

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) Applications

**CA15137**

**European Network for Research Evaluation in the Social Sciences and the Humanities  
(ENRESSH)**

Call Number 4\_4

for Grant period 4 (01/05/2019 to 7/04/2020)

**implementation from 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**What is the purpose of an STSM?**

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) are aimed at strengthening existing networks and fostering collaborations by facilitating Researchers participating in a given COST Action to visit an institution or laboratory **in another Participating COST Country / an approved NNC institution or an approved IPC institution**. A STSM should specifically contribute to the overall scientific objectives of the COST Action\*, whilst at the same time enable eligible researchers to learn new techniques or gain access to specific expertise, instruments and/or methods not available in their own institutions.

**\*CA15137 – ENRESSH**

**ENRESSH - European Network for Research Evaluation in the Social Sciences and the Humanities**

The challenge of the Action is to enable the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) to better demonstrate their true place in academia and society. To do so, the Action proposes to bring together different strands of work consecrated to SSH research evaluation, currently under development in different parts of Europe, in order to gain momentum, to exchange best practices and results, and to avoid unnecessary duplication.

**A call for the following topic has been opened:**

Topic 1.1: Ethics of Evaluation (WG1)

Topic 2.1: Evaluating the potential of academic knowledge transfer outputs to create impact (WG2)

Topic 3.5: Towards a methodology for assessing legal journals across countries (WG3)

**Topic 1.1: Ethics of Evaluation (WG1)**

*Host institution:* Department of “Lettere e culture moderne” located at the Sapienza University of Rome (Italy).

*Description of the topic:* Evaluation of research involves ethical issues. While research on assessment procedures, especially indicators is abundant, there is not much progress in the discussion of ethics in research evaluation. The analysis of the existing scientific and grey literature including many guidelines on research ethics and ethics of evaluation showed that the two research streams can be used to develop an ethics of research evaluation. This STSM will continue the ongoing project examining ethical aspects of research assessment, with the goal to develop guidelines for ethics of research evaluation by combining ethical theories, research ethics, evaluation ethics. The goal of the study is to stimulate a reflection on ethical principles among people active in research evaluation, be it SSH scholars, evaluators or policy makers, to make efforts to make these principles transparent.

*Objectives:* The STSM aims to further the understanding knowledge production and dissemination in the SSH (Task 1 of WG1) from an ethical perspective; it will analyse

assumptions underlying peer review (Task 2 of WG1); it will not only observe (national) regulations (Task 3 of WG1) but also propose new guidelines. It will add to the deliverable “recommendations for better adapted criteria and indicators” due in GP4. It will lead to collaborative publications and to guidelines for ethical behavior for the evaluation of research. *Special criteria for this STSM:* the applicant should have knowledge of the different evaluation situations as well as of the characteristics of peer-review and should have knowledge of the fundamentals of ethical behavior.

*Results:* The proposed STSM will provide guidelines for ethical behavior for the evaluation of research, and will produce co-authored publications.

*Practical details:*

Working group: WG1 (Conceptual frameworks for SSH research evaluation)

Duration and timing: between one and two weeks

Location: Sapienza Rome University, Faculty of “Lettere e Filosofia”, piazzale Aldo Moro 5, 00185 Roma – Italy.

Contact: Maria Teresa Biagetti ([mariateresa.biagetti@uniroma1.it](mailto:mariateresa.biagetti@uniroma1.it)) and Michael Ochsner [michael.ochsner@fors.unil.ch](mailto:michael.ochsner@fors.unil.ch)

### **Topic 2.1: Evaluating the potential of academic knowledge transfer outputs to create impact**

*Host institution:* CSIC-INGENIO, Valencia, Spain

*Description of the topic:* There is increasing pressure from science policy-makers and funders to evaluate the societal impact that research activities create, related to pressures these policy makers themselves are under to justify the resources they receive. Evaluating the impact of research is therefore regarded as being an important mechanism to demonstrate, but impact as a phenomenon is something that researchers themselves are not always well-positioned to create or report. Spain has recently introduced an individual knowledge transfer activity evaluation, where each researcher is compelled to submit details of five individual transfer activities in the preceding six year period (the *sexenio*).

The aim of this STSM is to create a more comprehensive definition of evidence that corroborates impact created that can be used in evaluation systems to reduce burden and maximise the breadth of activities covered. In this STSM we explore what are the antecedent conditions to creating impact focusing on transfer activities that take place through publication activities including both popular science/ engagement but also producing professional materials (e.g guidelines). This activity is led by Elena Castro Martínez (INGENIO, Spain) supported by Julia Olmos Peñuela (University of Valencia, Spain), Paul Benneworth (Høgskulen på Vestlandet, Norway) and Elea Giménez Toledo (ILIA, Spain).

