

CA18219 Geothermal-DHC

1st Call for STSM applications in the 3rd grant period

Complete applications should be received by 30th of April 2022

Exchange visits can start from 15th of May and end by 30th of September 2022

PURPOSE

Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM) help achieving the Geothermal-DHC objectives and deliverables. They support individual mobility to establish new collaborations or reinforce existing ones across disciplines and sectors with possible impact on career development. In line with the actual Grant Agreement Period Goal *GAPG 4*¹ we expect follow-up publications linked to the funded activity. Other follow-up activities, such as joint academic theses or (funded) projects may also constitute very welcomed outcomes of STSM that contribute to the visibility and impact of our COST Action and encourage other researchers to join.

Your STSM is expected to contribute to the scientific objectives¹ of the COST Action CA 18219 Geothermal-DHC. The below shown table exhibits topics and keywords of enhanced interest, which are in line with the actual version of the CA18219 Geothermal-DHC “**Publication Strategy**”² and will be preferred in the evaluation procedure:

Topics of interest linked to STSMs	Proposed keywords (non-exhaustive list)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solutions for the integration of geothermal technologies in multivalent heating and cooling (HC) networks • Social perception and environmental impact of geothermal HC networks in Europe • Enhancing the competitiveness of geothermal energy supported heating and cooling networks • Business models linked to geothermal HC networks • Regulatory framework linked to geothermal energy in HC networks • Underground Thermal Energy Storage in the context of use in HC networks • Energy & exergy analysis of geothermal HC networks and system optimization (e.g. peak load shaving) 	<p>UTES, shallow/medium/deep geothermal, unconventional geothermal energy, geothermal heating, geothermal cooling, district heating/cooling network, exergy analyses, system integration</p>

¹ For more information please visit: <https://projects-gba.geologie.ac.at/index.php/s/vw6oOZjZlwsq0l>

² For more information please visit: <https://projects-gba.geologie.ac.at/index.php/s/QX8mHNFUvjiV13j>

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative solutions for geothermal energy use in HC networks • Geothermal cooling in the context of HC networks • Heat recycling and sector coupling solutions linked to geothermal energy use in HC networks • Strategies and measures to better integrate geothermal energy in HC networks in Europe | |
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Please note: Proposed STSMs, which do not meet the topics of interest or proposed keywords may be granted if a clear benefit of reaching the Actions objectives is demonstrated.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- STSM applicants must be engaged in official research programs, either as PhD students or post-doctoral fellows or be employed by a legal entity which has a clear association with performing research.
- A registration at the Yellow Pages of CA18219 Geothermal-DHC is required for participating at STSM.
- Only one person per organization / affiliation can apply for STSM support per each grant period.

For more information please visit the general eligibility rules, which are published in the COST ANNOTATED RULES FOR COST ACTIONS, 27.7.2021 (<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/10/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-2021-11-01-1.pdf>), sections 1.1.1. and 7.3 and Grant Awarding User guide, Nov 2021 (<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/12/Grant-Awarding-userguide.pdf>).

DURATION

There is no minimum amount of days required by the COST association but a duration between 5 and 90 calendar days including travel is recommended. Applications not granted within this grant period may apply for a grant again in the subsequent GP.

STSM FINANCIAL SUPPORT

STSM grants are a financial contribution and do not necessarily cover all expenses related to a STSM. Complementary funding by either the home and host organization are eligible, whereas double funding is prohibited.

For all participants, a maximum contribution of EUR 4000 per grant can be applied for. The final amount is decided by the Grant Management Committee. The decision of the Grant Management Committee will be based on the request of the applicant and the official Daily Allowance tables provided by e-COST and will take into account the duration and location of the STSM..

Please note that the Grant Management Committee is entitled to lower the financial contributions according to the perceived cost of living in the host country, Work and Budget Plan and the availability of funds.

The hosting organizations do not have access to any STSM grants.

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

Participant grants are non-commercial transactions, therefore, claims as such are not subject to V.A.T deduction. Taxes normally due or applicable with respect to the payment of the grant are not to be deducted from amounts payable to participants. It is the responsibility of each participant to ensure that all amounts that they receive from COST funding are compliant with their national tax rules and obligations.

Reference: 1 – See Annotated Rules, Annex 2. Networking Activities organised through a grant awarding process, page 98

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- 1) Carefully read the Grant Awarding User guide, Nov 2021 (<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/12/Grant-Awarding-userguide.pdf>), chapter 2.1 and others.
- 2) Elaborate your profile on [eCOST](#).
- 3) Elaborate your profile on the Yellow Pages of the Geothermal DHC (for link please contact CA18219@geologie.ac.at)
- 4) Submit your STSM application on [eCOST](#) having prepared the following documents:
 - STSM project title and duration
 - Application form (https://www.cost.eu/STSM_GrantApplication; with goals, working plan, outputs and contribution to the Action MoU objectives and deliverables)
 - Additional information and requested budget (based on a *defined template*)
 - Letter of Support (recommendation letter) from HOME Institution (1 page based on a *defined template*)
 - Letter of Support (invitation letter) from the HOST Institution (1 page, based on a *defined template*)
 - CV with the list of publications (1-2 pages)

All requests concerning the STSM application need to be addressed to Nina.Rman@GEO-ZS.SI.

APPLICATION EVALUATION

Your application will be automatically send by eCost to the STSM coordinator.

Please note: the collection date will be 15th of April 2022, 5 pm CEST.

The STSM Committee will assess the applications after the collection date.

The evaluation and ranking of STSM applications will be under the responsibility of a dedicated STSM committee. It is planned that they are evaluated within 10 working days after the application submission deadline. The Grant Holder will send a feedback to all applicants on the decision of the evaluation **before 30th of April 2022.**

Successful applicants will then receive a Grant Letter, which also includes the allowed maximum funds and rules for reimbursement and the evaluated list of applications. The Grant Letter will activate the STSM.

Please note that priority might be given to ITC participants and gender balancing efforts in order to support the inclusiveness targets of the Action (participation of at least 40% of each gender and access to at least 50% of all funds to ITC participants).

AFTER THE STSM

After completion of your STSM, you have to submit your signed Scientific Report using a template (https://www.cost.eu/STSM_Report) to your HOST institution first. They should approve your Scientific Report by preparing an Official Confirmation Letter (no template is provided) or an email confirming that the STSM took place and the goals outlined in the Work plan were reached.

No longer than 30 days after the end date of your STSM stay you have to submit your **Scientific Report** and Host approval in PDF format to the eCOST system. Failure to submit the Report and the Official Confirmation Letter may lead to a cancellation the grant.

When STSM Coordinator approves the Report, the Grant Holder will make the payment after accomplished financial checks. Please note that the Grant Holder reserves the right to perform ex-post checks of the grants provided and to request justifications and documentation of costs occurred by the STSM participant.

The STSM Coordinator will send the approved Report to the Science Communication Manager and the respective WP coordinator. The Report will be published on Geothermal-DHC website and, if needed, further used in social media and other project materials. If there are any photographs linked to the STSM, the participant is warmly welcomed to submit it to STSM coordinator at nina.rman@geo-zs.si.

Please also note that we would like to encourage all participants to prepare scientific publications linked or based on the outcomes of the accomplished STSM. Publications resulting from STSM are eligible for receiving financial support concerning the submission fees. For more information please see the **Publication Strategy**² of CA18219 Geothermal-DHC.

SUPPORT

In case of content related questions, please contact Nina Rman nina.rman@geo-zs.si.

In case of administrative questions, please contact the Action Office CA18219@geologie.ac.at.