



COST Action CA19126 - Positive Energy Districts European Network (PED-EU-NET)

Open Call for Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) Conference Grants

Important Dates:

Application: open continuously

Notification of Results: 14 working days after application submission

Grant Period: 01 July 2021 – 30 September 2021

ITC Conference Grants are a networking and dissemination tool in COST that is aimed at supporting young researchers, i.e. Ph.D. students and Early Career Investigators (ECIs¹), in ITC countries² to establish strong networks and increase their visibility in the research community. The Conference Grants are an excellent tool for capacity building and their implementation can significantly benefit the career of young researchers.

A Conference Grant is a fixed financial contribution, which takes into consideration the budget request of the applicant and the outcome of the evaluation by the ITC Conference Grant Committee of the Action. The Grant is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation, and meal expenses of the selected Grantee. The financial support is a contribution to the costs and may not cover all costs. Attendance in European conferences is preferred but conferences held elsewhere can be considered.

This COST Action will provide a maximum of three grants in the current Grant Period (until 30 September 2021).

Criteria for a Conference Grant:

The applicant must:

- a) be a Ph.D. student or an ECI with a primary affiliation in an institution located in a Participating ITC.
- b) have an oral/ poster presentation on the topic of the Action, that acknowledges COST, and must be listed in the official event/conference program. The main subject of the oral / poster presentation or speech at the approved conference must be related to the topic of the COST Action CA19126.
 - ✓ The priority is always given to applications that are related to ongoing Working Groups, submitted by the WG members, and endorsed by the WG leaders.
 - ✓ The application for ITC Conference Grants should be made after the abstract has been accepted by the conference organizers.
 - ✓ In order to ensure proper distribution of funds, the Action will not support more than one Grantee to a single conference.

¹ ECI is an individual who is within a time span of up to 8 years from the date they obtained their PhD/doctorate (full-time equivalent).

² Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Serbia and Turkey.



- ✓ Considering the timeline of the current Grant Period, the conference for which the Applicant is applying to attend must take place before the 1 October 2021. Conferences that take place after are not eligible for funding of this Grant Period.
- ✓ The application must be submitted at least 30 days before the conference start date.

The topic of the action includes the following aspects related to PEDs:

- technologies and technical solutions
- energy planning
- business models
- sustainable transportation, infrastructure, and buildings
- social and political tools
- management, leadership, and governance
- urban/district/neighborhood planning and design
- empirical studies, evidences, and review

The eligibility of other topics will be evaluated by the ITC Conference Grant Committee of the Action.

How to apply?

All applicants must register for an e-COST profile at '<https://e-services.cost.eu/user/login>' adding their bank account details to their profile.

All applicants must complete, submit and download their ITC CG application online at: '<https://e-services.cost.eu/user/login>' or send to the ITC Conference Manager Savis Gohari Krangsås (savis.gohari@ntnu.no)

The list of supporting documents to be submitted for the evaluation is as follows:

- ✓ Application form (download [here](#))
- ✓ A motivation letter including an overview of the proposed work to be presented, clearly showing the contribution to the scientific objectives of the Action;
- ✓ C.V.
- ✓ Documentation proving eligibility for an ITC CG (PhD student status or PhD award document)
- ✓ Documentation of the acceptance for oral/poster presentation at the conference in question
- ✓ Documentation on the conference in question itself, clearly showing the conference dates, programme, conference fee and what are included in the fee
- ✓ Copy of the abstract submitted to the conference in question

Evaluation:

The applications will be assessed by the ITC Conference Grant Committee, which will perform the scientific and budgetary assessment of the applications against the perceived contribution that the proposed conference participation will make against the scientific objectives outlined in the Action's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The criteria for evaluation include:

1. Aim & Motivation

Does the research (in form of Abstract/poster or paper) contribute to the objectives of the Action, and benefit the applicant?

5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Satisfactory 2 Deficient 1 Poor 0 Failed

2. Relevance & Excellence

How appropriate is the research, considering the quality, scope, and feasibility of the outcomes?

5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Satisfactory 2 Deficient 1 Poor 0 Failed

How aligned is the research with the selected Working Group and objectives?

5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Satisfactory 2 Deficient 1 Poor 0 Failed

3. Methods & Techniques

How practical and feasible are the candidate's selected methods to answer the research questions or meet the objectives? Does the research add value to the Action and contribute to innovative solution, method, or theory?

5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Satisfactory 2 Deficient 1 Poor 0 Failed

4. Planning

Is the quality and feasibility of the work plan reasonable and satisfying? Are the research objectives, questions, methods, plan, and desired outcomes coherent, balanced and compelling?

5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Satisfactory 2 Deficient 1 Poor 0 Failed

5. Diversity and Inclusiveness

Does the applicant promote gender equality? (0-1)

Does the applicant have a plan to extend the conference contribution to a journal publication? (0-1)

After the Conference

The Grantee has 30 calendar days from the end date of the Conference to submit a scientific report to the ITC Conference Manager, Savis Gohari Krangsås.

The report should include the following:



1. Aims and objectives of the conference participation
2. Description of poster or oral presentation
3. Copy of the poster or oral presentation
4. Documentary evidence of the costs i.e. conference fee, travel, accommodation.

*N.B. Failure to submit the scientific report in time will effectively cancel the grant.

*The final report will be uploaded to the Action webpage. The Grantees will be asked to sign a consensus for sharing the final report.

For more information on the conference grants, please contact the ITC Conference Manager Savis Gohari Krangsås (savis.gohari@ntnu.no).