

Brussels, 03 September 2009

CALL FOR CONFERENCE GRANT FOR EARLY-STAGE RESEARCHERS

Deadline: 31st October 2009

Background:

The issue of increasing support to early-stage researchers in the COST system has been raised several times. As a consequence of these discussions, the COST Committee of Senior Officials has clearly stated its desire and intention to increase support to early-stage researchers by reinforcing the use of the already existing instruments in favour of early-stage researchers.

There are a large number of possibilities for COST to give early-stage researchers better support: either through the existing instruments like Short-Term Scientific Missions, Training Schools, or through the involvement of early-stage researchers as Action Chairs or National MC Delegates. In addition, early-stage researchers should be explicitly encouraged to submit proposals to the Open Call.

On top of that COST introduces a new instrument, the “**Conference Grant for Early-Stage Researchers**”, that will provide direct financial support for the participation of early-stage researchers in international conferences as a means of capacity-building.

Conditions for Funding:

1. The definition of the term “Early-Stage Researchers” is based on the time that elapses between the date of the PhD/doctorate (or similar experience) and the date of involvement in the COST Action. If this time span is less than 10 years, a person fits the definition; of course, periods of careers’s leave have to be added to the time span mentioned.
2. The applicant has to be part (either of the Management Committee, of one of the Working Groups or one of the research teams involved in the Action) of a running COST Action in the ISCH Domain.
3. The grant can be used to cover travel and subsistence costs, conference fees, and the costs of conference workshops. The maximum amount an applicant can request are € 3.000.
4. In order to be eligible for this grant, an accepted oral contribution is required.
5. An early-stage researcher can – without exceptions - only be funded once under the “Conference Grant for Early-Stage Researchers” scheme.

Selection criteria:

- How can the event help the career of the applicant?
- What is the benefit for the current research of the early-stage researcher?
- What is the benefit for the COST-Action?
- What are the networking reasons for going to the international conference?

Selection procedure:

1. Within the Domain Committee Individuals, Societies Cultures and Health (DC-ISCH) there will be **three fixed dates** for submitting a proposal under the “Conference Grant for Early-Stage Researchers” scheme in 2009:
31.01.2009
31.05.2009
31.10.2009
2. **The application for the grant has to be forwarded via the Chair of the Action's Management Committee to the COST Office (SO ISCH). Only one application per year can be submitted by an Action.**
3. **The applications have to contain the following information:**
 - Personal data of applicant and a short scientific CV
 - Short description of involvement in the respective COST Action (300 words)
 - Relevant data on the Conference at which the applicant wants to participate
 - Copy of Abstract submitted to the Conference
 - Proof of acceptance of Abstract by the Conference
 - Motivation letter including information with view to the selection criteria and a budget breakdown of the grant Copy of Abstract submitted to the Conference
 - Budget breakdown of the requested grant (including travel, subsistence, conference fees, costs of conference workshops if applicable)
4. After an eligibility check by the COST Office, the applications are forwarded to the Domain Committee's Executive Group that assesses the proposals and takes the final funding decision on behalf of the Domain Committee.
5. The Management Committee Chairs are informed by the COST Office about the outcome of the assessment within a maximum of 4 weeks.

Administration:

1. The grant is managed by the COST-Office as a direct payment to the beneficiary and will be subject to the usual reimbursement rules of COST. The successful applicants will receive a grant letter than they have to sign and return to the COST Office.
2. Within one month after the conference the beneficiary has to provide the COST Office with a written report on the event.

For any questions related to the application process please contact the Science Officer of the ISCH Domain, Dr. Julia Stamm (jstamm@cost.esf.org).