Young Researcher & Innovator (YRI) Conference Grant Applications

2nd Call for Young Researcher & Innovator (YRI) Conference Grants Applications

Application: November 20th, 2026 – July 20th, 2027

Period of benefit: December 15th, 2026 – September 15th, 2027

COST Action Precision-BTC-Network opens a call for applications for **YRI Conference Grants** to be developed **under the scope of the referred Action**, in the terms described in this document.

The main procedures/regulations concerning YRI Conference Grants can be found in the *COST Annotated Rules*, here: COST Annotated Rules (see A2-1.1 MOBILITY OF RESEARCHERS AND INNOVATORS)

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1. Scope of Precision-BTC-Network COST Action

For details and specific objectives, please read the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU): https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA22125/

2. Purpose of YRI Conference Grants

YRI Conference Grants consist in a presentation (poster or 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. YRI Conferences:

- Serve COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy;
- Support Young Researchers and Innovators to establish a strong network and increase their visibility in the research community through sharing their work and to gain knowledge;
- Can contribute to increasing visibility of the Action.

YRI Conference Grants benefit:

- YRI Conference Grantee: receives support for attending and presenting their own work within the scope of the Action (poster/oral presentation) at a conference and can establish new contacts for future collaborations.

3. Eligibility criteria

1. Conference Grants are exclusively reserved for **Action participants** with a primary affiliation to a legal entity located in a COST Full or Cooperating Member country or Near Neighbour Country who are Young Researchers & Innovators (YRIs).

YRIs are defined as researchers or innovator members of the COST Action under the age of 40.

2. YRI Conference Grants are aimed at supporting Action Participants YRIs in attending high-level, international science and technology related **conferences**, events or activities on the topic of the Action that are **not organised** nor co-organized **by the COST Action**.

3. The applicant must **make an oral or poster presentation at the conference** in question and must be listed in the official event/conference programme. The main subject of the oral/poster presentation at the approved conference must be **clearly and directly related to the topic** of the Action and must include acknowledgement of COST.

4. The COST Association and the Grant Holder of the Action cannot be considered as being a YRI Conference grantee's employer, i.e. the YRI Conference Grants cannot be considered a salary.

4. Application deadlines

Applications will be welcome between **November 20th 2026** and **July 20th 2027,** or until funds are exhausted. YRI conference grants must be concluded by September 15th, 2027.

5. Funding

A Conference Grant is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation, subsistence expenses and overall effort of the selected Grantee. Up to a maximum of **EUR 1500** in total for a face-to-face conference can be afforded to each successful applicant.

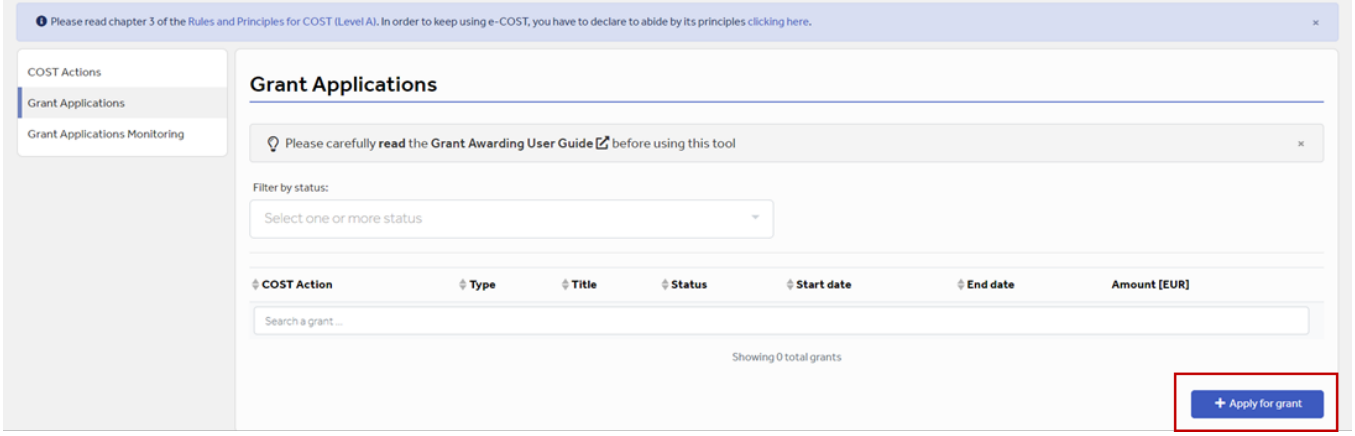
The **Grant Awarding Coordinator or the evaluation committee shall define the exact amount of each successful grant** based on the duration and location of the conference and the actual conference fee. Conference Grants do not necessarily cover all the expenses related to participating in a given conference and may be lower than requested.

