

CliMent Grant Awarding Call: 2nd Grant Period

CliMent: Climate change impacts on mental health in Europe COST Action (CA23113) opens the Grant Awarding Call for its 2nd Grant Period (ending 31 October 2026)

- I. General Evaluation Procedure (applicable to all Grants)
- II. Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM) Grant
- III. Virtual Mobility (VM) Grant
- IV. Dissemination Conference Grant
- V. ITC Conference Grant
- VI. Young Researcher and Innovator (YRI) Conference Grant

I. General Information and Evaluation Procedure (applicable to all Grants)

- All grant activities supported under this Call must comply with the *CliMent* COST Action internal rules and the COST Association regulations.
 - All activities must **start and end within the active Grant Period**. Overlaps between two consecutive Grant Periods are not permitted.
 - Applications must include realistic and justified activity dates. **Any change** of dates, work plan, or budget **requires prior approval by the Grant Awarding Coordinator before implementation**.
 - Grants are reimbursed only after the completion of the activity and the submission and approval of the required reports.
- The Grant Awarding Committee reviews all applications on behalf of the Action Management Committee. In case of a conflict of interest, the affected Committee member(s) will be replaced by the Chair, Vice-Chair, or a Working Group Co-Lead for the respective evaluation round.
- The members of the Grant Awarding Committee must submit their evaluation reports **within one week after receiving the applications** from the Grant Awarding Coordinator, **unless otherwise specified**. If some evaluations are not received within this period, the Grant Awarding Coordinator will proceed with the available reports to ensure timely decision-making.
- Applicants will be notified of the results **within three weeks** after submitting their application (or after the call deadline, if applicable).
- The Grant Awarding Committee reserves the right to suggest adjusting the requested budget according to the available funds, the duration, and the scope of the proposed activity.

For further details, before applying, **all applicants must** carefully and completely **read** Annex 2 of the [*Annotated Rules for COST Actions*](#).

For any inquiries, contact the *CliMent* Grant Awarding Coordinator at julius.burkauskas@lsmu.lt.

II. Call for Proposals: Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM) Grant

Key Deadlines:

No fixed deadlines apply. Applications can be submitted at any time during the active Grant Period.

Under the 2nd CliMent STSM call, proposals will be evaluated on a rolling basis, following a first-come, first-served principle and subject to the availability of funds. Proposals must meet the requirement of making a significant contribution to the objectives of the WGs. All STSMs should be completed by 25 October 2026.

Short-Term Scientific Mission grant funds a visit to a host organization located in a different country than the country of affiliation by a researcher or innovator for specific work to be carried out and for a determined period of time.

1. Objective

The STSM Grant supports short-term visits to host institutions in different countries, fostering in-person collaboration between researchers. This grant enables knowledge exchange, skill development, and the advancement of the **CliMent COST Action** objectives. Researchers can conduct research, learn new techniques, and explore novel approaches during their stay at the host institution.

2. Eligibility Criteria

Candidate Requirements

- *The Grant applicant(s) are Action participants with a primary affiliation to a legal entity located in a COST Full or Cooperating Member country, a COST Near Neighbour Country or a European RTD Organisation.*
- A formal agreement with the host institution must be in place before applying, ensuring collaboration and mentorship.
- Preference will be given to:
 - Young Researchers and Innovators (YRI) under 40 years old.
 - Applicants from Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs)
 - First-time applicants.

Activity Specifics

- There is no fixed limit on the number of days, but the visit should remain proportionate to the scope of work and budget requested.
- Activities should make a tangible contribution to the *CliMent* objectives and Working Group deliverables (e.g., data collection, analysis, method development, or joint publications).
- The proposed mission must include a clear work plan and defined outcomes demonstrating its added value for research coordination within the Action.
- Expected outputs include a report detailing the mission's outcomes, as well as any collaborative publications or research proposals.

