

## ADVANCE-TB INCLUSIVENESS TARGET COUNTRY CONFERENCE GRANT CALL For Grant Period 3

ADVANCE-TB COST Action 21164 opens a Call for the Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC) Conference Grants for Grant Period 3 (1<sup>st</sup> November 2024 - 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025). Before applying for the Grant please see [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#) that govern all activities of COST Actions.

### A. PURPOSE OF INCLUSIVENESS TARGET COUNTRY CONFERENCE GRANT

ITC Conference grant funds an **oral presentation of their own work** within the scope of ADVANCE-TB by an Action Participant affiliated to a legal entity located in an Inclusiveness Target Country / Near Neighbour Country in a high-level conference fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by ADVANCE-TB. For affiliation information please see Article 4.1.1.1.1 of the [Annotated Rules](#).

The main objective is to establish a strong network and increase their visibility in the research community through sharing their work and gaining knowledge, which can contribute to increasing the visibility of the ADVANCE-TB COST Action.

### B. IMPORTANT DATES

The ADVANCE-TB ITC Conference Call will be receiving applications according to the following timetable:

|  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Round                        | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Round |
|--|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Open Application Round</b>                    | 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2024                     | 1st June 2025         |
| <b>Deadline for submitting application</b>       | 3rd March 2025                               | 30th June 2025        |
| <b>Notification of decision applicants until</b> | 17th March 2025                              | 15th July 2025        |
| <b>Start of ITC</b>                              | Within 6 months after approval notification* |                       |

\*Please note that all Conference should be completed before **30th September 2025**.

### C. ITC CONFERENCE ELIGIBILITY RULES

Call applicants should be:

- ✓ Action Member of the ADVANCE-TB COST Action 21164 of **any age**
- ✓ ADVANCE-TB Member with a primary affiliation in an Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC) or Near Neighbour Country. Please see the [Country Organization Table](#) for details.
- ✓ The applicant and/or home research group might have previous experience in projects related to the Action focused on tuberculosis, non-tuberculous mycobacteria infections, or any other related aspects.
- ✓ First-time GP applicants will be prioritized.
- ✗ Conference proposals submitted out to the timetable will be automatically discarded.

### D. HOW TO APPLY

Eligible applicants shall follow these steps, according to the corresponding timetable:

1. Obtain an **Invitation or Acceptance Letter** from the **Conference Organizers**
2. Define your proposal:
  - Type of Attendance at the conference
    - i. Face-to-face
    - ii. Virtual
  - Title and focus methodology of the proposed oral presentation
  - Budget requested (Please see Section E - Financial Support)
  - Dates
    - i. Start
    - ii. End
3. Download and complete all the fields of the ITC Conference application template, available here:
  - [https://www.cost.eu/ITCConference\\_GrantApplication](https://www.cost.eu/ITCConference_GrantApplication)
4. Complete the ITC Conference application online at <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>
  - Select the Action of interest (CA21164)
  - Select **Apply for New Grant**
  - Select **ITC Conference**
  - in the corresponding sections directly on the platform
  - Add the **supporting documents**:
    - i. ITC Conference grant application template completed (step 3)
    - ii. CV (including a list of academic publications - if applicable)

- iii. Motivation letter describing the impact on the applicant's career and the clear link with the Advance TB objectives (1.000-3.000 words)
  - iv. Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral presentation, including a description of the scientific quality of the paper accepted at the conference (500-1.000 words)
  - v. Acceptance or Invitation letter from the conference organizers
  - vi. Budget requested (Please see Section E - Financial Support)
- Click on **Submit application**

The eligible applicants will receive a confirmation e-mail for the successful reception of their application from the e-COST platform.

## E. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Financial support for networking activities organized through a Grant Awarding Process is a grant awarded to individuals, not intended to cover employment costs. The scope will be to contribute to (but not necessarily cover all) travel, accommodation, subsistence expenses, registration fees, and overall effort.

During the grant submission, the candidate will prepare a justification of the requested amount by filling in the **Estimated Budget Plan template** (found in ANNEX 1) and submit it with the application. The budget justification should include costs of travel, transportation, accommodation, meals and others.