The COST Association and the Grant Holder of the Action cannot be considered as being the grantee's employer.

Grants are paid by the Grant Holder Institution after the completion of the activity and approval of all required report/documentation.

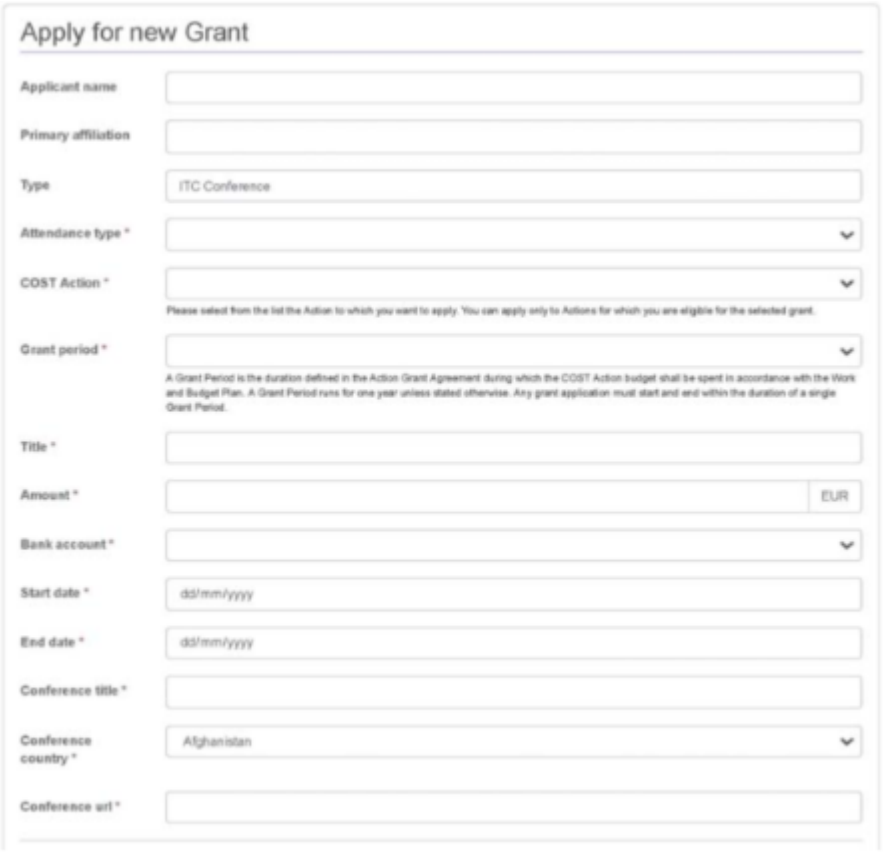
6. Application Procedure

The application procedure is legally bound to the Rules for COST Actions. Eligible YRI Conference Grant applicants must submit their applications online by logging into e-COST (https://e-services.cost.eu), navigating to "Grant Applications" and clicking "Apply for a grant".



The applicant then selects "Continue" on the "YRI Conference grant" section.

The application form contains different sections, some are pre-filled by e-COST, such as the applicant's name and primary affiliation. Other mandatory sections must be filled by the applicant, and include: the title of the presentation, start and end dates within the active Grant Period (i.e., no overlap across two consecutive Grant Periods), grant amount requested by the applicant, conference title, country and URL.



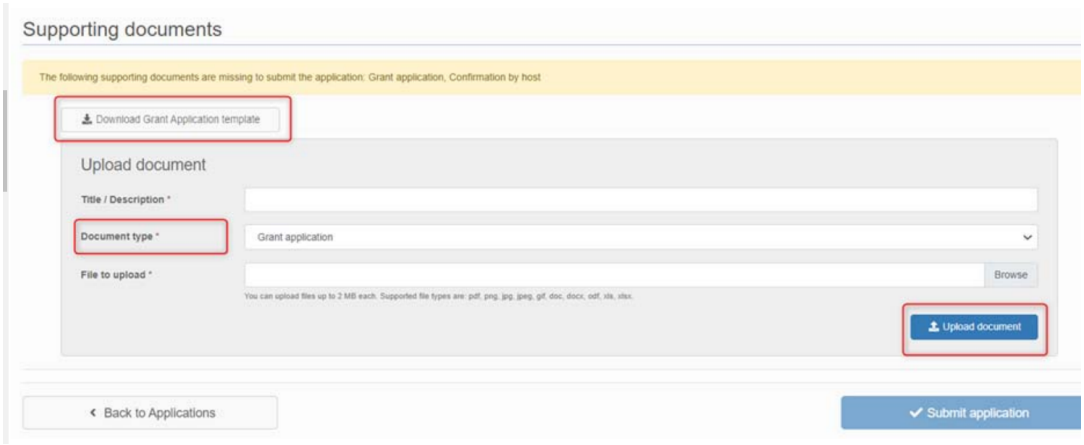
After completing the Grant application form by filling the required sections, the applicant uploads:

