

COST CA20136 Grant Period 4 Call for Young Researchers and Innovators (YRI) Conference Grant Applications

Purpose: Conference Grants provide support for Young Researchers and Innovators (YRI) affiliated with a legal entity in all COST member countries and Near Neighbor Countries (NNCs) to attend conferences and events on topics related to the [OPENSENSE Action](https://opensenseaction.eu/)^{*}. The Conference Grant contributes to the conference registration fees, overall travel, accommodation, and meal expenses up to a certain amount.

Eligible conferences: The OPENSENSE Action will support attendance at conferences that will take place from November 1st, 2024 until the end of September 2025. Conferences related to the framework of the OPENSENSE Action, such as those on atmospheric and hydrologic sciences, EM wave propagation and signal processing, and/or civil engineering, are eligible. Conferences taking place after September 2025 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 COST countries or NNC participating in the OPENSENSE Action. Support to YRI applicants from other countries than Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs) and NNCs will be limited to 50% of the total Conference Grant budget (the allocated budget for GP4 is 8k EUR). 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.

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), 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 on 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).

^{*} <https://opensenseaction.eu/>

- 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: The grant applications will be evaluated at the beginning of every month by the Grant Awarding Committee. The applicants will be notified of the results of their application within four weeks of submission. Applications will be evaluated on the principle of first-come-first-serve; the committee will rank the applications by contribution and relevancy to the OPENSENSE. 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 is 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: The call for the ITC Conference Grants is open from the 1st of November, 2024 to September 1st, 2025, which is the last date to submit applications.

Questions/Inquiries: Please contact Prof. Nadav Peleg (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/>