INCLUSIVENESS TARGET COUNTRIES (ITC) CONFERENCE GRANTS

OPEN CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

2nd GRANT PERIOD

NET4AGEFRIENDLY COST Action is an international and interdisciplinary network of researchers and stakeholders from all sectors gathered to promote social inclusion, independent living and active and healthy ageing in society. Its aims are to foster awareness, and to support the creation and implementation of smart, healthy indoor and outdoor environments for present and future generations.

The main approach of NET4AGE-FRIENDLY (N4AF) is the establishment of local or regional ecosystems in each COST country involved, to work on health and well-being in an age-friendly digital world. The ecosystems consist of citizens, public authorities, businesses/NGOs and researchers. They are supported by **four thematic Working Groups**
- User-centered inclusive design in age-friendly environments and communities
- Integrated health and well-being pathways;
- Digital solutions and large-scale sustainable implementation;
- Policy development, funding forecast and cost-benefit evaluations.

The outcomes of the thematic Working Groups will be integrated by a **dedicated Working Group to create a synergized output - the Reference Framework**.

Areas of Expertise Relevant for the Action
- Health Sciences: Public and environmental health
- Computer and Information Sciences: Artificial intelligence, intelligent systems, multi agent systems
- Environmental engineering: Environmental and geological engineering

Areas of interest:
- Public health
- Prevention
- Research on active ageing
- Design and ergonomics of smart products for older adults
- Innovative ICT solutions for ageing or older adults
- Innovative housing developments for older adults
- Safe, comfortable and healthy environment assurance for older adults
- Home automation, along with telecare and telehealth services
- Integration of ambient assisted living solutions
- Mobile and wearable sensors

and others

ITC Conference Grants are aimed at supporting ECI and PhD students **from Participating Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC)** to attend international science and technology related conferences, event or activity on the topic of the NET4AGEFRIENDLY Action that are not organized by the COST Action.

Net4Age Friendly announces an open call for eligible researchers to apply for an ITC conference grant provided that their work has been accepted for presentation at a conference aligned with **NET4AGEFRIENDLY** related topics and areas of interest.

In the light of the current situation and strict deadlines for conference registration fees, **NET4AGEFRIENDLY** has opted for

- **a continuously open call for ITC grants** (until the allocated funds are available) to accommodate for different registration deadlines and timing of the online conference editions.
- The applications will be evaluated on the first come first served basis, to ensure smooth process and avoid delays that could hamper conference participation.

Please note, before applying, **the conference has to take a place within the current grant period (until 31.10.2022.)** to ensure reporting and refunding process is completed on time.

More information about ITC conference grants and the related COST rules can be found the prepared document ITC Rules and Application.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (applicants' checkbox)
- The applicant is an Early Career Investigator (40 years or bellow)
- The applicant must make an oral/poster presentation at the conference
- The applicant must be listed in the official event/conference programme.
- The main subject of the work must be on the topic of the Action and must acknowledge COST
- The participation of each applicant shall be pre-approved by the Action MC.
- The conference must be taking place within the current grant period.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF APPLICANTS
The initial evaluation will be performed by the Grant awarding committee:
- Tatjana Loncar Turukalo, turukalo@uns.ac.rs
  Ivan Chorbev. ivan.chorbev@finki.ukim.mk ; and
  Milica Solarevic, milica.solarevic@dgt.uns.ac.rs

The **evaluation criteria include:**
- **the scientific scope** of the proposed participation is aligned with the Action aims and areas of interest,
- the participation at the conference supports **the Action** in achieving its core objectives (the scientific paper addresses some of the open questions raised within the Action), both scientific and related to dissemination and outreach;
- the relevance of the conference in the field (a list of preferred conferences will be prepared by the Action MC)
- oral presentations will have advantage over poster presentations

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Conference Grants are the support to the overall travel, accommodation and meal expenses of the selected Grantee.

- maximum of **EUR 2 000 in total**
- maximum of **EUR 500** can be claimed for the **conference fees**
  - o Virtual conference fees can be considered eligible provided all other eligibility conditions are fulfilled.
  - o 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.

The approved financial contribution will be paid to the grantee **after the conference has taken place**. Financial support will be granted based on the first come first serve principle and as long as the budget approved for each Grant Period is available.

AFTER THE CONFERENCE HAS TAKEN PLACE

The Grantee has 30 calendar days from the end date of the Conference to submit

- a certificate/proof of attendance and
- a report to the ITC Conference Grant Manager of the Action
- the oral/poster presentation in pdf
- picture or written information to use in social media, Action website or other dissemination channels

Payment of the Grant is subject to the above mentioned material, being approved by the Grant Awarding Committee.

Failure to submit the requested material until the end of the grant period will effectively cancel the Grant.

NOTICE OF COMPLETION: The grant coordinator sends the completion notice to the Grant Holder after receiving the requested materials. The Grant Holder will then execute the payment of the grant directly to the grantee and archive the corresponding material and notify the Core Group (Scientific Communication Manager).