3. Funding

- The maximum budget per STSM for the 2nd Grant Period of *CliMent* is up to 2100 EUR. The final approved amount may be adjusted by the Grant Awarding Committee depending on the duration, scope, and justification of the proposed mission, and within the limits of the available Action budget.

Text in italics is from the [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#)

- Grants are paid **after completion** of the activity and approval of the required reports/documentation. However, applicants may request up to **50% prepayment**, subject to the availability of funds and approval by the Grant Holder Institution.

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4. Application Process

Applications must be submitted online via e-COST: <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>

Steps to Apply:

1. Obtain a **Host Institution Agreement Letter** confirming acceptance.
2. Fill STSM application online at <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>, selecting **Apply for New Grant** and then **Short-Term Scientific Mission Grant**:
 - o Title of the project.
 - o Start and end date.
 - o Budget (amount) requested by the applicant.
 - o Host institution contact person details (must be in a different country from the applicant's affiliation).
3. Upload required documents:
 - o **STSM Grant Application Form** (template available on the website, [download template](#)).
 - o **Host Institution Confirmation Letter.**
 - o **Budget request and justification that should reflect the duration and location of the STSM.**
 - o **CV**, including a list of academic **publications (if any)**, which will be uploaded anyway in the e-cost platform when you create an e-cost account.
 - o **Letter of support from Home Institution.**

Once submitted, applicants will receive a confirmation email from e-COST. *Upon approval, the Grantee will receive a Grant Letter stating the approved amount and conditions for receiving the grant.*

5. Evaluation Criteria

Applications are assessed based on the following criteria:

- **Alignment with *CliMent* COST Action objectives.**
- **Feasibility and clarity of the work plan.**
- **Scientific merit and potential outcomes.**
- **Contribution to inclusiveness** (ITCs, Young Researchers and Innovators, gender balance).

Applications will be reviewed and scored based on the following key criteria:

- **Scientific goals** (How well the proposal aligns with the *CliMent* COST Action goals and potential impact):
Scale: 1 poor; 2 deficient; 3 satisfactory; 4 very good; 5 excellent (*threshold 3*).
- **Working plan** (The work plan's quality, feasibility, and clarity, including the realism of the proposed methodology, timeline, and deliverables):
Scale: 1 poor; 2 deficient; 3 satisfactory; 4 very good; 5 excellent (*threshold 3*).
- **Expected outputs and contributions to *CliMent* COST Action research** (Potential for tangible results such as publications, collaborations, or skill transfer):
Scale: 1 poor; 2 deficient; 3 satisfactory; 4 very good; 5 excellent (*threshold 3*).
- **Scientific merit of the applicant:** The experience and qualifications of the applicant:
Scale: 1 satisfactory; 2 good; 3 excellent (*threshold 2*).

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- **Contribution to inclusiveness:**

- Does the applicant promote gender equality? (0-1)
- Is the applicant a Young Researchers and Innovators? (0-1)
- Is the applicant or the host based in an Inclusiveness Target Country? (0-1)

Final conclusion:

An application shall be considered ineligible for funding under any of the following conditions:

- (1) if at least one of the evaluation criteria is scored below its established threshold;
- (2) if the total score from the scientific quality criteria (excluding inclusiveness) is lower than 12;
- (3) if the overall total score, including inclusiveness points, is lower than 13.

Inclusiveness points may only complement scientific quality and cannot compensate for insufficient performance in the main evaluation criteria.

Applications with the highest scores will be prioritized for funding.

Please note that STSM proposals that strongly advance the objectives of the *CliMent* COST Action or lead to initiatives within the framework of its four Working Groups (WGs) will be given high priority.

6. Reporting and Reimbursement

- The **scientific report** must be submitted within **30 days** after the mission's completion (but no later than 10 October 2026).

