



COST Action CA24125 – CRICULT

Action-specific Grant Rules

Version 1.0

28 January 2026

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
Version	Publication date	Changes
1.0	28.01.2026	- Initial Version
1.0	28.01.2026	- Final Version (Approved by MC)

COST Action CA24125 – CRICULT

Action-specific Grant Rules

The Management Committee (MC) of the COST Action CA24125 “CRICULT”, acting through MC e-Vote system (as disposed by COST through e-COST platform), has decided that the following action-specific Grant Rules (hereby defined “GR”) will apply for **awarding grants within COST Action CA24125**.

1. Legal and Regulatory Framework

CRICULT Action-specific GR are based on and subordinate to:

- COST Rules and Principles for COST Activities (Level A) ([LINK](#)), establishing the overarching legal and ethical framework governing all COST activities by defining core principles such as excellence, inclusiveness, openness, good governance, financial soundness, and compliance applicable to all COST-funded actions;
- Rules for COST Actions (Level B) ([LINK](#)), the binding operational handbook that interprets and applies the COST Rules and Principles for all COST Actions;
- COST Annotated Rules for COST Actions (Level C) ([LINK](#)), providing the binding operational framework governing the implementation, eligibility, grant awarding procedures, financial management, and ethical principles applicable to all COST Actions;
- COST Grant Awarding User Guide ([LINK](#)), describing the procedural workflow and technical steps for submitting, evaluating, approving, reporting, and paying grants;
- CRICULT Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) ([LINK](#)), defining the specific mission, objectives, governance structure, Working Groups, and expected scientific and policy outputs of COST Action CA24125, forming the strategic basis for all funded activities.

In case of any conflict, the legal and regulatory framework of COST will prevail.

2. Objectives of the CRICULT Action-specific Grant Strategy

CRICULT grants, as financial support dedicated to official Working Groups (WG) of CRICULT Action, are awarded as strategic instruments to:

- support transdisciplinary research on Cultural Heritage in Crisis;
- contribute directly to WGs objectives and deliverables;
- foster capacity building and training to scholars and practitioners;
- promote inclusiveness, geographical balance, and gender equality;
- strengthen international and interdisciplinary cooperation.

3. Types of Grants covered

CRICULT GR apply to grants awarded through the COST Grant Awarding Process:

- **Short-Term Scientific Missions** (STSM) grant: funds a visit to a host organisation located in a different country than the country of affiliation by a researcher or innovator for specific work to be carried out and for a determined period of time.

- **Conference Grants** (YRI, ITC, Dissemination):
 - A) YRI Conference grant funds a presentation (poster/oral presentation) of their own work by a Young Researcher and Innovator (YRI) in a high-level conference fully organised by a third party, i.e. not organised nor co-organised by the COST Action.
 - B) ITC Conference grant funds an oral presentation of their own work within the scope of the Action by an Action Participant affiliated to a legal entity located in an Inclusiveness Target Country / Near Neighbour Country in a high-level conference fully organised by a third party, i.e. not organised nor co-organised by the COST Action.
 - C) Dissemination Conference grant funds an oral presentation by an Action Participant of the work of the Action in a high-level conference fully organised by a third party, i.e. not organised nor co-organised by the COST Action.
- **Virtual Mobility Grant:** consists of a collaboration in an online setting among researchers or innovators within the COST Action, to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, etc. Virtual Mobility Grants are not prioritised, unless further restrictions on mobility (researcher/context) are highlighted during the action period.

Availability and provision of grants will be subject to the Work and Budget Plan ("*Mobility of Researchers and Innovators*", "*Presentation at Conferences organised by Third Parties*" lines), approved annually by CRICULT MC. Action members will be informed of Grants' availability through CRICULT communication tools and WGs.

Participation in CRICULT Meetings and Training Schools is regulated through the Work and Budget Plan, funded through the Action's networking budget ("*Meetings*" and "*Training Schools*" lines), and is not covered by this document.

4. Eligibility Principles

Eligibility follows COST rules as implemented in e-COST. Basic requirements for applicants include:

- (*for STSMs and Virtual Mobility Grants*) Anyone affiliated in COST member countries and NNCs;
- (*for Conference Grants*) Action participants affiliated in a COST Member countries and NNCs;
- Demonstrate clear scientific relevance to CRICULT aims, WGs objectives and activities;
- Comply with COST principles of excellence, inclusiveness, openness, and research integrity;
- Submit applications exclusively through the e-COST platform.
- Include other mandatory documentation as declared in the CRICULT action-based GR (see 7.1).

