

eVoiceNet

European Network for Vocal Biomarkers in Healthcare

Call for Applications for Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) grants



The first Call for eVoiceNet STSMs grants will open from 15th of April, until the 30th of September 2026.

What are STSMs?

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) are short research visits aimed at promoting mobility, enhancing collaboration, and encouraging interdisciplinary exchange between researchers and institutions across countries.

Each STSM is expected to contribute to the objectives of eVoiceNet, which focuses on advancing vocal biomarker research by developing reliable, reproducible, and generalisable AI-based voice analysis approaches. Applications should be consistent with the activities of the relevant Working Groups and address key priorities such as standardisation, alignment of methodologies, and the establishment of best practices for voice-based health evaluation.

Proposals targeting major challenges in the field are particularly encouraged, including issues related to reproducibility, generalisation across datasets, integration of multimodal data, and clinical validation. Attention should also be given to the development of solutions that respect privacy requirements and comply with ethical and regulatory frameworks.

STSMs offer researchers the opportunity to share knowledge and build expertise across multiple domains, including artificial intelligence, speech and audio processing, clinical research, and data governance. They also enable access to specialised resources, such as datasets, technical tools, infrastructures, or clinical populations, that may not be available at the home institution. More broadly, these missions contribute to reinforcing collaboration between academia, healthcare professionals, industry actors, and policymakers, supporting the uptake of vocal biomarker technologies in real-world clinical settings.

Objectives of STSMs :

- To strengthen existing collaborations and foster new interdisciplinary networks through joint research activities, collaborative project proposals, co-authored publications, and the organisation of workshops, training schools, or scientific events focused on vocal biomarkers.

- To facilitate knowledge transfer and capacity building in areas such as AI-driven voice analysis, audio signal processing, clinical validation, and privacy-preserving methodologies, including access to specialised datasets, tools, and research infrastructures.
- To support the career development of researchers by providing mentoring opportunities with experienced experts across disciplines (e.g., clinical, technical, regulatory), and by enhancing their skills in a rapidly evolving and translational research field.

Scientific topics:

The experimental work plan in the STSM proposal must fit within the scope of any of the Action Working Groups:

- WG1: Data and methodology standardization to develop and validate vocal biomarkers
- WG2: Repository of open-source data and software resources for vocal biomarkers
- WG3: Ethical, data protection and privacy issues of vocal biomarkers
- WG4: Translational research and go to market strategies
- WG5: Dissemination

Who can apply?

This call is open to researchers wishing to undertake a research visit at a host institution located in a country different from that of their current affiliation, for a defined period and with a clearly specified work plan. Affiliation refers to any officially recognised link between the applicant and a legal entity.

Researchers affiliated with institutions based in a COST Full or Cooperating Member country, a Near Neighbour Country (NNC), or a European RTD organisation are eligible to apply for STSMs. The missions themselves may be carried out in any country worldwide.

Priority will be given to early-career researchers. For the purpose of this call, a Young Researcher is defined as an individual under the age of 40.

Financial Support:

The STSM grant is intended to contribute to expenses related to travel, accommodation, and daily subsistence. It should be regarded as partial financial support and may not fully cover all costs incurred during the mission.

The financial contribution allocated to each STSM must comply with the following conditions:

- A maximum amount of up to **EUR 2100** may be awarded per successful applicant.

Grant payments are processed by the Grant Holder only after the mission has been completed and the scientific report has been approved. The final amount is subject to the availability of funds and confirmation by the Grant Holder.

How to apply:

Starting from **15/04/2026**, the applicant should complete and upload the application via the dedicated COST online tool at <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants/add>:

- The COST STSM application form available at <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants> after registration in the e-COST system at <https://e-services.cost.eu/>
- A motivation letter
- The CV of the applicant has to be uploaded directly to the e-cost profile of the applicant
- A letter of invitation from the Host institution, stating that the STSM can be performed on the given dates should the application be approved.
- A letter of support from the Home institution
- A justification of the requested budget (travel, accommodation, subsistence)

In the application, the applicant has in particular to synthetically describe the goal of the proposed STSM, the description of the work to be carried out, as well as how the expected outputs contribute to the objectives of the eVoiceNet COST Action (either research coordination and/or capacity building objectives). The start and end dates of the STSM have to be clearly mentioned.

Please remember that the applicant is responsible for obtaining an agreement with the Host institution, before submitting the application.