The templates: https://www.cost.eu/STSM_Report

- Reports must be uploaded via e-COST and include:
 - o A summary of the work developed
 - o Main achievements
 - o Future follow-up plans
 - In addition to the scientific report, the Grantee is required to prepare a **communication activity** for a larger audience that will be published on the *CliMent* website and social media.
 - Payment of the Grant is subject to the STSM scientific report being reviewed by the Grant Awarding Coordinator and approved by the Core group.
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III. Call for Proposals: Virtual Mobility (VM) Grant

Key Deadlines:

No fixed deadlines apply. Applications can be submitted at any time during the active Grant Period.

Under the 2nd CliMent VM call, proposals will be evaluated on a rolling basis, following a first-come, first-served principle and subject to the availability of funds.

1. Objective. The Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants aim to support collaboration in an online setting among researchers or innovators within the COST Action to exchange knowledge, develop new methodologies, and enhance networking opportunities. These grants contribute to the objectives of the *CliMent* Action and strengthen scientific cooperation.

2. Eligibility Criteria

Candidate Requirements

- *The Grant applicant(s) are Action participants with a primary affiliation to a legal entity located in a COST Full or Cooperating Member country, a COST Near Neighbour Country or a European RTD Organisation.*
- Must propose a virtual activity that contributes to *CliMent* Action objectives and strengthens collaboration.

Activity Specifics

- Duration: Any period within the active Grant Period (ensuring no overlap across periods).
- Activities may include, but are not limited to:
 - Writing joint research proposals or articles.
 - Developing new methods, models, or tools.
 - Organizing virtual workshops or training sessions.
- Expected outcomes should be tangible deliverables such as papers, datasets, or methodologies.

3. Funding

- Up to 1300 EUR can be awarded per VM Grant under the 2nd Grant Period of *CliMent*.
- *Applicants shall not receive different overlapping grants (except for VNS) during the same grant period.*
- Grants are paid **after completion** of the activity and approval of the required documents.

4. Application Process

Applications must be submitted online via e-COST: <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>

Steps to Apply:

4. Log in to e-COST and select **Apply for New Grant**, choosing **Virtual Mobility Grant**.
5. Provide the following information:
 - Title of the activity.
 - Start and end date (within the active Grant Period, ensuring no overlap across periods).
 - Budget (amount) requested by the applicant.
6. Upload the completed VM Grant Application template ([download template](#)), including:
 - The main objective of the VM.
 - Description of the work plan

Text in italics is from the [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#)

- o Plan for participation
 - o Expected outcomes and contribution to *CliMent* COST Action objectives
7. Upload any additional required documents (e.g., recommendation letters, if applicable).

Once submitted, applicants will receive a confirmation email from e-COST. *Upon approval, the Grantee will receive a Grant Letter stating the approved amount and conditions for receiving the grant.*

5. Evaluation Criteria

Applications are assessed based on the following criteria:

- **Alignment with *CliMent* COST Action objectives.**
- **Feasibility and clarity of the proposed activity. Examples of activities that can be performed by the VM grantee can be found at the [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#) (page 96).**
- **Scientific merit and potential for tangible outcomes.**
- **Contribution to inclusiveness** (ITCs, Young Researchers and Innovators, gender balance).

Applications will be reviewed and scored based on the following key criteria:

- **The main objective of the VM** (How well the proposal aligns with the *CliMent* COST Action goals and potential impact):
Scale: 1 poor; 2 deficient; 3 satisfactory; 4 very good; 5 excellent (*threshold 3*).
- **Working plan** (The work plan's quality, feasibility, and clarity, including the realism of the proposed methodology, timeline, and deliverables):
Scale: 1 poor; 2 deficient; 3 satisfactory; 4 very good; 5 excellent (*threshold 3*).
- **Plan for participation** (How well participants are defined, relevant to the project, and their contributions are clearly outlined):
Scale: 1 poor; 2 deficient; 3 satisfactory; 4 very good; 5 excellent (*threshold 3*).
- **Expected outputs and contributions to *CliMent* COST Action research** (the outputs are concrete, relevant, impactful, and strongly advance the *CliMent* COST Action's research coordination and/or capacity-building deliverables (e.g. publications, collaborations or skills transfer)":
Scale: 1 poor; 2 deficient; 3 satisfactory; 4 very good; 5 excellent (*threshold 3*).
- **Scientific merit of the applicant** (The extent to which the applicant's experience and qualifications are relevant to the objectives of the *CliMent* COST Action, demonstrating their ability to contribute effectively to the intended results):
Scale: 1 satisfactory; 2 good; 3 excellent (*threshold 2*).
- **Contribution to inclusiveness:**
 - Does the applicant promote gender equality? (0-1)
 - Is the applicant a Young Researchers and Innovators? (0-1)
 - Is the applicant or the host based in an Inclusiveness Target Country? (0-1)

