

ADVANCE-TB ITC CONFERENCE CALL For the 2nd Grant Period

ADVANCE-TB Cost Action 21164 opens the Inclusiveness Target Country Conference Call for the Second Grant Period (2GP) (1st November 2023 - 31st October 2024)

A. PURPOSE OF INCLUSIVENESS TARGET COUNTRY CONFERENCE

ITC Conference Grants are aimed at supporting Young Researchers and Innovators (<40 years) from Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC) or Near Neighbor Country (NNC) to participate in high-level conferences fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action, for presenting their results. The main objective is to establish a strong network and increase their visibility in the research community through sharing their work and gaining knowledge, which can contribute to increasing the visibility of the ADVANCE-TB Cost Action.

B. IMPORTANT DATES

The ADVANCE-TB ITC Conference Call will be receiving applications according to the following timetable:

	1 st Round	2 nd Round	3 rd Round	4 rd Round
Open Application Round	24th Oct 2023	01st Jan 2024	01st Apr 2024	01st Jul 2024
Deadline for application	24th Nov 2023	31st Jan 2024	30th Apr 2024	31st Jul 2024
Notification of decision applicants until	15th Dec 2023	15th Feb 2024	15th May 2024	15th Aug 2024
ITC Conference Dates	Within 6 months after approval notification			

Please note that all Conference should be completed before 30th September 2024

C. ITC CONFERENCE ELIGIBILITY RULES

Call applicants should be:

- ✓ Action Member of the ADVANCE-TB Cost Action 21164
- ✓ Action Member with a primary affiliation in an Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC) or Near Neighbour Country. See [Country Organization](#) details.
- ✓ The applicant (under 40 years old) is a Young Researcher or Innovator engaged in an official research programme as a PhD Student or postdoctoral fellow.
- ✓ The applicant and/or home research group might have previous experience in projects related to the Action focused on tuberculosis, non-tuberculous mycobacteria infections, or any other related aspects.
- ✓ The applicant should have an abstract accepted at the conference.
- ✓ First-time GP applicants will be prioritized.
- ✗ Conference proposals out to the timetable will be automatically discarded.

D. HOW TO APPLY

Eligible applicants shall follow these steps, according to the corresponding timetable:

1. Obtain an Invitation or Acceptance Letter from the Conference Organizers, describing:
 - The Conference Organizers
 - Purpose of the conference
 - Dates of the conference
 - Country and Venue of the conference
 - Confirmation (or evidence) of Title Conference/Poster and (or) Applicant will be listed in the official conference agenda.
 - Estimated number of conference attendees
 - Interest/connection between the Applicant and the Conference Organizers
2. Define your proposals:
 - Type of Attendance of the conference
 - i. Face-to-face conferences
 - ii. Virtual conferences
 - Title and focus methodology of the proposed conference/poster
 - Budget requested (Top of 2,000€, Details on Financial Support section)

- Dates
 - i. Start
 - ii. End

- 3. Download and complete all the fields of the ITC Conference application template, available here:
 - https://www.cost.eu/ITCConference_GrantApplication

- 4. Complete the ITC Conference application online at <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>
 - Select the Action of interest (21164) Select Apply for New Grant
 - Then ITC Conference
 - Fill out all the sections on the platform
 - Add the supporting documents:
 - i. ITC Conference grant application template completed (step 2)
 - ii. Copy of your CV (including a list of academic publications - if applicable), which will be uploaded anyway in the e-cost platform when you create an e-cost account.
 - iii. Motivation letter describing the impact on the applicant's career and the clear link with the Advance TB objectives (1.000-3.000 words)
 - iv. Copy of the abstract of the proposed oral presentation, including a description of the scientific quality of the paper/poster accepted at the conference (500-1.000 words)
 - v. Acceptance (or invitation) letter from the conference organizers
 - vi. Detail of the Budget requested and justification (Top of 2,000 €, Details on Financial Support section)
 - Click on Submit application

The eligible applicants will get a confirmation e-mail for the successful reception of their application from the e-cost platform.

E. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Financial support for networking activities organized through a Grant Awarding Process is a grant awarded to individuals, not intended to cover employment costs. The scope will be to contribute (but not necessarily cover all) for travel, accommodation, and subsistence expenses, registration fees, the printing of scientific posters, and overall effort.

Conference may be combined with other funding sources; these must be acknowledged in the application with a declaration of non-double financing.

ITC Conference depends on the terms or Type of Attendance of the conference, as follows:

- Face-to-face ITC Conference up to 2,000 € per grant
- Virtual ITC Conference up to 500 € per grant, to cover only registration fees.

The selected applicants should wait for the official invitation from the Grant Holder before booking any travel arrangements and paying conference fees.

F. EVALUATION PROCEDURE AND SELECTION OF APPLICANTS

The applications will be evaluated within two weeks after the submission deadline and the results will be communicated to the applicants by e-cost platform. The system of evaluation assigns points to each item based on the criteria defined on a 0 to100 point scale.

The coordinate process and final approval grants are in charge of the Grant Awarding Coordinator according to the 2nd Grant Period Budget Plan and the number of applications submitted in every round:

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA (up 100 points)

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	POINTS
1	Quality and Scientific Excellence of the Conference	25
2	Keynote presentation	15
3	Oral presentation	10
4	Poster presentation	5
5	Impact on the career of the application	10
6	CV of the applicant	20
7	Relevance of the Conference to the objectives of ADVANCE-TB	15

Please make sure to provide the required information for each of the evaluated items

TOTAL POINT RATE	EVALUATION DECISION
0 – 50	Low recommendation application
51 - 80	Medium recommendation application
81 - 100	High recommendation application

In case the Grant Awarding Coordinator detects that requested documents are missing and/or needs additional information during the evaluation process, the applicant will be contacted and missing details will be requested. In order to include missing files, the application will be rejected and afterwards, the applicant will be able to edit the application and re-submit with the corresponding documentation. This process can modify the date of notification of the final decision.

Please note that high priority will be given to proposals that strongly promote the ADVANCE-TB COST Action, either by pushing forward the current initiatives or by leading to new initiatives.

Special considerations concerning supporting COST policies on promoting gender balance, enabling Young Researchers and Investigators (YRI), and broadening geographical inclusiveness will be taken into account.

G. REPORTING AND REIMBURSEMENT

Once the activity has ended and within 30 days after the end date of the activity, the grantee submits the required reports and relevant documentation in e-COST:

1. Download and complete all the fields of the ITC Conference Report template, available here:
→ https://www.cost.eu/ITCConference_Report

2. Upload on e-cost:

- ITC Conference Report template completed
- Report to the Action MC on the outcome presentation of the accepted contribution, in terms of the grantee's visibility, including the establishment of new contacts for future collaborations
- The certificate of attendance
- The program of the conference or book of abstracts/proceedings indicating the oral presentation of the grantee
- Copy of the given presentation/poster

Payment of the Grant is subject to the ITC Conference report being approved by the Grant Awarding Coordinator. Written approval of the report will be uploaded in e-COST for archiving purposes.

Grant Holder Institution will proceed with the final payment once the completion of the activity and approval of all required reports and documentation (including bank account details and ID number)

More information can be found in the [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#) and [Funding Documents & Guidelines](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further information (advance_tb@igtp.cat).

Dr. Alicia Lacoma, PhD
Senior Researcher
ADVANCE-TB Chair

Dr. Cristina Prat Aymerich, MD, PhD
Senior Researcher
ADVANCE-TB Grant Awarding
Coordinator

Badalona (Spain), 01st of Oct of 2023