Evaluation of applications:

The evaluation of STSM applications is conducted under the supervision of the STSM Grant Awarding Coordinator, with support from the Action Chair and Vice-Chair, and input from Working Group Leaders when necessary.

Applications are assessed based on the following criteria:

1. **Relevance (max. 5 points)** – How well the proposed STSM addresses the objectives of COST Action CA24128 eVoiceNet (as stated in the Memorandum of Understanding). Applications scoring 0–2 points will be automatically excluded.
2. **Quality of Work Plan (max. 5 points)** – Assessed based on:
 - Added value to the field of minority language media;
 - Originality of the topic, methodology, and resources;
 - Clarity and elaboration of proposed activities;
 - Feasibility of the work within the proposed time-frame and budget;
 - Reasonability of the requested budget;
 - Expected outcomes (e.g., scientific articles, conference contributions, bridging research and practice, or other tangible results). Applications with a clear and realistic publication plan will be prioritized. Applications scoring 0–2 points will be automatically excluded.
3. **Excellence of Applicant (max. 3 points)** – Motivation, academic background and qualifications, and relevant expertise in research directly aligned with the objectives of the Action.
4. **Quality of Host Institution and Network (max. 3 points)** – Evaluated based on:
 - Contribution of the host institution to the proposed work;
 - Excellence of the host institution (recognition in the field of minority language media);

- Excellence of supervisor/mentor (academic background, professional expertise, relevant supervisory experience);
- Interdisciplinary and inclusive network (involving at least one academic and one practitioner/policy-maker);
- Sustainability of the collaboration (potential for continued cooperation after the STSM).

5. **Priorities (1 point each) –**

- Applicant is a participant or Working Group member of the Action;
- Applicant actively uses a minority language in their work (evidence must be provided in the application).

Successful applicants will be notified by the Grant Holder via e-mail and will receive an official Grant Letter confirming the approval of their STSM. This letter will include a Payment Request Form, to be completed after submission and approval of the STSM report, as well as the approved grant amount. Applicants must confirm acceptance by returning the signed Grant Letter.

Applicants whose applications are not approved will be informed directly by the STSM Grant Awarding Coordinator via e-mail.

After completing the STSM:

The STSM grantee must submit a report (available in e-COST) for approval no later than 30 days after the completion of the STSM or within 15 days following the end of the Grant Period, whichever occurs first. The report should be sent to the Host institution, the Action Chair, Vice-Chair, the relevant Working Group Leader, and the Grant Awarding Coordinator.

The report should include:

- A scientific report using the template available through the e-COST platform, and describing the work carried out, the main achievements and the planned future follow up activities.
- An official letter/confirmation by the host institution of the successful execution of the STSM

The scientific report must be validated by both the Action Chair and the STSM Coordinator. If the report is not submitted within 30 days after the end of the mission, the grant will be cancelled. Following approval of the report and submission of the payment request, the STSM grant will be transferred directly to the beneficiary via bank transfer.

Grantees may be invited to present the outcomes of their STSM during internal eVoiceNet meetings or events (e.g. Management Committee or Working Group meetings).

Where relevant, any dissemination of results arising from the STSM, whether through journal publications or presentations at national or international conferences (oral or poster), must acknowledge the support of COST Action CA24128 eVoiceNet in accordance with COST visual identity guidelines. The recommended acknowledgment is:

“This article/publication/contribution is based upon work from COST Action CA24128 European Network to Advance the Development and Implementation of Vocal Biomarkers (eVoiceNet), supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology). www.cost.eu”

In addition, posters should display the COST and EU logos in line with the official visual identity requirements.


Important dates:

- There is no specific date for the submission of applications; applications will be evaluated on a rolling basis, within the timeframe of Grand Period 1.
- Applications will be evaluated and applicants will be notified within one month after their submissions.
- The STSM has to take place before 30 September 2026.
- Deadline for submission of reports: within 30 days after the end of the conference, but not later than 15 October 2026.
- Payment of grant: within 30 days from the submission of the report.

Contact:

For more information and enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the Action Chair:

Dr. Guy FAGHERAZZI

 guy.fagherazzi@lih.lu

Links:

- [**Action CA24128 - COST**](#)
- [**Annotated Rules for COST Actions**](#)
- [**Grant Awarding user guide**](#)
- [**COST Action – countries and organizations**](#)
- [**COST visual identity**](#)