Final conclusion:

An application shall be considered ineligible for funding under any of the following conditions:

- (1) if at least one of the evaluation criteria is scored below its established threshold;
- (2) if the total score from the scientific quality criteria (excluding inclusiveness) is lower than 15;
- (3) if the overall total score, including inclusiveness points, is lower than 16.

Inclusiveness points may only complement scientific quality and cannot compensate for insufficient performance in the main evaluation criteria.

Text in italics is from the [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#)

Applications with the highest scores will be prioritized for funding.

6. Reporting and Reimbursement

- Within **30 days after the activity** (or 15 days after the Grant Period ends, whichever comes first), the grantee must submit:
 - A scientific report outlining the work done, main outcomes, and future collaboration potential.
 - A communication activity for wider dissemination via the *CliMent* website and social media.
 - The scientific report template is available at: https://www.cost.eu/VM_Report.
 - Payment is subject to the approval of the scientific report by the Grant Awarding Coordinator and the Core group.
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IV. Call for Proposals: Dissemination Conference Grant

Key Deadlines:

The Dissemination Conference Grant application needs to be submitted at **least 6 weeks before the starting date of the conference**. Applicants are, however, encouraged to apply as early as possible.

Call 1: 1 Feb 2026 – 15 Mar 2026

Call 2: 1 Jun 2026 – 15 Jul 2026

Dissemination Conference grant funds an oral presentation by an Action Participant of the work of the Action in a high-level conference fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action.

1. Objective: The Dissemination Conference Grant aims to enhance the visibility of the COST Action within the research community and beyond by supporting participants in presenting their work at high-profile conferences. It facilitates the dissemination of Action results to relevant end-users, attracts new participants and stakeholders, and fosters networking opportunities for both the grantee and the COST Action. Additionally, it provides the grantee with a platform to present their contributions, develop new professional connections, and explore potential future collaborations.

2. Eligibility Criteria

Candidate Requirements

- *The Grant applicant(s) must be an **Action Participant** involved in the COST Action.*
- The applicant must have an accepted oral presentation, which must be **directly linked to the goals and scope of the CliMent COST Action**.
- The presentation must be a collaborative effort involving at least two members of the COST activity and must be related to the work of one of the working groups.

Activity Requirements

- The conference must be a high-level event in the research field, fully organized by a third party (i.e., not organized or co-organized by COST), and should enhance the visibility of the Action, attract additional participants, and disseminate results to relevant stakeholders.
- The applicant must commit to promoting *CliMent* COST Action in their presentation or dissemination activities.
- Required outputs include: a copy of the presentation, proof of conference participation, and an activity report following the event.

3. Funding

- Up to 1250 EUR per grant may be awarded for face-to-face conferences or up to 500 EUR for online conferences under the 2nd Grant Period of *CliMent* COST Action.
- *Applicants to Conference Grants shall not apply to different types of conference grants in the period.*
- Grants are paid **after completion** of the activity and approval of the required.

