"Local Public Sector Reforms: An International Comparison (LocRef)"

The COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) Action IS1207 **"Local Public Sector Reforms: An International Comparison ('LocRef')'** is a continuously expanding European research network, that brings together researchers and practitioners interested in reforms within the local public sector. To achieve the Action's objectives, "LocRef" invites those interested to apply for the Short Term Scientific Missions (exchange visits).

Goals

The aim of a Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM) shall be to contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST Action. These exchange visits will usually last from one week (5 working days) to three months (90 days) and are aimed at strengthening the existing networks by allowing scientists to go to an institution or research center in another COST member state to foster collaboration, learn a new method or use working instruments not available in the home institution, to conduct empirical research or to prepare joint publications. They are particularly intended for early stage researchers. Researchers from different disciplines as well as PhD students are invited to apply for an STSM.

We are inviting proposals for STSMs that contribute to the scientific objective of the "LocRef" Action, as indicated in the overarching research question:

Which approaches and effects of local public sector reform can be identified from an international comparative perspective; how can these be explained and what lessons can be drawn for policy making?

Application process

All candidates have to be affiliated to a partner institution of the COST Action IS1207. For further information on the "LocRef" members please refer to: http://www.cost.eu/domains_actions/isch/Actions/IS1207?management; for more information on the application process please contact the Action Chair, *Prof. Dr. Sabine Kuhlmann* (Sabine.Kuhlmann@uni-potsdam.de) or the Academic Project Coordinator, *Christian Schwab* (chschwab@uni-potsdam.de).

Deadlines and Contact

Deadline for applications: 01 May 2014
Notification of acceptance: 15 May 2014
Period of STSMs: between 1 June 2014 and 31 November 2014

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