Balancing the Short-Term Scientific Missions at the end of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} year

Networking is the word for introducing the STSM activity since it consists of supporting mobility (travel and subsistence grants) for researchers who want to learn new techniques, perform experimental work using instruments and/or methods not available in their own institution/laboratory, and establish or strengthen collaborations with other teams working in the field of electroporation.

Successful networking is the word describing today’s review on STSMs since 10 missions have been funded during the 1\textsuperscript{st} year, and 28 more (including one Reciprocal STSM) during the 2\textsuperscript{nd} year. The STSM map exceeds the European boundaries: 37 research and academic institutions from 14 Home and 11 Host countries have been connected by human and scientific bridges (New Zealand, USA, Morocco, Lithuania, Bulgaria and Sweden are just a few geographical pins keeping the STSMs mesh wide open above Europe).

A balanced distribution of STSM grants according to COST rules is also evidenced by the following report: 20 female and 18 male researchers benefitted from grants; 18 PhD and MSc students, 13 early-stage researchers (ESRs), and 7 senior researchers could get valuable experience in foreign labs.

Measurable outcome adds to the STSM returns: a survey of grantees’ publications directly resulting from missions, showed 2 already published articles (both in the J. Membrane Biol.), 4 submitted manuscripts (Mathematical Biosci., Eur. Food Res. Tech., 2 papers in Innov. Food Sci. & Emerging Tech.), and 5 oral and 4 poster presentations already presented or accepted to prestigious international scientific meetings (SFTCG 2013, Gordon Conferences, ThermaComp2014, etc). There are also personal positive outcomes that could be collected from all grantees having the opportunity to experience new scientifically challenging environments and cultural openings (see recto for testimonials).
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Full scientific reports of missions are available after Log-in on the Action’s private part of website under Classroom/STSM, and abstracted versions are available at [http://www.electroporation.net/STSM-reports](http://www.electroporation.net/STSM-reports).

Moreover, the STSM activity continues: Call 5 opened in June for 11 new grants. STSMs will be granted as reimbursements based on the duration in the amounts:

- from 5 working days (which is the minimum) to 10 days: 100 €/day + up to 400 € for travel;
- from 11 to 25 days: linear progression from 1000 € to 1750 € + up to 300 € for travel;
- from 26 to 90 days: linear progression from 1750 € to 2200 € + up to 300 € for travel;
- travel grant request must be based on economic fares for transport ticketing;
- travel grant request may go up to 500 € for trans-oceanic flight (but since the total amount of the grant is restricted, above-mentioned contributions to subsistence costs may undergo a subsequent reduction).

**Important dates for Call 5/Year 3:**

- **Registration period**: June 5 – July 17, 2014
- **Assessment period**: July 18 – July 28, 2014
- **Announcement of approved grants**: July 29, 2014
- **Start of STSMs**: August 10, 2014

Detailed information and instructions on the application procedure are available via [www.electroporation.net](http://www.electroporation.net) – after Log-in.

**Tomás García-Sánchez:** … This STSM has been a perfect opportunity to establish new links with other young scientists sharing not only scientific knowledge but also ideas, moments, cultural interests…

**Azadeh Peyman:** … It has been an exciting and challenging week. The measurement system had to be setup in the hospital environment; the availability of human tumour tissues compensated for the technical difficulties. It has been a unique opportunity not to be missed…

**Natasa Tesic:** … In addition, I passed the exam on animal experimentation which enabled me acquisition of FELASA-B certificate, required to carry out in vivo experiments…