4. Application Process

Applications must be submitted online via e-COST: <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>

Steps to Apply:

8. Log in to e-COST and select **Apply for New Grant**, choosing **Dissemination Conference Grant**.

Text in italics is from the [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#)

9. Provide the following information:
 - o Title of the presentation.
 - o Conference title, date (within the active Grant Period, i.e. no overlap across two consecutive Grant Periods) and venue.
 - o Budget (amount) requested.
 - o Attendance Type (face-to-face or online)
10. Upload the completed Dissemination Conference Grant Application template ([download template](#)), including:
 - o Conference Details;
 - o Accepted oral contribution details;
 - o Alignment with the *CliMent* COST Action Science Communication Plan;
 - o Expected impact.
11. Upload additional required documents:
 - o *Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral presentation focused on promoting the scientific achievements and activities being performed by the COST Action.*
 - o *Acceptance (or invitation) letter from the conference organisers.*

Once submitted, applicants will receive a confirmation email from e-COST. *Upon approval, the Grantee will receive a Grant Letter stating the approved amount and conditions for receiving the grant.*

5. Evaluation Criteria

Applications are assessed based on the following criteria:

	Criteria	Description	Score* max
1.	Oral presentation	How is oral presentation directly linked to the goals and scope of the <i>CliMent</i> COST Action?	5
2.	Conference level	The level and potential of the conference to facilitate dissemination and visibility of the COST Action, including opportunities for networking, collaboration, and knowledge transfer. For a conference to be eligible for Grant, it must be recognized as an international event and demonstrate high academic or professional standing by meeting at least one of the following criteria: being organized by a reputable academic or professional body; being indexed in established databases (e.g., IEEE, ACM, Scopus, Web of Science); or being supported by a program committee or advisory board comprising recognized experts in the field.	5
3.	Collaboration among Action members	The presentation is a collaborative effort involving at least two members of the COST Activity and is related to the work of one of the working groups.	5
4.	Alignment with the <i>CliMent</i> COST	How the presentation contributes to the <i>CliMent</i> COST Action Science Communication Plan and to meeting	5

Text in italics is from the [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#)

	Action Science Communication Plan	the Action challenge and objectives. Description of the targeted audience and potential stakeholders to engage	
5.	Expected impact	Description of the expected impacts to increase the Action visibility in the research community; to attract additional participants and stakeholders; and to disseminate Action results to relevant end-users.	5

*Scale: 1 poor; 2 deficient; 3 satisfactory; 4 very good; 5 excellent (*threshold 3*).

Final conclusion:

An application shall be considered ineligible for funding under any of the following conditions:

- (1) if at least one of the evaluation criteria is scored below its established threshold;
 - (2) if the total score from the scientific quality criteria (excluding inclusiveness) is lower than 16;
- Applications with the highest scores will be prioritized for funding.

Example for evaluation for "**Collaboration among Action Members**" with five levels:

5 points (excellent) – The presentation is a strong collaborative effort involving multiple COST Action members (more than two) and demonstrates deep integration with a working group's objectives.

4 points (very good) – The presentation involves at least two COST Action members and is clearly related to a working group's objectives.

3 points (satisfactory) – The presentation includes collaboration between two members, but the connection to a working group is moderate or unclear.

2 points (deficient) – The presentation mentions collaboration but lacks strong evidence of active engagement between COST Action members.

1 point (poor) – The presentation does not adequately demonstrate collaboration among COST Action members or relevance to a working group.

6. Reporting and Reimbursement

- Within **30 days after the activity** (or 15 days after the Grant Period ends, whichever comes first), the grantee must submit a scientific report *and* relevant documentation in e-COST
- The scientific report template is available at:
https://www.cost.eu/DisseminationConference_Report.
- Payment is subject to the approval of the scientific report by the Grant Awarding Coordinator and the Core group.
- *The required report/documentation for claiming a **Dissemination Conference Grant** is:*
 - *Report to the Action MC on the outcome of the presentation, 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 oral presentation of the grantee.*
 - *Copy of the given oral presentation.*
- In addition to describing the conference's activities, this report should emphasize the value of attending conferences for networking, capacity building (e.g., collaborations), and personal growth.

