



**2nd call for Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC)
and Dissemination conference grants and
1st call for Young Researcher and Innovator (YRI) conference grants**

Closing date: 15/03/2026

This is the 2nd call for applications for ITC and Dissemination conference grants and the 1st call for applications for YRI conference grants funded by COST Action CA23107 [Network for Evidence Synthesis in the Agri-Food Sector \(EU-NESA\)](#).

The main aim and objective of the Action is to create a hub and network of people and institutions, with the goal to enhance the use of evidence synthesis in the agri-food sector. This will enable research evidence to better inform decisions and a shift towards sustainable agri-food systems.

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01: What are ITC, Dissemination and YRI conference grants?

ITC, Dissemination and YRI conference grants support Action Participants to:

- (i) establish a strong network and increase their visibility in the research community through sharing their work and gaining knowledge;
- (ii) contribute to increasing the visibility of EU-NESA.

ITC conference grants fund an oral presentation on **work conducted within the scope of EU-NESA by an Action Participant** affiliated to a legal entity located in an [Inclusiveness Target Country \(ITC\)](#) or [Near Neighbour Country](#) at a high-level conference fully organized by a third party i.e., not organized nor co-organized by the Action.

Dissemination conference grants fund an oral presentation by an Action Participant from a [COST member country](#) or [Near Neighbour Country](#) on the work of EU-NESA at a high-level conference fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the Action. **The presentation should promote the scientific achievements and activities being performed by the Action**, and grantees should actively network with other participants at the conference and promote the Action to potential stakeholders.

YRI conference grants fund a presentation (poster or oral communication) **on work conducted within the scope of EU-NESA** by a Young Researcher and Innovator (YRI) affiliated to a [COST member country](#) or [Near Neighbour Country](#) at a high-level conference fully organized by a third party i.e., not organized nor co-organized by the Action. A YRI is a physical person under the age of 40.

Participation in the conference, which may be located in any country, can be either in person or virtual. Conference grants are a contribution towards the costs of travel, accommodation, subsistence, the registration fee (and poster printing for YRI conference grants if relevant), and overall effort, **up to €1250 for face-to-face conferences** under this call and **up to €500 for online conferences**. The grant awarded will reflect the duration and location of the conference and the actual conference fee. For guidance on calculating subsistence costs consult the [COST Daily Allowance Rates](#). Applicants are also requested to consult the [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#).

Applicants should not apply for different types of conference grants in the same Grant Period.

02: Guidelines for applicants

Eligibility:

For **ITC conference grants**, the applicant should be affiliated to an institution located in an [Inclusiveness Target Country \(ITC\)](#) or [Near Neighbour Country](#).

For **Dissemination conference grants**, the applicant must be affiliated to an institution in a [COST member country](#) or [Near Neighbour Country](#).

For **YRI conference grants**, the applicant should be affiliated to an institution in a [COST member country](#) or [Near Neighbour Country](#) and be under the age of 40.

The conference should:

- Serve the [COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy](#)
- Contribute to increasing the visibility of EU-NESA
- Be organized by a third party (not EU-NESA)
- **Take place before 25/10/2026**

The content and goals of EU-NESA are detailed in the [Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\)](#).

Application:

Applications for grants are managed through the e-COST management tool. All applicants must have an [e-COST profile](#) to submit their application for conference grants. Therefore, the applicants should upload a CV in their e-COST profile (this information will be visible to the evaluators). In addition to the information entered on the website (title of presentation,

conference details, budget requested, and attendance type), the applicants should also upload the following documents:

- The application form for either [ITC](#), [Dissemination](#) or [YRI](#) conference grants
- A copy of the abstract of the accepted presentation
- Acceptance or invitation letter from the conference organisers

Applications should be submitted by 15/03/2026. Decisions will be announced a few days after the deadline. For additional information on the submission via the e-COST system, see the [Grant Awarding User Guide](#).

03: Evaluation of applications

Each application will be assessed independently by the EU-NESA Grant Awarding Committee, and an evaluation score will be given based on the following criteria:

- topic criteria: the degree to which the presentation contributes to the Action strategic priorities and objectives as defined in the MoU (maximum 5 points)
5 excellent; 4 very good; 3 satisfactory; 2 deficient; 1 poor; 0 failed
- visibility criteria: the degree of consistency between the conference topic and the Action strategic priorities and objectives as defined in the MoU (maximum 5 points)
5 excellent; 4 very good; 3 satisfactory; 2 deficient; 1 poor; 0 failed
- cooperation criteria: the potential to elaborate/consolidate cooperation(s) for the Action objectives (maximum 5 points)
5 excellent; 4 very good; 3 satisfactory; 2 deficient; 1 poor; 0 failed
- motivation for applying for a conference grant (maximum 5 points)
5 excellent; 4 very good; 3 satisfactory; 2 deficient; 1 poor; 0 failed
- diversity and inclusiveness (maximum 2 points)
 - Is the applicant a WG member?
1 yes; 0 no
 - Has the applicant previously received funding from the Action?
1 no; 0 yes

An application can reach a maximum score of 22. The proposals will be ranked and those with the highest scores will be granted, bearing in mind the need to achieve a gender balance in accordance with the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy.

Applicants for [ITC and YRI conference grants](#) should show clear evidence of how participating in the conference will help them to establish a strong network and increase their visibility in the research community through sharing their work and gaining knowledge. For YRI conference grants, if applicants have the same score then preference will be given to the applicant with an oral presentation and the lower requested budget.

Applicants for **Dissemination conference grants** should show clear evidence of how participating in the conference will enable them to develop new contacts and potential future collaborations, as well as increase visibility and awareness of EU-NESA.

04: Reporting and payments

Grants are paid by the Grant Holder Institution after the completion of the activity and the approval of the required report/documentation.

Therefore, once the conference has ended, the grantee submits the required report/documentation in e-COST within **30 days after the end date of the activity or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period (31/10/2026), whichever date comes first**. The grantee claims the payment by submitting the report via e-COST. Failure to submit the required report on time may lead to the grant being cancelled.

The required documentation for claiming an ITC, Dissemination or YRI conference grant is:

- Report 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 certificate of attendance
- The programme of the conference or book of abstracts/proceedings indicating the presentation of the grantee
- Copy of the presentation

05: Useful links & documents

- [ITC conference grant application form](#)
- [ITC conference grant report template](#)
- [Dissemination conference grant application form](#)
- [Dissemination conference grant report template](#)
- [YRI conference grant application form](#)
- [YRI conference grant report template](#)
- [e-COST](#)
- [Daily allowance rates](#)
- [Grant Awarding User Guide](#)
- [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#)
- [Countries and Organisations Table](#)
- [EU-NESA COST page](#)
- [EU-NESA website](#)

06: Questions/enquiries

- Scope and aims of the Action: Action Chair – Nicola Randall (nrandall@harper-adams.ac.uk)
- Conference grant calls and eligibility requirements: Grant Awarding Committee – Sarah Milliken (S.Milliken@greenwich.ac.uk), Besa Shahini (besashahini@feut.edu.al), Nurinisa Esenbuğa (nesenbuga@gmail.com), Ricardo Assunção (rassuncao@egasmoniz.edu.pt)
- Reimbursement process: Grant Holder Manager – Abigail Cooke (acooke@live.harper.ac.uk)