As declared in COST Annotated Rules (p.60), "*6.4 Eligibility to receive financial support*", it is recalled that "*Individuals invited as per Article 6.2 and, where applicable, legal entities, participating in a COST Action networking activity shall be eligible to receive financial support to cover part or all of their expenses carried out to participate in or to organise a COST Action networking activity as defined in the table hereunder*". (The following table is a faithful, branded, elaboration of the mentioned one)

Also, "*ITC Conference Grants are limited to individuals affiliated to a legal entity located in COST Inclusiveness Target Countries and NNC (as defined by COST Rules and Principles)*" and "*YRI Conference Grants are limited to Young Researchers and Innovators (as defined by COST Rules and Principles)*".

5. Governance and Roles

The following roles and responsibilities are assumed within the grant awarding process by the governance of CRICULT Action:

- Management Committee (MC): Approves grant rules, strategic priorities, and final decisions;
- Core Group (Chair, Vice-Chair, Grant Awarding Coordinator, Science Communication Coordinator, WGs Leaders and co-Leader): Oversees grant allocation strategy and endorses rankings;
- Grant Awarding Coordinator (GAC): Coordinates calls, ensures compliance, and manages evaluations;
- Grant Evaluation Committee (GEC): Evaluates applications and produces ranked lists;
- WG Leaders: Assess relevance of applications to WG objectives;
- Grant Holder: Manages contractual and financial implementation.

6. Grant Evaluation Committee (GEC)

A Grant Evaluation Committee (GEC) is set up by CRICULT MC for evaluating the applications received for granting. The GEC nominated under CRICULT Action consists of:

- the Grant Awarding Coordinator (Leader);
- Action Chair or Vice-Chair (or delegate);
- WGs Leaders and Co-leaders.

The evaluation of an application will be made by a panel composed of the Chair or Vice-Chair and 2 WG Leaders or Co-Leaders.

GEC members must declare the absence of conflict of interest and abstain from the evaluation of applications where this would not be applicable (e.g., self-application).

The GAC will assess the work from the GEC, for defining the final list for the MC approval.

7. Open Calls and Application

Open Call(s) for Applications will be structured on Grant Periods, and will be published on the Action website, disseminated via other channels, and will contain information on funding grant opportunities within the COST Action, on the application and evaluation procedure.

The application must be submitted online in e-COST using the dedicated forms available. In this regard, applicants are informed that their application can be accessed by the holders of leadership positions and any evaluation committees in the Action for evaluation purposes. In addition, applicants must upload their CV in their e-COST profile. This information will be visible to the holders of leadership positions and any evaluation committees in the Action for evaluation purposes.

The content of the application depends on the type of grant, and the mandatory data and documents are defined by the COST Annotated Rules (see A2-2.3, pp.98-99), plus CRICULT action-specific requests. For further details, before applying, all applicants must carefully and completely read Annex 2 of the Annotated Rules for COST Actions. For any inquiries, contact the CRICULT Grant Awarding Coordinator.

7.1. Application for STSM grants

The mandatory information and documents are required for applications for STSM grants:

- Information form required through e-COST;
- Application form (template available on e-COST and [LINK](#));
- Written agreement of the host institution to receive the applicant (signed by one entitled representative at the host institution).
- Narrative CV (max 2 pages) including research profile, achievements (past 5 years), contribution to the relevant WG, publications (10-year selection) + open repository link. The narrative CV aims to highlight the coherence of the researcher's profile with the foreseen mobility, qualifying the opportunity of transfer of knowledge, collaboration and development of skills.