*Objectives:*

The STSM aims to create a set of guidelines to assist evaluators in evaluating the potential for activities and outcomes to produce eventual impact, strongly rooted in a conceptual understanding of the creation of research impact. The STSM seeks to support policy-makers to better stimulate the contributions that SSH research makes in society, and to stimulate the flow of that knowledge to society at large (WG2 task 3). The Guidelines represent a clear set of measures for valuing SSH (Task 5), by ensuring that SSH research that is better committed to creating societal impact is funded. By undertaking the work in the context of a new evaluation system (the *sexenio*), and creating a concrete set of guidelines of use to policy-makers for evaluating impact, the STSM contributes to the overall goals of the Action to create policy impact.

We undertake a small scoping study of c. ten SSH researchers in Spain to explore the ways in which they create a credibility trail through their efforts in conducting transfer activities around two transfer activities, books targeted at professionals and guidelines/ protocols for

professional practice, from the idea generation to the dissemination and publicity activities. We identify the researchers characteristics (behaviours and practices) are associated with credible impact creation process, and provide a first typology of the forms of evidence that could be used to corroborate a broad reading of impact. This typology provides the basis for us to refine our overall framework, and also to improve guidance provided to evaluators in ensuring that broader perspectives to evaluating research impact are taken.

*Special criteria for this STSM:*

The applicant should have a broad knowledge of science studies and scientific evaluation processes, ideally with some knowledge about *ex ante* evaluation of research proposals (either academic or practical). The candidate must be capable of undertaking the research tasks required for this project in an independent manner, including carrying out background research (websites, policy reports), interviewing and qualitative data analysis.

Because much of the data for this work is only available in Spanish, the applicant must be competent in reading and speaking Spanish.

*Results:* The proposed STSM will provide guidelines assist evaluators in evaluating the potential for activities and outcomes to produce eventual impact, strongly rooted in a conceptual understanding of the creation of research impact. As far as possible, the guidelines will be formulated in such a way that they may be used as a conceptual framework for *ex post* evaluation of societal impact in research proposals more generally, not limited to projects within SSH.

*Practical details:*

Working group: WG2 (Societal impact and relevance of SSH Research).

Duration and timing: between 2 weeks and 2 months from 23<sup>th</sup> October to 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

Because of the volume of work necessary to complete this task, preference will be given to candidates seeking longer rather than shorter placements.

*Location:* CSIC INGENIO, Valencia, Spain.

*Contact:* Elena Castro Martínez ([ecastrom@ingenio.upv.es](mailto:ecastrom@ingenio.upv.es))

### **Topic 3.5: Towards a methodology for assessing legal journals across countries**

*Host institution:* Institute of Legal Informatics and Judicial Systems - National Research Council (IGSG-CNR) (Italy)

*Description of the topic:* Publications in social sciences and humanities (SSH) present important differences with respect to publications in other areas; for example, the scope of research (more local), the publication typology (mainly book chapters and monographs), the language (mainly the language of the country of publication) and the habits of collaboration (more single authored publications). These different characteristics require the need to develop specific methodologies for the analysis and evaluation of SSH publications.

In particular, legal science and included disciplines presents the most considerable difficulties for evaluation based on a quantitative approach. In our study we consider 'legal science' as the set of disciplines that deal with law: science of law, legal theory, jurisprudence, legal dogmatics, the sociology of law, legal anthropology, comparative law, history of law, etc. The evaluation of research in law and law related disciplines is complex because there are profound differences among them. The evaluation of research in law and law related disciplines is more complex because there are profound differences in the dissemination of research results among them. There is no European ranking of law journals or legal publishers,

no generally accepted system of peer review, no bibliometric databases, and no consensus on quality indicators for academic legal publications.

In recent years, European countries have participated in an intense debate on the evaluation of the results of legal research. The discussion tends to focus on the new appeal of law, moving from a national towards a transnational approach, from mono-disciplinarity to multidisciplinary. All these specific aspects are very relevant for the research that will be carried out in this STSM.

This STSM is addressed to explore methodological approaches for evaluation of legal journals published in three different countries (Italy, Spain and Croatia), in order to find criteria that allow establishing a classification model of national legal journals based on qualitative and quantitative indicators. In this regard, the idea is to continue the work of the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT) on the evaluation of journals in SSH disciplines. The methodology used by FECYT is based on two dimensions: the analysis of journals' impacts and the analysis of their visibility. During the STSM mission, we are going to further develop this methodology, including new quantitative and qualitative criteria that show well the specificities of the research reported in the SSH journals of these three countries. All the mentioned countries are characterized to have a quite good production of law journals and to be the place of lively national debate among legal scholars who have a strong preference for qualitative evaluation methods over quantitative methods.

*Objectives:*

- To provide an accurate survey of the national legal journals in Italy, Spain and Croatia, as well as their impact and visibility in the international bibliographic databases.
- After literature review on different approaches used for the evaluation of legal journals, to identify at quantitative (citation, visibility, etc.) and qualitative indicators (type of peer review, presence of internal or/and external referees, openness, etc.) for the assessment of legal journals.
- To propose a methodology for assessing national legal journals of the basis of the methods used in three different countries (Italy, Spain and Croatia), capable of being used for national legal journals in other countries.
- To get an insight in the peer review process of the legal journals by a content analysis of the instructions for peer reviewers and other documents describing editorial processes.