- The completed **YRI Conference Grant Application Template** (https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2024/09/YRICG-application-template.docx), which the applicant should prepare beforehand. This document describes the conference and accepted contribution details, relevance of the conference topic to the Action (max. 500 words), and motivation and expected impact (max. 500 words).

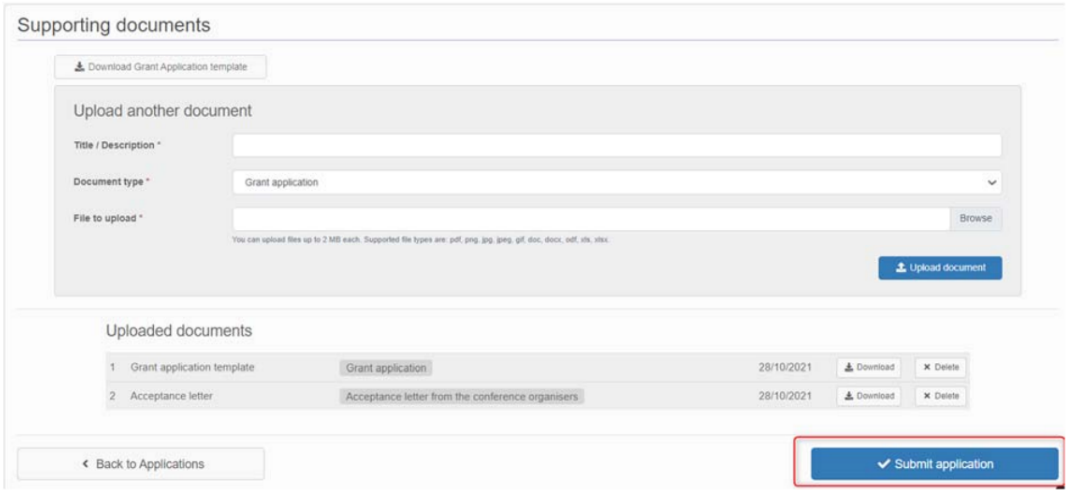
- Copy of the **abstract** of the accepted poster/oral presentation.

- **Acceptance letter** from the conference organisers and/or conference programme with the name of the applicant.

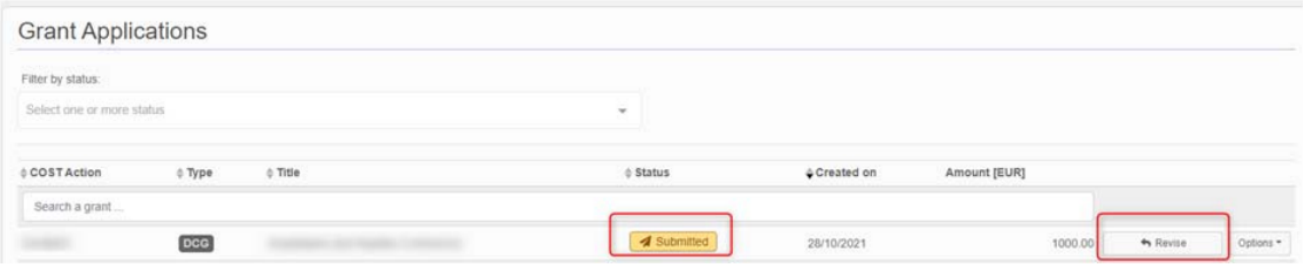
- **Candidate CV**: a short CV should be submitted (max. 3 pages). A list of academic publications can be added on separate pages.



After adding the supporting documents, the applicant submits the grant application.



The application status changes from draft to submitted. The applicant may revise the application at any time between submission and approval.



For more information, please consult the Grant Awarding user guide: (https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/01/COST-Grant-Awarding-user-guide.pdf).

7. Intellectual property rights concerns

In case of potential intellectual property concerns on the part of the participants, this must be mentioned in the application and managed by the applicant and the rest of participants. In this case, the reviewers of the application may be requested to sign a confidentiality agreement.

8. Selection committee

The YRI Conference Grant Selection Committee is composed of the Grant Awarding Coordinator, Prof. Anca Zgura, (medicanca@gmail.com), and Prof. Rocio IR Macias (rociorm@usal.es). In case of conflict of interest (e.g., applicant belonging to a representative's research group), the member will be replaced by representatives of the working groups related to the application.

