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EsSENce Cost Action CA19118

Project Title:

“High-performance Carbon-based composites with Smart properties for Advanced Sensing Applications”



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Deliverable Title	Call for ITC Conference Grants for Early Careers Investigators in ITC countries conducting research in CNMs composites
Working Group	9
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Table of Contents

1	Project Summary.....	3
2	Description of Work.....	3
3	First ITC call.....	3
3.1	Eligibility Rules.....	4
3.2	Financial Support.....	4
3.3	Application Procedure.....	5
3.4	Evaluation Process.....	5
3.5	Requirements Before/During the Conference.....	6
3.6	Requirements after the Conference.....	6
4	Conclusion.....	6
5	Acknowledgment.....	7

1 Project Summary

The goal of EsSENce is to develop a scientific & technological innovation hub at European and International level, focusing on advanced composite materials reinforced with carbon-based nanomaterials for sensing applications.

The main focus of the scientific community is to combine advances in manufacturing technologies with the development of innovative nano-enabled composite materials for the fabrication of lightweight smart devices with structural performance and improved and/or added new functionalities including sensing and detection.

The advent of sensors in many different applications, like environmental monitoring, monitoring constituents in food products, security, gas sensing as well as diagnostics and human health monitoring, has led to the ever-growing modification of existing processing and manufacturing routes by incorporating advanced carbon-based reinforced composites offering multi-functionality. Among the applications of Carbon based (nano)materials composites, lightweight and smart sensors which will provide highly accurate and real-time monitoring functions in different equipment and devices without the cost of structural integration, is the area that is particularly focused on EsSENce.

2 Description of Work

This report describes the Call for ITC Conference Grants for early Careers Investigators in ITC countries conducting research in CNMS composites. This first call is open for conferences occurring no later than the April 30, 2021.

This deliverable relates to EsSENce Working Group (WG) 9 “Exploitation and Dissemination” and will be updated on **M13, M25, M37**.

3 First ITC call

ITC Conference Grants are grants supporting Early Career Investigators (ECI) and PhD students whose institution is in a Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC) participating to EsSENce, to attend conferences, event or activity on the topic of the Action that are not organised by the COST. By ECI it is meant the individual who is within a time span of up to 8 years from the date they obtained their PhD/doctorate (full-time equivalent). By ITC it is meant: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, the North Republic of Macedonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey.

This tool aims to establish strong networks and increase the ITC visibility in the research community. They are an excellent tool for capacity building and their implementation can significantly impact the career of these researchers.

Any e-COST user who is a PhD student or an ECI and is affiliated with an institution located in an ITC country participating in the Action can submit an application request for an ITC Conference Grant. The application needs to be submitted at least 45 days before the conference start date.

The first call has already be published on the EsSENce Cost website since January and can be found through this link <http://www.essence-cost.eu/2021/01/first-call-for-inclusiveness-target-countries-itc-conference-grant-applications/> .

All ITC activities must occur until the date specified above. Final application deadline is the March 15, 2021.

3.1 Eligibility Rules

- Conference Grants are exclusively reserved for PhD students, PhD candidates, and ECI's with a primary affiliation in an institution located in an ITC (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, the North Republic of Macedonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey)
- Applicants must be engaged in an official research programme as a Ph.D. student or postdoctoral fellow or being an Early Career Investigator- ECI (a researcher whose career spun less than 8 years between the date of the PhD/doctorate or similar experience and the date of involvement in the COST Action).
- Deadline for the application is at least 45 days before the conference start date. Attendance at European conferences is preferred. However, conferences held elsewhere can also be considered. Registration fees in virtual conferences are also considered. COST Action 19118 directly related conferences (but not organized by the COST Action) are preferred.
- Applicants must make an oral/poster presentation at the conference in question. In the case of virtual conferences, the presentation will be carried out via the platforms indicated by the conference. The main subject of the oral presentation / poster presentation at the approved conference must be on the topic of the Action 19118 and must acknowledge CA19118 support. Oral presentations will be preferred.

3.2 Financial Support

A Conference Grant is a fixed financial contribution, which takes into consideration the budget request of the applicant and the outcome of the evaluation of the application by the ITC Conference Grant Coordination team. Conference Grants do not necessarily cover all of 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.

The calculation of the financial contribution for each Conference Grant must respect the following criteria:

- Up to a maximum of EUR 300 for travels within Europe
- Up to a maximum of EUR 500 can be claimed for the conference fees to be incurred by the selected Grantee
- Up to a maximum of EUR 160 per day can be afforded for accommodation and meal expenses
- Up to a maximum of EUR 2 500 in total can be granted to each successful applicant.

