

First Call for YRI CONFERENCE GRANT of COST Action Maternal Perinatal Stress and Adverse Outcomes in the Offspring: Maximising infants' development (TREASURE)

The call for Applicants will be open from the 30th of January until the 13th of February 2026 for Conference ending before 1st October 2026

1. WHAT IS AN YRI CONFERENCE GRANT?

YRI Conference grant funds a presentation (poster/oral) of their own work within the scope of the Action by a Young Researcher and Innovator (YRI) in a high-level conference fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action. The conference can take place anywhere in the world.

WHAT IS TREASURE?

TREASURE is a four-year COST ACTION that started on 09/11/2023. The main goal is to address the effect of maternal stress on infant health in the short and long term. The activities in TREASURE are structured in six Working Groups (WGs). Details on the content and goals of each WG are available in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA22114/>

2. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

This is the first call for YRI Conference grant funded by Cost Action CA22114. TREASURE is offering three YRI Conference Grants. Up to a total of EUR 1,000.00 can be awarded to the selected applicants for face-to-face conferences, or EUR 500 for online conferences. The grant is intended to provide a contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence, registration fee and general expenses. It may therefore not cover all the costs associated to the mission.

Please note that the awarded grant will be paid only after attendance at the conference.

3. WHO CAN APPLY?

YRI Conference grant funds an **oral or poster presentation** of their own work within the scope of the Action by a **Younger Researcher and Innovator** in a high-level conference fully organized entirely by a third party, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action.

IMPORTANT: Conferences must be completed by October 1st, 2026.

4. OBJECTIVES OF YRI CONFERENCE GRANTS

- Serve COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy.
- Supports Young Researcher and Innovator to establish a strong network and increase their visibility in the research community through sharing their work and to gain knowledge.
- Contribute to increasing visibility of the Action.

5. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications for YRI Conference grants are managed through the e-COST management tool (<https://e-services.cost.eu/user/login>). The applicants will complete the information on the website and upload the following documents:

- **To be filled in e-COST:**
 - Title of the presentation
 - Conference title, date (within the active Grant Period, i.e.no overlap across two consecutive Grant Periods) and country.
 - Budget requested.
 - Attendance Type (face to face or online)
- **To be uploaded to e-COST:**
 - Application form (template available on e-COST. <https://www.cost.eu/YRICG-application-template>) describing: Relevance of the conference topic to the Action and Motivation describing the potential for impact on the applicant's career.

- Copy of the abstract of the accepted poster or oral presentation focused on promoting the scientific achievements and activities being performed by the TREASURE COST Action.
- Acceptance (or invitation) letter from the conference organizers
- CV of the applicant

This information will be visible to the holders of leadership positions and any evaluation committees in the Action for evaluation purposes.

In the application, the applicant must describe the relevance of the conference topic to the Action and the motivation, describing the potential for impact on the applicant's career. Moreover, applicants for YRI Conference grants should provide clear evidence of how attending the conference will help them to build a strong network and increase their visibility in the research community through sharing their work and gaining knowledge. We will also aim at achieving a balance of granted YRI Conference grants among the different Working Groups.

Once the YRI Conference Grant has ended, the grantee must submit the following documentations:

- o Report template to the Action MC on the outcome of the presentation of the accepted contribution, including the grantee's visibility and the establishment of new contacts for future collaborations. <https://www.cost.eu/YRICG-report-template>.
- o Certificate of attendance.
- o Programme of the conference or book of abstracts/proceedings indicating the presentation (oral or poster) of the grantee.

The documentation needs to be submitted within 30 days after the end date of the Conference. It is noted that if the applicant does not submit the required report on time, the grant is cancelled.

For further details, the applicant may visit the Annotated Rules: <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/11/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V3.0-25-IX-2025.pdf>.

For additional information on the submission via the e-COST system, applicants may visit the Grant Awarding User Guide: <https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/01/COST-Grant-Awarding-user-guide.pdf>.

6. GRANT AWARDING CRITERIA

Each proposal will be ranked by the Grant Committee of the Action under the leadership and responsibility of the Grant Awarding Coordinator, with the assistance of the Action Chair and, if necessary, of the Working Group Leaders. The evaluation score will be based on:

1. Conference relevance: the conference falls within the remit of TREASURE COST Action (20 points).
2. Scientific scope: the relevance and quality of the results to be presented (30 points).
3. Topic fit: How well the topic fits with the TREASURE ACTION Working Group and contributes to achieving its objectives (30 points).
4. Cooperation potential: The opportunity to establish or strengthen collaborations for the Action's objectives, and how participation in the conference will support the applicant's professional development (20 points).

In line with COST policies on inclusiveness, in the event of a tie in the selection process, priority will be given to gender balance.

The final ranking will be approved by the Grant Awarding Coordinator and Action Chair. To avoid conflict of interest when evaluating the applications, applicants who work at the same place of a committee member will not be evaluated by that member, but by an independent evaluator.