The maximum amount allowed according to the type of attendance at the Conference is as follows:

- Up to €2,500 per grant for face-to-face conferences
- Up to €500 per grant for online conferences

The selected applicants should wait for the official invitation from the Grant Holder before booking any travel arrangements and paying conference fees.

Please note that applicants cannot apply for different conference grants for attending the same event. And if the applicant is successful in obtaining the grant, they cannot apply for another type of grant for the same dates that they are receiving COST funding.

## F. EVALUATION PROCEDURE AND SELECTION OF APPLICANTS

The applications will be evaluated within 15 working days and according to the above timetable in Section B and the results will be communicated to the applicants through the e-COST platform.

The system of evaluation assigns points to each item based on the criteria defined on a 0-100-point scale.

Grant Awarding Coordinator is responsible for the coordination process and final approval of grants.

### ASSESSMENT CRITERIA (up 100 points)

| ITEM | DESCRIPTION   | POINTS |
|------|---|--------|
| 1    | Quality and Scientific Excellence of the Conference         | 25     |
| 2    | Keynote presentation  | 15     |
| 3    | Oral presentation   | 10     |
| 4    | Impact on the career of the application                     | 15     |
| 5    | CV of the applicant   | 20     |
| 6    | Relevance of the Conference to the objectives of ADVANCE-TB | 15     |

*Please make sure to provide the required information for each of the evaluated items.*

| TOTAL POINT RATE | EVALUATION DECISION               |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 0 – 50           | Low recommendation application    |
| 51 - 80          | Medium recommendation application |
| 81 - 100         | High recommendation application   |

In case the Grant Awarding Coordinator and the Grant Evaluation Committee (if appointed), detect that requested documents are missing and/or need additional information during the evaluation process, the applicant will be contacted and missing details will be requested. In order to include missing files, the application will be rejected and afterwards, the applicant will be able to edit the application and re-submit with the corresponding documentation. This process can modify the date of notification of the final decision.

### G. REPORTING AND REIMBURSEMENT

Once the activity has ended and within 30 days after the end date of the activity, the grantee submits the required reports and relevant documentation in e-COST. The process is as following:

1. Download and complete all the fields of the ITC Conference Report template, available here:  
→ [https://www.cost.eu/ITCConference\\_Report](https://www.cost.eu/ITCConference_Report)

2. Upload on e-COST:

- ITC Conference Report template completed
- Acceptance or Invitation letter from the conference organizers
- Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral presentation
- Certificate of attendance
- The program of the conference or book of abstracts/proceedings indicating the oral presentation of the grantee
- Copy of the oral presentation given at the conference

3. Send the Grant Holder Manager by email a copy of your ID Card or Passport on [advance\\_tb@igtp.cat](mailto:advance_tb@igtp.cat)

In addition to the scientific report, the grantee is expected to prepare a communication write-up aimed at a larger audience. This will be published on the ADVANCE-TB website. For further information the grantee may contact the WG4 Leader and co-Leader.

Payment of the Grant is subject to the ITC Conference report being approved by the Grant Awarding Coordinator and the Grant Evaluation Committee, if appointed.

The Grant Holder Institution will proceed with the final payment once the activity is completed and all required reports and documentation are approved.

More information can be found in the [Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#) and [Funding Documents & Guidelines](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further information ([advance\\_tb@igtp.cat](mailto:advance_tb@igtp.cat)).

Dr. Alicia Lacoma, PhD  
Senior Researcher  
ADVANCE-TB Chair

Dr. Cristina Prat Aymerich, MD, PhD  
Senior Researcher  
ADVANCE-TB Grant Awarding Coordinator

### ANNEX 1: Estimated Budget Plan

The applicant is requested to fill in the below table to justify the requested budget amount for the Grant.

|                                | Euro € |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Registration Fee</b>        |        |
| <b>Travel Costs</b>            |        |
| <b>Accommodation and Meals</b> |        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                   |        |