



PEN@HYDROPOWER (CA 21104)

extension of the 1st Call for Short-Term Scientific Missions
12.5.2023

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PEN@HYDROPOWER and STSMs

This is the extension of the 1st call for applications for Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) funded by COST Action CA21104 [Pan-European Network for Sustainable Hydropower – PEN@Hydropower](#).

STSMs help PEN@Hydropower participants to conduct short visits to a research institution in another [COST country](#). STSMs aim to strengthen the networks of researchers' institutions by enabling collaboration and providing new skills and knowledge, not readily available within their institution. STSMs contribute to the scientific objectives of the Action. For all PEN@Hydropower participants, STSMs are an opportunity to focus their work on research topics highlighted by WGs or introduce new ideas addressing the PEN@Hydropower objectives.

STSMs are beneficial to:

- **STSM grantees**, who receive funding to conduct a project with an international team and gain knowledge or access to equipment or techniques not available at their home institution.
- **STSM hosts**, who can host an international partner at their institution and establish long-term collaboration.

Under this extension of the 1st Call, PEN@Hydropower is offering 2 STSM positions, that include travel grants for individuals. Details on the content and objectives of the working groups can be found in the [Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\) of the Action](#).



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Guidelines for applicants

As part of this extension of the 1st call, PEN@Hydropower is offering 2 STSM positions to financially support individuals with travel grants. Applications should be submitted by **May 31, 2023**. Decisions will be announced by **June 15, 2023**.

The visit should last at least 5 days (including travel), while the maximum duration must be agreed upon with the host institution contact person. All applications should be coordinated with the host institution's contact person prior to application submission, including dates of stay at the host institution. All STSMs must be completed within the first funding period of the Action - the end of October 2023. Grantees must make their own arrangements for travel, accommodation, etc.

The maximum amount for each STSM grant for this period is **€3,000**. For details on the maximum daily allowance that can be requested for accommodation and board per country, please visit [COST Daily Allowance Rates](#). Applicants are also encouraged to consult the [annotated Rules for COST actions](#).

Who is eligible to apply for an STSM?

STSM travel grants are available to researchers and innovators affiliated with a legal entity in COST Full member / Cooperative member, Near Neighbor Country, or European RTD. Young researchers and innovators (<40 years old) are strongly encouraged to participate.

Applications for STSMs are managed through the e- COST administrative tool. All applicants must have an [e-COST profile](#).

The applicant must use the e-COST administration tool to register the STSM application. In addition to the information entered on the website, applicants should also upload the following documents in a PDF file:

- brief CV with recent publications,
- [STSM proposal](#),
- requested budget in € and
- letter of confirmation from the host Institution.

For more information on how to submit via the e- COST system, please refer to the [Grant Awarding User Guide](#) or the [How-to-Apply Guidelines](#).

Upon completion of the STSM, the grantee must submit a [Report on the Outcomes of the Visit](#). The report must be submitted within 30 days of the end of the STSM or 15 days of the end of the grant period (whichever date comes first). Please be advised that if the applicant does not submit the



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required report in a timely manner, the grant will be cancelled. Grant payment is expected to be made within 30 days of report approval.

Evaluation of applications

Each proposal will be independently evaluated by the COST Action core group. The evaluation will consider (i) the clarity of the proposal, (ii) the extent to which the proposed STSM complements or contributes to the strategic priorities and objectives of the PEN@Hydropower Action as defined in the MoU, (iii) the relevance of the proposed work plan and deliverables, and (iv) the ability of the STSM applicant to successfully complete the STSM and disseminate the relevant deliverables. Each proposal should clearly demonstrate the benefits to the applicant and the PEN@Hydropower Action. Proposals will be ranked, and the highest-scoring proposals will be selected for funding.

STSMs opportunities

Applicants may apply for the following STSM opportunities.

WG 2 STSM Topic:

Current trends and future perspectives of hydropower digitalisation in EU context

WG 2 Grant Period Goal:

Review of trending technologies, and identification of the needs of the hydropower sector from the point of view of digitalization, flexibility, and efficiency.

Description:

The review of current trends and prospects for digitalisation should identify the need for digitalisation in various areas of hydropower, e.g., improving operational efficiency (process automation, reduced downtime, increased reliability), integration of other renewable energy sources, environmental monitoring, etc. The review should also identify and describe the challenges associated with digitalization, e.g. Big Data, digital twin and data management and processing, cybersecurity, finance (CAPEX and OPEX), need for training and education of technical staff at the European level. Pilot installations and first experiences with hydropower digitalisation in Europe should be covered with a description of the approaches adopted by technology manufacturers and hydropower operators.

Host Institution & contact person:

TU Wien, Institute of Energy Systems and Thermodynamics, Research Unit of Fluid-Flow Machinery, Vienna, Austria

Dr. Eduard Doujak

email: eduard.doujak@tuwien.ac.at



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WG 4 STSM Topic:

Understanding the current status and role of hydropower in the EU

WG 4 Grant Period Goal:

Understanding the EU framework, trends in generation, and consumption. Assessing the role and operation of hydropower in EU member states, and market development for EU equipment manufacturers.

Description:

The STSM will examine the changes and trends in electricity generation in the EU (dispatchable, non-dispatchable, distributed generation, etc.) over the last decades. Assess the role of hydropower in the EU and the different regions (Eastern Europe, Northern Europe, Western Europe, Southern Europe) compared to other renewable energy sources - highlight the changes and identify the policy instruments that have influenced the development of hydropower. After the STSM, the report and the collected data (e.g. in the form of Excel spreadsheets) are expected from the trainee.

Host Institution & contact person:

Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
Prof. Aonghus Mc Nabola
email: amcnabo@tcd.ie

Questions/inquiries

If needed, please contact:

- **PEN@Hydropower Chair:**
dr. Eduard Doujak
(eduard.doujak@tuwien.ac.at)
- **PEN@Hydropower Grant Awarding Coordinator:**
prof. Marko Hočevár
(marko.hocevar@fs.uni-lj.si)
- **PEN@Hydropower Grant Holder Manager:**
mr. Christian Blasbichler
(christian.blasbichler@tuwien.ac.at)



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