*Expected Results:*

- A new specific methodology to evaluate the national legal journals in different countries.
- In-depth literature survey in order to record all possible indicators and their characteristics
- A review of national practices in the legal science
- An analysis of editorial processes and peer review in the national legal journals
- Design of a possible structure for building a database of scientific papers published in legal journals with particular interests on open access publications.
- Scientific papers published, including research results on comparative analysis of legal journals in Italy, Spain and Croatia, journals' quality criteria, classification model and peer review process.

*Special criteria for this STSM:*

The applicant must have knowledge of SSH research in his or her country and ideally possess the following:

- Excellent skills related to bibliometric research with particular interest in evaluation of legal outputs;

- Good knowledge in SSH scholarly publishing;
- High interdisciplinary approach.

*Practical details:*

Duration and timing: 10 days from the period of November 2019 to December 2019.

Location: Institute of Legal Informatics and Judicial Systems - National Research Council (IGSG-CNR) Via de' Barucci 20, 50127 Firenze, Italy

Contact: Ginevra Peruginelli (ginevra.peruginelli@igsg.cnr.it)

## Formalities

### Financial support

The financial support is a contribution to the overall expenses incurred during the STSM and may not necessarily cover all of the associated outgoings. The following funding conditions apply and must be respected:

1. Travel expenses cannot exceed EUR 300;
2. For accommodation and meal expenses, a maximum amount of EUR 160 per day can be considered;
3. A maximum of EUR 2500 in total can be afforded to the grantee.
4. The final amount of the grant is dependent on the duration of the STSM and the level of prices at the host country.
4. STSM activities must occur in their entirety within the dates specified in this call.

Financial support is limited to cover travel and subsistence expenses and is paid as a grant. Payment of the Grant is subject to the scientific report (**after the completion of STMS**) being approved by the Action Chair, STSM Coordinator and a researcher affiliated to the Host institution.

### Selection criteria

- **The application of the research to the field of the Action** – a detailed work plan will help determine if the scientific aims of the work will be applicable to the Action's aims.
- **The home institution of the researcher** – We will take into account the number of applications from each institution to ensure a fair spread of researches across the network.
- **The experience of the researcher** – in line with COST Office rules, we will preferentially award STSMs to early stage researchers (PhD + <8 years). This should not discourage more experienced researchers from applying but their chances of being selected are slightly reduced.
- **The publication potential of the research carried out** – a short publication plan as part of the workplan, including intended journal, aim/working title and timescale for submission, will help to identify the most promising research.
- **Geographical and gender balance** issues will be taken into consideration;
- **The research should fit into the host institutions' research profile.**

### How to apply for an STSM

Interested Researchers are advised to follow the directions provided below and submit their application and supporting documents to Mimi Urbanc (mimi.urbanc@zrc-sazu.si) by the deadline, ie 15/10/2019.

## THE APPLICATION PROCESS

1. All applicants must carefully read the funding rules detailed in section 8 of the *COST Vademecum*: <https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Vademecum-May-2019.pdf> (pages 34–35).
2. All applicants must register for an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/> - adding their bank account details to their profile.
3. All applicants must complete, submit and download their STSM application online at: <https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>.
4. All applicants must send their submitted STSM application form and the relevant supporting documents to Mimi Urbanc [mimi.urbanc@zrc-sazu.si](mailto:mimi.urbanc@zrc-sazu.si) for evaluation before the application submission deadline expires.

**The list of supporting documents** to be submitted for the evaluation includes:

- The submitted **STSM application form** (downloadable when the online application is submitted - see point 3 above)
- **A motivation letter** including an overview of the proposed activities that will be performed which must contain a **work plan** for the visit highlighting the proposed contribution to the scientific objectives of the ENRESSH COST Action and the general activities of the host institution;
- **A letter of support** from the home Institution;
- **A written agreement** of the host institution
- **A Full CV** (including a list of academic publications – if applicable). The CV must include the award date of the applicants PhD and their current position.

The applications will then be assessed by the Action Steering Committee and researchers affiliated to the Host institutions.

7. The applicant will be formally notified of the outcome of their STSM application by Mimi Urbanc by 15/10/2019.

8. Within 30 days from the end date of the STSM, the successful applicant must submit a scientific report to the Host institution and to Mimi Urbanc. The applicant is also responsible for acquiring an official acceptance letter / Email confirmation of acceptance from a senior Researcher affiliated to the Host institution formally accepting the scientific report. This formal acceptance of the scientific report has to be sent to the Grant Holder and Mimi Urbanc for archiving purposes.

Failure to submit the scientific report within 30 days from the end date of the STSM will effectively cancel the grant.

(Please note that COST can request additional information to substantiate the information contained within the documents submitted by STSM applicants).

## Dates to remember

Deadline for applications to be submitted: 15/10/2019

Notification of application outcome: 22/10/2019

Period of STSM: between 23/10/2019 and 31/1/2020

Submitting the reports: within 30 days from the end date

Accepting/ rejecting the reports: within 2 weeks after submission of the report

Execution the payment of the grant: within 4 weeks after submission of the report.