V. Call for Proposals: ITC Conference Grant

Key Deadlines:

Call 1: 1 Feb 2026 – 15 Mar 2026

Call 2: 1 Jun 2026 – 15 Jul 2026

1. Objective. *ITC Conference grant funds 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 a high-level conference fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action.*

The ITC Conference Grant supports the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy by enabling Action participants affiliated with institutions in Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs) or Near Neighbor Countries (NNCs) to establish strong networks, increase their visibility in the research community through sharing their work, gain knowledge, and enhance the visibility of the COST Action.

ITC Conference Grantee: receives support for attending and presenting their own work within the scope of the Action (oral presentation) in a conference, and can establish new contacts for future collaborations.

2. Eligibility Criteria

Candidate Requirements

- *The grant applicant must be an Action Participant affiliated with a legal entity located in an Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC) or Near Neighbour Country (NNC).*
- The applicant must have an accepted oral presentation that is directly linked to the goals and scope of the *CliMent* COST Action.
- The presentation must be a collaborative effort involving at least two members of the COST activity and must be related to the work of one of the working groups.

Activity Requirements

- Eligible conferences must be high-level, international events organized by third parties (not co-organized by the COST Action).
- The applicant must commit to promoting COST in their presentation or dissemination activities.
- Required outputs include: a copy of the presentation, proof of conference participation, and an activity report following the event.

3. Funding

- Up to 1200 EUR per grant may be awarded for face-to-face conferences or up to 500 EUR for online conferences under the 2nd Grant Period of *CliMent* COST Action
- *Applicants to Conference Grants shall not apply to different types of conference grants in the period.*
- Grants are paid **after completion** of the activity and approval of the required documents.

4. Application Process

Applications must be submitted online via e-COST: <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>

Steps to Apply:

12. Log in to e-COST and select **Apply for New Grant**, choosing **ITC Conference Grant**.
13. Provide the following information:
 - o Title of the presentation.

Text in italics is from the [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#)

- o Conference title, date (within the active Grant Period, i.e. no overlap across two consecutive Grant Periods) and country.
 - o Budget (amount) requested by the applicant.
 - o Attendance Type (face-to-face or online)
14. Upload the completed ITC Conference Grant Application template ([download template](#)), including:
- o Conference Details;
 - o Accepted contribution details;
 - o Relevance of the Conference topic to the *CliMent* COST Action;
 - o Motivation and expected impact.
15. Upload additional required documents:
- o Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral presentation;
 - o Acceptance letter from the conference organisers;

Once submitted, applicants will receive a confirmation email from e-COST. *Upon approval, the Grantee will receive a Grant Letter stating the approved amount and conditions for receiving the grant.*

5. Evaluation Criteria

Applications are assessed based on the following criteria:

	Criteria	Description	Score* max
1.	Oral presentation	How oral presentation is directly linked to the goals and scope of the <i>CliMent</i> COST Action.	5
2.	Conference level	The level and potential of the conference to facilitate dissemination and visibility of the COST Action, including opportunities for networking, collaboration, and knowledge transfer. For a conference to be eligible for Grant, it must be recognized as an international event and demonstrate high academic or professional standing by meeting at least one of the following criteria: being organized by a reputable academic or professional body; being indexed in established databases (e.g., IEEE, ACM, Scopus, Web of Science); or being supported by a program committee or advisory board comprising recognized experts in the field.	5
3.	Collaboration among Action members	The presentation is a collaborative effort involving at least two members of the COST Activity and is related to the work of one of the working groups.	5
4.	Relevance of the Conference topic to <i>CliMent</i> COST Action	The extent to which the Conference topic aligns with the goals and scope of the <i>CliMent</i> COST Action (e.g. MoU objective, deliverables or working group tasks).	5

Text in italics is from the [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#)

5.	Motivation	Description of the applicant's motivation to participate in the conference.	5
6.	Expected impact	Potential impact of the conference participation on the applicant's career.	5

*Scale: 1 poor; 2 deficient; 3 satisfactory; 4 very good; 5 excellent (*threshold 3*).