In addition, when meal and accommodation expenses are supported by the hosting institution/conference, as part of the provisions offered in their conference package, the amount for subsistence afforded to each eligible participant shall be deducted from the Grant Documentary evidence of the conference fee amount shall be provided by the applicant and shall be archived by the Grant Holder along with the relevant administrative documents.

Multiple applications to several Actions by the same person to attend the same conference is strictly forbidden and may lead to the cancellation of the grant.

3.3 Application Procedure

1. Applicants should read carefully the funding rules detailed in Section 9 (pp. 36-37) of the COST Vademecum.
2. Applicants need to have their e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/> and submit their application via the “Create Conference Grant Request” link.
3. The applicant is required to send their ITC application form submitted to e-COST (pdf).

The list of supporting documents (in pdf format) to be submitted for the evaluation are:

- The submitted ITC application form (downloadable when the online application is submitted – see points 2 & 3 above);
- A short description of their involvement in the COST Action (max. 1 page);
- Acceptance letter/email confirmation from the conference organisers (confirming either your speaking slot or your poster presentation) or conference programme showing the applicants’ participation;
- A copy of the abstract or poster submitted to the conference;
- A full CV (including a list of academic publications –if applicable, max. 5 pages).

3.4 Evaluation Process

The applications will be ranked by the ITC Conference grant responsible together with the WG leaders. The final ranking will be approved by the Action Chair and Co-Chair. Successful applicants will be notified by email, by the ITC conference grants manager.

Evaluation criteria

- Scientific merit of the proposal based on the abstract submitted also considering the scientific scope of the proposed participation (onsite or virtual) and how it will support the ACTION in achieving its scientific objectives.

- Presentation of research activities developed in the frame of a collaborative project within two (or more) different COST Member Countries will be preferred.
- Oral presentations are favoured over poster presentations.
- Applicants (or groups) priority awarded with a grant will have a lower priority.
- Applicants not benefitting of other funds (all types, directly or indirectly) will have the priority.
- Participation in European conferences (if on-site) will be preferred.
- Take into consideration geographical, gender and degree balance and consider the inclusiveness criteria.
- The ITC coordinator manages the evaluation according to the rules (see specific Guidelines for ITC Conference Grants) and approve/reject the application.

3.5 Requirements Before/During the Conference

Acknowledge COST and EU H2020 Programs in presentation/posters. Always use the official logos and visual identity (COST, EU and CA19118 logos).

3.6 Requirements after the Conference

The successful applicants must submit travel documentation, and/or fee invoice (if applicable) within 30 days from the end date of Conference in order to claim the grant to the ITC Conference Grant Manager of the Action and the Action's Grant Holder. The grant is only paid after the conference implementation and the submission of the requested information.

- Applicants must submit a detailed report within 30 days after the conference (mandatory) in the e-COST system. Late submission, beyond the deadline leads to Grant cancellation.
- The template for scientific report would be provided by the ITC Grant coordinator upon request; the use of the template is mandatory. The scientific report has to include:
 - a. For oral presentations, the official conference program with the name of the applicant listed as a speaker has to be included at the end of the report referred to as ANNEX 1 (mandatory);
 - b. The presentation (oral or poster) referred to as ANNEX 2 (mandatory). The applicant must send the presentation (oral or poster) to the ITC Grant Coordinator (mandatory) who manages to upload it in a private area of COST Action CA19118 website.
- Successful applicants should write a feedback form at the public website of the Action
- The ITC conference grantee is invited to share his/her results during the next Action meeting (e.g. WG meetings) upon funding availability.
- The grant is payable up to 30 days after the grantee report and supporting documents have been approved.

Please note that the COST Association and Action's Grant manager can request additional information to substantiate the information contained within the documents submitted by ITC applicants.

Contact the ITC conference grant manager, Maria Omastova, via email if any queries relating to ITCs conference grants occur at: maria.omastova@savba.sk

4 Conclusion

The document presented the First Call for Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) conference grant applications of the EsSENce project. This document will be updated on **M13, M25, M37** with ITC grants.

5 Acknowledgment



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The European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) is a funding organization for the creation of research networks, called COST Actions. These networks offer an open space for collaboration among scientists across and beyond Europe and thereby give impetus to research advancements and innovation. Every year, more than 45 000 researchers are involved in COST networking activities, regardless of their career stage, country of origin or areas of interest.

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

<https://www.cost.eu/cost-actions/how-to-participate/>

The EsSENce COST Action aim to develop a scientific & technological innovation hub at European and International level, focusing on advanced composite materials reinforced with carbon-based nanomaterials for sensing applications. Main focus is to combine manufacturing technologies with innovative nano-enabled composite materials for fabrication of smart devices with new functionalities.

<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA19118/>