



UNDERGROUND4VALUE

#costCA18110

Underground Built Heritage as catalyser for Community Valorisation

ITC conference grant call

Dear Underground4value partners,

We would like to announce an extension of the 2020 ITC¹ (Inclusiveness Target Country) conference grant call, aiming at supporting PhD students, postdoctoral fellows and Early Career Investigators from Participating ITC to attend international conferences relevant to the theme of “Underground Built Heritage as catalyser for Community Valorisation”, which is **not** specifically organised by the COST Action. This extension is needed to support, in these times of travel restrictions, their participation to **online international conferences** by reimbursing exclusively the **conference fee**.

Essential information for the potential ITC grant applicants is listed as the below:

Eligibility Criteria:

1. **The Applicant must be in one of the three following study/employment positions: PhD student, postdoctoral fellow, or Early Career Investigator (ECI)** (maximum 8 years since obtaining her/his PhD at the time of application). The study/employment status must be proved by her/his home institution.
2. **The Applicant's primary institution affiliation must be in an ITC** (Inclusiveness Target Country)¹.
3. **The Applicant must make an oral/poster presentation at the conference**, in question on the topics relevant for the COST Action CA18110.
4. **The conference to be attended by the Applicant must have an International scientific committee and be held online before the 30th of September 2021.**

Grant Amount:

1. Maximum EUR 500 for the conference fee

Deadline:

1. No application deadline for the online conference to be held before the 30th of September 2021.
2. The application should be submitted at least 30 days before the conference start date.

¹ The following countries are considered ITC: Albania, Bosnia and 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.

Apply procedure:

To apply for a Conference Grant within this Cost Action (CA18110), please submit your applications via e-COST following the user guide in the link below before the deadline:

<https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Inclusiveness-Target-Countries-Conference-Grants-userguide-V2-003-Oct-2018-1.pdf>

Find a conference:

The COST Action does **not officially** suggest any recommended conferences / events; the grant applicants should make their own decisions.

Please double check to which Grant Period the conference belongs. If a conference takes place between March (current year) and September (current year), it belongs to the current Grant Period and should be applied in this ITC CG call announcement.

Example:

- The conference in October 2021 is funded from GP2 budget. (ITC GC for GP2).
- The conference in November 2021 is funded from GP3 budget. (ITC GC for GP3).

Evaluation process:

1. After the deadline, members of the ITC grant evaluation panel² will start to check the eligibility of all the submitted applications, followed by evaluation of their compatibility and relevance with the topic of the Action and academic excellence.
2. The eligible applications will be ranked and the actual number of applications to be funded is determined by the available budget. The ITC Conference Grants Manager confirms available funding with the Action Chair.
3. Action Chair approves the applications following the ranking list.
4. The ITC Conference Grants Manager informs successful Applicants about the result of the grant approval, and the Grant Holder sends the grant letter.

Criteria for awarding ITC conference grant:

ITC grant will be awarded according to the COST key principles of excellence, inclusivity, and balance. Criteria for evaluation will be as follows:

1. The eligibility of the applicant's profile, based on the abovementioned criteria
2. The excellence of the Applicant's curriculum-vitae and her/his potential added value for the Action
3. The relevance and impact of the conference paper in the field of the Action
4. The quality and clarity of the conference paper
5. The relevance of the proposed conference for the Action topics and dissemination
6. The balance of gender, geography, and research fields.

Best wishes,

Dr. Zili Li

The ITC Conference Manager

² Members of the ITC conference grant evaluation panel are listed as follows:

- Zili Li (IE)
- Aleksandra Krstic-Furundzic (RS)
- Natália Botica (PT)
- Ernesto Marcheggiani (IT)
- Petja Ivanova-Radovanova (BG)
- Charalampos Baniotopoulos (UK)