

eVoiceNet

European Network for Vocal Biomarkers in Healthcare

Call for Applications for Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) Conference grants



The first Call for eVoiceNet ITC grants will open from 15th of April, until the 30th of September 2026.

What are ITC Conference Grants?

ITC Conference Grants are intended to support Action Participants affiliated with institutions based in Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs) or Near Neighbour Countries (NNCs) in attending international conferences related to science and technology that are **not organised by COST eVoiceNet**. These grants specifically support participants delivering an oral presentation aligned with the scope of the Action.

The supported conferences may take place anywhere worldwide, either in person or online. These grants contribute to the implementation of COST's policies on Excellence and Inclusiveness.

Objectives:

- To enable Action Participants based in Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs) or Near Neighbour Countries (NNCs) to build new connections that can lead to future research collaborations.
- To help them expand their professional network, enhance their visibility within the scientific community, and benefit from opportunities to present their work while acquiring new knowledge.

Who can apply?

The Applicant is an Action Participant affiliated in an Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC) or Near Neighbour Country (NNC). Updated lists can be found under "Country and Organisations Table" at <https://www.cost.eu/funding/documents-guidelines/>

Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) – Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Reunion Island and Saint-Martin (France), Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain), Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and

Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine.

Near Neighbor Countries (NNC) – Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, the Faroe Islands, Jordan, Kosovo¹, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine², Russia³, Syria, and Tunisia.

1. This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.
2. This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.
3. As of 6 May 2022 until further notice, measures are taken to suspend cooperation with Russia for the execution of the COST Actions and COST activities.

Applicants are required to actively contribute to the conference by delivering an oral presentation, either in person or virtually, and must be officially listed in the conference program. The presentation should focus on topics directly relevant to COST Action CA24128 eVoiceNet.

Any work presented must clearly acknowledge the support of COST Action CA24128 eVoiceNet in line with COST visual identity guidelines. The recommended citation is:

"This article/publication/contribution is based upon work from COST Action CA24128 European Network to Advance the Development and Implementation of Vocal Biomarkers (eVoiceNet), supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology). www.cost.eu"

Both the conference attendance and the grant application must occur within the same Grant Period.

Please note that grant funds will only be disbursed after participation in the conference. Applicants are expected to secure any necessary prior financial support (for example, from their home institution). Reimbursement can be made to a personal or institutional account, provided that the institution has offered prior financial support.

Scientific topics:

The main subject of the oral presentation at the approved conference must be aligned with the topics of the COST PRIORITY, and must fit within the scope of any of the Working Groups:

- WG1: Data and methodology standardization to develop and validate vocal biomarkers
- WG2: Repository of open-source data and software resources for vocal biomarkers
- WG3: Ethical, data protection and privacy issues of vocal biomarkers
- WG4: Translational research and go to market strategies
- WG5: Dissemination

Financial support:

The ITC Conference Grant provides financial support to help cover expenses related to the mission, including travel, accommodation, daily subsistence, conference registration fees, and the effort required for preparation and reporting. It should be noted that the grant may not fully cover all costs associated with the mission. Travel and subsistence support applies only to in-person conferences.

The amount awarded for each ITC Conference Grant is determined based on the actual conference registration fee, the duration, and the location of the event. The funding limits are as follows:

- Up to **EUR 1200** for in-person conferences
- Up to **EUR 500** for virtual conferences

How to apply?

Starting from 15/04/2026, applicants should complete and submit their materials via the dedicated COST online platform: <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants/add>.

