ITC Conference Grants, 2024-25 CALL

International network for harmonization of atmospheric aerosol retrievals from ground based photometers (Harmonia, COST Action CA21119) is opening the 3rd year ITC Conference Grant Call.

Objectives / description

Conference Grants are aimed at supporting **oral presentations** of:

- their own work **linked to HARMONIA Objectives**,
- given by an **Action Participant Action Participant**
- affiliated to a legal entity located in **an Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC) / Near Neighbour Country (NNC)**
- for their participation in **high-level conferences fully organized by a third party**, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action.

Relevant dates:

Deadline for applications: opens in November 2024 and remains open until the capacity is filled

Outcomes: Every month starting November 4th, 2024

Conferences dates: must take place before 15th of October 2025

The successful applicant must submit a scientific report and relevant documentation within 30 days of the end of the conference and before 15 October 2025, whichever takes place earlier.

Eligibility criteria

The eligibility criteria are:

Applicants must be Action Participants with a primary affiliation in an institution located in a CA21119 participating ITC (**currently Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary (**Exceptions for certain institutes apply**), Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Malta, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine**) or NNC, for their participation in high-level conferences.

The main subject of the presentation must be on a topic relevant to the main objectives of Harmonia.

Applicants must be **corresponding authors of an oral presentation** at the conference in question and be listed in the official event/conference program.

COST Action CA21119 should be acknowledged both in the book of abstracts and in the oral presentation following COST guidelines (Pages 98-100 in the Annotated rules for COST actions, https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2024/11/COST-094-21-V2.0-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C.pdf).

The participation must be pre-approved by the Action MC (i.e. the Grant is for future conferences and not for conferences which already took place).

Selection of applicants

The evaluation of applications will be performed by the Core Group, on behalf of the MC. The selection of applicants is based on the following criteria:

The scientific scope of the conference contribution must clearly be coherent and contribute to the overall objectives of the Action.

Only oral contributions (face to face or online) can be considered.

Attendance at European conferences is preferred, although conferences held elsewhere can also be considered.

Further aspects of the proposal, such as originality of the presentation topic, clear relation to Harmonia, and gender, age and geographical distribution equality, are considered.

Financial support

The financial support on offer is a fixed financial contribution to the overall expenses incurred during the participation in a given conference and may not necessarily cover all of the associated expenses.

It takes into consideration the budget request of the applicant and the outcome of the evaluation of the application. The following funding conditions apply and must be respected:

Up to a max of EUR 2000 in total per grant for face-to-face conferences, or EUR 500 for virtual conferences, can be afforded to each successful applicant, including:

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 must be deducted from the Grant.

For this call, the Harmonia Management Committee has allocated a total budget of **max 4000 EUR for 3-4 ITC Conference Grants**. The amount granted will be determined during the evaluation process.

How to apply

Interested researchers should:

- Register for an e-COST profile at https://e-services.cost.eu/
- Apply filling the information by logging into e-COST and clicking on the Grant Applications tab and uploading the supporting documentation (ITC Conference grant application based on e-COST template;
- Provide (upload in the e-cost system) a copy of the abstract of the accepted oral presentation;
- Provide (upload in the e-cost system)the acceptance (or invitation) letter or e-mail from the conference organizers.
- Must fill the information also in the following link: https://forms.gle/vQfKbbUPb3vPiFfx8
- Carefully read the funding rules on pages 98-100 in the Annotated Rules for COST Actions (https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2024/11/COST-094-21-V2.0-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C.pdf) and Grant Awarding User guide (https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/01/COST-Grant-Awarding-user-guide.pdf)
- Your presentation must contain one acknowledgement slide to promote the Action and the funding organization

After the conference

The Grantee must submit the supporting documentation through the e-COST system (https://e-services.cost.eu/) within 30 calendar days from the end date of the conference and before 10 October 2025, whichever takes place earlier:

The scientific report based on e-cost template, which should include any relevant discussion or feedback for the talk given by the Grantee, information on relevant talks attended at the conference, interesting discussions and how Harmonia is linked to the grant. Pictures can be included.

Certificate of attendance

Program of the conference or book of abstracts / proceedings indicating the oral presentation (face to face or online)

Copy of the given presentation (oral)

Payment of the Grant is subject to the submitted scientific report being approved by the Action ITC Conference Grant Coordinator, Chair and Vice-Chair.

Contact persons

ITC Grant Conference Coordinators:

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