

COST Action CA21107

Work Inequalities in Later Life redefined by Digitalisation (DIGI-net)

1st Call for the ITC Conference Grants

Grant period no 2

Applications for Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) Conference Grants

occurring between

1st April 2024 and 8th September 2024

The aim of the *COST Action 21107: Work Inequalities in Later Life redefined by Digitalisation (DIGI-net)* is to overcome critical gaps in conceptual innovation on the influence of digitalisation on work inequalities in later life, in order to address the research-policy disconnect and tackle work inequalities in later life redefined by digitalisation. The Action will enhance scientific knowledge by integrating the different disciplines and schools of thought, by developing collaborations with public policy officials, international policy bodies, non-academic professionals, civil society NGOs, trade unions, management of organisations and older workers themselves.

The Action is an innovative participatory, interdisciplinary, and cross-European network. The first area concerns social inequalities in cases where some groups are privileged, and other groups are marginalised. The second knowledge gap concerns organisational age culture in which stereotypes and discrimination are known to strongly shape organisational life for older workers in terms of hiring, training and retirement. A third largely unexplored central area concerns the complex interplay and connection between digitalisation of work and older workers' health, which is a vital condition for extending working

life. A fourth directions envisage policies and practices dealing with digitalisation and who are implemented by national governments as well as by European institutions and organisations. The fifth dimension of the CA21107 is focused on the social, corporate and news media reflecting and propelling stereotypes of older workers and digitalisation.

Purpose of the ITC Conference Grant

The ITC Conference consists of a presentation of the own work given by a Young Researcher and Innovator affiliated in an Inclusiveness Target Country / Near Neighbour Country for their participation in high-level conferences fully organized by a third party (not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action). The grantee receives support for attending and presenting their work (poster/oral presentation) at a conference and can establish new contacts for future collaborations.

The ITC Conference serve COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy, support Young 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 to gain knowledge and can contribute to increasing visibility of the Action.

Who can apply?

- Young Researchers and Innovators affiliated in an Inclusiveness Target Country / Near Neighbour Country for their participation in high-level conferences according to the [Annotated Rules for COST Actions - COST](#)
- The Young Researchers and Innovators have to have as primary affiliation an institution located in an ITC (Inclusiveness Target Country). The ITCs are: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, The Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey and Ukraine.
- The Young Researchers and Innovators that have been accepted to present a **paper/poster/panel** and are listed **in the official event/conference program**. (Must acknowledge COST in the contribution. Please see Annotated Rules for COST Actions)

- Previous successful applicants are not precluded from applying, but preference and priority will be given to applicants who have not been awarded a DIGI-net ITC before.

Amount of grants

- The grants provide contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, registration fee, printing of scientific poster and overall effort for a max of EUR 1000.
- Up to EUR 1 000 per grant is allocated for face-to-face conferences or EUR 500 for virtual conferences.
- The financial support on offer is a contribution to the overall expenses incurred during the ITC Conference and may not necessarily cover all of the associated outgoings.
- ITC Conference need to be carried out in their entirety within a single Grant Period and always within the Action's lifetime.

Note:

- ITC Conference Grants are limited to young researchers and innovators (young researcher and innovator is according to COST rules under the age of 40) up to from COST Inclusiveness Target Countries and NNC.
- Grantees must make their own arrangements for all health, social, personal security, and pension matters.

Financial issue

- Grants are usually processed only after the ITC has taken place and the reporting have been satisfied and approved by the MC Action.
- ITC Conference Grants do not necessarily cover all expenses related to undertaking a given mission.
- An ITC Grant is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation, and meal expenses of the Grantee.
- The Grant Evaluation Committee should consider and can approve differentiated country rates reflecting the duration and location of the Conference and the actual conference fee.
- The maximum amounts granted for each individual ITC will be determined during the evaluation process by the Grant Evaluation Committee. The selection of applicants is based on the scientific scope of the ITC application which must clearly compliment the overall objectives of the Action and be

related to a specific Working Group.

The following funding conditions apply and must be respected:

- For this call, a grantee can be afforded up to a maximum of EUR 1000;
- ITC activities must occur in their entirety within the dates specified in this call: **1st April 2024 and 8th September 2024.**
- For this call, the Management Committee of COST Action CA21107 has allocated the budget for 6 ITC Conference Grants.
- The amounts granted for each individual ITC will depend on the length of the stay and will be determined during the evaluation process.

