

STSM GRANTS, 2026 CALL

European Atmospheric Research Lidar COoperation on Science and Technology (EARLICOST, Cost Action CA24135) is opening the 1st year Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) Call.

1. OBJECTIVES / DESCRIPTION

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) are institutional visits aimed at supporting individual mobility of researchers or Innovators for the specific work to be carried out and for a determined period of time, fostering collaboration between individuals. A STSM should:

- contribute specifically to the EARLICOST objectives and link with the deliverables.
- can have a minimum duration of 5 days and
- need to be carried out entirely within a single Grant Period.

Relevant dates:

Deadline for applications: **Call opens in February 2026 and remains open until the capacity is filled.**

Outcomes (when you will be informed if you will be funded): **Every month starting March 4th, 2026**

STSM dates: must take place before the **15th of September 2026**

After the STSM: The successful applicant must submit a scientific report and relevant documentation **within 30 days of the end of the STSM and before 30th September 2026**, whichever takes place earlier.

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

STSM applicants must be a researcher or innovator affiliated with an institution, organization, or legal entity that has within its remit a clear association with performing research. The institution, organization, or legal entity where applicants pursue their main strand of research is considered the home institution. The Host institution is the institution/organization that will host the successful applicant.

Eligibility can be determined by adhering to the stipulations in the following 3 categories, depending on the Applicant in a Home Institution:

- Researchers holding their primary affiliation at an institution located in a Participating COST Country (i.e., COST Full Member and COST Cooperating Member countries) that signed the Action's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) are eligible.
- Researchers holding their primary affiliation in a Near Neighbour Country (NNC) institution formally approved on the Action are eligible.
- Researchers holding their primary affiliation at a European RTD Organization formally approved onto the Action are eligible.

A list of COST Countries and approved NNC and European RTD Organization institutions within EARLICOST can be found at <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2023/11/Annex-I-level-A-Country-and-Organisations-Table-Version-1.7.pdf>.

3. SELECTION OF APPLICANTS

The evaluation of each STSM application received is performed by the Core Group, on behalf of the Management Committee. The selection of applicants is based on the following **criteria**:

The scientific scope of the proposed contribution must be coherent, and contribute to the overall objectives of EARLICOST, as well as be linked to specific deliverables of the Action (feel free to ask if your subject is within the Action's objective/deliverable).

Outputs and benefits foreseen for EARLICOST as a result of the STSM: scientific publication (e.g., paper, poster/oral presentation at a future conference, deliverables of EARLICOST)

There should be special considerations with respect to supporting COST policies on promoting gender balance, enabling Young Researchers and Innovators, broadening geographical inclusiveness, and involving ITC countries.

In case of even scoring, the number of applications from each institution/country will be considered to ensure a fair spread across the network.

Only one funding per year per person for one category can be awarded.

The resolution of the call will be communicated to the applicants after the final decision.

4. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The financial support on offer is a fixed financial contribution to the overall expenses incurred during the STSM and may not necessarily cover all the associated expenses. A STSM Grant is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation, and subsistence expenses, as well as the overall effort of the Grantee related to the project.

Applicants should provide an estimated budget that includes: travel expenses and daily allowance (altogether accommodation, meals, and short-distance transport expenses; table for The Daily Allowance rate available at <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2024/11/2024-Daily-allowance-table.pdf>, based on the country where the event takes place). The estimated budget should be included in the first part of the E-COST Application Form.

The decision on financial support takes into consideration the budget request of the applicant and the outcome of the evaluation of the application.

The following funding condition apply and must be respected: Up to a maximum of 2300 EUR in total can be afforded to each successful applicant (as approved by MC withing Grant Budget Plan for 2026).

For this call, the EARLICOST Management Committee has allocated a total budget of max 9.200 EUR. The amount granted will be determined during the evaluation process.

Annotated rules for COST actions

(<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/11/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V3.0-25-IX-2025.pdf>).

