



COPYTREE - COST Action CA21 157

European Network for Innovative Woody Plant Cloning

3rd Open CALL for Conference Grants (CGs): Young Researcher and Innovator Conference Grant, or ITC Conference Grant

Conferences during the period 19th January – 6th October 2026

Call will be open until 07.06.2026 or when the funds allocated to this have been exhausted.

Submission of applications in e-COST from 28th November 2025

Notification of decisions to applicants approximately three weeks after submission of application, but earliest on 13.1.2026

Would you like to present your research results in an international scientific conference, but need support to participate the event? Are you either a Young Researcher or Innovator affiliated in an Inclusiveness Target Country / Near Neighbour Country?

If you are interested, please read carefully the instructions, for applying either Young Research and Innovator Conference Grant, or ITC Conference Grant, and when applying check that you have uploaded all the required documents!

Applications with missing documents cannot be financed

1. What is a Young Researcher and Innovator Conference Grant, and who can apply it?

An YRI Conference Grant is to support a presentation of the own work given by a Young Researcher and Innovator. The applicant is required to participate and present his/ her own work as an oral or a poster presentation in high-level conference fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action.

Only young researchers (i.e. under 40 years of age) from ITC or Near Neighbour Countries who are also COST CopyTree members can apply. The work to be presented, as well as the topic of the conference need to be relevant to the CopyTree Action and its goals.

The YRI Conference Grant can be used to cover travelling, accommodation, and subsistence expenses, registration fee, printing of scientific poster and overall effort. The maximum sum for an YRI Conference Grant is 1000 € for face-to-face conferences and 250 € for virtual conferences.

2. What is an ITC Conference Grant, and who can apply it?

An ITC Conference Grant is to support a presentation of the own work given by a Researcher and Innovator affiliated in an Inclusiveness Target Country / Near Neighbour Country. The applicant is required to participate and present his/ her own work as an oral presentation in high-level conference fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action.

Only researchers from ITC or Near Neighbour Countries who are also COST CopyTree members can apply. The work to be presented, as well as the topic of the conference need to be relevant to the CopyTree Action and its goals.

The COST Inclusiveness Target Countries are as follows:

EU Member States	EU Member States Outermost Regions ⁴	Full Members that are not EU Member States
Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary ⁵ , Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia	French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Reunion Island and Saint-Martin (France), Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain)	Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, Ukraine

5: Following the CSO decision of the 16 October 2023, considering the new guidance from the European Commission, as of 1 November 2023 until further notice, individuals from universities maintained by public interest trusts established under Hungarian Act IX of 2021 and concerned by the Council Implementation Decision 2022/206 are allowed to participate in COST activities without receiving financial support from the COST Association (either grants or via reimbursements)

The Near Neighbour Countries include Algeria, Azerbaijan, Egypt, the Faroe Islands, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, and Tunisia.

The ITC Conference Grant can be used to cover travelling, accommodation, and subsistence expenses, registration fee, printing of scientific poster and overall effort. **The maximum sum for an ITC Conference Grant is 1000 € for face-to-face conferences and 250 € for virtual conferences.**

How to apply?

Applications are submitted via e-COST. To start the application, **you must have an e-COST profile** at e-COST platform (<https://e-services.cost.eu/>). You will also need to add your bank details and a CV to your profile before you can start the application. Then:

- 1) Go to <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>
- 2) Click on “Apply for a grant”.

- 3) On the grants page, choose On the grants page, choose ITC Conference Grant or Dissemination Conference grant > Continue.
- 4) For COST Action, choose “CA21157 – European Network for Innovative Woody Plant Cloning”.
- 5) **Fill in the required information and upload your documents.** The required documents are

for YRI and ITC Conference Grant application:

- **Acceptance Letter from the conference organizers**
- **Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral or poster presentation**
- **Applicant’s CV (obligatory) and a list of academic publications** (if applicable)
- **For PhD students, a letter with supervisor’s opinion** on the relevance of the Conference to the student’s studies and suitability of the applicant
- **Application form** (template available on e-COST) describing
 - Relevance of the presentation and conference topic to the Copytree Action
 - Motivation describing the potential for impact on the applicant’s career
- **Budget plan.** Please upload an Excel table, which summarizes the budget requested, together with allocation and reasoning for the costs.

More information on submission of application in e-COST in the Grant Awarding User Guide, see: <https://www.cost.eu/funding/documents-guidelines/>

Note that applications will be evaluated based on the information given by the applicant. It is advisable to see evaluation criteria and ensure that all the necessary information has been presented, with enough details to support your application.

Evaluation of applications

The CopyTree Core Group will evaluate the applications on the ongoing basis and decide on the granted sum. The evaluation criteria given below will be followed, and a minimum of score 15/20 for relevance to CopyTree objectives/Science Communication Plan and overall score 75/100 will be required for funding. The granted budget may differ from the applied one, considering realistic costs in the conference host country. The applicant can receive a Grant from CopyTree only once in a grant period, and not being among the grantees in the previous grant periods is considered positive for application.

Evaluation criteria	Max points	Check that in the application..
Relevance to Copytree: demonstrates an understanding of the aims /Science Communication Plan of Copytree; shows relevance to scientific or communication objectives	20	.. you have described how your presentation topic fits to scientific or communication goals of Copytree, and in the case of Dissemination Conference Grant, what is the expected impact
Scientific quality of the work presented in the conference: originality, methodology used, results and potential impact	20	.. you have submitted your abstract (as accepted by conference organizer) describing your work: e.g. research question or another goal, material & methods, outcomes and their significance

Scientific quality of the applicant: skills and experience of the applicant, academic CV, and for PhD students, supervisor's opinion	20	..you have submitted your CV and publication list, and if you are a PhD student, your supervisor's letter addressing relevance of the conference to you
Quality of the conference: topic, organizer, scientific level, expected number and type of participants	20	.. you have given the required details for the conference in the application form and submitted acceptance / invitation letter from organizers
Budget requested: a plausible and well-planned budget that is sufficient to cover expenses while demonstrating value for money	20	..you have submitted a budget table containing also reasoning for the costs

Reporting and payment of the Conference Grant

The grantee is expected to show the CopyTree logo on his/her presentation as an acknowledgement to the Action.

Once the activity has ended, the grantee needs to submit the required documentation in e-COST within 30 days after the end date of the activity but **by the 23rd October 2026 at the latest. Failure to submit the report in e-COST within 30 days will cancel the grant.**

The required report/documentation for claiming an ITC Conference Grant is:

- 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 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** that this one will be placed to CopyTree web too

The payment is claimed by submitting the report via e-COST using the template provided on e-COST.

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