COST Action CA15122
Reducing Old-Age Social Exclusion:
Collaborations in Research and Policy - ROSEnet

Call for ROSEnet PhD Forum Fellowships

Applications for Forum Fellowships invited
From September 1st 2017 to April 4th 2020

Topic of the COST Action CA15122

Reducing the number of people at risk of social exclusion is a headline target of the Europe 2020 strategy. Population ageing and low economic growth pose major challenges to meeting this target, emphasising the necessity to tackle old-age exclusion. While risks of exclusion of older people are widening and deepening, damaging gaps in understanding old-age exclusion exist across Europe. Existing knowledge is poorly developed, lacks synthesis and is spread across highly disparate disciplines.

This Action aims to overcome fragmentation and critical gaps in conceptual innovation on old-age exclusion across the life course, forging much needed new links between research and policy and enhancing evidence-based and effective innovation in order to tackle social exclusion amongst older people in Europe. The action engages with researchers and policy stakeholders to develop shared understandings and to direct the development of new policy and practice interventions that can be practically and effectively implemented, for reducing exclusion in diverse European ageing societies.

The Action is an innovative participatory, interdisciplinary and cross-European collaboration that will: (1) synthesise existing knowledge; (2) critically investigate the construction of life-course old-age exclusion; (3) assess the implications of old-age exclusion across the life course; (4) Develop new conceptual frameworks on old-age exclusion; and (5) identify innovative, and implementable, policy and practice for reducing old-age exclusion. The Action is focused on an encompassing view of exclusion that takes into account different kinds and dimensions of the phenomenon, including economic, social, service, civic rights, and community/spatial exclusion.

Purpose of the ROSEnet PhD Forum

Aimed at embedding the participation of early career investigators in the ROSEnet action, the PhD Forum will provide a supportive network for a small group (8-10) of PhD students working on topics related to old-age social exclusion. Largely self-regulating, the Forum will serve as a collegial space for methodological discussion, the presentation of preliminary findings, and conceptual debate. Forum participants will be able to actively draw on expertise from across the Action for guidance, support and informal mentorship. This may include inviting specific members of the Action to present on methodologies and topics of interest to the Forum. As long as funding remains available, the PhD Forum will meet biannually (over the remaining 3-years of the Action – 6 meetings in all) coinciding with the ROSEnet organisational meetings and workshop-policy events (for further information on these activities, please see www.rosenetcost.com) and, thus, will also provide participants the opportunity to participate in the main ROSEnet activities and discussions. The Forum will be an important means of developing future investigators in the area of old-age social exclusion.

The PhD Forum (which will officially commence on 1st September 2017) will run in parallel with the Action until its end on 4th April 2020. The venue of the PhD Forum meetings will change with each ROSEnet organisational meeting and workshop-policy event. The first PhD Forum will be held in Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic.

What does the Fellowship provide?

- Membership of the ROSEnet PhD Forum.
- Reimbursement for travel to PhD Forum and coinciding ROSEnet Action meetings and events (in accordance with COST rules).
- Reimbursement for accommodation while attending the PhD Forum and coinciding ROSEnet Action meetings and events (in accordance with COST rules - €120 per night flat rate).
- Reimbursement for meals that are not provided by Action event organiser (in accordance with COST rules - €20 per meal flat rate).
- Please see the COST Vademecum for details on eligible and ineligible expenses (http://www.cost.eu/download/COSTVademecum)

Who can apply?

- Forum Fellowship applicants are students who are currently registered on a PhD programme at a research institution or legal entity (public or private, as Home Institution);
- Applicants, or their lead supervisor or research group, do not have to be members

or connected to the ROSEnet Action already.

- Applicants must be from countries that have accepted the MOU of the CA15122 ROSEnet Action.
- Applicants can be from: an institution in a participating COST country; or in an approved Near Neighbour Country (NNC) institution; an approved European RTD organisation.

To clarify details on categories of participating nations please see the Cost Vademecum (http://www.cost.eu/download/COSTVademecum), and for a list of those countries that have accepted the MOU please see http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/ca/CA15122?parties.

What criteria do I need to fulfil?

The selection of applicants is based on the following criteria;

1. Applicants should not be in their final year of their PhD studies.
2. Applicants must demonstrate how their PhD project relates to the research coordination objectives of the ROSEnet Action. This includes linking to the one or more of the different domains of exclusion (services; economic; social relations; civic exclusion; community/spatial) of interest to the ROSEnet Action, or the overarching construct of old-age social exclusion. Further information on the objectives and focus of the Action is at: www.rosenetcost.com. More detailed information is also available from the MOU of the Action: http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/ca/CA15122 .
3. Successful applicants will be asked for an annual report in relation to their activities in the ROSEnet Action.
4. When a Fellow completes their PhD, they can continue to participate in the Action as a working group member. A call will be released to fill their Forum position.

