

# Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) Opportunities within Riseup-PPD (Cost Action CA18138)

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FACULDADE  
DE PSICOLOGIA E DE  
CIÊNCIAS DA EDUCAÇÃO  
UNIVERSIDADE D  
COIMBRA



CINEICC



RISEUP-PPD



EUROPEAN COOPERATION  
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



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## A. GENERAL INFO

The main goal of Riseup-PPD COST Action is to establish a Pan-European multidisciplinary network of researchers dedicated to the understanding of Peripartum Depression Disorder (PPD), from its prevention and assessment to its treatment and global impact (<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA18138>).

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) are institutional visits aimed at supporting the mobility of PhD students and ECIs and offer them an opportunity to interact with more advanced researchers from another COST Member/Cooperating Member or Near-Neighbour Country joining the Action. STSMs should support and include a high proportion of Early Career Investigators (ECIs) and Inclusiveness Target Country researchers (ITCs).

According to Riseup-PPD's Work and Budget Plan, **6 additional STSMs** will be funded in the current Grant Period (until 31.10.2021). The minimum duration for a STSM is 5 days including traveling, maximum duration is 90 days for non-ECIs, 180 days for ECIs. STSMs for this period must end prior to **31st October 2021**. Due to COVID-19, please be mindful of section H) before applying.

## B. ELIGIBILITY

### PARTICIPANTS

STSM applicants must be engaged in an official research programme as a PhD Student or postdoctoral fellow or can be employed by, or affiliated to, an institution, organisation or legal entity which has within its remit a clear association with performing research.

Applicants are also requested to consult the COST Vademecum Section 8 (<http://www.cost.eu/Vademecum>) for the updated information about STSMs.

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE

STSM calls are open throughout the course of each Riseup-PPD grant period. To apply, open an STSM application on e-COST (here: <https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>) and send it, along with the documents requested below under D) to the STSM Coordinator Tjasa Stepisnik Perdih ([tjasa.stepisnik.perdih@fuds.si](mailto:tjasa.stepisnik.perdih@fuds.si)) and the Grant Manager Patrícia Correia ([riseup-ppd\\_ca18138@fpce.uc.pt](mailto:riseup-ppd_ca18138@fpce.uc.pt)). Applications will be forwarded to the Training Schools, Short Term Scientific Missions, & Conference Grants Committee, which will evaluate all submitted applications. Because each STSM, as stated in the General Info, must end no later than 31 October 2021, please submit it as early as possible regardless of STSM dates. If the STSM does not end prior to the end of the current grant period, your application will not be accepted. Please allow up to 15 days for the committee to evaluate your application.

## C. EVALUATION CRITERIA

In order to prevent imbalance and provide equal opportunities for all, applicants will be firstly considered according to the following three groups:

1. Applicant who has not previously received a grant AND applicant's country of affiliation was not supported in previous calls\*.
2. Applicant whose country of affiliation has been supported in previous calls\*.
3. Applicant who has previously received a grant.

Applicants will then be ranked based on the following criteria:

1. PhD Student or Early Career Researcher<sup>1</sup>;
2. ITC Country<sup>2</sup>;
3. Motivation/Research match with the Riseup-PPD aims and the host institution;
4. Quality of working plan (research questions, methodology, timeline).

For criteria 1 and 2 (1 = Fulfilled, 0 = Not fulfilled), for criteria 3 and 4 (0 = Not relevant for the Action - exclusion criteria; 1 = Very low research match ... 5 = Very high research match).

To avoid conflict of interest when evaluating the applications, applicants who either work at the same place or will visit the same place of a committee member will not be evaluated by that member.

