

COST Action No CA2311 – Targeting Cell Senescence to Prevent Age-Related Diseases (SENESCENCE2030)

Call for STSM

Preventing or alleviating aging associated diseases, collectively rather than individually, is the challenge to extend the human health span. The knowledge on cellular and molecular mechanisms identified so far as "hallmarks of aging" allow experimental strategies to prevent aging anticipation and extend the health span. A body of evidence indicate that cell senescence is a targetable hallmark of aging, typically associated with metabolic disorders, cardiovascular diseases, neurodegeneration and cancer.

The Action SENESCENCE2030 aims at rooting in Europe the vision of cells senescence and its targeting at center for the prevention of aging related disorders. Through the engagement with international partners, SENESCENCE2030 generates an interdisciplinary and intersectoral network of experts in geroscience and senescence, facilitating the acquisition of new skills and knowledge among young researchers, medical personnel, and innovators from Inclusiveness Target Countries.

SENESCENCE2030 goes beyond the state-of-the-art by opening vibrant knowledge exchange on senescence and senotherapy, trying to overcome the difficulties that prevent in Europe the clinical application of this knowledge for the identification of feasible diagnostics paths, more efficient clinical trials, and effective interventions on lifestyle and nutrition.

SENESCENCE2030 will highlight the socio-economic impact of therapeutic approaches and cost-effectiveness of timing interventions to define innovative processes, measures, and products of impact on industries, funders and policy makers interested in addressing healthcare and socioeconomic challenges related to the aging.

Overall, SENESCENCE2030 will empower the transition from a disease-centered therapeutic approach to a balanced preventive and personalized treatment to avoid aging anticipation and promote individual health span extension for the next decade.

1. IMPORTANT DATES

- Deadline for submission of applications:
- **March 13th, 2026, for STSM occurring from 13th April to September 30th, 2026**
- Outcome notification date:

Grant decisions will be communicated on March 31st, 2026. The decision of its attribution is based on the merits of the application.

- Deadline for delivering the STSM report and Video: **up to 15 days after the conclusion of the STSM.**

2. OVERVIEW

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) are institutional visits by researchers or scholars aimed at fostering cooperation and collaboration. These visits should specifically contribute to the scientific objectives of this COST Action “Targeting Cell Senescence to Prevent Age-Related Diseases (SENESCENCE2030, CA2311, henceforth ‘Action’), which are outlined in detail in the Memorandum of Understanding.

You may find the eligibility provisions, along with further specifics, conditions and information, in the Action’s STSM Guidelines and COST Annotated Rules. Please read these two documents carefully before applying.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The host needs to be in a different country than that of the affiliation of the applicant.

3. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The financial support in the form of an STSM Grant covers travel, accommodation and meal expenses. Please note that the awarded grant will be paid only after the STSM has been completed in accordance with STSM conditions (exceptionally ITC Grantees may claim 50% of the grant after confirmation by the host that the STSM has started)

For this STSM call, the Management Committee of the Action has **allocated a total budget of EUR 18.000 Euros.**

A maximum of 3.000 Euros shall be awarded to each successful applicant.

An approximate budget, to justify the requested grant must be annexed to the application.

The daily allowance for the country of the Host institution as determined in COST Annotated Rules is applicable. The exact amounts granted for each individual STSM will be determined during the evaluation process.

4. ILLEGIBILITY

In order to apply for an STSM grant you must:

1. Be enrolled as a PhD Student or postdoctoral fellow;
2. Be employed by, or affiliated to an institution or legal entity that conducts research.

5. FINAL PROVISIONS

1. Failure to submit the scientific report and the supporting documents within 15 days after the end date of the STSMs will effectively cancel the grant.
2. Grant is payable up to 30 days after the grantee’s report and supporting documents have been approved by the Action Chair (or Vice-Chair).

Please note that both COST Association and Action’s Grant holder may request additional information to substantiate the information contained within the documents submitted by STSM applicants.

Please contact the Grant Awarding Coordinator Prof Francesco Beguinot via email if any queries relating to STSMs occur: beguino@unina.it

To apply, please follow the steps below:

1. Register for an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/>, adding your bank account details to your profile (if a returning applicant or already in possession of a COST profile, move to step 2).
2. Complete the application form at the STSM application section of your e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/>, uploading the following documentation:
 - a) Letter of invitation from the Host Institution, under the supervision of a senior researcher affiliated with that institution; (optional) recommendation letters.
 - b) Full CV (max. 3 pages), including a list of academic publications if applicable (font: 12pt. Times New Roman).
 - c) Fill out the available online "Short-Term Scientific Mission Grant APPLICATION FORM"
 - d) A detailed – estimated – budget to justify the required grant.
3. Submit and download your application.
4. Please be aware that after the completed short-term scientific mission each awardee is expected to provide the following outputs:
 - STSM reports on the aims and objectives, achieved results, and dissemination of the work/activities that were performed.
 - Short (max 3 minutes) video summary of the STSM report, emphasizing how the STSM has contributed to the grantee's career (current and planned) as well as its contribution TO the action.