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## **COST Action CA18202**

### **NECTAR – Network for Equilibria and Chemical Thermodynamics Advanced Research**

# **Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) Conference Grants (CG)**

## **Second Call for ITC Conference Grant Applications**

**Third Grant Period, 1 May 2021- 31 October 2021**

COST Action NECTAR opens a call for applications to ITC Conference to be developed under the scope of the referred Action, in the terms described in this document.

The main procedures/regulations concerning ITC Conferences are governed by the COST Vademecum (<https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Vademecum-V8-1-May-20202.pdf>), in particular those described in Section 9. Please read this section prior to preparing your ITC Conference application.

### **Scope of NECTAR COST Action**

The thermodynamic study of chemical equilibria represents the core of many important branches of chemistry, from coordination and supramolecular chemistry, to chemical speciation, to molecular modelling and drug design. The importance of chemical equilibria, and chemical thermodynamics in general, results from the simple assertion that many properties of elements and compounds depend mainly on their interactions in a given system: the biological activity of an element or molecule, or their environmental impact can be explained by a detailed study of these interactions, whose nature and strength can be evaluated by chemical equilibrium and other thermodynamic studies.

NECTAR combines the expertise of the large community of specialists working in the field of thermodynamic studies of chemical equilibria. The scopes of this Action are to create a network based on the stimulating collaboration between them, to promote knowledge exchange, and to achieve high technological progress. All this will be accomplished through a fruitful collaboration between young researchers and experienced scientists, taking into consideration gender balance and maximal geographical distribution. Innovative and integrated theoretical and experimental approaches will be established and optimized. Overall, the outstanding quality of obtained results will serve as benchmark for next decades, allowing their application in the above-mentioned fields and substantially impacting on life quality of next generations.

For further details and specific objectives, please read the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of NECTAR COST Action: <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA18202/>.

## Purpose of ITC Conference Grants

ITC Conference Grants are aimed at supporting ECI and PhD students from Participating ITC to attend international science and technology related conferences, event or activity on the topic of the Action that are not organized by the COST Action. For further details, please read the [ITC Conference Grant User Guide](#).

## Eligibility criteria

The following eligibility criteria apply:

- Conference Grants are exclusively reserved for PhD students, PhD candidates, and ECI's with a primary affiliation in an institution located in an ITC participating in the Action.
- The applicant shall make an oral/poster presentation at the conference in question and shall be listed in the official event/conference program. The main subject of the oral presentation / poster presentation / speech at the approved conference shall be on the topic of the NECTAR Action and shall acknowledge COST.
- The participation of each applicant shall be pre-approved by the Action MC.

## Additionally

- The priority is always given to applications that are related to currently ongoing Working Groups, submitted by the WG members, and endorsed by the WG leaders.
- The priority is given to Conferences in presence.
- In order to ensure proper distribution of funds we never send more than one person to a single conference (especially if those people are from the same institution/country).
- ITC grantees should make their own arrangements for all provisions related to personal security, health, taxation, social security and pension matters.

## Funding

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 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 shall respect the following criteria:

- Up to a maximum of EUR 1 000 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.

Virtual conference fees can be considered eligible provided all other eligibility conditions are fulfilled.

Multiple applications to several Actions by the same person to attend the same conference is strictly forbidden and may lead to the cancellation of the grant.

The amount granted to each individual ITC CG will be determined during the evaluation process by ITC Coordinator and may be subjected to negotiation with the applicant(s) before approval.

### Find a conference

Granted Conferences are only those strictly related to NECTAR's aims and scopes. Suitability of Conference will be unquestionably judged by the Evaluation Committee and ITC Coordinator.

Conferences must necessarily take place between June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

### How to apply

- Applicants must register for an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/>.
- The applicant encodes an ITC CG application by logging into e-COST and clicking on the ITC Conference Grants tab.

The following documents are required:

- CV (Europass, including a list of academic publications, if applicable);
- a short description of involvement in the NECTAR COST Action;
- acceptance letter from the conference organizers (confirming either applicant's oral or poster presentation);
- a copy of the submitted abstract;

### Additionally (if available)

- Full paper about the presentation;
- The most recent conference booklet or leaflet / conference program (especially if the Applicant is listed);
- The invitation from the organizers (for a keynote presentation, etc.).

Further details can be found in [ITC Conference Grant User Guide](#).

### Application process

The ITC conference grant evaluation procedure has been approved through e-vote by COST NECTAR Management Committee Members. The procedure is as follows:

- ITC Conference Grants Call is launched by NECTAR ITC Conference Grants Coordinator (stating all relevant details of application and deadline). **Please note that current call is ongoing and the applications can be submitted not later than June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**
- After the deadline, a Committee of Reviewers (NECTAR ITC CG Evaluation Committee and ITC Conference Grants Coordinator) pre-evaluates all submitted applications in the context of their compatibility and relevance with the topic of the Action. The committee also checks if the applicant is a PhD candidate or ECI, and if he/she represents an ITC country.
- The result of the pre-approval is the ranking list and the actual number of applications to be

funded is determined by the available budget.

- The Applicants that were successful during the pre-approval must then formally submit their applications via e-COST.
- Action Chair approves the applications that has been successfully pre-approved.
- The Grant Holder sends the grant letter.

## Evaluation

Your application will be first evaluated by the Evaluation Committee and by the ITC Coordinator. Then, if the remaining budget allows providing funding it will be submitted for approval by the Action Chair. Priority will be given to applications that support NECTAR Aims and Scopes. Please consult NECTAR website and NECTAR Memorandum of Understanding for details. Oral presentations will be also preferred.

## Reporting

It is expected that each ITC grantee will **send a copy of their presentation/poster/paper** to the ITC Coordinator of the NECTAR Action. It will be then disseminated using the official NECTAR website, social media, etc. The material must be submitted to the ITC Coordinator by email shortly after the conference to upload a report to the e-COST platform. Photographic material from the conference (e.g. the Applicant with the NECTAR logo in background) will be requested. 1 day and 15 days after the end of the participation in the conference, the grantee receives a reminder to upload the scientific report. The deadline to submit the last supporting document is 30 days from the end of the participation in the conference. The submission of the report is mandatory or the Grant is cancelled. Late submission, beyond the deadline, can also lead to the cancellation of the Grant. A scientific report template is available on the Supporting documents page or on-line here: [http://www.cost.eu/ITC\\_conference\\_grant\\_report\\_template](http://www.cost.eu/ITC_conference_grant_report_template). The grantee must complete this template and save it in pdf before uploading it in e-COST.

**Please note that the COST Association can request additional information to substantiate the information contained within the documents submitted by ITC CG applicants.**

## Deadlines

Relevant dates are as follows:

- June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021: deadline for submission of ITC CG Applications
- Before July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021: notification of selected ITC Granted
- October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021: deadline for the end of Conference

## Contacts

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