Final conclusion:

An application shall be considered ineligible for funding under any of the following conditions:

(1) if at least one of the evaluation criteria is scored below its established threshold;

(2) if the total score from the scientific quality criteria is lower than 19;

Applications with the highest scores will be prioritized for funding.

Example for evaluation for "**Collaboration among Action Members**" with five levels:

5 points (excellent) – The presentation is a strong collaborative effort involving multiple COST Action members (more than two) and demonstrates deep integration with a working group's objectives.

4 points (very good) – The presentation involves at least two COST Action members and is clearly related to a working group's objectives.

3 points (satisfactory) – The presentation includes collaboration between two members, but the connection to a working group is moderate or unclear.

2 points (deficient) – The presentation mentions collaboration but lacks strong evidence of active engagement between COST Action members.

1 point (poor) – The presentation does not adequately demonstrate collaboration among COST Action members or relevance to a working group.

6. Reporting and Reimbursement

- Within **30 days after the activity** (or 15 days after the Grant Period ends, whichever comes first), the grantee must submit a scientific report *and* relevant documentation in e-COST
- The scientific report template is available at: https://www.cost.eu/ITCConference_Report
- Payment is subject to the approval of the scientific report by the Grant Awarding Coordinator and Core Group.
- *The required report/documentation for claiming an ITC Conference Grant is:*
 - o *Report to the Action MC on the outcome of the presentation of the accepted contribution, in terms of the grantee's visibility, including the establishment of new contacts for future collaborations.*
 - o *The certificate of attendance,*
 - o *The programme of the conference or book of abstracts / proceedings indicating the oral presentation of the grantee,*
 - o *Copy of the given oral presentation*
- In addition to describing the conference's activities, this report should emphasize the value of attending conferences for networking, capacity building (e.g., collaborations), and personal growth.

VI. Call for Proposals: Young researcher and innovator (YRI) conference grant

Key Deadlines:

Call 1: 1 Feb 2026 – 15 Mar 2026

Call 2: 1 Jun 2026 – 15 Jul 2026

YRI Conference grant funds a presentation (poster/oral presentation) of their own work by a Young Researcher and Innovator (YRI) in a high-level conference fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action.

1. Objective: The YRI Conference Grant supports Young Researchers and Innovators by helping them build a strong network, enhance their visibility in the research community, and share their work. It aligns with the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy and contributes to raising the visibility of the COST Action.

2. Eligibility Criteria

Candidate Requirements:

- Must be a Young Researcher or Innovator (YRI), defined as a person under 40 years of age at the time of the application.
- Must have an accepted oral or poster presentation and be officially listed in the conference programme.
- The presentation should preferably be a collaborative effort involving at least two members of the *CliMent* COST Action and must be related to the work of one of the working groups.

Activity Requirements:

- The conference must be a high-level event in the research field, fully organized by a third party (i.e., not organized or co-organized by COST), and should enhance the visibility of the Action, attract additional participants, and disseminate results to relevant stakeholders.
- The applicant must commit to promoting *CliMent* COST Action in their presentation or dissemination activities.
- Required outputs include: a copy of the presentation, proof of conference participation, and an activity report following the event.

3. Funding:

The financial support provides a contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, registration fee, printing of scientific poster and overall effort.

- Up to 1200 EUR per grant may be awarded for face-to-face conferences or up to 500 EUR for online conferences under the 2nd Grant Period of *CliMent* COST Action
- *Applicants to Conference Grants shall not apply to different types of conference grants in the period.*
- Grants are paid **after completion** of the activity and approval of the required.

