

COST Action CA 23114 RELINK²
<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA23114>
<https://relink2.eu/calls-and-grants/>

OPEN CALL GRANT PERIOD 2 (01.11.2025 – 31.10.2026)

ITC Conference Grants

This call is based upon work from COST Action RELINK² (CA23114), supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology).

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation.

1. Important dates

The deadline for the first call for submissions is 28th February 2026, from the day of publishing the call. Application submission period: 1st December 2025 to 28 February 2026.

The deadline for the second call for submissions is 30th April 2026. Application submission period: 1st March 2026 to 30th April 2026.

The deadline for the additional call for submissions is 30th June 2026. Application submission period: 1st May to 30th June 2026.

Decisions and notification date: up to 4 weeks after submission within the given period.

Period within which the ITC Conference must occur: Grant Period 2 (up to September 30, 2026, final report no later than October 15, 2026).

In case GP2 funds are still available, there will be final call in July or August.

2. General information

The ITC Conference consists of a presentation of the own work given by a Grantee from Inclusiveness Target Country/Near Neighbour Country for their participation in high-level conferences fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action.

ITC Conferences:

- Serve COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy.
- Support Researchers and Innovators affiliated in 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 gaining knowledge.
- Can contribute to increasing the visibility of the Action.
- ITC Conference Grantee: receives support for attending and presenting their work (poster/oral presentation) at a conference and can establish new contacts for future collaborations.
- Participation in the conference should specifically contribute to the objectives of COST Action

RELINK², which are outlined in detail in the [Memorandum of Understanding](#) of the Action.

3. Scope of funding

The Grantee can receive approximately 1200 EUR to participate in an ITC conference in person. It is therefore expected that approximately 10 grants will be allocated. The grant amount requested should cover travel expenses, accommodation and meal allowances based on the personal budget of the Applicant and conferences fees.

The applicant should be affiliated to an Institution in Inclusiveness TargetCountries/Near Neighbour Countries.

Please note:

The grant does not necessarily cover all the expenses.

In their application applicants must provide an argued estimation of the costs to be covered.

The Grant Awarding Committee can decide to approve the grant with a lower amount than initially requested by the applicant.

4. Application process

Applications are filled in the online application form in your e-Cost profile.

The ITC Conference Grant [Application form](#) consists of:

- Details of the Conference
- Conference title, date (within the active Grant Period, date of the conference, 30 September at the latest), and country.
- Budget requested
- Attendance Type (face-to-face)
- Abstract of the Conference contribution
- Relevance to the RELINK² Action (Aligned with Grant Period2 goals and with MoU objectives and deliverables - please find CA23114 documents [here](#))

Motivation and Expected impact

ITC Grantees are expected to publish a scientific paper or a working paper (which will be published on the Action website) as the result of undertaken networking activity. *

*Providing evidence: a message from the journal or conference monograph editor with the submission confirmation or the confirmation of the working paper series editor that the paper was submitted.

5. Additional documents

- Applicant's Curriculum Vitae with a list of relevant research or publications (max 3 pages, font: 12 pt. Times New Roman, page borders: 1.2 inches)
- Acceptance Letter of the Conference organizers

6. Grant Approval Process

Grants will be awarded in a manner that ensures equal opportunities for participation in the conference throughout the Grant Period. Therefore, the first-in-line principle will not be applied. In order to distribute funds in a fair and equal manner, they will be allocated on a proportional basis between calls for grants, wherever possible.

Applications will be assessed by the Grant Evaluation Committee (GEC), which consists of the Grant Awarding Coordinator and three selected members of the Management Committee, according to the following criteria:

- 1) Excellence of the application promoting the direct contribution to the RELINK² Objectives and Grant Period 2 Goals
- 2) Relevance of the Applicant's research area to the ITC Conference topic
- 3) First time participant in RELINK² ITC Conference Grant
- 4) Contribution to the personal development of the candidate
- 5) Other criteria include career stage, gender balance and geographical inclusiveness.

7. Grant Implementation

- Grant Awarding Coordinator approves the Grant in e-Cost system
- Upon completion of the ITC conference, the Grantee fills in the report in e-Cost and requests payment of the ITC conference grant.

The required report/documentation for claiming an ITC Conference Grant reimbursement is composed of:

- Outcome of the conference participation
- Valid Acknowledgment documentation
- Certificate of attendance
- The program of the conference or other indications of the presentation
- Copy of presentation
- Planned future follow-up activities with publishing the paper or a working paper within 3 months after the conference took place.

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 of the Grant Period, whichever date comes first.

It is the responsibility of Grantees to acknowledge the results obtained from the grant in any scientific publication, conference (whether oral or poster), presentation, or other output where these results are disseminated, the support of the COST Action CA23114 Relink2 according to the COST guidelines on visual identity, as follows: "This article/publication/contribution is based upon work from the COST Action CA23114 Relink2 - Regaining linkage? Digital technologies improving civic engagement, political organisations and democracy, supported by the COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology)". Posters should also include the COST and EU logos as specified in the guidelines on visual identity (see COST visual identity).

Relevant documents/links:

- [ANNOTATED RULES FOR COST ACTIONS](#) (see sections 6.4 Eligibility and Process Description A2-2.3)
- [Grant Awarding User guide](#)

For additional information please contact Grant Awarding Coordinator Prof. Petia Gueorguieva (petiagueorguieva@gmail.com).