5. HOW TO APPLY

Interested researchers should:

- Carefully read the funding rules detailed in the annotated rules for COST actions related to STSM (<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/11/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V3.0-25-IX-2025.pdf>)

- Eligible STSM applicants must submit their STSM applications online at the following web address: <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>
- Must fill in the information also in the following link: <https://res.inoe.ro/apps/forms/s/J89WzMmGPPRkZ2dbQ8FLHN8W>
- To complete the application, applicants are required to upload to the online system the following documents:
 - Short work plan (1-2 pages, including contact details; a project title; proposed start and end of the STSM; contribution to the objectives of EARLICOST COST Action, working plan, expected outputs, and contribution to the Action MoU objectives and deliverables, and clear justification for choosing the hosting institution, using the e-COST template available here: <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/01/COST-Grant-Awarding-user-guide.pdf>). **If the proposed STSM host institution is located outside Europe, please include a clear justification explaining why the planned work cannot be carried out at a European host institution. Please note that COST Action funds such applications only in exceptional and duly justified cases.**
 - Written agreement from the host institution (stating the name of the applicant, the time period of the STSM, and the acceptance of the work plan, which has to be performed on the agreed dates)
 - Letter of support from the home institution
 - CV (1-page), including publications and previous visiting fellowships.

NOTE: Remember that STSM dates must take place before 30 September 2026.

6. BEFORE THE STSM

Please note that you can start your STSM after:

- The Grant Awarding Coordinator assesses your request
- The Grant Awarding Coordinator informs the Grant Holder that the proposed STSM has been approved
- Grant Holder sent you a formal Grant Notification letter.

7. AFTER THE STSM

The Grantee must submit all required supporting documentation through the e-COST system (<https://e-services.cost.eu/>) **within 30 calendar days** from the end date of the STSM in question and **no later than 30th September 2026**, whichever occurs first.

The following deliverables are expected:

- a. **A short STSM report**, prepared using the e-cost template, including: the aims of the STSM; work undertaken; main results achieved; plans (e.g., further cooperation with the host institution, potential future publications); a clear description of how the results contribute to **EARLICOST-specific objectives and deliverables**; outputs, where applicable (e.g., academic publications, funding applications, new datasets).
- b. **Extended scientific report**: A more detailed scientific report describing the achievements of the STSM, including methodological aspects, results, and scientific impact.
- c. **Communication material**: In addition to the scientific reporting required by COST, STSM grantees will be asked to submit **short communication material** presenting the STSM carried out and its main outcomes.

This material may take the form of a **short video presentation** or a **PowerPoint presentation** including photos and key results. Grantees are encouraged to choose the format, structure, and style that best reflect their experience and perspective, and to present their work creatively, while keeping the content accessible to a broad scientific audience. **There is no fixed template**; grantees are free to highlight the aspects of the STSM they consider most relevant (e.g., objectives, methods, collaboration experience, key results, future perspectives). No professional editing is expected; **clarity and authenticity are prioritised over production quality**. The submitted communication material will be disseminated by the **EARLICOST Communication Coordinator** through the Action's communication channels (e.g., website, social media, newsletters), with the aim of showcasing the diversity, visibility, and impact of STSM activities within the Action.

Payment of the Grant is subject to approval of the scientific reports submitted by the Action Chair and Vice-Chair, following feedback from the relevant Working Group (WG) leaders.

If the results of an STSM are published in a journal or presented at a conference, the following acknowledgement must be included: *“Part of this work was supported by the COST Action EARLICOST (CA24135), supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology).”*

Grantees are kindly requested to send a copy of any resulting paper, article, abstract, or other dissemination material to the **Grant Awarding Coordinator**, the **Action Chair and Vice-Chair**, and the relevant **WG leaders**.

