



COST Action CA23130

“Bridging High and Low Energies in Search of Quantum Gravity”



# Open Call for Grants - 2026

The goal of COST Action CA23130 BridgeQG is to investigate the interface between high-energy quantum gravity and quantum aspects of gravity in the low-energy regime, using both theoretical and experimental tools, in order to construct a phenomenologically viable theory of quantum gravity.

The grants and support tools offered by BridgeQG are designed to promote scientific collaboration, capacity building, gender balance, and knowledge dissemination across COST member countries. These tools enable researchers to access unique expertise and facilities, foster connections between high- and low-energy physics communities, and accelerate advancements in quantum gravity research. By supporting participation in conferences, virtual networking, and targeted missions, we aim to:

- strengthen existing collaborations, and create new ones between researchers from diverse backgrounds and geographic regions;
- enhance the visibility of researchers, early-career scientists and those from Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs);
- promote the dissemination of cutting-edge research findings to the broader scientific community;
- build a dynamic and inclusive network of experts working together towards shared scientific goals.

## 1. Schedule and deadlines

Please note the important deadlines given in the table below.

Deadline for applications	Decision notification
March 20, 2026	No later than March 27, 2026

**⚠ After the visit or conference has ended, grantees will have to submit the required report and documents (see below) within 30 days after the end of the activity, or before October 15, whatever dates comes first. Submissions of reports and documents beyond the deadline will lead to the cancellation of the grant.**

## 2. Important information

**⚠ Please read this section entirely and very carefully as it contains valuable information about the grant awarding process.** Some more specific details are given in the next section for each type of grant.

**Applications must be done through the e-COST internet portal** (<https://e-services.cost.eu/>). Only these applications can be considered for a grant. In particular, no application sent directly by email will be considered. At their first connection on e-COST, the applicants will have to create a new account. The Grant Awarding process in e-COST is described in more detail in the Grant Awarding User guide (<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/01/COST-Grant-Awarding-user-guide.pdf>).

**Eligibility is automatically taken care of by the e-COST portal**, meaning that applicants will not have the possibility to apply to a grant for which they are not eligible.

**Applicants do not have to be Action members, i.e. members of any of the Action Working Groups (WGs), except for dissemination conferences.** However, the ranking of applications will take this point into account, and a higher priority will be given to Action registered members. Applications to any working group (the list is given below, page 3) can be done at any time on the BridgeQG COST web page (<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA23130/>).

**Applications will be reviewed by the Grant Evaluation Committee (GECOM) of the Action.** The GECOM will do its best to give a quick decision within the deadlines given in the table above. The GECOM consists of the Grant Awarding Coordinator (GAC), the Action Chair (invited member), and two representatives from each WG who are not WG leaders or vice-leaders. GECOM members can apply for a grant, but in that case they will not be part of the awarding process. In addition, all GECOM members will have to disclose any conflict of interest.

**Applications will be evaluated by checking for the criteria listed below (§3).** In addition, as a general rule, a higher priority will be given to Young Researchers and Innovators (YRI), female researchers, and researchers from ITCs<sup>1</sup>.

**Only applications received before the deadline given in the table above will be considered for a grant.**

The available funds for grants are limited and determined on an annual basis for each so-called "Grant Period". The GECOM will ensure that the available funds are distributed among a large number of grantees. Consequently, **for some applications, only a portion of the requested funding may be granted.** Full funding may still be possible, depending on the applicant's specific situation, provided that sufficient supporting information is included in the application.

**Applicants shall not apply to different types of conference grants (ITC Conference Grants, Dissemination Conference Grants) in the same Grant Period.**

**Grantees for Conference Grants must acknowledge the COST Action, COST Association, and EU support by using their respective logos at least once on the title page<sup>2</sup>.** In case

---

<sup>1</sup> As of February 2026, ITCs are: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine.

<sup>2</sup> COST and EU logos can be found here: <https://www.cost.eu/about/visual-identity/>. CA23130 logo is available on the Action web site here: <https://web.infn.it/BridgeQG/about-the-action/>.

proceedings are published, the Action should be acknowledged. The text to be used for acknowledgements is given below (§4).

**Applications must specify what is/are the science WG/WGs in the framework of which the activities or conference contributions are foreseen.** This information will be used during the reviewing process to ensure a fair evaluation of the applications. The list of WGs is as follows:

- WG1. High-energy quantum gravity theory;
- WG2. High-energy quantum gravity experiment;
- WG3. Low-energy gravitational effects in quantum systems;
- WG4. Low-energy high-precision experiment;
- WG5. Connection between low-energy and high-energy quantum gravity.

**The list of required documents for applications is given in the next section** for each type of grant.

**The grant funds will be issued directly to the grantees, and not to their institutions. Consequently, recipients must initially cover their expenses using personal funds. The payment of the grant will be done upon successful review and approval of comprehensive justification and reporting documentation (see below).**

## 3. Funding scheme

Financial support is provided for networking activities organized in the framework of the Action BridgeQG. The present section lists and describes the different grants giving specific information for each of them. Most of the information given in the present document is extracted from COST Annotated Rules<sup>3</sup> where more details can be found.

The grants available for this call are Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) grants, ITC Conference Grants (CG), Young Researcher and Innovator Conference Grants (YRI-CG), and Dissemination Conference Grants. **No Virtual Mobility grant will be awarded for this call.**

**⚠ We strongly request that all grantees provide at least one picture taken during their STSM or the conference they attend. Sharing this image is essential to promote the Action's activities on social media and to give visibility both to the grantee and the host institution in case of an STSM. Providing this material is considered an integral part of the dissemination of your grant results.** Pictures can be sent to WG6 leaders: [Dr Jelena Strišković](#) and [Dr Denitsa Staicova](#).

