

ITC CONFERENCE GRANTS (ITC-CGs)

All applicants are advised to review the Annotated Rules For COST Actions prior to submitting their grant applications. (see [Funding Documents & Guidelines | COST](#))

General Call for ITC Conference Grants for the 1st grant period

The ITC Conference Grants (ITC-CGs) provide financial support for Young Researchers and Innovators affiliated in an Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC) / Near Neighbour Country (NNC) for their participation in high-level conferences whose scientific objectives are in line with the EU-MACE's grand challenge.

The grantee receives support for attending and presenting their work (oral presentation) at a conference and can establish new contacts for future collaborations. They are aimed at supporting researchers in their early career stages to increase their individual mobility and international visibility, strengthening existing networks and fostering international collaboration. In addition, the grantee agrees to contribute to increasing the Action visibility to the conference community by including a 1-page description of EU-MACE and its objectives.

ITC-CGs priority is given to applicants willing to attend conferences whose scientific/research focus resonates with the Action objective: : *Create a new form of alliance across the entire innovation value chain of materials for clean energy applications by overcoming the fragmentation of materials research and technology development and via supporting informed decisions by diverse stakeholders.* In other words, EU-MACE strives to build a systemic approach around MAPs for accelerated integration and scale-up production of advanced functional materials for low-carbon technologies. The target audience should be found at large-scale international conferences on materials science (with energy application session), on data-science and open science, focused renewable energy technologies (photovoltaics, batteries,...) etc., as well as at industrial innovation forums to attract manufacturers in the renewable energy sector. Example research focus topics are:

- MAPs (e.g., how to set up software: simulation, operation, etc.) where YRIs present their results that can be used in MAPs
- Large-scale international 'materials' conference, within Energy Applications sessions/sections
- Energy materials treated in the Action working groups
- Transversal tasks treated in the Action
 - Materials data (metadata science, management, etc.)
 - Sustainability
 - Automation
 - ML assisted materials design and characterization
 - Digital Twin, materials integration

Special provision for “Accelerate Conference 2024” in Vancouver, CA (August 06-09, 2024)

In accordance with the above stated priorities of EU-MACE, the Action has identified “Acceleration Conference 2024” organized by the Acceleration Consortium (AC) to be the most beneficial event. The AC at the University of Toronto is a global community of academia, government, and industry accelerating the design and discovery of a wide range of new materials and molecules, from renewable energy and consumer electronics to drugs. Using self-driving laboratories, the AC leverages the power of artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, engineering and chemistry to dramatically reduce the time and cost of bringing these advanced materials to market—from an average of 20 years and \$100 million to as little as 1 year and \$1 million. The AC Conference series is the largest international conference dedicated to AI and robotic assisted materials discovery and development research (highly relevant to EU-MACE Action). This year’s edition is held in conjunction with the German-Canadian Materials Acceleration Center workshop. The announced program of the conference focuses on *the tools* (Accelerating discovery with leading-edge tools such, e.g., ML, AI-aided experimental design and characterizations, materials databases, robotics, etc.), *the materials* (Accelerating development of sustainable materials and molecules for a resilient world) and *the Ecosystem* (Designing of ethical and equitable translation ecosystems for accelerated discovery, including training, education, access, etc.). These focus areas resonate perfectly with the objectives of EU-MACE providing a unique opportunity for the Action members to present their research work and interact with the world-leading experts on materials acceleration R&D.

We foresee two grants (max) to support the young researchers and investigators from academic institutions and SMEs (less than 10 ppl) to attend the Accelerate Conference 2024. Interested candidates must submit abstracts through the conference website [Home \(accelerate24.ca\)](https://www.accelerate24.ca) prior to applying for the ITC conference grant. Oral presentations are privileged under this special provision.

ITC-CG Eligibility (cf. [Funding Documents & Guidelines | COST](#))

Young Researchers and innovators (under the age of 40 years old) of EU-MACE affiliated in a legal entity in an Inclusiveness Target Countries and Near Neighbour Countries participating in the Action.

- **ITC (Inclusiveness Target Countries)** – Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, and Ukraine*.
- **NNC (Near Neighbour Countries)** – Algeria, Azerbaijan, [Belarus]*, Egypt, the Faroe Islands, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, [Russia]*, Syria, and Tunisia.
- Specific COST measures are taken regarding the participation of researchers/innovators from Russia, Belarus and non-government controlled territories of Ukraine. Please consult: [Annex-I-level-A-Country-and-Organisations-Table-Version-1.7.pdf \(cost.eu\)](#)

Note that the conference must take place **before September 10th, 2024** to ensure the timely submission of the report and the grant payment within the first grant period.

Evaluation criteria and procedure:

- Applications are considered individually on a rolling basis by an ad-hoc evaluation committee of experts.
- The applications will be evaluated within three weeks from the submission date.
- The applicants are advised to consult the [COST Annotated Rules](#) (Annex 2) for information about COST rules and procedures for ITC Conference Grant applications.
- All application must be submitted online in e-COST using the dedicated forms available and upload all required documents.
 - Applicant must have a registered and up-to-date e-COST profile <https://e-services.cost.eu/>
 - Encode a new grant application by logging into e-COST and clicking on the Grant Applications/Apply for new grant.
 - Upload
 - ITC Conference Grant Application (the application template is available on e-COST), describing the *relevance of the conference topic to the Action* and the *potential for impact on the applicant's career*
 - Copy of the Abstract of the accepted oral or poster presentation and Acceptance Letter from the conference organisers.
 - Letter of Support from the applicant home institution (it can be written by a senior researcher).
- The ITC-CGs do not necessarily cover all expenses related to participating in a given conference and they are contributions to the registration fee as well as the travel, accommodation and the meal expenses of the grantee.

Additional rules for EU-MACE ITC-CGs:

- The grantee agrees to include a 1-page Action description and its objectives (to be provided by EU-MACE) for increasing the Action visibility to the conference community
- ITC-CG reports must be submitted no later than 1 month after the conference is finished. A failure in doing so will effectively cancel the grant.
- The ITC Conference grantee should write a short summary of his/her report that will be made available on the Action website.
- The topic of the ITC Conference Grant application should fit into the scope of the EU-MACE (see the priority focus above). Applications that do not satisfy this condition will be declined.

How to acknowledge COST funding?

Contributions of COST Action EU-MACE (CA22123) to the research must be acknowledged in any publication; poster, proceedings, full research paper, etc., that will result from the ITC Conference Grant (ITC-CG). The acknowledgment should be written as *“This article/publication is based upon work from COST Action EU-MACE, CA22123, supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology).”*

Important dates:

- Application submission: **From 1st March 2024 to 31st July 2024 (funds allocated on a rolling basis)**
- Notification of application outcome: **Within three calendar weeks after their submission date**
- Conference attendance period: **before 10th September 2024**

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