Open Call for
Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) &
Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants

Invitation

The NERO network (COST Action CA22164) invites **researchers**, **practitioners**, and **professionals** across Europe to apply for **Short-Term Scientific Missions** (STSMs) and **Virtual Mobility** (VM) grants. These flexible, targeted exchanges are designed to support collaboration, knowledge transfer, and capacity-building around the complex challenge of extreme wildfires.

This call focuses on **thematic clusters** that reflect shared priorities across the network—from advancing data integration to strengthening our collective capacity to address extreme wildfires. **STSMs and VMs are open tools: they support the work you need to do to move things forward**—whether that's developing an algorithm for fire progression reconstruction, conducting a joint analysis of an extreme wildfire event, learning a new method, or linking different sectors in ways that matter.

This call is **open to all eligible members of the NERO network**, as defined by the [COST Grant Awarding Rules](#). Applicants may submit proposals at any time, with applications evaluated on a rolling monthly basis until **31 August 2025** or until available funds are exhausted. All procedures, eligibility requirements, and evaluation criteria are governed by the [NERO Grant Awarding System](#) (v1.1) and are detailed on the [NERO website](#).

Thematic Clusters

To guide and structure participation, NERO has adopted **three thematic clusters** that reflect shared priorities across the network. **These clusters are not silos—they are starting points**. Applicants are encouraged to interpret them broadly and propose activities that build bridges between themes.

Cluster A: Wildfire Reconstructions & Database Contribution

Purpose: Support the systematic reconstruction and documentation of extreme wildfire events using multi-source data.

Example topics include (non-exhaustive list):

- Fire reconstruction using multiple data sources
- Satellite-based fire tracking to support database population
- Perimeter delineation using airborne EO data
- Identification of pyroconvective events
- Storytelling and metadata harmonization
- Development of automation tools for database management

Cluster B: Understanding Drivers of Extreme Fire Behavior

Purpose: Enable collaborative studies that investigate how fuel, topography, and atmospheric conditions interact to generate extreme fire behavior.

Example topics include (non-exhaustive list):

- Characterization of extreme wildfire behavior
- Fire behavior phenomena comparisons (e.g. spotting vs. jump fires)
- Comparative analyses of wind-, plume-, and terrain-driven fires
- Joint analyses of past events, including observational analyses and historical fire spread and behavior modeling

Cluster C: Capacity-Building & Collaborative Exchange

Purpose: Support applied knowledge-sharing, collaboration, and the development of tangible outputs that strengthen institutional and network-wide capacity to address extreme wildfire events.

Example topics include (non-exhaustive list):

- Development of training material
- Development of practitioner-oriented field support materials
- Collaborative design of operational tools or outreach resources
- Cross-country and cross-agency knowledge exchange missions

Questions? Contact Valentina Bacciu at valentina.bacciu@ibe.cnr.it (Grant Awarding Coordinator)

Ready to apply? Submit your application via the e-COST system.