Announcement: Funding for ITC Conference Grants,
Wildlife Malaria Network (CA22108 - WIMANET)

ITC conference grants are grants aimed at <u>young researchers (under 40 years of age)</u> <u>from Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) or Near Neighbour Countries (NNC)</u> to attend beneficial international conferences that are not organized by COST Actions. ITC Conference Grants provide contribution for travel, accommodation, and subsistence expenses, registration fee, and printing of scientific posters. Up to <u>EUR 2,000</u> per grantee for <u>face to-face conferences</u> or <u>EUR 500 for virtual conferences</u> can be reimbursed by COST. Applications for partial funding (where the applicant has secured partial funding from another source) are welcome, and the amount of external funding and amount requested from COST must be stated in the application. More information can be found in Annex 2-1.2.2 of the Annotated Rules for COST Actions (https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2023/11/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V1.4-Final-.pdf).

The call for applications for the Wildlife Malaria Network ITC Conference Grants will open on 10th July 2024 and close on 31st July 2024.

Eligibility Criteria:
● The Applicant must be a member of a Working Group in the Action WIMANET.
● The Applicant's primary affiliation must be in an institution located in a participating Inclusiveness Target Country / Near Neighbour Country (a list of ITC/NNC countries can be found here: https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2023/11/Annex-I-level-A-Country-and-Organisations-Table-Version-1.7.pdf (page 2).
● The Applicant must give an oral/poster presentation at the conference in question and must be listed in the official event/conference program. The main subject of the oral presentation / poster presentation at the approved conference must be on the topics of the WIMANET and must acknowledge COST.
● The participation of each applicant must be pre-approved by the WIMANET Core Group.

How to Apply:
● Applicants must read carefully the rules detailed in the Annotated Rules for COST Actions
●Applicants must be registered at the Action's COST website: https://e-services.cost.eu/user/login
●Applications must be e-mailed to the Grant Awarding Co-ordinator, Alexandra Corduneanu (alexandra.corduneanu@usamvcluj.ro) and the WIMANET e-mail (wimanet.science@gmail.com)
        To apply, please provide these supporting documents:
● ITC Conference grant application (based on e-COST template) describing the relevance of the presentation topic to the Action and motivation describing the potential for impact on the applicant's career
● Copy of the abstract of the accepted or submitted oral or poster presentation

● Acceptance letter from the conference organisers (if available, if not then provide a timeline when this will be available)
● CV

Evaluation:
● After the deadline, the proposals will be evaluated by the Action Grant Awarding Coordinator and the Core Group of the WIMANET Network who will assess the scientific merit and budget of the proposals.
● It will be considered how well the proposed conference participation aligns with the scientific goals of the Action as laid out in its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The researchers who applied to the call will receive the results of the selection 2 weeks after the call deadline.
Approved applications must then be submitted on the e-COST website for official approval after the start of the next grant period (1st November 2024)

For successful candidates:
Payment of the grant is by reimbursement within 30 days of submission of the end date of the conference, provided that:
- The researcher has acknowledged the COST Action in their final contribution to the conference.
- The researcher has submitted a report to the Action MC on the outcome of the presentation of the accepted contribution, in terms of grantee's visibility, including the establishment of new contacts for future collaborations
- The researcher has submitted a certificate of attendance
- The researcher has submitted the programme of the conference or book of abstracts/proceedings indicating the presentation (oral or poster) of the grantee
- The researcher has submitted a copy of the given presentation (oral or poster)