

Cost Action CA21121 - European Network for the Mechanics of Matter at the Nano-Scale (MecaNano)

First Call for ITC Conference Grants

For conferences held between 15 April 2024 – 01 October 2024

Important Dates

Call closes: 15 March 2024

Notification of Results: 01 April 2024

Conference dates: 15 April 2024 – 01 October 2024

Note: The conference must end before 01 October 2024.

About ITC CG

ITC Conference Grants (up to €2,000 for face-to-face conferences and €500 for virtual conference) are for young researchers (under 40 years old) and innovators to attend a high-level conference and present their work as a poster or oral presentation. To be eligible you must be affiliated with a legal entity in a **COST Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC) or Near Neighbour Country (NNC)**. The work presented must be relevant to the Action's scientific objectives. The grant can provide a contribution to travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses, registration fees, and other relevant costs such as printing of the scientific poster.

About Cost Action CA21121 – MecaNano

The Cost Action MecaNano ambitions to combine the expertise and resources of European and associated researchers to overcome the different bottlenecks limiting the exploration of mechanical size effects. Synergetic gains will be achieved through a common agreement on the physical parameters to be investigated and by promoting interoperability of the research data. In addition, the experimental yield will be boosted by easing access to the latest techniques in nanomechanical testing, nanomechanical simulation and nanocharacterization to the whole community. Even more dramatic gains will be achieved by promoting the application of machine learning to nanomechanical research and favoring the development of interdisciplinary in situ techniques.

More information about Cost Action MecaNano: <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA21121/>

Eligibility Rules

In order to apply for an ITC Conference Grant, the following criteria must be fulfilled:

- The Applicant must be **members of MecaNano** COST Action. If not already the case, please apply through the [e-COST platform](#);
- The Applicant must be based within a research institution in a legal entity in a COST ITC or NNC;
- The Application must be submitted before the deadline of an ITC Conference Grant call.
- Applicants are also requested to consult the [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#).

Financial Rules

- The maximum grant is €2,000 for face-to face conferences (€500 for virtual conferences);
- The ITC Conference grant can be used to fund/refund costs for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, registration fee and other relevant costs such as printing of scientific poster.
- Grants are paid by the Grant Holder after the end of the Conference and approval of all required report/documentation.
- *Note:* The Core Group can decide to approve the grant with a lower amount than requested.

Application instructions

The applicant must use the [e-COST management tool](#) to register the ITC Conference grant application request. In addition to the information entered at the website, the applicants should also upload the following documents:

- [Application form](#) (template also available on e-COST);
- Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral or poster presentation;
- Acceptance letter from the conference organisers;
- Letter of recommendation from your supervisor at your institution;
- Requested budget in €.

For additional information on the submission via the e-COST system, applicants may visit the [Grant Awarding User Guide](#) or [Inclusiveness Target Countries \(ITC\) Conference grants - User guide](#).

Evaluation of applications

Each proposal will be assessed independently by the Grant committee of the Action, and an evaluation score will be given considering:

- the clarity of the proposal;
- relevance to the aims and objectives of MecaNano;
- scientific quality of the presentation/poster;
- suitability of the budget requested.

The proposal will be assigned to one of the following categories:

Very poor	0-10 points
Poor	11-35 points
Fair	36-60 points
Good	61-80 points
Excellent	80-100 points

A proposal can reach a maximum score of 100. The proposals will be ranked and those with the highest scores will be granted. In case of a close call, the priority will be given to YRI and female researchers along the lines of the COST mission statement.

After ITC CG

Within 30 days from the end date of the Conference, the grantee must submit via e-COST:

- **Report on the outcomes of a presentation and participation in a ITC Conference;**
- The certificate of attendance;
- The programme of the conference or book of abstracts / proceedings indicating the presentation (oral or poster) of the grantee;
- Copy of the given presentation (oral or poster);

Note: Failure to submit the scientific report within 30 days from the end date of the Conference will cancel the Grant.

Acknowledgement

You are welcome to include the following text in the acknowledgments section of your paper:

This article/publication is based upon work from COST Action CA21121 – MecaNano and its ITC Conference Grants, supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology).

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation. www.cost.eu.

We look forward to receiving your application and are here to help with any questions you have.

Please send any questions to:

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