Note:

- Grants are paid by the Grant Holder Institution after the completion of the activity and approval of all required report/documentation.
- This amount is subject to availability of funds and approval by the Grant Holder Institution.

Please note that reimbursements will be done in compliance with the COST Annotated Rules. The application follows the steps in e-COST. In case of questions, please contact the Administrative Manager.

The application steps and responsibilities

- The applicant is responsible for organizing the application process.
- All applicants must carefully read the funding rules detailed in Annex 2 of the COST Annotated Rules.
- All applicants must register for an eCOST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu>
- The requested data on the eCOST and are:
 - Title of the presentation
 - Conference title, date (within the active Grant Period, i.e. no overlap across two consecutive Grant Periods) and country;
 - Budget requested;

- Attendance Type (face to face or virtual).
- The applicants must make sure that information about their *bank account* is added to their profile;
- The application templates for grants can be found on the COST website: www.cost.eu/grants_userguide
- The applicant must complete and submit their ITC Application form online at: [Apply for new Grant \(cost.eu\)](http://Apply for new Grant (cost.eu) describing) 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 letter from the conference organisers.
- The applicants must also submit to the Grant Evaluation Committee before the deadline is expired, the following documents:
 - CV - short format of Europass (see [Home | Europass](#));
 - The budget requested for the ITC conference (see budget template – Annex 1);
 - Title of the presentation; conference title; date (within the active Grant Period, i.e.no overlap across two consecutive Grant Periods) and country; attendance type (face to face or virtual);
 - Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral or poster presentation;
 - Acceptance letter from the conference organisers;
 - Relevance of the conference topic specific for this COST Action and grant period and Motivation describing the potential for impact on the applicant's career.

The selection of applicants is based on the following criteria:

- A. Contribution to achievement of the COST Action 21107 MoU objectives and deliverables;
- B. The compliance of the conference topic with the COST Action 21107;
- C. The gains of ITC Conference in terms of the new knowledge and impact on the applicant's career;
- D. Inclusiveness criteria.

When to apply?

The current call is open until **1st March 2024**. After this date later applications can be accepted if the CA21107 budget allows that.

For this first call, the ITC Conference may take place within the period: **1st April 2024 and 8th September 2024**.

At the Conference:

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

After the Conference has taken place

The ITC Grantee has 15 calendar days from the end date of the Conference:

- to send the report and documents to the eCOST and claim the payments;
- to send the report and documents and to the Grant Awarding Coordinator: daniela.soitu@uaic.ro;

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 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).
- A ppt presentation of results for a CA21107 meeting or webinar;
- A short brief for website and social media

Payment of the Grant is subject to ITC scientific report being pre-approved on behalf of the Action's MC by the delegated Grant Evaluation Committee.

Written approval of the ITC scientific report by the aforementioned persons shall be uploaded in eCOST for archiving purposes.

Failure to submit the scientific report and the related documents within 15 days from the end date of the ITC Conference will effectively cancel the Grant.

NOTICE OF COMPLETION:

The MC Action will approve the final report and send the completion notice to the Grant Holder. The Grant Holder will then execute the payment of the grant directly to the grantee.

For additional info, please contact:

Grant awarding Coordinator: Professor Daniela Şoitu. University of Iaşi
Email: daniela.soitu@uaic.ro

Grant Evaluation Committee

It consists of Grant awarding coordinator and the Vice-chair of the Action

Grant awarding Coordinator: Professor Daniela Şoitu. University of Iaşi
Email: daniela.soitu@uaic.ro

Vice-Chair of CA 21107: Professor Clary Krekula, University of Linnaeus
Email: clary.krekula@lnu.se

Annex 1: Budget Template

Instructions: complete blue cells with numbers

	Reference	Euro/No	Notes
# of Conference Days	A		
Daily Subsistence (hotel, food, local transport)	B		as per eCOST daily allowance rates: https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2022/04/2022_Daily-allowance-table.pdf
Total Subsistence	C=AxB		
Long distance travel cost (flight, train, bus, car)	D		provide details
Fees	E		provide details
Other	F		provide details
Total Grant Amount	G=C+D+E+F		