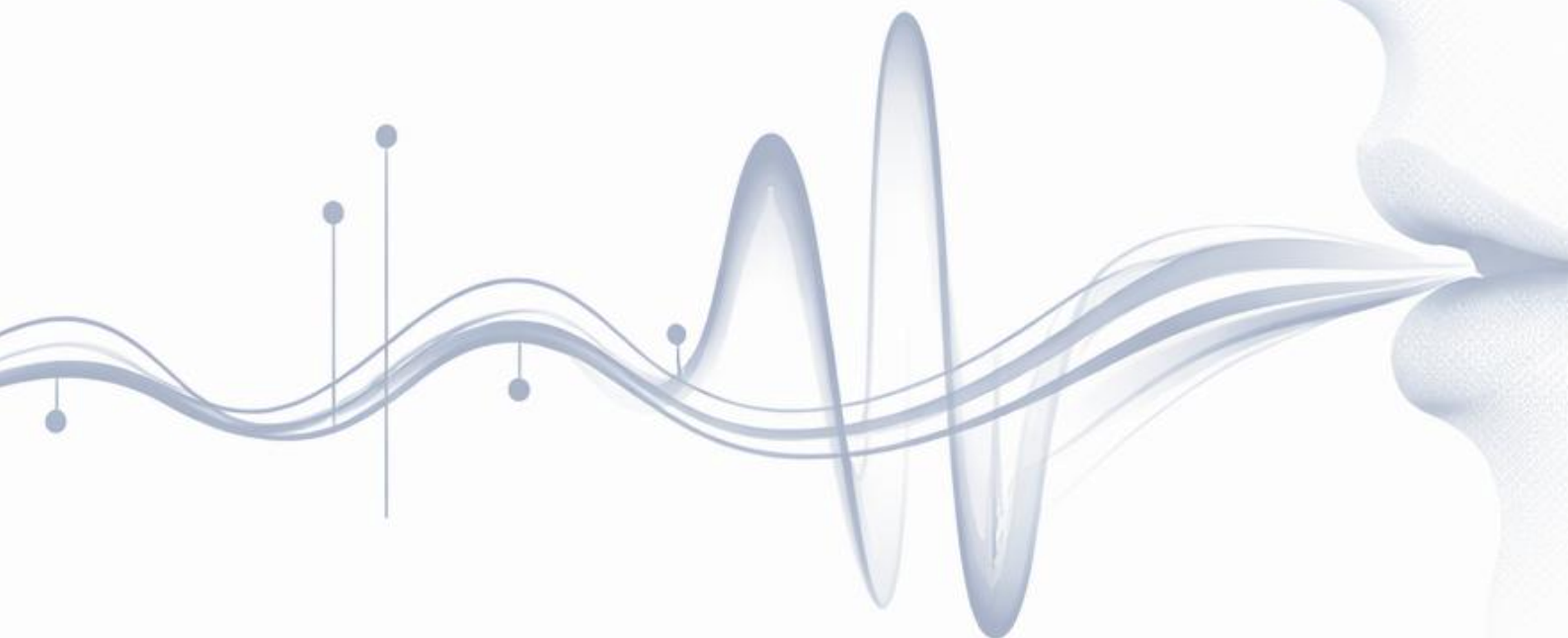


# **eVoiceNet**

## **European Network for Vocal Biomarkers in Healthcare**

### **Call for Applications for Young Researcher & Innovator (YRI) Conference grants**



The first Call for eVoiceNet YRI Conference grants will open from 15<sup>th</sup> of April, until the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2026.

## **What are YRI Conference grants?**

The YRI Conference Grant supports Young Researchers and Innovators (YRIs) in presenting their own work, either as a poster or an oral presentation, at high-level conferences organised by third parties (i.e. **not organised or co-organised by the eVoiceNet COST Action**).

Eligible conferences must be held in person. Priority will be given to conferences taking place in Europe; however, conferences organised outside Europe may also be considered. This funding scheme contributes to the implementation of COST's Excellence and Inclusiveness principles.

## **Objectives of YRI Conference Grant:**

- To help Young Researchers and Innovators expand their professional networks, enhance their visibility within the scientific community by presenting their work, and further develop their knowledge and expertise.
- To strengthen the visibility and outreach of the eVoiceNet Action.

