

Open Call for ITC Conference Grants (Grant Period: 1 November 2023 – 31 October 2024)

Important Dates

Note this is an open call. You can apply any time up to the call closing date but the conference must end before **1 October 2024**. Allow at least weeks between submitting your application and the start date of the Conference.

Call closing date: 15 July 2024

Notification of Results: 3 weeks after submission of complete application

1. ITC Conference Grants

This is the 1st Call for applications of Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) Conference Grants funded by the COST Action CA22168 “Physical layer security for trustworthy and resilient 6G systems (6G-PHYSEC)”.

ITC Conference Grants aim at supporting Young Researchers affiliated in an Inclusiveness Target Country

- to attend and present their work in international science and technology related conferences not specifically organized by the COST Action,
- to establish new contacts for future collaborations,
- to support them to develop a strong network and to increase their visibility in the research community through sharing their work and to gain knowledge,
- to increase the visibility of the COST Action.

The conference can take place anywhere in the world, face to face or virtually.

6G-PHYSEC is offering up to 2 ITC Conference Grants (total funding available €2,200) for young researchers and innovators to attend a high-level conference and present their work as a poster or oral presentation.

2. Guidelines for applicants

To be eligible the researcher must be affiliated to a legal entity in a COST Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC) or Near Neighbour Country (NNC). The work presented must be relevant to the Action scientific objectives. The grant can provide a contribution to travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses, registration fees and/or other relevant costs such as printing of scientific poster.

The researcher/innovator should be under 40 years old and must be affiliated to a legal entity in a COST Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC) or region or Near Neighbour Country (NNC).

ITC Conference Grants are considered as a great opportunity for participants to disseminate their work on research topics that have been highlighted by WGs and introduce new ideas addressing the 6G-PHYSEC objectives. Details on the content and goals of WGs are available in the [Action’s Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\)](#).

The 1st ITC CG call will be launched on 1/4/2024. This single call will remain open within the first Grant period for as long as funding is available. The applications received will be promptly evaluated within 3 weeks.

Who is eligible to apply for an ITC Conference Grant?

- Researchers of a research institution in a legal entity in a COST ITC or NNC.
- Researchers engaged in official research programmes such as a PhD Student or postdoctoral fellow or employed by, or affiliated to, an institution, organisation or legal entity performing research.
- Researchers under 40 years old at the time of the conference.

- The maximum grant is €1,100 for a face-to-face meeting and €500 for virtual meetings.
- The ITC Conference grant can be used to fund/refund costs for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, registration fee and other relevant costs such as printing of scientific poster.
- Grants are paid by the Grant Holder after the end of Conference and approval of all required report/documentation.
- The Grant Awarding Committee can decide to approve the grant with a lower amount than requested.

3. Application instructions

Applications for ITC Conference Grants are managed through the e-COST management tool. All applicants must have an e-COST profile. The applicant must use the e-COST management tool to register the ITC Conference Grant application request. The applicant should complete and upload via the dedicated COST online tool:

- The COST ITC Conference Grant application form available at <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants> explaining the relevance of the conference topic to the Action and motivation including the potential for impact on the applicant's career
- The accepted paper or poster
- Acceptance letter/email from the conference organisers
- Letter of recommendation from your supervisor at your institution
- Budget plan with typical categories: registration, travel costs (to and from and during the Conference), accommodation, subsistence, other costs such as printing posters.

In any publications/ dissemination activities, the grantee must mention explicitly and acknowledge the support of the COST Action CA22168 6G-PHYSEC according to the COST guidelines. For additional information on the submission via the e-COST system, applicants may visit the Grant Awarding User Guide.

Within 20 days from the end date of the Conference, the grantee must submit via e-COST:

- Report on the outcome of the presentation in terms of grantee's visibility, including the establishment of new contacts for future collaborations
- The certificate of attendance
- The programme of the conference or book of abstracts / proceedings indicating the presentation (oral or poster) of the grantee
- Copy of the given presentation (oral or poster)

Grants are paid by the Grant Holder after the completion of the activity and approval of all required report/documentation. Failure to submit the scientific report within 20 days from the end date of the conference will cancel the Grant.

4. Evaluation criteria

The evaluation of ITC Conference Grant applications and selection of ITC Grantees is performed by the Action's Grant Awarding Coordination Committee.

- The selection of applicants is based on the scientific relevance of the ITC Conference Grant application, which must clearly fit in the Action's scientific objectives.
- The selection also takes into account the COST policies on promoting gender balance, enabling Young Researchers and broadening geographical inclusiveness.
- The applicants will be notified of the application results within 3 weeks of the application deadline.