

## Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) Conference Grant

Making an oral presentation of their own work in a high-level conference by an Action participant from an Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC)/Near Neighbour Country (NNC) is one of the networking activities which is organized through a Grant Awarding Process in a COST Action.

### 1.1. What is ITC Conference Grant?

ITC Conference Grant is basically for 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 Inclusiveness Target Country / Near Neighbour Country** in one of the high-level conferences in a relevant field of study.

The aim of ITC Conferences is, in line with the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness principle, to support Action Members affiliated in an ITC/NNC establishing a network and gaining visibility via active participation in high-level conferences. It also benefits to the visibility of COST Action CA21122, PROMoting GeRiAtric Medicine in countries where it is still eMerging (PROGRAMMING).

The amount of the grant which has a maximum limit of EUR 2500,00 (per grant) for face-to-face conferences and EUR 500,00 (per grant) for online conferences, is to be decided by the Action Core Group considering the duration and location of the Conference and the actual conference fee. This funding aims to contribute for the expenses of travelling, accommodation, and subsistence in addition to the registration fee and overall effort.

### 1.2. How to apply?

During an Active Grant Period, candidates will be able to reach online application platform in [e-COST](#) via their e-COST account to submit their applications.

The information to be filled regarding the ITC Conference in e-COST consists of

- Title of the presentation
- Conference title, date (within the active Grant Period) and country
- Budget requested
- Attendance Type (face-to-face or online)

The supporting documentation to be uploaded to e-COST:

- ITC Conference Grant Application form ([template available on e-COST](#))  
*Relevance of the conference topic to the Action and Motivation describing the potential for impact on the applicant's career.*
- Acceptance (or invitation) letter from the conference organizers
- Copy of the abstract of the **accepted oral presentation**
- A pre-recorded ppt shortly explaining the submitted work (optional but strongly recommended)

- A confirmation statement that the candidate speaks English at least at B2 level
- An updated CV of the applicant which clearly includes the information of **the country of current affiliation** and **the applicant's date of birth**

### 1.3.Evaluation of the applications

In the evaluation process of the submitted applications, the submitted/accepted\* abstract will be evaluated by the Core Group of the Action PROGRAMMING, on behalf of the Action Management Committee (MC) and according to the ITC Conference Evaluation Criteria which were determined and approved by the Action MC (on 30/11/22) to prioritize the Action's [objectives](#) on the basis of the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness principle.

#### **ITC Conference Evaluation Criteria** (Validated by the MC on 30/11/22)

- Absolute requirements per the definition by COST: Action participants coming from an [ITC/NNC](#) and having an oral presentation accepted\*
- Candidate coming from a country with emerging GM<sup>1</sup>-→(0/1 points)
- Active participation in the Action's specific tasks<sup>2</sup> →(0/1/2 points)
- Relevance of the accepted presentation to the Action's topic (0/1/2 points)

*The submitted abstract will be evaluated by the Core Group*

**\*IMPORTANT:** *The Core Group will pre-approve candidate grantees that have their abstracts submitted and in case the abstract is accepted for an oral presentation they will be attributed the grant. In case of non-acceptance of the abstract as an oral presentation, the next best candidature will be selected provided that he/she has his/her abstract accepted for an oral presentation.*

Upon approval of the ITC Conference Grant Application, the grantee will be notified with a letter.

### 1.4.Outcomes

The grantee is required to submit the Grant Report following the template provided on e-COST and additional supporting documents within 30 days from the end date of the ITC Conference or within 15 days from the end date of the Grant Period, whichever date comes first.

Required documents to be submitted in e-COST:

- Grant Report
- Certificate of attendance
- Program of the conference or book of abstracts / proceedings indicating the oral presentation of the grantee
- Copy of the given oral presentation

Required supporting material(s) to be sent to Grant Awarding Coordinator:

- A short video and/or a blog post preferentially enriched with photographs and/or illustrations related to your congress participation and presentation there

*These materials will be used for promotional purposes on our website, social media platforms, and other communication channels to highlight the valuable work being done through PROGRAMMING grant opportunities.*

The grant will be paid only after the approval of the submitted report with additional supporting documents and receiving required supporting promotional materials (short video and/or blog post).

### 1.5.Important Dates

- Deadline for applications: **28 February 2025, Friday (23.59 Central European Time)**
  - **IMPORTANT:** In order for a conference to be eligible for the ITC conference grant for the third Grant Period (current call), **the end date of the conference must be no later than the 30th October 2025**

### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> In the recent paper in Age & Ageing (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9760902/>) the 23 European countries have been indicated in which postgraduate training for obtaining the specialty title in geriatrics exists with geriatrics as a recognized primary specialty.

All the other countries from the WHO list of the European region (which consists of 53 countries in total) will be considered by the Action as countries where geriatric medicine is still emerging/doesn't exist as a recognized primary specialty (Please see: [https://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/215660/The-World-Health-Organization-in-the-European-Region-Eng.pdf](https://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/215660/The-World-Health-Organization-in-the-European-Region-Eng.pdf) )

For countries not included in this WHO list (mostly non-European countries that have already joined or may join the Action in the future), their status "emerging" or "developed" geriatric medicine will be examined case by case, using the same criterion as in the Age and Ageing paper of having of not geriatrics as a recognized primary specialty.

<sup>2</sup> Action's specific tasks are the tasks and missions serving the Action's objectives, which are defined by the Core Group according to the Action's evolving needs. For the third Grant Period these tasks are:

- 1- Mentoring and international collaboration on data synthesis supporting specific statements on geriatric curriculum for non-geriatricians working in ambulatory care of older persons (WG2).
- 2- Mentoring and international collaboration for the generation and conduction of a two-stage Delphi survey and analysis, for the generation of a geriatric curriculum for non-geriatricians working in ambulatory care of older persons (WG2).
- 3- Conducting the "Preparation and conduct of critical appraisal/risk of bias assessment" step of the planned systematic review by WG4
- 4- Conducting the "Data analysis and synthesis" step of the planned systematic review by WG4
- 5- **Collaborating on a communication campaign** to disseminate PROGRAMMING activities, opportunities, and results, effectively engaging a wide range of meaningful stakeholders (WG5).