9. Evaluation criteria and communication of the results

The YRI Conference Grant Selection Committee will carry out the evaluation of applications taking into account: an efficient and cost-effective use of funds, focusing on activities and resources that directly contribute to the Precision-BTC-Network objectives, and the potential for enhancing the research interaction between the parties involved, measured by the impact of the exchange expected by the applicants and collaborators. Specifically, the evaluation of the application is based on the following criteria:

- **Relevance of the congress/conference:** The congress is recognized within the academic/professional community forum for presenting and discussing topics that are relevant to the WGs of the Action. Examples of conferences typically considered include, but are not limited to: European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) congress, EASL Liver Cancer Summit (LCS), European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) Gastrointestinal Cancers Congress, and AMMF conference.
- **Relevance of the proposal:** The topic and full content of the presentation is relevant to the topic of the WGs of the Action, based on solid theoretical background in regard to the acknowledged theoretical framework of the Action; design and methodological grounds; the level of novelty of the material presented. Keywords in the abstract should include cholangiocarcinoma or biliary tract cancer.
- **Collaborative impact:** The potential to foster collaboration among members of the COST Action and beyond, and contribution to the Precision-BTC-Network strategy.
- **Merit of the applicant:** The experience and qualifications of the applicant.

Other general criteria for evaluation of YRI Conference Grants include gender balance and geographical representation.

Applications will be evaluated every two weeks, until the entire budget allocation is fully utilized. Each applicant will be formally notified of the outcome of their YRI Conference Grant application by the Grant Awarding Coordinator no more than 4 weeks after the application was received.

The Grant Awarding Coordinator (or the Action Chair/Vice-Chair, in case of conflict of interest) will inform the Grant Holder of the approved YRI Conference Grants. The Grant Holder will inform each approved applicant by sending a Grant Letter via e-COST.

10. YRI Conference Grant reporting and payment

Within 30 days from the end of the Conference (or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period, whichever date comes first), the successful applicant must submit the YRI Conference grant report (A), Certificate of attendance and the programme/book of abstracts indicating the oral/poster presentation of the mentee (B), copy the given presentation (oral or poster) (C), dissemination materials (D). These documents must be uploaded to e-COST to proceed with the request for payment.

A) **YRI Conference Grant report on e-COST**:

- A template for the report can be found on e-COST (https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2024/09/YRICG-report-template.docx). This document contains a description of the conference and accepted contribution details, the outcome of the conference participation (max. 500 words), and an acknowledgement of the inclusion of all necessary supporting documents to claim the grant. The YRI Conference Grant report for COST is a **public document**. Please take this into account in terms of Intellectual Property Rights.

The Grant Awarding Coordinator will be responsible for approving the report and informing the Action Chair and the Grant Holder that the YRI Conference Grant has been successfully accomplished. Please note that the COST Association can request additional information to substantiate the information contained within the documents submitted by YRI Conference Grant applicants.

B) **Certificate of attendance and the programme/book of abstracts indicating the oral presentation of the mentee**.

C) **Copy of the given presentation containing an acknowledgement of the COST Action**.

D) **Dissemination materials to Science Communication Team**:

- A photo of the grantee giving their oral presentation or alongside their poster at the Conference in question.

- A short video/success story/poster describing your participation in the conference or a strong, short advertising sentence summarizing your experience.

- The grantee's credentials on social media (if applicable) for tagging purposes in the publication of their post.

It is recommended that the material introduce the participants and convey enthusiasm for the scientific topic of the Precision-BTC-Network, supported by attractive illustrations or pictures. Clarity and accessibility should be prioritized in the language used, with an emphasis on avoiding overly abstract concepts and scientific jargon and employing short sentences. The material is intended to promote the scientific activities of the Precision-BTC-Network, highlight contributions, and will be disseminated on social media for a public audience. You can find examples from previous applicants here: https://precision-btc.eu/repository/entry/mob3participation.

The materials should be uploaded in e-COST and sent directly to the Grant Holder Manager, Samuel Kocsis (samuel.v.kocsis@victoraccon.com), adding in CC the Grant Awarding Coordinator, Prof. Anca Zgura (medicanca@gmail.com).

Failure to submit the requested documentation within the specified timeframe will effectively cancel the YRI Conference Grant. The grantee shall be aware that the COST Association reserves the right to postpone or cancel all payments and to recover the amounts paid to the grantee in the event that the grantee does not fulfil their obligations.

11. YRI Conference Grants contacts

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Prof. Rocio Macias
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