

ITC Conference Grants

YouthDMH COST Action CA23153 Call for ITC Conference Grants – 1st Call, 2026

Inclusiveness-Target Countries (ITC) Conference Grants aim to enhance the visibility and impact of YouthDMH by supporting Action participants from ITC or NCC countries in delivering **oral presentations of their own work** within the scope of the Action. YouthDMH brings together researchers from diverse fields—including mental health, data science, social sciences, and human-computer interaction—to develop innovative, responsible, and inclusive methods for understanding and supporting youth mental health across Europe.

1. About YouthDMH and ITC Grants

This is the 1st Call for applications for ITC Conference Grants under the [COST Action CA23153 YouthDMH – Digital Mental Health For Young People](#).

ITC Conference Grants support the participation of Action participants affiliated with a legal entity located in an Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC) or Near Neighbour Country (NNC) in high-level conferences organised by third parties (i.e. not organised or co-organised by the COST Action), where they present their own work within the scope of the Action. (Please read the [Annotated Rules for Cost Actions](#) for further details.)

The current list of ITCs include: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine.

The current list of NNCs List: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Jordan, Kosovo, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

(Read more at <https://www.cost.eu/about/strategy/excellence-and-inclusiveness/>)

YouthDMH currently invites applications for ITC Conference Grants to support participation in conferences taking place before 10 September 2026.

2. Who Can Apply?

As per COST regulations, ITC Conference Grants are open to Action participants affiliated with a legal entity (e.g. university, research centre, registered charity or SME) located in an Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC) or Near Neighbour Country (NNC) participating in the YouthDMH COST Action (CA23153).

ITC Conference Grants aim to strengthen networking opportunities, increase the visibility of researchers from ITC/NNC countries, and support the dissemination of YouthDMH-related work within the research community.

The applicant must make an **oral presentation** at the conference and be listed in the official conference program. The presentation should be clearly related to the objectives of the YouthDMH COST Action and must appropriately acknowledge COST support.

The conference must take place before September 10th, 2026.

3. Application Process

Applications must be submitted through the **e-COST** platform. Applicants must:

- **Have or create a profile in e-COST**
- **Submit a completed ITC Conference application including the following documents:**
 - **Brief CV** (max 3 pages, including a link or list of academic publications, if any)
 - **ITC Conference Grant application form** (you can download this through the system).
 - **Short description of your involvement** in the YouthDMH COST Action.
 - **Acceptance letter from the conference organizers** (confirming either your speaking slot).
 - **A copy of the abstract submitted to the conference.**

ITC Conference Grants provide contributions for travel, accommodation, and subsistence expenses, registration fees, and overall effort. Up to 2000 € per grant for face-to-face conferences including conference fees.

Conference Grants do not necessarily cover all the expenses related to participating in a given conference. A Conference Grant is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation, and meal expenses of the selected Grantee.

Please note that these amounts represent the maximum possible contribution.

Applicants are encouraged to request a realistic budget based on actual expected costs. The Core Group decides on the final financial contribution, taking into consideration YouthDMH's available resources, the budget requested, the scope, and the relevance of the conference.

Documentary evidence of the conference fee amount must be provided by the applicant and archived by the Grant Holder along with the relevant administrative documents.

4. Evaluation and Selection

Each application will be reviewed by **two members of the YouthDMH Core Group**, using the following criteria, each scored on a **1–5 scale**:

- Scientific quality, clarity, and coherence of the proposed presentation (weight: 1)
- Relevance of the conference and proposed presentation to the remit and objectives of YouthDMH (weight: 2)
- Potential contribution to the visibility, dissemination, and strategic impact of YouthDMH within the research community (weight: 2)
- Feasibility and appropriateness of the proposed conference participation, including realistic budget justification (weight: 1)
- Expected benefit for the applicant's scientific and professional development (weight: 1)

The selection of successful ITC Grant applications is based on the above criteria. Preference may be given to conferences with competitive peer-review processes. Gender balance, career stage, and the distribution of ITC Grant among different countries will also be considered. The Core Group has the right to award less than the requested amount.

The ITC Conference Applications will be approved by the Core Group (Grant Awarding Coordinator, Action Chair, Action Vice Chair, Grant Holder Scientific Representative, Science Communication Coordinator, and Working Group leaders) on the basis of the perceived contribution that the participation will make to the scientific objectives outlined in the Action's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

If needed, evaluations may be delegated to Management Committee (MC) or Working Group (WG) members with specific expertise.

Applications are due on **27 March 2026**. Decisions will be announced by 31 March.

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. Participation in the conference is eligible for reimbursement only after formal approval and receipt of the Grant Letter.

5. After the Conference

Grantees must submit a short final [scientific report](#) within **30 days** after the end of the Conference.

The report (using the official [COST ITC Conference report template](#)) should include:

- Details of the conference attended
- Information about the oral presentation delivered
- A short description of the outcomes of participation, including dissemination impact, networking activities, and potential future collaborations (max. 500 words)
- Confirmation that supporting documents have been uploaded to e-COST (certificate of attendance and conference programme/abstract book indicating the presentation)

The report must be submitted through the e-COST platform within 30 days after the conclusion of the conference. Failure to submit the scientific report within 30 days will effectively cancel the grant.

In addition, we will invite you to briefly present the outcomes of your conference participation at a future Management Committee meeting or to contribute a short blog post for the Action website. We would also appreciate it if you could arrange for a photo to be taken during your presentation so that, with your prior consent, we may highlight your participation on our website or in the Action newsletter.

The payment of the grant will be executed after approval of the scientific report by the Grant Holder Manager.

6. Clarifications

COST Association and the Grant Holder of the Action cannot be considered as being a grantee's employer. Grantees must make their own arrangements for all provisions related to personal security, health, taxation, social security, and pension matters.

7. Contact

For questions or assistance related to the application procedure and organization of the STSM, please contact:

Grant Awarding Coordinator: Paweł W. Woźniak, TU Wien, Email: pawel.wozniak@tuwien.ac.at

For questions related to the YouthDMH objectives, please contact:

Action Chair / Vice Chair – Andreas Balaskas, Email: andreas.balaskas@ucd.ie / Maurice Mulvenna md.mulvenna@ulster.ac.uk

For questions related to the e-COST, Grant Letter, and financial matters, please contact:

Action Grant Holder Manager - Jennifer Kelly, Email: jennifer.kelly@ucd.ie