## **Who can apply?**

Applicants must be Young Researchers and Innovators (YRIs), defined as individuals under the age of 40, and affiliated with an institution located in a COST Member country. Updated information on eligible countries and organisations is available in the "Country and Organisations Table" on the COST website.

Eligible COST Full Member countries include: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary<sup>1</sup>, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine<sup>2</sup>, and the United Kingdom.

Applicants are expected to actively contribute to the conference by presenting their work, either through a poster or an oral presentation, in person or online, and must be included in the official conference programme. The topic of the presentation must be clearly aligned with the objectives of COST Action CA24128 eVoiceNet.

All presented work must explicitly acknowledge the support of CA24128 eVoiceNet, in accordance with COST visual identity guidelines. The recommended acknowledgment 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](http://www.cost.eu)"*

Both the conference participation and the grant application must take place within the same Grant Period.

Please note that the grant is reimbursed only after the conference has taken place. Applicants are therefore expected to secure prior financial support (e.g., from their home institution). Reimbursement may be made to either a personal or an institutional account, provided that prior financial support has been arranged.

### **Scientific topics:**

The main subject of the oral presentation at the approved conference must be aligned with the topics of the COST eVoiceNet, 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 eVoiceNet YRI Conference Grant provides a financial contribution to help cover your travel, accommodation, meals, and registration fees, as well as the effort required for reporting.

Please keep in mind that this grant is a contribution and may not cover all your expenses. The reviewers will determine an appropriate funding level for approved applications, ensuring that the awarded Grant does not exceed the amount requested by the applicant. For this Action, funding is strictly reserved for face-to-face participation, with a maximum grant amount of **EUR 1200**.

## **How to apply?**

Starting from 15/04/2026, applications must be submitted via the dedicated COST online platform: [e-COST grant submission platform](#)

Applicants are required to complete and upload the following documents:

- The COST Conference Grant application form, accessible after registration on the [e-COST system](#)
- The title of the presentation
- Conference details, including name, dates (within the active Grant Period), and location
- A justification of the requested budget
- The acceptance letter from the conference organisers, if available. If not yet received, a screenshot of the conference website indicating the expected notification date for abstract acceptance may be provided. The acceptance letter will, however, be required before the grant can be formally awarded
- A copy of the abstract
- The applicant's CV, uploaded 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 candidates: a copy of the student ID and a confirmation from the supervisor

All materials must be submitted through the e-COST platform.

In addition, applicants should clearly explain how the conference topic relates to CA24128 eVoiceNet, and outline their motivation, including the expected impact of participation on their career development.

### **Evaluation of applications:**

The assessment of applications is conducted under the responsibility of the Grant Awarding Coordinator, with support from the Action Chair and Vice-Chair, and, where appropriate, contributions from the 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 contribution (poster or oral presentation) aligns with the objectives of the Action.
- Contribution of the presentation to advancing research and activities 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, knowledge, and expertise.
- Potential for expanding the applicant's professional network and visibility.
- Opportunities to initiate new collaborations and strengthen the Action's outreach.

#### **3. Excellence of Applicant (max. 3 points)**

- Motivation, academic/professional background, and relevant expertise.

- Experience in research directly related to the objectives of 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**

- Achieving geographical diversity among COST Member countries.
- Promoting gender balance.
- Equitable distribution of grants across different Working Groups.

Successful applicants will be notified by the Grant Holder via email and will receive an official Grant Letter confirming the approval of their application, along with details of the awarded funding and a Payment Request form to be completed after submission and approval of the final report. Applicants must confirm their acceptance by signing and returning the Grant Letter. Unsuccessful applicants will be informed directly by the Grant Awarding Coordinator via email.

#### **After completion of the conference:**

The grantee must submit a report for approval no later than 30 days after the conference or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period, whichever occurs first. The report should be addressed to the Home Institution, Action Chair, Vice-Chair, and Grant Awarding Coordinator.

The report should include:

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

The report will be reviewed and validated by the Action Chair and the Grant Awarding Coordinator. Failure to submit the report within the specified timeframe will result in the cancellation of the grant. Once the report has been approved and the payment request processed, the grant will be transferred directly to the grantee via bank transfer.

Grantees may also be invited to present the outcomes of their participation at internal CA24128 eVoiceNet meetings or events (e.g. Management Committee or Working Group meetings). These results may additionally be used for 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](mailto: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**