

EPICATCH opens the Second Call for ITC Conference Grants (ITC CGs)

This call is based upon the work performed within COST Action 19125 EPICATCH, supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology)

www.cost.eu

<https://www.epicatch.eu/>

<https://www.cost.eu/cost-action/epigenetic-mechanisms-of-crop-adaptation-to-climate-change/>

ITC Conference Grants (ITC CGs) allow **Young Researchers and Innovators (under the age of 40)**, affiliated in a legal entity in an Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC) or Near Neighbour Country (NNC), to receive support for attending and presenting their work at an international well-recognized conference.

The aim of ITCs shall be to **contribute to increase visibility of the EPICATCH Action** by serving at the same time an improvement of career development for the Applicant. The objective of EPICATCH is to update, define and develop scientific knowledge and methodology on the study of plant epigenetic adaptation responses to climate change. Indeed, ITC CGs applications should deal with topics potentially relevant for the EPICATCH Action, meaning any aspects of plant epigenetics/epigenomics and/or integration **epigenetic research** with other targeted/omic molecular approaches.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:

For EPICATCH Second Grant Period, two application deadlines are foreseen:

- **April 30th** - the applicant can start the mobility from May 16th
- **June 30th** – the applicant can start the mobility from July 14th

Please note that the evaluation process of submitted applications takes some time and the applicant can never start his/her mobility period before having received the evaluation outcomes and relevant Grant Letter. Therefore, for applications presented under the first round, the **mobility cannot start before May 16th** and not before **July 14th**, for the second round.

EPICATCH Grant Period 2 finishes on 31 October 2022, so that the ITC CGs must be **completed at the latest by September 30th 2022**.

ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS:

The ITCs are intended for Young Researchers and Innovators under the age of 40, affiliated to a legal entity based in:

- A COST Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC)
- A Near Neighbour Country (NNC)

Please consult the [COST Country and Organization Table](#) for a complete list of countries belonging to these categories.

The grantee must present an oral or poster presentation of their own work. COST and the EPICATCH Action must be acknowledged in their presentation. The main subject of the presentation must be in line with the scope and topics of EPICATCH.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION:

The grant does not necessarily cover all the expenses related to participating in the proposed conference. The resources assigned contribute to the overall travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses, registration fee and printing of the scientific poster, up to:

- Max 2000 EUR for face to face events, including Conference Fees
- Max 500 EUR for Virtual Conferences fees

Requested funds should be justified and adequate. The ITC CGs committee will decide on the final financial contribution for each application, taking into consideration available resources, the budget requested, the duration and the location of the conference.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

ITC CGs application procedure will be conducted on line **via the E-COST PLATFORM** and, in parallel, by **E-MAIL to the ITC CGs Committee**.

Before the above mentioned deadlines the applicants should send an e-mail to the ITC CGs Coordinator Mirsolav Baranek - miroslav.baranek@mendelu.cz with cc. to Chair and Vicechair of EPICATCH (Federico Martinelli email: federico.martinelli@unifi.it, and Eirini Kaiserli email: Eirini.Kaiserli@glasgow.ac.uk), with the following documents:

- [ITC CGs COST Application Form](#) filled in on e-cost and downloaded from the system (including Title of the presentation, Conference title, date and country; Budget requested; Attendance Type: face to face or virtual)

- [ITC CGs COST Application Template](#) including conference details, goals, relevance of the conference topic for the action, Motivation and Expected Impact describing the potential for impact on the applicant's career
- Copy of the **abstract of the** accepted oral or poster **presentation**;
- **Acceptance letter** from the conference organisers;
- **Recommendation letter** from the Applicant's Supervisor/Home Institution
- **CV** (max. 2 pages)

ON LINE SUBMISSION VIA E-COST PLATFORM: In parallel to emails, the applicant must use the on-line registration tool and register the ITC CG application by logging into e-COST (<https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants/add>). Applicants can consult the [COST Grant Awarding User Guide](#) for indications on how to fill in and submit their requests.

EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

The ITC CGs Applications are evaluated by a ITC CG Committee including:

- Grant Awarding Coordinator: George Manganaris
- ITC CGs Coordinator: Miroslav Baranek
- Action Vice Chair: Eirini Kaiserli
- Core Group Member: Pilar S. Testillano

The ITC CGs committee evaluates all ITC CGs applications within approximately 2 weeks after the deadline. The ITC CGs committee has the right to award less than the requested amount.

Once the selection process is complete the Applicant receives a formal notification through e-cost informing him/her about the outcomes of the selection and whether the request has been approved or not. If the Application is funded the Applicant receives a Grant Letter stating the approved amount and the conditions for receiving the grant. In no case the Applicant can start his/her mobility period before having received the Grant Letter.

CRITERIA FOR AWARDING THE ITC CGs

ITC CGs funding will be awarded according to the following criteria:

- The relevance of the proposed presentation for the EPICATCH Action Objectives
- The profile of the researcher
- Contribution to the researcher's professional development
- The publication/output potential of the research carried out
- The coherence among the proposed budget and the duration and destination of the proposed travel

Gender balance, the geographic coverage and distribution among different WGs of the proposed ITC CGs will be also considered.

CARRYING OUT THE MOBILITY PERIOD

The ITC CGs must take place as foreseen in the submitted Application. If the Conference dates are modified by the organizers the Applicant should get in touch with the Grant Awarding Coordinator and provide an updated Acceptance Letter certifying the change of the Conference Dates. The Action Grant Manager is informed and provides the Applicant with an updated Grant Letter.

FINAL REPORTING AND GRANT PAYMENT

After completion of the ITCs, the grantee is required to submit a [Conference Report](#) on e-cost and to send it by email to the ITC CGs Coordinator within **30 days after** the ITC CG has been completed.

This **report** should contain detailed information on the outcomes of the Conference Participation, in terms of Action's and grantee's visibility, including the establishment of new contacts for future collaborations

The Applicant should also provide:

- Conference Attendance Certificate
- The programme of the conference or book of abstracts / proceedings indicating the presentation (oral or poster) of the grantee.
- Copy of the given presentation (oral or poster)
- Receipt of the conference fee paid

Upon approval of the scientific report by the ITC CG Committee the Grant will be processed and paid directly to the grantee within 30 days.

CONTACTS:

In case of need applicants can get in touch for assistance with:

1. ITC Conference Grants Coordinator - miroslav.baranek@mendelu.cz
2. Action Grant Manager – denise.cuccia@unifi.it