

COST Action CA24131

European Network for Radiation-Detection-based Research and Innovation addressing increasing societal Challenges - ENRICH

1st Call for applications for Inclusiveness Target Country Conference Grants (ITCC)

Deadline for applications: open call
ITCC must be completed by *30th September 2026*

The first call for applications for Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC) Conference Grants is now open. ITC Conference Grantees receive financial support to attend a conference and present their work through **an oral presentation**.

Applications are open to researchers and innovators who are based in ITC countries and whose work aligns with the objectives and Working Groups of ENRICH. **Applications can be submitted at any time.** However, they must be submitted **at least 30 days before the start of the travel**.

1. About the ENRICH COST Action CA24131

The ENRICH (European Network for Radiation-Detection-based Research and Innovation addressing increasing societal CHallenges) COST Action aims to establish a strong European network of researchers and stakeholders engaged in radiation-detection experiments and applications.

Photon detection is a daily tool for many researchers across fields such as astrophysics, nuclear and atomic physics, materials science, data analysis, simulations, detector development, electronics, optics, medicine and biophysics, cultural heritage, food safety,

fraud detection, and beyond. Despite this broad use, the community remains highly fragmented, with sub-communities (for example, nuclear physics and synchrotron users) often operating in isolation. This fragmentation hinders knowledge exchange and limits the transfer of technologies from large-scale research infrastructures to smaller laboratories and industry.

ENRICH aims to bring together these diverse communities, fostering cross-sector and cross-disciplinary collaboration to accelerate scientific progress and technological innovation in radiation detection.

A primary focus of the collaboration will be to address key scientific and technological challenges in radiation detection across a broad range of disciplines, including fundamental, nuclear, and astrophysics, data analysis and simulations, detector and electronics development, optics, and X- and gamma-ray spectroscopy and imaging, with applications extending to medicine, materials science, cultural heritage, food safety, and security-related detection.

Beyond scientific impact, ENRICH's activities will strengthen Europe's industrial competitiveness by contributing to solutions for major societal and technological challenges, including energy autonomy, food security, and faster medical diagnostics. Meeting these challenges requires advances in analytical sciences, where radiation-based technologies play a pivotal role across many domains of science and society.

The **CA24131** is structured around seven Working Groups (WGs), each addressing a specific set of objectives:

WG1: Community Coordination: Focuses on activities that enhance the quality of the Action and expand community participation.

WG2: Technological Advancement: Addresses activities aimed at driving technological progress with impact across a wide range of applications.

WG3: Software Advancement: Concentrates on the development of new software tools and the establishment of common standards for the community.

WG4: Electronics and Data Acquisition: Targets the advancement of photon-detection readout electronics beyond the current state of the art, with the goal of improving energy, spatial, and timing resolution while reducing system size and cost.

WG5: Multidisciplinary and Societal Applications: Covers activities related to multidisciplinary use cases, with particular emphasis on applications addressing the societal challenges targeted by the Action.

WG6: Integration and Interchange: Ensures that all ENRICH activities (such as meetings, workshops, and schools) are accessible to the entire community, while also supporting funding acquisition. This WG operates throughout the full duration of the Action and is continuously updated to support its success.

WG7: Mentoring, Training, and Dissemination: Focuses on mentoring and training activities - especially for early-career researchers - and on disseminating ENRICH outcomes to both specialist audiences and the general public.

More details in [CA24131](#)

2. What is ITCC (Inclusiveness Target Country Conference Grant)

An **Inclusiveness Target Country Conference Grant (ITCC)** provides financial support to **Researchers and Innovators** from **Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC)** and **Near Neighbour Countries (NNC)** to attend and present their own research (**keynote/plenary or oral**) at **high-level international conferences organized by third parties, i.e., not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action.**

The grant promotes the **COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy** by enabling recipients to share their work at international conferences, strengthen their professional networks, increase their visibility within the research community, and gain new knowledge. Through participation in high-level conferences, ITC Conference Grantees contribute to enhancing international collaboration and can also increase the visibility of the ENRICH COST Action itself.

3. Who can apply

The ITC Conference Grant Applicant(s) are **Researchers and Innovators affiliated** in an **Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC)** or **Near Neighbour Country (NNC)** and their work must support the **objectives and Working Groups of the ENRICH COST Action.**

COST **Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs)** are countries or outermost regions of COST Full Members defined under the *Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence* strand of the *Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area (ERA)* part of Horizon Europe, as well as associated countries, as defined by the European Commission based on specific indicators and published in the Horizon Europe Work Programme.