## D. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS (IN ONE DOCUMENT)

- Details of applicant (name, contact details, institution, stage of career);
- Description of planned STSM incl. motivation, how the STSM relates to Riseup-PPD, justification for the choice of the host institution and workplan summary (description of the work to be carried out by the applicant at the host institution, expected results, dissemination of results) – max 3 pages;
- Benefits for the researcher in attending STSM, benefits for Riseup-PPD, and benefits for host institution - max 1 page;
- Total estimated costs;
- Application .pdf file extracted from the e-COST platform;
- Letter of acceptance from host institution.

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\*Countries supported in previous calls: Portugal.

<sup>1</sup> Early Career Investigator (ECI) - A researcher within a time span of up to 8 years from the date they obtained the PhD/ doctorate (full-time equivalent).

<sup>2</sup> For a full list of ITCs please follow this link: [http://www.cost.eu/about\\_cost/strategy/excellence-inclusiveness](http://www.cost.eu/about_cost/strategy/excellence-inclusiveness)

## **E. FUNDING**

### **SUPPORT FOR SELECTED TRAINEES**

Funding will be provided according to the rules defined on page 33 of COST Vademecum (Section 8.4). Each STSM grant is a fixed contribution to overall travel, accommodation and meal expenses of the grantee. The actual grant value takes into consideration the budget request of the applicant, the available budget of Riseup-PPD for the respective grant period, and the outcome of the evaluation of the STSM application. For this grant period, Riseup-PPD has a total budget of 15000 Euro to attribute. As such, we expect each grant to have an average amount of 1500 Euro. In any case, no grantee may request an amount higher than 300 Euro for travel costs, and higher than 160 Euro for accommodation and meals per day. The actual amount to be attributed will be calculated on a per grantee basis. It is highly advisable for candidates to also purchase travel insurance to cover cancellation due to COVID-19 and/or other reasons (read more about the impact of COVID-19 below under H.).

ITC participants may request a pre-payment of 50% of their STSM Grant upon completion of the first day of their STSM. Also, participants may enquire at their own institution to advance their grant amount.

In all other cases, the grant will be paid once the administrative requirements have been satisfied after the STSM.

## **F. STSM FINAL EVALUATION**

Successful applicants must submit a scientific report to the Host Institution and to the STSM Coordinator within 30 days from the end date of the STSM, and they will be responsible for acquiring from a senior researcher affiliated to the Host Institution confirmation of formal acceptance of the scientific report. The scientific report will also require the approval of the Action Chair or STSM Coordinator in order to effect the payment of the Grant (either 100% for non-ITC participants, or 50% for ITC participants). Successful applicants will be asked to submit a brief of the STSM outputs for the Action's website describing in summary the scientific report which will also be made available online, and be prepared to participate in the Action's events with a poster about their STSM when applicable or when requested by the Chair or STSM coordinator.

## **G. IMPORTANT DATES**

**STSM Grant Period:** 01.05.2020-31.10.2021

**STSM Application Period:** 20-07-2021-30.09.2021 (The call will remain open as long as the budget is available within the deadline)

**Applications will be assessed up to 15 days from the submission.**

## **H. COVID-19-RELATED INFORMATION**

Due to the COVID-19-related challenges and restrictions, being selected as an STSM grantee does not guarantee that you will be able to start and complete your STSM. Your participation in this networking tool, and the respective financial support, may be unilaterally cancelled in case of governmental or organisational restrictions to travel, hosting or reimbursement. This includes but is not limited to COST Association changes in policy related to local networking tools, Grant Holder's recommendations, and both host and origin institution's bans or recommendations to postpone or cancel travelling. We highly recommend that in case of a successful application to not purchase or commit to any traveling, accommodation or other expenses eligible for reimbursement. First, please let us know of your particular situation and we will update you on the current restrictions. At any rate, the purchasing of insurance against COVID-19 cancellations is now mandatory in cases where free cancellations (e.g., accommodation) are not possible. Riseup-PPD will not be liable in case cancellations do happen and are not covered by the purchased insurance. We also recommend that you choose a nearby country with no travel restrictions as your host institution's country. STSMs within your own country are, however, not possible.