

## **ITC Conference Grants Eligibility Criteria and Rules**

### ***Aim***

We aim to support PhD students and ECI researchers (Early Career Investigators) from Participating Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) to attend international science and technology related conferences on the topic of the project which are not organized by the COST action CA18216.

**ITCs** are as follows: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Serbia and Turkey.

### ***Mandatory preapproval criteria***

1. Conference Grants are exclusively reserved for **PhD students and ECI's** with a primary affiliation in an institution located in an ITC. An Early Career Investigator (ECI) is an individual who is within a time span of up to 8 years from the date they obtained their PhD/doctorate
2. The applicant must provide an **oral/poster presentation/speech**, in an international conference, on the topic of the Action and **must acknowledge COST**
3. Filled ITC Grant application form

### ***Additional ranking criteria to be considered***

1. The Applicant's CV with publications related to vascular ageing, arterial stiffness (compatibility and relevance with the topic of the Action)
2. Type of conference: European/international (Attendance at European conferences is preferred. However, international conferences held elsewhere can also be considered)
3. Applications related to the currently ongoing Working Groups, submitted by the WG members, and endorsed by the WG leaders
4. Originality, impact, new research directions, implications for clinical practice, new techniques/devices to assess arterial stiffness and vascular age

### ***Application submission***

After ITC Conference Grants Call launching by VascAgeNet GH manager and ITC Conference Grant Manager, please submit the application form, to the ITC Conference Grant Manager **Ioana MOZOS** through the VascAgeNet site <http://vascagenet.eu/itc-grant-application>

Supporting documents to be uploaded on the VascAgeNet site within the application form:

1. the Applicant's CV, including recent publications
2. the accepted abstract,
3. acceptance letter
4. a document demonstrating that the applicant is a PhD student or ECI

The application will be first **evaluated** by the ITC Conference Grants Committee and the ITC Conference Grants Manager of the COST Action, checking compatibility and relevance with the topic of the Action, if the applicant is a PhD candidate or ECI, and if he/she represents an ITC, **ranking** the submitted applications considering additional ranking criteria. Then, if the remaining budget allows to provide funding, it will be submitted for approval by the MC Chair of the Action, informing Applicants about the **result** of the pre-approval.

### ***After the conference***

Each ITC grantee will upload, within **30 calendar days** from the end date of the Conference, to the ITC Conference Grants Manager on <http://vascagenet.eu/itc-grants> a **Scientific Report** including:

- a certificate of attendance
- an experience report
- a copy of their presentation/poster/paper
- photographic material from the conference (e.g. the Applicant with the Action logo in background) to be published on the website
- invoices and receipts of expenses (conference fee, accommodation, travel costs)

The Scientific Report must be approved by the ITC CG coordinator. After that, the **reimbursement** process is completed.

The Scientific Report will be then disseminated using the website of the COST action.

Virtual meetings are also eligible and conference fees can be reimbursed.

The latest ITC Grants must be finished by 30.03.2021.

### ***Additional rules related to coronavirus pandemic***

1. The ITC Conference Grants management committee is not responsible for cancellation of conferences due to travel restriction, border shutdowns or other transport limitations related to possible evolutions of the coronavirus pandemic
2. It is at personal responsibility of each applicant to check for restriction rules and reopening timetables regulating travels between home and host countries.
3. An approved ITC grant that is cancelled due to coronavirus pandemic restrictions could be postponed, but should be completed one month before the end of the Grant period (within 30/03/2021)
4. Beyond that date, the ITC grant will be cancelled, and it should be resubmitted for the next grant period.

5. Additional costs related to prolonged stay in the Host country due to new wave pandemic restrictions will not be reimbursed.