8. CONTACT PERSONS

Grant Awarding Coordinator: Gladiola Malollari, email: gmalollari@ubt.edu.al

Science Communication Coordinator: Ioanna Mavropoulou, email: imavropoulou@noa.gr

Science Communication Manager: Joelle Buxmann, email: Joelle.c.buxmann@metoffice.gov.uk

Grant Holder Manager: Katerina Alafodimou, email: kcalafod@noa.gr

Action Chair: Eleni Marinou, email: elmarinou@noa.gr

Action Vice Chair: Anca Nemuc, email: anca@inoe.ro

Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC) Conference Grants, 2026 CALL

European Atmospheric Research Lidar COoperation on Science and Technology (EARLICOST, Cost Action CA24135) is opening the 1st year ITC Conference Grant Call.

1. OBJECTIVES / DESCRIPTION

ITC Conference Grants are aimed at supporting **oral presentations**:

- given by an **Action Participant**
- Of own work **within the scope of EARLICOST Objectives**
- affiliated to a legal entity located in an **Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC) / Near Neighbour Country (NNC)**
- for their participation in **high-level conferences fully organized by a third party**, i.e., not organized/co-organized by the COST Action EARLICOST.

Relevant dates:

Deadline for applications: **Call opens in February 2026 and remains open until the capacity is filled**

Outcomes (when you will be informed if you will be funded): **Every month starting March 6th, 2026**

Conference dates: must take place before the **1st of October 2026**

After the grant: The successful applicant must submit a scientific report and relevant documentation **within 30 days of the end of the conference**, and **before the 7th of October 2026**, whichever takes place earlier.

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The eligibility criteria are:

- Applicants must be Action Participants with a primary affiliation in an institution located in a CA24135 participating ITC (currently Albania, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Greece, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Turkey) or NNC, for their participation in high-level conferences. A list of approved NNC within COST can be found at <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2023/11/Annex-I-level-A-Country-and-Organisations-Table-Version-1.7.pdf>.
- The main subject of the presentation must be on a topic relevant to the main objectives of EARLICOST.
- Applicants must be corresponding authors of an oral presentation at the conference in question and be listed in the official event/conference program.
- COST Action CA24135 should be acknowledged both in the book of abstracts and in the oral presentation following COST guidelines (Annotated rules for COST actions, <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/11/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V3.0->

[25-IX-2025.pdf](#)).

- The participation must be pre-approved by the Action MC (i.e., the Grant is for future conferences and not for conferences that have already taken place).

3. SELECTION OF APPLICANTS

The evaluation of applications will be conducted by the EARLICOST Core Group, on behalf of the MC. The selection of applicants is based on the following criteria:

- The scientific scope of the conference contribution must clearly be coherent and contribute to the overall objectives of the Action.
- **Only oral contributions (face-to-face or online) can be considered.**
- Attendance at European conferences is preferred, although conferences held elsewhere can also be considered.
- Further aspects of the proposal, such as originality of the presentation topic, clear relation to EARLICOST, and gender, age, and geographical distribution equality, are considered.
- Only one funding per year per person for one category can be awarded.

4. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The financial support on offer is a fixed financial contribution to the overall expenses incurred during participation in a given conference and may not necessarily cover all of the associated expenses. It takes into consideration the budget request of the applicant and the outcome of the evaluation of the application. The following funding conditions apply and must be respected:

- Up to a **max of EUR 1500 in total** per grant for face-to-face conferences, or **EUR 500 for virtual conferences**, can be afforded to each successful applicant, including:
 - o Travel expenses: Costs for flights, train, or bus travel to and from the conference venue.
 - o Accommodation and subsistence: Support for hotel and daily living expenses under a daily allowance (altogether accommodation, meals, and short-distance transport expenses; table for The Daily Allowance rate available at <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2024/11/2024-Daily-allowance-table.pdf>, based on the country where the event takes place).
 - o Conference registration fees: A contribution to the official registration fee (with a maximum claim amount up to €500).
- 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.