The list of COST **Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs)** is available here: [ITC countries](#), and the list of COST **Near Neighbour Countries (NNCs)** is available here: [NNC countries](#).

To be eligible for an ITC Conference Grant (ITCC), applicants must give an **oral presentation** at a **high-level conference fully organized by a third party (i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action)**. The applicant must be **listed in the official conference or event programme**. The main subject of the oral presentation must be **relevant to at least one Working Group of the Action** and must **acknowledge ENRICH COST support**.

4. Financial support

An **ITCC Grant** is a **fixed financial contribution** provided to support researchers participating in high-level conferences fully organized by a third party. The grant amount is determined based on the applicant's budget request and the evaluation of the ITCC application. It is intended as a contribution toward travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses, registration fee, and overall effort, and may not cover all costs associated with the ITCC. **No invoices are required.**

Key points about the ITCC financial support:

- **Grant duration:** The supported activity must be carried out entirely within one **Grant Period** (runs from the 16 October 2025 until the 15 October of the following year).
- **Grant amount:** Up to **2,500 EUR** for face-to-face conferences, and **500 EUR** for online conferences. The final amount is decided by the Action Management Committee and Grant Holder, based on the recommendation of the Grant Evaluation Committee.
- **Country-specific rates:** Accommodation and meal rates will be approved taking into account the cost of living in the country where the conference takes place.
- **Payment procedure:** Grants are paid by the Grant Holder **after completion of the ITCC activity** and approval of all required reports and documentation.

Before applying, candidates should consult **Annex 2 of the Annotated Rules for COST Actions** for further guidance: [**COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V3.0-25-IX-2025.pdf**](#).

5. How to apply

To submit an ITCC application, applicants must have an **e-COST profile**. The application process involves the following steps:

1. **Log into e-COST** and click on the *My Grant Applications* tab, and encodes a new application, clicking on *Apply for a grant*.
2. Fill the **Grant Application** ([**ITCC GA link**](#)) including
 - grant title - title of oral presentation
 - grant period (no overlap across two consecutive grant periods)
 - grant amount requested
 - basic information about the conference
3. Attach following **supporting documents**:
 - **Application Form** describing relevance of the conference topic to the ENRICH Action and motivation describing the potential for impact on the applicant's career ([**template ITCC application**](#)).
 - **Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral presentation.**
 - **Acceptance letter from the conference organisers.**
 - **Description of the scientific quality of the conference** and its relevance to the objectives of the ENRICH Action (0.5 page maximum).
1_Lastname_Firstname_Conference.pdf
 - **CV** of applicant, *2_Lastname_Firstname_CV applicant.pdf*
 - **Letter of motivation** from the applicant (maximum 0.5 page), explaining how the attendance to the conference will contribute to the Grantee's career ENRICH CA24131 objectives and support the grantee's career development. Applicant should also indicate the COST Action Working Group to which the work presented belongs,
3_Lastname_Firstname_Letter_of_motivation.pdf
 - **Requested budget and its justification** including total expected cost for travel, accommodation and daily allowance, additional financial support following COST rules (maximum 1 page). Also indicate the amount of

support already received from other sources,
4_Lastname_Firstname_Budget.pdf

- **Support letter from the Home Institution** required for students/PhD students, *5_Lastname_Firstname_SupportLetter.pdf*

4. Submit the **Grant Application with supporting documents**. Once submitted, the application status will change from *draft* to *submitted*. Before the application is approved, the applicant may revise it if necessary.

If any documents cannot be uploaded, send them directly to:

