication of this call. The list of participating institutions maintained by COST on the day of the deadline is decisive.)

- *Funding.* Financial support offered for STSM is a contribution to the costs of the mission, but is not meant to cover all costs. Support will cover a fixed contribution of €300 for STSM between two different countries, and an allowance for subsistence based on the duration of the mission and the destination country. The Management Committee (MC) will decide on the number of STSM to be granted and the funds allocated to each.
- *Disbursal.* Grants are disbursed by the grant holder for this COST Action, ETH Zurich, Switzerland.
- *Reporting.* The grant recipient needs to submit a scientific report to the host institution and STSM coordinator no later than 4 weeks after the conclusion of the STSM, and no later than December 1, 2012.
- *Young/female researchers.* Early-stage researchers (Ph.D. students, post-doctoral fellows) and female researchers are strongly encouraged to apply.

Available Grants

The following values are the maximum values for STSM grant applications on the basis of the duration and destination country:

Duration (weeks)	Expensive Host Country ¹			Other Host Country ²		
	Travel	Allowance	Total	Travel	Allowance	Total
1	€300	€250	€550	€300	€200	€500
2	€300	€500	€800	€300	€400	€700
3	€300	€750	€1'050	€300	€600	€900
4+	€300	€1'000	€1'300	€300	€800	€1'100

Application Process

The application process consists of two steps:

1. *COST Registration.* Applicants must use the on-line registration tool to register their request for an STSM (see <https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>). The tool will produce a formal STSM application including the action number (IS1107); the title of the planned STSM; the start and end date; the applicant's details, including key academic details and work plan; the applicant's bank details; the host institution's details; and financial data (amount for travel and subsistence).
2. *Application submission.* The applicant uploads the formal STSM application generated in step 1 together with the following supporting documents in electronic format (upload at <http://j.mp/OrOHKa>):
 - written endorsement of the host institution
 - reasoning for contribution of the STSM to the goals of the ENCoRe COST action
 - work plan
 - curriculum vitae

All applications must be received in full by Monday, July 9, 2012, 12:00 noon (CEST). Applicants will receive an automatic confirmation of receipt .

¹ The following countries shall be considered as "expensive" regarding cost of living (based on international rankings): Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and United Kingdom.

Assessment and Approval of Applications

All applications will be ranked on the basis of the following criteria.

1. Eligibility on the basis of country membership status, participation of home and host institutions in the action, and academic status of the applicant.
2. Contribution to the goals of the ENCoRe COST action (as described in the applicant's reasoning).
3. Prioritisation of STSM contributing to the first two goals of the COST action.
4. Prioritisation of female researchers.
5. Prioritisation of early-stage researchers for up to two thirds of the applications.

Applications will be approved by the Management Committee of the ENCoRe COST action on the basis of this ranking. Each applicant will be informed of the decision by **July 15, 2012**.

A maximum of three STSM per home institution will be granted unless available STSM funding for this call exceeds the total value of funding requested by all eligible applicants.

Scientific Report and Payment

Within four weeks of the completion of the STSM, the grantee is required to submit to the host institution and STSM coordinator a short scientific report on the visit. This report needs to include purpose of the STSM; description of the work carried out and main results obtained during the STSM; future collaboration with host institution (if applicable); foreseen publications / articles resulting or to result from the STSM (if applicable); confirmation by the host institution of the successful execution of the STSM.

Upon approval of the scientific report, the STSM Coordinator will inform the grant holder to disburse the funds within at most four weeks.

Important Dates

	Year 1, Call 1
<i>Call published</i>	June 15, 2012
<i>Application deadline</i>	July 1, 2012 Extended: July 9, 2012
<i>Grant decision</i>	July 15, 2012
<i>Earliest start date</i>	July 16, 2012
<i>Latest end date</i>	November 1, 2012
<i>Latest claim submission</i>	December 1, 2012

Further Information

In case of any questions, please contact the ENCoRe STSM coordinator, Dr. Lutz F. Krebs, by email (krebs@merit.unu.edu) or phone (+31 43 388 4663).

Appendix A. Participating/Eligible Institutions

The following institutions were active within the action on publication of this call, and are therefore eligible to send and receive academics on STSM funded through the action. The list may expand as additional institutions join the action. The list of participating institutions on the day of the application deadline is decisive.

- ETH Zürich
- Free University Berlin / Freie Universität Berlin
- Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva) / Institut de hautes études internationales et du développement (Genève)
- Hebrew University of Jerusalem / האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
- Institute for Economic Analysis (Barcelona) / Institut d'Anàlisi Econòmica (Barcelona)
- International Balkan University (Skopje)
- Maastricht University / Universiteit Maastricht
- Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Trondheim) / Norges teknisk-naturvitenskapelige universitet (Trondheim)
- Peace Research Institute Oslo / Institutt for fredsforskning Oslo
- Trinity College Dublin
- University College London
- University Institute of Lisbon / Instituto Universitário de Lisboa
- University of Amsterdam / Universiteit van Amsterdam
- University of Essex
- University of Geneva / Université de Genève
- University of Macedonia (Thessaloniki) / Πανεπιστήμιο Μακεδονίας (Θεσσαλονίκη)
- University of Mannheim / Universität Mannheim
- University of Tampere / Tampereen yliopisto
- Uppsala University / Uppsala universitet
- Åbo Akademi University (Turku/Vaasa) / Åbo Akademi (Turku/Vaasa)