

COST Action CA15121

Advancing marine conservation in the European and contiguous seas (MarCons)

First Call for ITC Conference Grants - November 2017

ITC Conference Grants

CA15121 "MarCons" COST Action's Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) Conference Grants are aimed at supporting PhD students and Early Career Investigators (ECI) researchers from Participating ITC to attend international science and technology related conferences not specifically organized by the Action.

- The ITC presently participating in the "MarCons" COST Action include Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Croatia, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and the Republic of Serbia.
- "ECI researchers" are individuals who are within a time span of up to 8 years from the date they obtained their PhD/doctorate (full-time equivalent).

Eligibility criteria

The following eligibility criteria apply:

- ITC Conference Grants are exclusively reserved for PhD students and ECI with a primary affiliation in an institution located in a participating ITC.
- The applicant must make an oral or poster presentation at the conference in question and must be listed in the official event/conference programme. The main subject of the oral presentation/poster presentation/speech at the approved conference must be on the topic of the Action and must acknowledge COST and the support of EU funding.
- The participation of each applicant must be pre-approved by the Action Core Group. Attendance at European conferences is preferred. However, conferences held elsewhere can also be considered.

Evaluation and selection of applicants

The evaluation of each received Conference Grant application is performed by the Action's Core Group.

The application should contribute to one of the following Working Groups (WG) of the Action:

- WG1: From description to prediction of cumulative human impacts on marine ecosystems to inform conservation planning

- WG2: Present challenges and limitations in marine conservation
- WG3: Marine Conservation and Biological Invasions
- WG4: Integrated conservation planning across terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems
- WG5: Regional coordination and transboundary conservation
- WG6: Governance of marine protected areas

Financial Support

An ITC Conference Grant is a fixed financial contribution which takes into consideration the budget request of the applicant and the outcome of the evaluation of the application. ITC Conference Grants do not necessarily cover all of the expenses related to participating in a given conference. An ITC Conference Grant is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation and meal expenses of the selected Grantee.

The calculation of the financial contribution for each ITC Conference Grant must respect the following criteria:

- Up to a maximum of EUR 2,500 in total can be afforded to each successful applicant.
- Up to a maximum of EUR 160 per day can be afforded for accommodation and meal expenses.
- Up to a maximum of EUR 500 can be claimed for the conference fees to be incurred by the selected Grantee.
- In addition, when meal and accommodation expenses are supported by the hosting institution as part of the provisions offered in their conference package, the amount for subsistence afforded to each eligible participant must be deducted from the Grant.
- Documentary evidence of the conference fee amount must be provided by the applicant.

Approving ITC Conference Grants for Payment

- The Grantee has 30 calendar days from the end date of the conference in question to submit a short scientific report (~1 page) to the Action Chair and the Action's Grant Holder (GH). The Abstract or full article in the conference proceedings (if applicable) or poster in pdf (if applicable) should be submitted together with the scientific report, to be uploaded to MarCons' website.
- Payment of the Grant is subject to the submitted scientific report being approved by the Action Chair.
- Written approval of the submitted scientific report must be sent to the Action's GH for archiving purposes.

How to apply for an ITC Conference Grant

- The applicant encodes an ITC Conference Grant application by logging into e-COST at <https://e-services.cost.eu/user/login/> and clicking on the ITC Conference Grants tab.
- Please note that the tab 'ITC Conference Grants' will not be available in the following cases:
 - If the applicant's e-COST profile is incomplete, they will first have to fill in the missing information (affiliation, education details, CV)
 - If the primary affiliation of the applicant is not in an ITC country
 - If the Education details of the applicant do not demonstrate that (s)he is a PhD student or an ECI
- The application must be submitted at least 45 days before the conference start date.

- For this call, the dates of the Conference should be before the end of April 2018 and the submission of the scientific report and all accompanying documents should be completed by 30 April 2018.
- Successful applicants will receive their Grant Notification by the Action's GH within a week after their application.