

## COST CA20136 First Call for ITC Conference Grant Applications

**Purpose:** ITC Conference Grants provide support for Young Researchers and Innovators affiliated with a legal entity in Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs) and Near Neighbor Countries (NNCs) to attend conferences and events on topics related to the OPENSENSE Action. The Conference Grant contributes to the conference registration fees, overall travel, accommodation, and meal expenses of selected grantees up to a certain amount.

**Eligible conferences:** The OPENSENSE Action will support attendance at the following conferences that will take place until the end of October 2022: such as the EGU, EMS, IAHS, and IEEE's EUSIPCO2022. Conferences taking place after October 2022 are not eligible.

**Eligibility criteria:** Conference Grants are available only to Young Researchers and Innovators (Individuals under 40 years), affiliated with a legal entity in ITC/NNC participating in the OPENSENSE Action. Applicants must present an oral or poster presentation at the conference in question and be listed in the official event/conference program. The presentation shall be based on topics of OPENSENSE Action and acknowledge the Action as follows: "This publication is based upon work from COST Action "Opportunistic Precipitation Sensing Network" (OPENSENSE, ref. CA20136), supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology)". Applications from applicants who have already received or applied for funding for the same conference will be disqualified.

**The ITCs and NNCs countries** are specified at <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/10/Annex-I-level-A-Country-and-Organisations-Table-REVISION.pdf>.

**Funding:** The financial contribution for each conference grant shall be calculated based on the following criterion: the maximum amount per participant for face-to-face meetings is 1500 euros of which the maximum daily amount that can be claimed for accommodation and meal expenses depends on the country where the event takes place (to be found at [http://www.cost.eu/daily\\_allowance](http://www.cost.eu/daily_allowance)), and the maximum amount that can be claimed for conference fees is 500 euros. The maximum amount of expenses that can be incurred for virtual meetings (to cover registration fees) is 500 euros.

**Application:** Applicants must have an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/>. Applications must be submitted electronically through the e-COST platform. In addition to the information entered at the website, the applicants should upload the following documents in a single PDF file:

- Conference title, date, venue, and country.
- Frontal attendance type (face-to-face or virtual).
- CV with recent publications (maximum 2 pages).
- Description of involvement in OPENSENSE (maximum half-page).
- The reason for attending the specific event in a brief motivation letter (no longer than half a page).
- The amount requested in euros (including the list of estimated costs).
- A copy of the abstract that is submitted for the conference and the acceptance letter from the conference organizers stating that it has been accepted for oral or poster presentation (it can be included later if it is not applicable at submission).
- An invitation letter from the conference organizers, if applicable.

For additional information on the submission via the e-COST system please advise the Grant Awarding User guide: <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/12/Grant-Awarding-userguide.pdf>

**Evaluation:** After the deadline, the grant applications will be evaluated by the Grant Awarding Committee, which will rank them. Generally, 8-10 applications will be approved, depending on the budget allocation. The applicants will be notified of the results of their application within two weeks of the deadline. The members of the Grant Committee are: Prof. Nadav Peleg (CH), Dr. Hristomir Yordanov (BG), and Dr Agnieszka Wypych (PL).

**Funded applications and reimbursement:** Each ITC grantee are expected to send a copy of their presentation/poster/paper including the OPENSENSE and COST logo to the Grants Awarding Coordinator of the OPENSENSE Action. Thereafter, it will be disseminated via the official OPENSENSE website, social media, etc. Photographic material from the conference (e.g. the applicant standing next to their poster with the OPENSENSE logo in the background, or during an oral presentation) will be requested. Payment of the grant is subject to the conference materials (e.g. poster and photo) being approved by the OPENSENSE Grants Awarding Coordinator. To be eligible for reimbursement, the request must be submitted soon after the conference and no later than 15 days after it.

**Period of ITC Conference Grants and application deadlines:**

April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022: Deadline for submitting applications.

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022: Results of the evaluation.

**Questions/Inquiries:** Please contact Prof. Nadav Peleg ([nadav.peleg\(at\)unil.ch](mailto:nadav.peleg@unil.ch)).

**About OPENSENSE (COST Action CA20136).** *OPENSENSE brings together scientists investigating different opportunistic sensors (e.g. microwave links, citizen science), experts from weather services, and end-users of rainfall products to build a worldwide reference opportunistic sensing community. The overarching goals of the COST are to overcome key barriers preventing data exchange and acceptance as hydrometeorological observations, define standards to allow for large-scale benchmarking of opportunistic sensing precipitation products and develop new methods for precipitation retrieval, coordinate integration of the opportunistic observations into traditional monitoring networks, and identify potential new sources of precipitation observations. Further details can be found here:* <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA20136/>