RULES FOR ITC CONFERENCE GRANTS FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS AND INNOVATORS FROM COST ITC AND NNC (revised for July 2022 call)

1. Definition and aims

ITC Conference Grant consists in a presentation of the own work given by a Young Researcher and Innovator affiliated in an Inclusiveness Target Country / Near Neighbour Country for their participation in high-level conferences.

ITC Conference:
- Serve COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy;
- Support Young Researchers and Innovators affiliated in a legal entity in an Inclusiveness Target
- Countries/ Near Neighbour Countries to establish a strong network and increase their visibility
- in the research community through sharing their work and to gain knowledge;
- Can contribute to increasing visibility of the Action.

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

2. Who is eligible

- Young Researcher and Innovator affiliated in an Inclusiveness Target Country / Near Neighbour Country;
- Applicants must make an oral communication or poster presentation at the conference and be listed in the official programme of the event.

The main subject of the oral communication or poster must be on the topic of the AIM-COST and must acknowledge COST

Attendance at European conferences is preferred. However, conferences held elsewhere can also be considered. In addition, the Core Group of the Management Committee may indicate specific meetings considered strategic for AIM-COST for which representation from ITC countries will be encouraged.

Please visit http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/ca/CA17108 for the most up-to-date information about which ITCs are taking part in AIM-COST.

3. How to apply

Eligible applicants should follow these steps:

- Fill-in the online application form (available at: https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants) to register your request for an ITC Conference Grant;
- Upload the following supporting documents:
  o *Curriculum vitae* (3 pages maximum);
  o Short description of your involvement in AIM-COST;
  o Letter from the conference organisers, confirming acceptance of your abstract as oral communication or poster*;
  o A copy of the abstract submitted to the conference.

The application should be submitted at any time, but not later than 15 days before the conference start date. The end of the conference should not be later than October 18th 2022. Once the application is submitted, the applicant will receive a notification from e-COST confirming submission.

* In case the letter of confirmation from the Conference organizers is not yet available at the time of submission, applicants may still apply by uploading a letter describing the state of submission (*e.g.* date when the conference will open the call for abstracts, or when results will be given) along with a draft of the abstract.

5. Evaluation process

The MC has agreed that the evaluation of the ITC Grant applications will be the task of ITC Grant Committee, composed by:
- The Grant Awarding Coordinator: Andrei Mihalca (amihalca@usamvcluj.ro);
- The Action Chair: Alessandra della Torre (alessandra.dellatorre@uniroma1.it);
- The Action Deputy Chair: Dusan Petric (dusanp@polj.uns.ac.rs)

Criteria for evaluation include eligibility (*i.e.* Young Researchers and Innovators), *Curriculum vitae* of the applicant and involvement in AIM-COST, suitability of the topic with respect to AIM-COST objectives, type of presentation (oral communication or poster), and impact of the conference with respect to AIM-COST objectives.

Applications will be graded as:
1 – Very poor: application clearly fails to meet the criteria for support by AIM-COST.
2 – Poor: application does not meet the criteria for support by AIM-COST.
3 – Fair: application partially meets the criteria for support by AIM-COST.
4 – Good: application meets the criteria for support by AIM-COST.
5 – Excellent: application largely meets the criteria for support by AIM-COST.

Applicants obtaining a rank ≥3 will receive support, until funds are available.

5. Financial support

The financial contribution of the ITC Grant will take into account the budget request of the applicant, the outcome of the evaluation of the application, the duration of the conference, the location of the venue (local prices of accommodation, distance from home institution), the budget available for ITC grants and the total number of ITC Grants approved.

Calculation of the financial contribution for ITC Grant will provide contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, registration fee, printing of scientific poster and overall effort. Up to a maximum of EUR 2,000 can be approved to for each successful applicant.

6. Reporting and payment

The required report/documentation for claiming an ITC Conference Grant is:

- Report to the Action MC on the outcome of the presentation of the accepted
contribution, in terms of grantee's visibility, including the establishment of new contacts
for future collaborations
- The certificate of attendance,
- The programme of the conference or book of abstracts / proceedings indicating the presentation (oral or poster) of the grantee.
- Copy of the given presentation (oral or poster);

In order to receive the ITC Conference Grant, the grantee **must submit** a scientific report within 30 calendar days from the end date of the mission and **no later than the 20th of October 2022.**

Payment of the grant is subject to approval of the report by the Grant Awarding Coordinator.

7. Others
For a detailed description of the regulations and procedures, applicants should consult the [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#) and the [Grant Awarding User Guide](#)