1st Call for ITC Conference Grants
for conferences occur until September 30th, 2025

ITC Conference Grants funds an oral presentation of their own work within the scope of the Action by an Action participant affiliated to a legal entity located in an an *Inclusiveness Target Country* or *Near Neighbour Country*, in high-level conferences fully organized by a third party (i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action).

This aim to:

- ➢ *Serve COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy;*
- ➢ *Supports Action Participant affiliated to 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.*

The Benefit to ITC Conference Grantee:

- ➢ *receives support for attending and presenting their own work within the scope of the Action (oral presentation) in a conference and can establish new contacts for future collaborations.*

COST Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) are as follows:		
EU Member States	**EU Member States Outermost Regions**	**Full Members that are not EU Member States**
Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary[1], 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, Armenia Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine

COST Near Neighbour Countries:
Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belarus*, Egypt, the Faroe Islands, Jordan, Kosovo**, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine***, [Russia]****, Syria and Tunisia.

* As of 2 March 2023, until further notice, measures are taken to suspend cooperation with Belarus for the execution of the COST Actions and COST activities. Amongst these measures, participation and eligibility of COST Action participants affiliated to a legal entity established in Belarus are suspended for all COST Actions and COST activities.
** This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence
***This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.
**** As of 6 May 2022 until further notice, measures are taken to suspend cooperation with Russia for the execution of the COST Actions and COST activities. Amongst these measures, participation and eligibility of COST Action participants affiliated to a legal entity established in Russia are suspended for all COST Actions and COST activities.

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[1] Please refer to previous footnote regarding the participation of individuals affiliated to Hungarian legal entities implied by the Council Implementation Decision 2022/2056 for the execution of COST Actions and COST activities.

Who is eligible to apply for ITC Conference Grant?

1. Researcher with a primary affiliation in an institution located in an ITC or NNC participating in the Action.
2. The applicant must make an <u>oral presentation at the conference</u> in question and must be listed in the official event/conference programme. The main subject of the oral presentation / poster presentation / speech at the approved conference must be on the topic of the Action.

The general theme of presentations should be in the scope of the CIG main theme:
Machine learning from computational materials science data for modelling nanocrystal catalysts

How to apply?

Submit the application for ITC Conference Grant on your e-cost account **any time until April 30th, 2025.**

To be filled in e-COST:
- ✓ Title of the presentation
- ✓ Conference title, date (within the active Grant Period) and country;
- ✓ Budget requested;
- ✓ Attendance Type (face to face or online)

To be uploaded to e-COST:
- ✓ Application form (template available on e-COST) describing: Relevance of the conference topic to the Action and Motivation describing the potential for impact on the applicant's career.
- ✓ Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral or poster presentation;
- ✓ Acceptance (or invitation) letter from the conference organisers;
- ✓ Recommendation letter from advisor and/or WG leader

- In this regard, applicants are informed that their application and CV can be accessed by the holders of leadership positions and any evaluation committees in the Action for evaluation purposes.
- **Please note: Applicants to Conference Grants shall not apply to different types of conference grants in the grant period.**

ITC Conference Grant financial support

The ITC Grant Providing contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, registration fee, printing of scientific poster and overall effort.

Maximum amount: Up to 2,500 EUR per grant for face to-face conferences OR 500.00 EUR for on-line conferences

Decision of the Amount: Decided by the Action MC or Core Group on proposal of the evaluators and should reflect the duration and location of the Conference and the actual conference fee.

Upon approval of the application, the Grantee receives a Grant Letter stating the approved amount and the conditions for receiving the grant.

Provisions related to Force majeure impacting travel in paragraph A1-3.1.6 of ANNEX 1 are applicable to financial support for networking activities organised through a Grant Awarding Process. A user guide for claiming expenses in case of force majeure is available to the participants.

Implementation of the Activity:

Grantee delivers the approved oral presentation, following any specific request of acknowledgement set by the Action MC.

Reporting and claim for payment of the grant:

- Once the activity has ended, the grantee submits the required reports and relevant documentation in e-COST within 30 days after the end date of the activity or 15 days after the end date of the Grant Period (whichever date comes first) and claims the payment of the grant via e-cost.
- 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 the contacts for future collaborations.
  - ✓ The certificate of attendance,
  - ✓ The programme of the conference or book of abstracts / proceedings indicating the oral presentation of the grantee
  - ✓ copy of the given oral presentation

The applications will be examined by the ITC coordinator, Prof. Eugene Kotomin, and the Core Group of the Action. After approval you will receive mail with Grant Letter.

Grants are paid by the Grant Holder <u>after</u> the completion of the activity and approval of all required report/documentation.

For any question please contact:

ITC Coordinator: Prof. Eugene Kotomin: e.kotomin@fkf.mpg.de

Grant Manager: Smadar Amir: smadaram@technion.ac.il

> ➢ ***Deadline for applications to be submitted for this Call: 30.04.25***
>
> ➢ ***You can apply any time until April 30th*** *(Notification of application outcome will be sent three weeks after submission)*
>
> ➢ ***For Conference occurring until 30.09.2025.***