COST
European Cooperation in Science and Technology

SENESCENCE2030
Targeting Cell Senescence to Prevent Age-Related Diseases

Call for ITC Conference Grants
GP3 2026-2027

The 1st Call for ITC Conference Grants of SENESCENCE2030 accepts applications for the period from November 1st, 2026 to September 15th, 2025.

ITC Conference Grants are aimed at supporting Young Researchers and Innovators with a primary affiliation in a2n institution located in an ITC to attend international conferences, event or activity on the topic of the Action that are not organized by the COST Action.
The participation to the conference should specifically contribute to the scientific objectives of this COST Action, which are outlined in detail in the MoU of the Action.

Who can apply?
Conference Grants are Open to Young Researchers and Innovators (individuals <40 years old) with a primary affiliation in an institution located in Inclusive Target Countries (ITC)* and Near Neighbor Countries (NNC),

The applicant must make an oral presentation at the conference in question and must be listed in the official event/conference program. The main subject of the oral presentation (also as selected poster for oral presentation) must be on the topic of the Action and must acknowledge COST.

***ITC List:** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, North Macedonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey*
***NNC List:** Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Russia, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine.*

How to apply?
All applicants must carefully read the funding and eligibility rules detailed in the COST Annotated Rules.
All applications must be submitted directly through the e-COST System. If you do not have an e-COST Account yet, please create one.
Within e-COST you will need to create a “Conference Grant Request”.
To apply, please go through the following steps:

Go to Grant Applications, again, on the left panel.

- Click on the “+ Apply for grant” button located on the bottom right.
- Select the ITC Conference grant.
- Select the COST Action CA23119
- Fill in the requiare information
- Save the information

You will need to submit the following documentation:

- ITC Conference Grant application form (you can download this through the system).
- CV (including a list of academic publications, if any).
- Short description of your involvement in the SENESCENCE2030 Action.
- Acceptance letter from the conference organizers (confirming either your speaking slot or your poster oral presentation), or a copy of the official conference programmed (including either your speaking slot or your poster presentation).
- A copy of the abstract or poster submitted to the conference.

- Finally, click on the “Submit the application” button.

Application Timeline
The application must be sent at least 30 days before the start date of the conference.
All grant applications submitted within one month will be assessed by Mobility Grant Committee.
Outcome notification:
The selection process stops as soon as all the grants have been awarded.
The conference must take place **from November 1st 2026 until September 15th 2027**.
Report is due within 30 days from the end date of the activity or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period whichever date comes first.

Eligibility Criteria
All applications will be assessed against the following criteria of scientific merit:

- Does the conference (or topic of the panel etc.) fall within the scope of SENESCENCE2030?
- Is the topic of the conference likely to contribute substantially to the debates within the Action?
- Is the proposal internally coherent, logical, and clearly structured?
- Is the presentation likely to make a significant contribution to the candidate’s scientific and professional development?

Preference will be given to papers being submitted to conferences with competitive peer review.
Gender balance will be taken into account.
The selection committee will also consider to what extent the requested funds are commensurate to the activities that the applicant plans to undertake.

Financial Support (two Grants)
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 delegated person(s). Conference Grants do not necessarily cover all the expenses related to participating in each conference. A Conference Grant is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation and meal expenses of the selected Grantee.
Max 1.000€ for face-to-face events, including Conference Fees.
ITC Conference Grants remain the same: anywhere in the world
Documentary evidence of the conference fee amount must be provided by the applicant and in kind, must be archived by the Grant Holder along with the relevant administrative documents.

Receiving Your Grant
If you have been selected as an ITC Conference Grant Recipient, you will receive your grant after the conference. After your conference, the e-COST System will automatically ask you to submit a Scientific Report. The ITC Conference Grant report is due within 30 days from the end date of the activity or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period, whichever date comes first.
Once your scientific report has been approved you will receive the grant to your bank account.
In addiction you will be invited to write a short blog entry for the Action’s website. Please remember to ask someone to take a picture of you during your presentation showing the logo of the Action Senescence2030 to showcase your involvement on the Action’s website and in the Action newsletter (with your prior consent).

Clarifications:
The COST Association and the Grant Holder of the Action cannot to 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.

Please note that COST can request additional information to substantiate the information contained within the documents submitted by Conference Grant applicants so you should keep copies of all travel and accommodation receipts.

Contacts

For queries about STSM scientific objectives, contact the Grant Awarding Coordinator Prof. Francesco Beguinot: beguino@unina.it

For administrative questions or in case of special needs, email: info@biostella.it