How to apply?

Applicant's must complete the form appended to this document and submit the form to rosenet@nuigalway.ie with the following documents:

- CV (2 pages maximum);

- Publication list if available (1 page maximum);

- Letter from PhD supervisor(s) confirming their support of the application;

- Letter from the home institution confirming institutional support for the application;

  Please note that incomplete applications will not be considered for selection.

When to apply?

The current call is open until 16:00 CET, **16 June 2017**. Feedback will be given by **17 July 2017**.

Selection Procedure

- ***** After receiving all applications, a committee consisting of at least three members from different disciplines and countries participating in ROSEnet will rank the applications in accordance with the stated criteria.
- Selection will be based on the relevance of the PhD project to the ROSEnet objectives.
- Consideration will be given to the diversity and coherence of topics in the final section.
- Consideration will be given to geographic and disciplinary representation when selecting Forum participants.

*A maximum of 10 fellows will be selected from this call.

ROSEnet PhD Forum Fellowship Application

Name

Sex:

Male: Female:

Affiliation (department, institution and address)

PhD year of study (specify length of programme):

Lead PhD Supervisor (and institutional affiliation if different from applicant's)

PhD Title

PhD Discipline (or disciplines) of study

PhD Aim (or core research question – max 100 words)

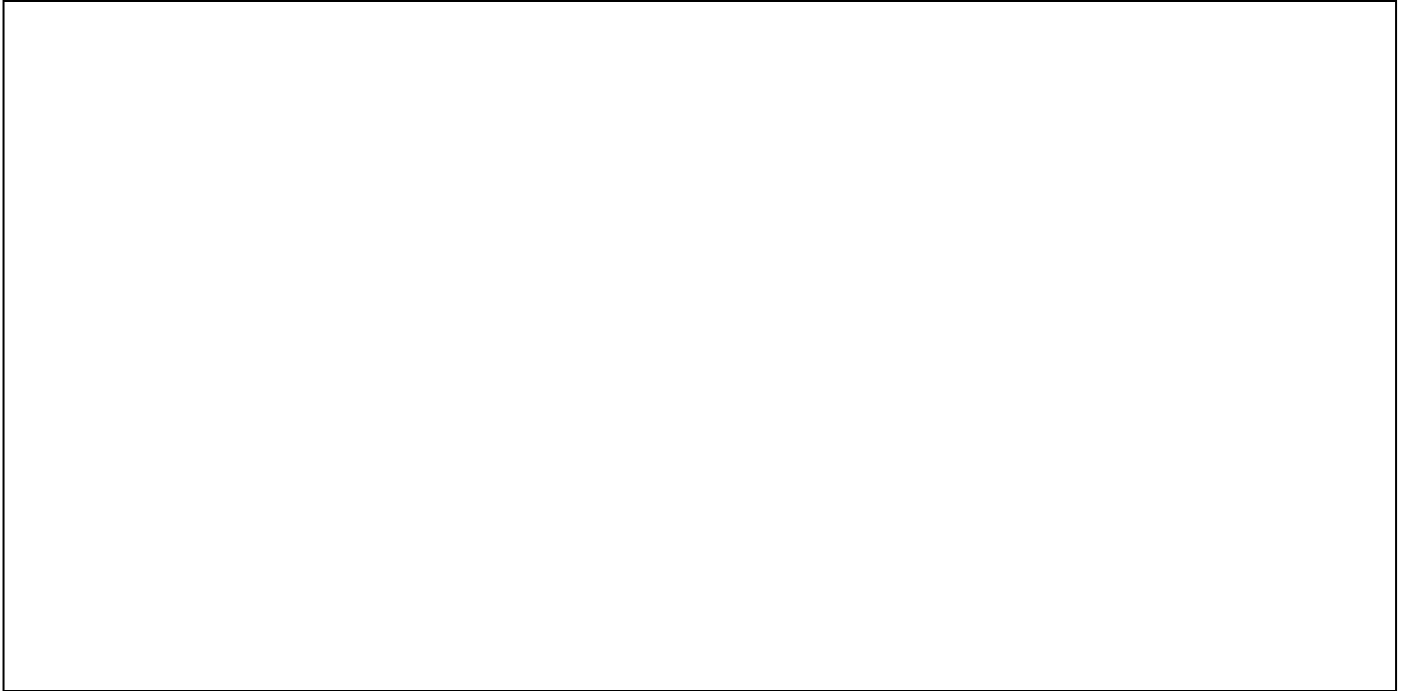Description of project (e.g. background and methods – max 250 words)

How does your PhD research relate to the objectives and focus of ROSEnet? (Max 300 words)

What is your motivation for wanting to join the PhD Forum? (Max 200 words)

What do you hope to obtain from your participation in the PhD Forum, should your application be successful? (Max 300 words)