4. Application Process

Applications must be submitted online via e-COST: <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>

Steps to Apply:

1. Log in to e-COST and select **Apply for New Grant**, choosing **YRI Conference Grant**.
2. Provide the following information:

Text in italics is from the [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#)

- o Title of the presentation.
 - o Conference title, date (within the active Grant Period, i.e. no overlap across two consecutive Grant Periods) and venue.
 - o Budget (amount) requested.
 - o Attendance Type (face-to-face or online)
3. Upload the completed YRI Conference Grant Application template ([download template](#)), including:
- o Conference Details;
 - o Accepted contribution details;
 - o Relevance of the conference topic to the *CliMent* COST Action;
 - o Motivation describing the potential for impact on the applicant's career.
4. Upload additional required documents:
- o *Copy of the abstract of the accepted poster or oral presentation;*
 - o *Acceptance (or invitation) letter from the conference organisers;*
 - o *• Other documents required by the Action (e.g. recommendation letter, etc.)*

Once submitted, applicants will receive a confirmation email from e-COST. *Upon approval, the Grantee will receive a Grant Letter stating the approved amount and conditions for receiving the grant.*

5. Evaluation Criteria

Applications are assessed based on the following criteria:

	Criteria	Description	Score* max
1.	Oral or poster presentation	How presentation is directly linked to the goals and scope of the work of one of the working groups of the <i>CliMent</i> COST Action.	5
2.	Conference level	The level and potential of the conference to facilitate dissemination and visibility of the COST Action, including opportunities for networking, collaboration, and knowledge transfer. For a conference to be eligible for Grant, it must be recognized as an international event and demonstrate high academic or professional standing by meeting at least one of the following criteria: being organized by a reputable academic or professional body; being indexed in established databases (e.g., IEEE, ACM, Scopus, Web of Science); or being supported by a program committee or advisory board comprising recognized experts in the field.	5
3.	Collaboration among Action members	The presentation is a collaborative effort involving at least two members of the COST Activity and is related to the work of one of the working groups.	5
4.	Motivation	Description of the applicant's motivation to participate in the conference.	5
5.	Expected impact	Potential impact of the conference participation on the applicant's career.	5

*Scale: 1 poor; 2 deficient; 3 satisfactory; 4 very good; 5 excellent (*threshold 3*).

Text in italics is from the [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#)

Final conclusion:

An application shall be considered ineligible for funding under any of the following conditions:

- (1) if at least one of the evaluation criteria is scored below its established threshold;
 - (2) if the total score from the scientific quality criteria (excluding inclusiveness) is lower than 16;
- Applications with the highest scores will be prioritized for funding.

Example for evaluation for "**Collaboration among Action Members**" with five levels:

5 points (excellent) – The presentation is a strong collaborative effort involving multiple COST Action members (more than two) and demonstrates deep integration with a working group's objectives.

4 points (very good) – The presentation involves at least two COST Action members and is clearly related to a working group's objectives.

3 points (satisfactory) – The presentation includes collaboration between two members, but the connection to a working group is moderate or unclear.

2 points (deficient) – The presentation mentions collaboration but lacks strong evidence of active engagement between COST Action members.

1 point (poor) – The presentation does not adequately demonstrate collaboration among COST Action members or relevance to a working group.

6. Reporting and Reimbursement

- Within **30 days after the activity** (or 15 days after the Grant Period ends, whichever comes first), the grantee must submit scientific report relevant documentation in e-COST
- The scientific report template is available at: https://www.cost.eu/ITCConference_Report
- Payment is subject to the approval of the scientific report by the Grant Awarding Coordinator and Core Group.
- *The required report/documentation for claiming an **YRI Conference Grant** is:*
 - o *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.*
 - o *The certificate of attendance,*
 - o *The programme of the conference or book of abstracts / proceedings indicating the oral presentation of the grantee,*
 - o *Copy of the given presentation (oral or poster).*
- In addition to describing the conference's activities, this report should emphasize the value of attending conferences for networking, capacity building (e.g., collaborations), and personal growth.