### 3.1. Short Term Scientific Mission Grant

According to COST Annotated rules, *“The STSM 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.”*

STSM grants will be awarded with priority to Action members planning to visit members of different WGs with respect to their own. This decision is meant to improve the communication and collaboration between the different research areas involved in the Action.

---

<sup>3</sup> Link to [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#).

Please note that STSM grantees may request up to 50% prepayment of the approved grant. This pre-payment is subject to the availability of funds and approval by the Action.

**⚠ The GCom makes every effort to ensure that each grant covers all expenses related to a given STSM. However, please note that in some cases, the grant may not fully cover all mission costs. Please also note the grant will be paid directly to the successful applicant, not to their institution.**

In case an article is published in relation with the STSM, the grantee will have to acknowledge the support of the Action. See §4 below.

To be filled in e-COST:

- Title;
- Start and end date (within the active Grant Period, i.e. no overlap across two consecutive Grant Periods);
- Budget requested by the applicant;
- Information about the host institution and contact person. The location of the host institution must be in a different country from the country of affiliation of the applicant.

To be uploaded to e-COST:

- Application form (template available on e-COST) describing: Working Group, goals, description of the work to be carried out by the applicant, expected outcomes and description of the contribution to the Action MoU objectives;
- Host institution agreement for the application to a Short Term Scientific Mission.

Reporting and claim for payment of the grant:

- Report to the Action MC on the work developed, main achievements of the STSM and planned future follow-up activities.

### 3.2. ITC Conference Grant

According to COST Annotated rules, *“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<sup>4</sup> in a high-level conference fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action.”*

A Conference Grant (CG) is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation, meal expenses and registration fees of the selected grantee. It is a fixed financial contribution which takes into consideration the budget request of the applicant and the outcome of the evaluation of the application by the GCom.

**⚠ Please note that a CG does not necessarily cover all the expenses related to participating in a given conference. Please also note that the grant will be paid directly to the successful applicant and not to their institution.**

---

<sup>4</sup> The current list of Near Neighbour countries is available on COST Association web site: <https://www.cost.eu/about/strategy/international-collaboration/>.

In case proceedings are published, the grantee will have to acknowledge the support of the Action. See §4 below.

To be filled in e-COST:

- 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 online).

To be uploaded to e-COST:

- Application form (template available on e-COST) describing: Working Group, 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 presentation;
- Acceptance (or invitation) letter from the conference organisers.

Reporting and claim for payment of the grant:

- 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 oral presentation of the grantee;
- Copy of the given oral presentation.

### 3.3. Young Researcher and Innovator Conference Grant

According to COST Annotated Rules, "*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.*"

COST regulations define a YRI as someone under the age of 40, or who has reached or will reach 40 the year of the application.

A Conference Grant (CG) is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation, meal expenses and registration fees of the selected grantee. It is a fixed financial contribution which takes into consideration the budget request of the applicant and the outcome of the evaluation of the application by the GCom.

**⚠ Please note that a CG does not necessarily cover all the expenses related to participating in a given conference. Please also note that the grant will be paid directly to the successful applicant and not to their institution.**

In case proceedings are published, the grantee will have to acknowledge the support of the Action. See §4 below.

To be filled in e-COST:

- 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 online).

To be uploaded to e-COST:

- Application form (template available on e-COST) 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 poster or oral presentation;
- Acceptance (or invitation) letter from the conference organisers.

Reporting and claim for payment of the grant:

- 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).

### 3.4. Dissemination Conference Grant

According to COST Annotated Rules, "*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.*"

**⚠ Please note that a dissemination oral presentation should describe the Action's activities as a whole, rather than focusing on the individual contribution of a single Action participant or their team. Compliance with this requirement will be taken into account when assessing the eligibility and potential allocation of the grant.**

**⚠ Please note that a CG does not necessarily cover all the expenses related to participating in a given conference. Please also note that the grant will be paid directly to the successful applicant and not to their institution.**

In case proceedings are published, the grantee will have to acknowledge the support of the Action. See §4 below.

To be filled in e-COST:

- Title of the presentation;
- Conference title, date (within the active Grant Period, i.e. no overlap across two consecutive Grant Periods) and venue;
- Budget requested;
- Attendance type (face to face or online).

To be uploaded to e-COST:

- Application form (template available on e-COST) describing: alignment with the Science Communication Plan adopted by the COST Action and expected impact to the COST Action;
- Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral presentation focused on promoting the scientific achievements and activities being performed by the COST Action;
- Acceptance (or invitation) letter from the conference organisers.

Reporting and claim for payment of the grant:

- 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.

## 4. Acknowledging the Action support

In addition to using the logo of the Action, all grantees must acknowledge the support of the COST Action BridgeQG in full articles, proceedings, and posters. The following guidelines are given for convenience:

- For works at least partially inspired by exchanges fostered by the Action or benefiting from the coordination provided by the Action, regardless of the number or the status of authors, you can use the following text:

*“The author(s) would like to acknowledge the contribution of the COST Action CA23130 “BridgeQG: Bridging high and low energies in search of quantum gravity”.”*

- For works co-authored by at least two WG/MC members from at least two different countries participating to the Action:

*“The author(s) would like to acknowledge networking support by the COST Action CA23130 “BridgeQG: Bridging high and low energies in search of quantum gravity”.”*

- For outputs of Short-Term Scientific Missions:

*“This work was supported by a STSM Grant from COST Action CA23130 “BridgeQG: Bridging high and low energies in search of quantum gravity””*

## 5. Contact persons

For general questions, or questions about the grant awarding process, feel free to contact the persons listed below.

Grant Awarding Coordinator	J. Bolmont (bolmont@in2p3.fr)
Action Chair	G. Gubitosi (giulia.gubitosi@gmail.com)