For this call, the EARLICOST Management Committee has allocated a total budget of **max 4500 EUR for ITC Conference Grants**. The amount granted will be determined during the evaluation process.

5. HOW TO APPLY

Interested researchers should:

- Carefully read the funding rules on pages 98-100 in the Annotated Rules for COST Actions (<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/11/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V3.0-25-IX-2025.pdf>) and Grant Awarding User guide (<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/01/COST-Grant-Awarding-user-guide.pdf>)
- Register (or access your account) for an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/>
- Apply by filling in the information by logging into e-COST, clicking on the Grant Applications tab, and uploading the supporting documentation (ITC Conference grant application based on e-COST template)
- Provide (upload in the e-cost system) a copy of the abstract of the accepted oral presentation
- Provide (upload in the e-cost system) the acceptance (or invitation) letter or e-mail from the conference organizers
- Must fill in the information also in the following link: <https://res.inoe.ro/apps/forms/s/J89WzMmGPPRkZ2dbQ8FLHN8W>
- **Your presentation must contain one acknowledgement slide to promote the Action and the funding organization-ask the contact persons**

6. AFTER THE CONFERENCE

- The Grantee must submit the supporting documentation through the e-COST system (<https://e-services.cost.eu/>) **within 30 calendar days** from the end date of the conference and **before the 7th of October 2026**, whichever takes place earlier.
- The scientific report should be based on the e-cost template and include any relevant discussion or feedback for the talk given by the Grantee, information on relevant talks attended at the conference, interesting discussions, and how EARLICOST is linked to the grant. Pictures can be included.
- Certificate of attendance.
- Program of the conference or book of abstracts/proceedings indicating the oral presentation (face to face or online).
- Copy of the given presentation (oral).

Payment of the Grant is subject to the submitted scientific report being approved by the Action ITC Conference Grant Coordinator, the relevant WG leaders, the Action Chair, and the Vice-Chair.

7. CONTACT PERSONS

Grant Awarding Coordinator: Gladiola Malollari, email: gmalollari@ubt.edu.al

ITC Conference Grant Coordinator: George Kotsias, email: george.kotsias@eratosthenes.org.cy

Science Communication Coordinator: Ioanna Mavropoulou, email: imavropoulou@noa.gr

Science Communication Manager: Joelle Buxmann, email: Joelle.c.buxmann@metoffice.gov.uk

Grant Holder Manager: Katerina Alafodimou, email: kcalafod@noa.gr

Action Chair: Eleni Marinou, email: elmarinou@noa.gr

Action Vice Chair: Anca Nemuc, email: anca@inoe.ro

Young Researcher and Innovator (YRI) Conference Grants, 2026 CALL

European Atmospheric Research Lidar COoperation on Science and Technology (EARLICOST, Cost Action CA24135) is opening the 1st year YRI Conference Grant Call.

1. OBJECTIVES / DESCRIPTION

Conference Grants are aimed at supporting presentation (**poster/oral presentation**):

- given by an **Action Participant** who is a **Young Researcher and Innovator (age < 40 years)**
- of own work **within the scope of EARLICOST Objectives**
- for their participation in **high-level conferences fully organized by a third party**, i.e., not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action EARLICOST.

Relevant dates:

Deadline for applications: **Call opens in February 2026 and remains open until the capacity is filled**

Outcomes (when you will be informed if you will be funded): **Every month starting March 6th, 2026**

Conference dates: must take place before the **1st of October 2026**

After the grant: The successful applicant must submit a scientific report and relevant documentation **within 30 days of the end of the conference**, and **before the 7th of October 2026**, whichever takes place earlier.

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The eligibility criteria are:

- Applicants must be Action Participants and a Young Researcher or Innovator (under the age of 40), for their participation in high-level conferences.
- The main subject of the presentation must be on a topic relevant to the main objectives of EARLICOST.
- Applicants must be corresponding authors of an oral/poster presentation at the conference in question and be listed in the official event/conference program.
- COST Action CA24135 should be acknowledged both in the book of abstracts and in the oral/poster presentation following COST guidelines (Annotated rules for COST actions, <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/11/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V3.0-25-IX-2025.pdf>).
- The participation must be pre-approved by the Action MC (i.e., the Grant is for future conferences and not for conferences that have already taken place).

