

South Africa and COST

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Background

- South Africa (SA) through the Department of Science and Technology (DST) signed a Reciprocal Agreement with the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) office in June 2009.
- Aims to respectively fund SA and EU researchers undertaking short-term scientific missions to Europe and SA, related to SA's participation in COST actions
- DST has designated the European South African Science and Technology Advancement Programme (ESASTAP) to implement the Agreement.



Eligibility criteria

- Participants in COST Actions involving official participations from South Africa are eligible to draw on these funds.
- Reimbursements for any mutually agreed participation in a COST Action would comprise:
 - (i) travel and subsistence expenses to and within Europe for SA scientists and
 - (ii) travel and subsistence expenses to and within SA for European scientists participating and collaborating in the same COST Action
- in line with the principles of the COST financial rules and procedures for Short Term Scientific Missions under this Reciprocal Agreement (RSTSMs) of COST.
- All RSTSMs must be for five days minimum and three months maximum duration.

Funding Procedure

- COST's contribution would be up to € 50,000 p.a. from 1 July 2009 to 1 July 2014 subject to availability of SA reciprocal funding each year
- SA contribution will be up to R 500 000 per year
- ESASTAP be responsible for managing South Africa involvement in COST, including
 - (i) making recommendations on particular applications,
 - (ii) liaising directly with COST, supported by the South African Senior Science and Technology Representative in Brussels on COST negotiations, and
 - (iii) facilitating travel arrangements for South African scientists travelling to Europe under COST Actions.



Funding Procedure (cont...)

- For South African researchers travelling to Europe, DST will fund:
 - (i) A maximum of R50 000 per visit, covering a return airfare of up to R25 000 and daily living allowances.
 - (ii) Daily living allowances, covering accommodation and meals would be provided at the rate of R2 000 per day or a maximum of R25 000 per month, whichever is the smaller amount.
- for European scientists travelling to South Africa COST will fund, a fixed amount not exceeding € 2,500 per visit, except through special justification.
- This would comprise
 - (i) travel expenses of up to €1,000 and
 - (ii) a daily allowance of €160 for accommodation and meals expenses, to a total not exceeding € 2,500.

Application Procedure

- Applications for funding would be made by the scientists seeking funding, or by their employers
- Applications will be processed as follows:
 - (i) for COST country participants wishing to travel to SA the application will be submitted to the COST Office and a statement of support from the Chair of the Action will be required along with a work plan and budget breakdown as per Section 11 of the COST Vademecum; and
 - (ii) for SA participants wishing to travel to Europe applications will be submitted to ESASTAP according to the procedures outlined on its web page (www.esastap.org.za)



Application Procedure (cont...)

- Applications will be considered independently by the COST Office and ESASTAP in accordance with each party's financial rules and procedures.
- Until such time as priority areas or other criteria such as giving priority to first time applicants are agreed, applications will be treated in order of receipt.
- The COST Office and ESASTAP will each form their own views as to the applications' suitability for funding, and accordingly approve or otherwise, consulting each other in this process only as each party deems necessary.



Thank you!

**More information: www.esastap.org.za
www.cost.esf.org**

Enquiries: contact@esastap.org.za

