ADVANCE-TB YOUNG RESEARCHER AND INNOVATOR CONFERENCE GRANT CALL
For Grant Period 3

ADVANCE-TB COST Action 21164 opens a Call for the Young Researcher and Innovator (YRI) Conference Grants for Grant Period 3 (1st November 2024 - 31st October 2025). Before applying for the Grant please see Annotated Rules for COST Actions that govern all activities of COST Actions.

A. PURPOSE OF YOUNG RESEARCHER AND INNOVATOR CONFERENCE

Young Researcher and Innovator Conference grant funds **a presentation (poster/oral presentation)** of their own work by a Young Researcher and Innovator (YRI) in a high-level conference fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by ADVANCE-TB.

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

Young Researcher and Innovator is defined by COST as a researcher or innovator under the age of 40.

B. IMPORTANT DATES

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

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

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

C. YRI CONFERENCE ELIGIBILITY RULES

Call applicants should be:

- ✓ Action Member of the ADVANCE-TB COST Action 21164.
- ✓ A researcher or innovator **under the age of 40** engaged in an official research programme as a PhD Student or postdoctoral fellow.
- ✓ 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.
- X Conference proposals 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 / Poster
   - → Budget requested (Please see Section E - Financial Support)
   - → Dates
       - i. Start
       - ii. End

3. Download and complete all the fields of the YRI Conference application template, available here:
   - → https://www.cost.eu/YRICG-application-template

4. Complete the YRI Conference application online at
   https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants
   - → Select the Action of interest (21164) Select **Apply for New Grant**
   - → Then **YRI Conference**
   - → Fill out all the **sections** on the platform
   - → Add the **supporting documents**:
       - i. YRI 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 / Poster, 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 (including country and dates)

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, and subsistence expenses, registration fees, the printing of scientific posters 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.

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	Oral presentation	15
3	Poster 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 YRI Conference Report template, available here:

   → https://www.cost.eu/YRICG-report-template

2. Upload on e-COST:
   → YRI Conference Report template completed
   → Acceptance (or invitation) letter from the conference organisers
   → Copy of the abstract of the accepted Oral presentation / Poster
   → Certificate of attendance
   → The program of the conference or book of abstracts/proceedings indicating the Oral presentation / Poster of the grantee
   → Copy of the Oral presentation / Poster 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

In addition to the scientific report, the grantee will be put in contact with WG4 Leader and Co-Leader for dissemination purposes. Please note that Grants funded by ADVANCE-TB will be posted on the official website and social media.

Payment of the Grant is subject to the YRI 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).

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 €
Registration Fee	
Travel Costs	
Accommodation and Meals	
TOTAL	