The submission must include:

- The COST ITC Conference Grant application form, available after registration in the e-COST system: <https://e-services.cost.eu/>

- The title of the presentation
- Conference details: name, dates (within the active Grant Period), and location
- A justification for the requested budget
- If available, the acceptance letter from the conference organizers. If not yet issued, a screenshot from the conference website showing the expected date of abstract acceptance can be submitted. The acceptance letter will be required for the final grant approval.
- A copy of the abstract
- The applicant's CV, uploaded directly to their e-COST profile
- Involvement in eVoiceNet: Under the document type "Other," provide a description of your involvement and contributions to eVoiceNet thus far. Explain how your participation in and contribution to the selected conference would benefit the Action by defining the relevant Working Group(s) and the specific deliverable(s) addressed in the contribution.
- For PhD students: a copy of the student ID and supervisor approval

All documents should be uploaded through the e-COST platform.

In the application, applicants must explain the relevance of the conference to CA24128 eVoiceNet and describe how participation could impact their career development and professional growth.

Evaluation of applications:

The evaluation of ITC Conference Grant applications is carried out under the leadership of the Grant Awarding Coordinator, with support from the Action Chair and Vice-Chair, and, when needed, input from Working Group Leaders;

Applications are assessed using the following point-based criteria:

1. Relevance to COST Action CA24128 eVoiceNet (max. 5 points)

- How well the conference presentation aligns with the objectives of the Action.

- Contribution of the presentation to advancing research in vocal biomarkers.
- Applications scoring 0–2 points will be automatically excluded.

2. Expected Professional Impact (max. 5 points)

- Contribution of conference participation to career development and professional growth.
- Potential for expanding the applicant’s scientific network and visibility.
- Opportunities to initiate new collaborations.

3. Excellence of Applicant (max. 3 points)

- Motivation and academic/professional background.
- Experience and expertise in research relevant to the Action.

4. Priorities (1 point each)

- Applicant is an Action participant or member of a Working Group.
- Applicant actively uses a minority language in their work (evidence must be provided).

Additional Considerations

- Geographical balance (representation of ITCs/NNCs).
- Gender balance.
- Equitable distribution of grants across Working Groups.

Successful applicants will be notified by the Grant Holder via e-mail and will receive an official Grant Letter confirming approval of their ITC Conference Grant. The letter will include a “Payment Request” form, to be completed after submission and approval of the conference report, as well as the approved grant amount. Applicants must confirm acceptance of the grant by returning the signed Grant Letter. Applicants whose applications are not approved will be informed directly by the Grant Awarding Coordinator via e-mail.

After completion of the Conference:

The grantee must submit a report for approval within 30 days after the conclusion of the conference or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period, whichever comes first. The report should be sent to the Home Institution, Action Chair, Vice-Chair, and Grant Awarding Coordinator.

The report should include:

- A summary of the presentation's outcomes, highlighting the grantee's visibility and any new contacts established for potential collaborations.
- The certificate of attendance.
- The conference programme or abstract book/proceedings showing the grantee's oral presentation.
- A copy of the delivered oral presentation.

The Action Chair and Grant Awarding Coordinator are responsible for approving the report. Failure to submit the report within the deadline will result in cancellation of the grant. Once the report is approved and the payment request is processed, the grant will be transferred directly to the grantee via bank transfer.

Grantees may also be asked to present the results of their ITC Conference Grant at internal CA24128 eVoiceNet meetings or events (e.g., Management Committee or Working Group meetings). These outputs can additionally be used as part of the Action's communication and dissemination activities.


Important dates:

- There is no specific date for the submission of applications; applications will be evaluated on a rolling basis, within the timeframe of Grand Period 1.
- Applications will be evaluated and applicants will be notified within one month after their submissions.
- The Conference has to take place before 30 September 2026.
- Deadline for submission of reports: within 30 days after the end of the conference, but not later than 15 October 2026.
- Payment of grant: within 30 days from the submission of the report.

Contact:

For more information and enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the Action Chair:

Dr. Guy FAGHERAZZI

 guy.fagherazzi@lih.lu

Links:

- [**Action CA24128 - COST**](#)
- [**Annotated Rules for COST Actions**](#)
- [**Grant Awarding user guide**](#)
- [**COST Action – countries and organizations**](#)
- [**COST visual identity**](#)