



CA20126 - Network for research, innovation and product development on porous semiconductors and oxides

1st Open Call for ITC Conference Grants

(Grant Period: 01/11/2024 – 20/10/2025)

Application: open continuously

Evaluation outcomes: 15 days after application submission

ITC Conference Grants are aimed at supporting Researchers, Innovators and PhD students/candidates from Participating Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs)¹/Near Neighbour Countries (NNCs)² to attend high profile international science and technology related conferences, event or activity **on the topic of the Action CA20126 that are not organized by the COST Action**. Attendance at European conferences is preferred, however, conferences held elsewhere can be considered. ITC Conference Grants should also benefit:

- to serve COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy;
- to support Researchers and Innovators in a legal entity in ITCs/NNCs to establish a strong network and increase their visibility in the research community through sharing their work and to gain knowledge;
- to contribute increasing visibility of the Action CA20126 (more information about the Action can be found in the Action's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) available in the following web page: [Action CA20126 - COST](#)).

Eligibility

- Conference Grants are exclusively reserved for PhD students, PhD candidates, Researcher and Innovators with a primary affiliation in an institution located in an ITC/NNC participating in the Action.

¹ Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC): Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, the North Republic of Macedonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey.

² COST Near Neighbour Countries (NNC): Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia, and Ukraine.



- The applicant must make an oral presentation at the conference in question and must be listed in the official event/conference program.
- The main subject of the oral presentation presentation at the approved conference should be on the topic of the Action CA20126 and should acknowledge the COST CA20126. The eligibility of conference topics will be evaluated by the ITC Conference Grant Committee.
- The conference for which the Applicant is applying to attend must take place within the Grant Period: 01/11/2024 – 31/10/2025. Conferences that take place after are not eligible for the funding.
- The participation of each applicant must be pre-approved by the Action MC.

Evaluation

The applications will be evaluated by the Grant Awarding Coordinator considering the scientific scope of the proposed participation and how it will support the COST Action CA20126 in achieving its scientific objectives and the individual candidate's career. There will be special considerations with respect to supporting COST policies on promoting gender and geographical balance, etc. The eligible applications will be evaluated according to the following scale:

- 1) Relevance to the Cost Action Goals and the selected Working Group objectives: **1-10**
- 2) Benefits of the ITC Conference Grant for the applicant career: **1-10**
- 3) Scientific significance and possible outcomes of the proposed participation in the conference (publications, developing new contacts and potential future collaborations, etc.): **1-10**
- 4) Justification of the requested budget: **1-10**

The applicants will be informed of the evaluation results via emails.

Financial Support

A Conference Grant is a fixed financial contribution, which takes into consideration the budget request of the applicant and the outcome of the evaluation by the Grant Awarding Coordinator of the Action. The Grant is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation, and meal expenses of the selected Grantee, and may not cover all costs. The calculation of the financial contribution for each Conference Grant should respect the following criteria:

- Up to a maximum of **EUR 1700** in total can be afforded to each successful applicant.
- Up to a maximum of **EUR 160** per day can be afforded for accommodation and meal expenses.
- Up to a maximum of **EUR 500** can be claimed for the conference fees to be incurred by the selected Grantee.

Virtual conference fees can be considered eligible provided all other eligibility conditions are fulfilled.

In addition, when meal and accommodation expenses are supported by the hosting institution as part of the provisions offered in their conference package, the amount for subsistence afforded to each eligible participant shall be deducted from the Grant. Documentary evidence of the conference fee amount shall be provided by the applicant and shall be archived by the Grant Holder along with the relevant administrative documents.

Please note that the awarded grant will be paid at the end of the conference in question – therefore the applicant should arrange financial support before attendance to the conference.

How to apply

Eligible applicants must submit their applications online at the following web address: <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants/add> and submit the required documents there.

The application should contain:

- 1) Application Form
(available at the COST website: https://www.cost.eu/ITCConference_GrantApplication);
- 2) Copy of the abstract submitted to the conference in question;
- 3) An official acceptance or invitation letter/email for oral presentation from the conference organizers;
- 4) *Curriculum vitae* (2 pages maximum);
- 5) Documentation showing the conference location and dates, the official event/conference programme, conference fee and what is included in the fee.

The application must be submitted at least 30 days before the conference start date. The applicant will get a feedback email confirming the reception of the application.

After the conference

The Grantee is required to submit for formal approval a final report to the Grant Awarding Coordinator and the Grant Holder which should contain the following documents:

- 1) The report on the outcome of the presentation of the accepted contribution (a form of the report must be downloaded from the address: https://www.cost.eu/ITCConference_Report),
- 2) The certificate of attendance,
- 3) The programme of the conference or book of abstracts/proceeding indicating the presentation of the grantee,
- 4) Copy of the given presentation. **Reference to the Action CA20126 as well as to COST funding in the presentation is mandatory.**

The deadline to submit the report is 30 days from the end of the activity, within 15 days from the end date of the Grant Period or within a shorter timeframe as per Grant Holder/ Grant Awarding Coordinator's request to meet reporting deadlines.

The final report will be uploaded to the Action webpage. The Grantees will be asked to sign a consensus for sharing the final report.

Please note that failure to submit the final report within the above terms will effectively cancel the grant. The Grant Awarding Coordinator will inform the Grant Holder about the acceptance of the final report via e-mail. Once approved, the Grant Holder will execute the payment of the fixed grant directly to the Grantee as stated in the application form.



For further enquires please contact the Grant Awarding Coordinator: Dr. Małgorzata Norek, via email malgorzata.norek@wat.edu.pl/ STSM@netpore.eu. For a detailed description of the regulations and procedures, applicants are also encouraged to consult the [ANNOTATED RULES FOR COST ACTIONS](#).