



BETTER

COST Action CA20103: **B**iosecurity **E**nhanced **T**hrough **T**raining
Evaluation and **R**aising Awareness

ITC Conference Grants

What are ITC Conference Grants?

ITC Conference Grants consist of financial support for Young Researchers and Innovators (<40 years) affiliated in an Inclusiveness Target Country / Near Neighbour Country for their participation in high-level conferences.

The overall aim of BETTER is to reduce the risk of infectious disease introduction and spread by improving the implementation of biosecurity measures in animal production systems

Call for ITC Conference Grants

ITC Conference Grantee receives support for attending and presenting their work (poster/oral presentation) at a conference and can establish new contacts for future collaborations.

- ◆ Open call (no deadlines).
- ◆ Evaluation of applications on a proposal by proposal basis.
- ◆ Applications must be submitted until 10 days after the communication of acceptance from the conference organisers).
- ◆ Limited to one grant per conference.

ITC Conference Grants:

- Serve COST excellence and inclusiveness policy;
- Support young researchers and innovators (YRI) affiliated in a legal entity in an Inclusiveness Target Countries/ Near Neighbour Countries (see list [here](#)) to establish a strong network and increase their visibility in the research community by sharing their work and acquiring knowledge;
- Can contribute to increase the visibility of the Action

Financial Support:

- Scope: Providing contribution for travelling, accommodation, registration fee and subsistence expenses.
- Maximum amount (EUR):
 - Up to EUR 2,000.00 per grant for face-to-face conferences
 - or
 - EUR 500.00 for virtual conferences
- Decision on the amount: To be decided by the Grant Awarding Coordinators based on the proposal submitted by the candidate, which should have in the description also the duration and location of the conference and the conference fee.

Who can apply?

Young researchers and innovators (YRI)¹ affiliated in a legal entity in an Inclusiveness Target Countries/ Near Neighbour Countries.

¹ A researcher or innovator under the age of 40.

How to apply for an ITC Conference Grant?

<https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>

- Applications must be submitted online via e-COST using the provided forms. Applications will be available to the grant awarding coordinators of the COST action BETTER.
- Applicants must upload their CV in their e-COST profile. This information will be visible to the holders of leadership positions and the evaluation committee, under the Action for evaluation purposes.
- Applications must be submitted until 10 days after the communication of acceptance from the conference organisers.

Application form (filled in e-COST) with the following information

- Title of presentation
- Conference title, date (within the active Grant Period) and country; (containing if available, the weblink(s) to the event and the programme)
- Budget requested;
- Attendance Type (face to face or virtual)

To be uploaded in e-COST

- Application form (base on e-COST template) describing: relevance of the conference topic to the Action and motivation describing the potential impact on the applicant's career.
- Copy of abstract of accepted oral or poster presentation
- Letter of acceptance (or invitation) from the conference organisers
- Application template: https://www.cost.eu/ITCConference_GrantApplication

Implementation of the ITC Conference Grants

- Grantee delivers the approved (oral or poster) presentation, following any specific request of acknowledgement set by the Action management committee.

Reporting and Request for Grant Payment

- Upon completion of the activity, the grantee submits the required reports and relevant documentation to e-COST within **30 days** of the grant end date;
- Application for payment of the grant via e-COST;
- The required report/documentation for claiming an ITC Conference Grant is:
 - Report the outcome of the presentation of the accepted contribution, in terms of grantee's visibility, including establishment of new contacts for future collaborations (if applicable),

- The certificate of attendance,
- Conference programme or book of abstracts / proceedings indicating the presentation (oral or poster) of the grantee,
- A copy of the presentation given (oral or poster).

Report Template: https://www.cost.eu/ITCConference_Report

Receiving payment of the grant:

- Grants are paid by the Grant Holder after the completion of the activity and approval of all required report/documentation

Priority criteria for selection

Applications will be assessed by the Grant Awarding Coordinators. Eligibility prerequisites for granting. In case more than one candidate applies for the same conference:

- a) COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy (see below)
 - a. Young Researchers and Innovators (**mandatory**)
 - b. Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) members / Near Neighbour Countries (NNC) (**mandatory**)
- b) First time participant in a conference grant (**+1 point**)
- c) Visibility, size, scope/topic and excellence of the conference
 - International (**+3 points**) > national (+0)
 - Oral (**+1 point**) > poster (+0)
- d) The scientific scope of the proposed participation and how it will assist the Action in achieving its scientific objectives (**+5 points**)

Applications scoring 5 (five) points or less will not be considered for this grant.

The following countries are considered Inclusiveness Target Countries (**ITC**): Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Reunion Island and Saint-Martin (France), Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey.

The full list of COST Near Neighbour Countries (**NNC**) is as follows: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, [Russia], Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine.

List of ITC and NNC countries also available [here](#).

COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy

The COST Excellence and Inclusiveness policy is developed around three main elements:

- Geographical diversity,
- Career stage: involving Young Researchers and Innovators,
- Gender balance.

The COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy shall contribute to the objectives of the 'Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area' Work Programme under Horizon Europe.

For more general information on ITC Conference Grants please contact the Grant Awarding Coordinators.

Grant Coordinators

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