

## **RELY ITC Conference Grants - CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2017**

The COST Action TU1401 “Renewable Energy and Landscape Quality” (RELY) encourages applications for ITC Conference Grants.

In this grant period, we got an extra budget of around 13,800 Euro exclusively dedicated towards Conference Grants (CG) for PhD students and ECI<sup>1</sup> researchers from participating ITC<sup>2</sup> countries.

Conference Grants are aimed at supporting PhD students and ECI researchers from participating ITC to attend international science and technology related conferences not specifically organised by the COST Action.

The ITC CG must take place between now and end April 2018. Feel free to apply with any conference participation that can enrich the RELY Action and is within the scope of the RELY Action.

### **1 COST Action TU1401 Objectives**

This Action investigates the inter-relationships between renewable energy production and landscape quality, and the role of public participation for the acceptance of renewable energy systems. The Action will develop a better understanding of how landscape protection and management, and renewable energy deployment can be reconciled to contribute socio-environmentally to the sustainable transformation of energy systems. This Action will consolidate and extend knowledge from a pan-European perspective using a modular methodological framework. This Action will enhance the science base for decision-making, and develop guidelines for public participation in planning renewable energy systems. The potential of sustainable landscape development, with innovative land uses producing synergies for landscape quality and renewable energy, will be revealed. (<http://cost-rely.eu/>)

### **2 Conference Grants – Eligibility**

The following eligibility criteria apply:

1. Conference Grants are exclusively reserved for PhD students and ECI’s with a primary affiliation in an institution located in an ITC.
2. The applicant must make an oral/poster presentation at the conference in question and must be listed in the official event/conference programme. The main subject of the oral presentation / poster presentation / speech at the approved conference must be on the topic of the Action and must acknowledge COST (see section 6).
3. The participation of each applicant must be pre-approved by the Action MC. Attendance at European conferences is preferred. However, conferences held elsewhere can also be considered.

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<sup>1</sup> Early Career Investigators are defined as an individual who is within a time span of up to 8 years from the date they obtained their PhD/doctorate

<sup>2</sup> Inclusiveness Target Countries are Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, FYR Macedonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, see: [http://www.cost.eu/about\\_cost/strategy/excellence-inclusiveness](http://www.cost.eu/about_cost/strategy/excellence-inclusiveness)

### **3 Evaluation and Selection of Applicants**

The evaluation of each received Conference Grant application is performed by the Action's MC. The COST Action RELY Core Group (Action chair and vice chair, WG chairs and vice chairs, STSM coordinator) assumes this responsibility as the Action's MC has given them the mandate to perform tasks like this on their behalf. The evaluation criteria have been defined by the Core Group and are herewith communicated to all potential applicants:

1. The topic of the conference presentation is in line with the Action's objectives as listed in section 1.
2. The conference presentation is promoting the work of the Action's working groups.
3. Preference is given for presentation at European conferences, but conferences held elsewhere can also be considered.
4. Only complete and formally correct applications will be considered.

The selection of successful applicants must be done so in consideration of the scientific scope of the proposed mission and how the mission can support the Action in achieving its scientific objectives.

### **4 Conference Grants – Financial Support**

A Conference Grant is a fixed financial contribution, which takes into consideration the budget request of the applicant and the outcome of the evaluation of the application by the delegated person(s). Conference Grants do not necessarily cover all of the expenses related to participating in a given conference. A Conference Grant is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation and meal expenses of the selected Grantee.

The calculation of the financial contribution for each Conference Grant must respect the following criteria:

- Up to a maximum of EUR 2 500 in total can be afforded to each successful applicant;
- Up to a maximum of EUR 160 per day can be afforded for accommodation and meal expenses.
- Up to a maximum of EUR 500 can be claimed for the conference fees to be incurred by the selected Grantee.

In addition, when meal and accommodation expenses are supported by the hosting institution as part of the provisions offered in their conference package, the amount for subsistence afforded to each eligible participant must be deducted from the Grant. Documentary evidence of the conference fee amount must be provided by the applicant and in kind, must be archived by the Grant Holder along with the relevant administrative documents.

## 5 Approving Conference Grants for Payment

The Grantee has 30 calendar days from the end date of the Conference in question to submit a scientific report to the Action Chair (or Vice-Chair if the Action Chair is affiliated to the Grant Holder Institution) and the Action's Grant Holder.

Payment of the Grant is subject to the submitted scientific report being approved by the Action Chair (or Vice-Chair if the Action Chair is affiliated to the Grant Holder Institution). Written approval of the submitted scientific report must be sent to the Grant Holder for archiving purposes.

In case the Action Chair applies for a Conference Grant, it is the Vice Chair who must approve or reject the request via e-mail, as well as the approval of the scientific report. The written approvals should be sent to the Grant Holder for archiving purposes.

## 6 Communicating Cost Action Results

Any COST Action communication tool (e.g. publications, PowerPoints, etc.) must integrate a reference to COST and acknowledge the support of EU funding. All outputs generated by a COST Action must display the COST logo and visual identity as presented in the COST Brand Book (link to website page <http://www.cost.eu/media/dissemination-corporate-identity>).

## 7 Application

If you are interested in applying, please send the following by November, 17th 2017 to the Chair of this Action ([michael.roth@hfwu.de](mailto:michael.roth@hfwu.de)):

- Cover letter, explaining how your work will benefit from this ITC Conference Grant and how this Conference Grant will contribute to the achievement of the COST TU1401 objectives, by specifying to which WG/WG task the Conference Grant will contribute,
- CV (2 pages maximum),
- List of publications and conference presentations covering the last three years.
- Detailed Calculation of the cost of your conference participation

## 8 Contact

For any further questions, please contact the Action Chair directly:

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