

## ITC conference grants

Any e-COST user who is a *PhD student or an Early Career Investigator (ECI) and is affiliated with an institution located in an ITC<sup>1</sup> country* participating in the Action can submit an application request for an ITC Conference Grant. Ideally, the application should be submitted at least 45 days before the conference start date.

The applicant must be engaged in an official research programme as a PhD Student or postdoctoral fellow.

### How to apply?

The information of how to apply to these grants can be found at:

[http://www.cost.eu/ITC\\_conferencegrants\\_userguide](http://www.cost.eu/ITC_conferencegrants_userguide)

### Evaluation of the proposals

The Chair of MC will receive the ITC conference grant proposals, and confirm the reception of all documents required for evaluations and the eligibility of the candidate. The Chair can ask the STSM committee and Core group to help in peer review the application, soliciting opinions when necessary.

Selection of the applicants will be based on the following selection criteria (criteria will be evaluated with a maximum of 5 points each):

- Scientific quality of the conference
- Scientific impact of the communication,
- Participation benefit for the applicant
- Benefit for the iPLANTA Network.

The maximum score for the sum of these four criteria will be 20 points. A grant will be considered for approval if it reaches a minimum score of 12 points. If two or more grants get the same score, bonus points will be considered including lower funding required related to the city of the Host Institution (1 point), or type of applicant (Early Career investigator, 2 points; PhD student, 1 point). The number of grants attributed every year will depend on the budget attributed annually to ITC conference grants, number of applications presented, and budget required by each proposal. The Chair can reduce the budget required in grant application, in order to increase the number of ITC conference grants. The number of grants attributed should be calculated in a way that the total financial support attributed to the approved grants does not exceed the annual budget for ITC conference grants approved by the Management Committee.

Important Note: a fixed grant is made, in line with COST regulations, and is paid after the closing of the conference and the report approved. The report should be sent for approval within one month after the end of the conference through the e-COST system. The grant will be paid directly to the bank account entered in the e-COST system.

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<sup>1</sup> The following countries are considered ITC: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Serbia and Turkey.