3. SELECTION OF APPLICANTS

The evaluation of applications will be performed by the Core Group, on behalf of the MC. The selection of applicants is based on the following criteria:

- The scientific scope of the conference contribution must clearly be coherent and contribute to the overall objectives of the Action.
- **Oral contributions will be given priority over poster contributions.**
- Attendance at European conferences is preferred, although conferences held elsewhere can also be considered.
- Further aspects of the proposal, such as originality of the presentation topic, clear relation to EARLICOST, gender, and geographical distribution equality, are considered.
- Only one funding per year per person for one category can be awarded.

4. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The financial support on offer is a fixed financial contribution to the overall expenses incurred during participation in a given conference and may not necessarily cover all of the associated expenses. It takes into consideration the budget request of the applicant and the outcome of the evaluation of the application. The following funding conditions apply and must be respected:

- Up to a **max of EUR 1500 in total** per grant for face-to-face conferences, or **EUR 500 for virtual conferences**, can be afforded to each successful applicant, including:
 - o Travel expenses: Costs for flights, train, or bus travel to and from the conference venue.
 - o Accommodation and subsistence: Support for hotel and daily living expenses under a daily allowance (altogether accommodation, meals, and short-distance transport expenses; table for The Daily Allowance rate available at <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2024/11/2024-Daily-allowance-table.pdf>, based on the country where the event takes place).
 - o Conference registration fees: A contribution to the official registration fee (with a maximum claim amount up to €500).
- 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.

For this call, the EARLICOST Management Committee has allocated a total budget of **max 4500 EUR for YRI Conference Grants**. The amount granted will be determined during the evaluation process.

5. HOW TO APPLY

Interested researchers should:

- Carefully read the funding rules on pages 98-100 in the Annotated Rules for COST Actions (<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/11/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V3.0-25-IX-2025.pdf>) and Grant Awarding User guide

<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/01/COST-Grant-Awarding-user-guide.pdf>

- Register (or access your account) for an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/>
- Apply by filling in the information by logging into e-COST, clicking on the Grant Applications tab, and uploading the supporting documentation (ITC Conference grant application based on e-COST template available here: <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/01/COST-Grant-Awarding-user-guide.pdf>)
- Provide (upload in the e-cost system) a copy of the abstract of the accepted oral presentation
- Provide (upload in the e-cost system) the acceptance (or invitation) letter or e-mail from the conference organizers
- Must fill in the information also in the following link: <https://res.inoe.ro/apps/forms/s/J89WzMmGPPRkZ2dbQ8FLHN8W>
- Your oral presentation must contain one acknowledgement slide to promote the Action and the funding organization-ask the contact persons. Your poster presentation must contain the following acknowledgement: *“Part of this work was supported by the COST Action EARLICOST (CA24135), supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology).”*

6. AFTER THE CONFERENCE

- The Grantee must submit the supporting documentation through the e-COST system (<https://e-services.cost.eu/>) **within 30 calendar days** from the end date of the conference and **before the 7th of October 2026**, whichever takes place earlier.
- The scientific report should be based on the e-cost template and include any relevant discussion or feedback for the talk given by the Grantee, information on relevant talks attended at the conference, interesting discussions, and how EARLICOST is linked to the grant. Pictures can be included.
- Certificate of attendance.
- Program of the conference or book of abstracts/proceedings indicating the presentation (oral or poster).
- Copy of the given presentation (oral or poster).

Payment of the Grant is subject to the submitted scientific report being approved by the Action Grant Coordinator, the relevant WG leaders, the Action Chair, and the Vice-Chair.

7. CONTACT PERSONS

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