Grant Awarding Coordinator: Magdalena Skurzok, magdalena.skurzok@uj.edu.pl

Chair of the COST Action: Alessandro Scordo, alessandro.scordo@Inf.infn.it

6. How the evaluation proceeds

When the Grant Application is submitted, the Grant Awarding Coordinator (GAC), CA Chair, and Vice Chair are notified. The Grant Evaluation Committee (GEC), consisting of seven members including the GAC and nominated by the Management Committee (MC), is authorized to review Grant Applications. To ensure efficiency, all applications will first undergo a screening by the GAC. Applications that are incomplete may be rejected, but applicants will have the opportunity to resubmit. Applications that are incomplete may be rejected, but applicants will have the opportunity to resubmit. **Applications that are irrelevant to the Action's objectives will be rejected and cannot be resubmitted.** Then the members of the **GEC will evaluate the eligible applications** according to the **criteria (shown below)** and submit proposals for selected grants and their amounts to the GAC **within 14 days after the ITCCs grant submission**. Each application must be evaluated by at least four GEC members. The GAC convenes a meeting of the GEC to rank all evaluations and then informs the Management Committee and the Core Group (CG) about the approved grants. If an application is rejected, a justification must be provided to applicant (the e-notification will be sent). The GAC will notify the Grant Holder (GH) of the proposals approved following evaluation. The grantee will then receive a **Grant Letter Notification** (aby email) from the GH confirming the official approval of the ITCC application, the awarded budget, and including a payment request form to be completed upon completion of the ITCC in order to receive the grant. The Grant Letter also outlines the rights and responsibilities of both the grantee and the GH. ITCC applicants should not book anything (e.g., transportation or accommodation) before receiving a confirmation through a Grant Letter. **The final evaluation outcome is announced within one month after the submission.**

Evaluation criteria

Evaluation will be based on the scientific quality and excellence of the conference, its relevance to the achievement of the ENRICH objectives, the expected impact on the grantee's career, the applicant's CV, and the type of contribution. Special consideration will be given to supporting COST policies on **promoting gender balance and broadening geographical inclusiveness**. The decision by the Action MC on proposal should reflect the duration and location of the conference and the actual conference fee. The evaluation criteria are given in the table below. The first criterion (a) is assessed by the GAC prior to the evaluation process.

Criterion	Scoring
1. Before any further criteria are considered	
Application is complete and fulfils all formal requirements	pass/no pass
2. Evaluation of the grant application	
Quality and Scientific Excellence of the Conference	0 - 5
Presentation type (Keynote, plenary/oral)	5/4
Relevance of the Conference to the objectives of ENRICH Action	0 - 5
Impact on the career of the applicant	0 - 5
CV of the applicant	0 - 5
Budget justification (accommodation, travel, subsistence, others, cofinancing from other sources)	Convincing Y/N

The basis for a positive assessment of the application is obtaining **at least 2 points in each criterion**.

7. Grant settlement

The grantee will receive automatic reminders to upload the report **1 day and 10 days** after the end of the grant. The report must be submitted **within 30 days after the end date of the activity** or **15 days after the end of the Grant Period, whichever date comes first**.

An e-notification requesting submission of the report and supporting documents will be sent to the grantee via e-COST, with the Grant Holder manager and the Grant Awarding Coordinator in the copy of notification.

To settle the grant the grantee must complete the following documents:

1. **Log into e-COST** and fill the **ITCC Report** ([*template ITCC report*](#)) including
 - details about the conference and participant
 - outcome of the conference participation
2. Attach following **supporting documents**:
 - **Certificate of attendance**
1_Lastname_Firstname_Certificate_attendance.pdf
 - **Programme of the conference or book of abstracts/proceedings**
indicating the oral presentation,
2_Lastname_Firstname_Programme_conference.pdf
 - **Copy of the given oral presentation**,
3_Lastname_Firstname_Presentation.pdf

Once the documents are submitted, the GAC is notified and verifies the validity and content of the documentation by accessing the link provided in the notification. Following the review procedures agreed by the MC, the GAC records the approval or rejection of the report on behalf of the MC. After the payment is recorded, an e-notification is sent to the grantee, with a copy to the Grant Holder manager.

Acknowledgement of ENRICH COST Support

All presentations and conference materials supported by the CA24131 ITCC Grant must include the following acknowledgement:

Attendance at this conference was supported by the COST Action ‘European Network for radiation-detection based Research and Innovation addressing increasing societal CHallenges (ENRICH) – CA24131’.

Any publication resulting from an ITCC must acknowledge COST support as follows:

This publication is based on work supported by the COST Action CA24131: European Network for radiation-detection based Research and Innovation addressing increasing societal CHallenges (ENRICH)’

Both the **COST logo** and the **CA24131 Action logo** must also be displayed in the presentation.

8. More information

COST Action webpage: [CA24131](#)

Online Application Form: [ITCC GrantApplication](#)

Report form: [template ITCC report](#)

COST Annotated Rules: [COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V3.0-25-IX-2025.pdf](#)

Grant Awarding User Guide: [COST-Grant-Awarding-user-guide.pdf](#)

Other COST documents: [documents-guidelines](#)

For further information, you may contact the Grant Awarding Coordinator

Magdalena Skurzok, magdalena.skurzok@uj.edu.pl.