7.2. Application for conference grants

The mandatory information and documents are required for applications for conference grants:

- Information form required through e-COST;
- Application form ([different templates](#) available on e-COST: [LINK](#) for Young Researcher and Innovator Conference, [LINK](#) for Inclusiveness Target Countries Conference, [LINK](#) for Dissemination Conference);
- Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral presentation, focused on promoting the scientific achievements and activities being performed by the COST Action;
- Acceptance (or invitation) letter from the conference organisers;
- Narrative CV (max 2 pages) including research profile, achievements (past 5 years), contribution to the relevant WG, publications (10-year selection) + academic social networking site (e.g. ORCID, Google Scholar, ResearchGate, etc.). The narrative CV aims to highlight the researcher's contribution to the WGs' activities and outcomes development, and the expected impact of dissemination.

7.3. Open call workflow and timeline

The call workflow and indicative timeline for grants calls consider:

- Call publication (as communicated via CRICULT website/socials/channels): approximately 2 months before the expected period of mobility/granting;
- Call open: min. 14 days from publication (submission until 11.59 pm of the deadline day);
- Evaluation: to be completed within 7 days from the call deadline;
- Communication of results: at least 30 days prior to the mobility period.

8. Evaluation Criteria and Scoring

Applications are evaluated using a 1–5 scoring scale per criterion. For each criterion, the score 1 stands for “very poor,” and 5 stands for “excellent.” The threshold required is set at 3 for each criterion.

A minimum total score of 15 points is required for funding eligibility.

The eligible proposals will be ranked according to their scores, and funding will be allocated to the proposals with the highest scores. The number of financed proposals depends on the available budget

for the specific call. Other action-specific criteria are listed below regarding the grant types (STSMs, conference grants: YRI, ITC, Dissemination).

In case of equal scores, preference will be given to applicants ensuring gender equality, being Young Researchers and Innovators, and/or with affiliation in an ITC Inclusiveness Target Country, as per priorities defined by the COST programme.

8.1. Action-specific evaluation criteria for STSM grants

Apart from the requirements stated in the COST Action Rules, the following assessment and selection criteria will apply for STSM grants:

1. Alignment to the CRICULT action, existence of a clear link between the proposed mobility and the action goals, and at least one of the scientific objectives of the action;
2. Clarity of the presentation of the proposed STSM activities, alignment to the WG's ongoing activities and contribution to the expected WG outcomes, and proposed publication venue;
3. Clarity and feasibility of the work plan for the STSM (related to its duration);
4. Added value of the proposed STSM for action objectives, outputs and networking;
5. Host institution suitability, in relation to scientific field, experience and quality of mobility;
6. International and interdisciplinary dimension of the STSM.

8.2. Action-specific evaluation criteria for conference grants

Apart from the requirements stated in the COST Action Rules, the following assessment and selection criteria will apply for conference grants:

1. Alignment to the CRICULT action and scientific objectives, visibility and impact for the action, for the transfer of knowledge to the network and/or for the dissemination of outcomes;
2. Conference scope, relation to CRICULT topics and objectives, quality and reputation of the event and/or organising network;
3. Type of the conference, quality and relevance;
4. Type of the presentation (oral preferred);
5. Proposed publication venue for the conference outcome, as a scientific paper/chapter/conference proceedings (preferred SCImago quartile Q1-Q2);
6. International and interdisciplinary dimension of the conference.

8.3. Action-specific evaluation criteria for Virtual Mobility grants

Apart from the requirements stated in the COST Action Rules, the following assessment and selection criteria will apply for Virtual Mobility grants:

1. Alignment to the CRICULT action, existence of a clear link between the proposed virtual mobility and the action goals, and at least one of the scientific objectives of the action;
2. Explicit motivation to justify the virtual modality of mobility, including possible impediments of the candidate to physical mobility (due to personal, familial, health, VISA or other conditions);
3. Clarity of the presentation of the proposed virtual activities, alignment to the WG's ongoing activities and contribution to the expected WG outcomes, and proposed publication venue;
4. Clarity and feasibility of the work plan for the virtual mobility (related to its duration);

5. Added value of the proposed STSM for action objectives, outputs and networking;
6. International and interdisciplinary dimension of the STSM.

9. Ranking, Selection, and Approval

Eligible applications are ranked based on scores. Funding is allocated according to ranking and available budget. Final approval is granted by the MC or delegated authority and implemented via e-COST.

Upon approval of the application, the Grantee receives a Grant Letter from the Grant Holder stating the approved amount and the conditions for receiving the grant.

The payment of the grant will be released following the procedure as mentioned in the Annotated Rules,

10. Grants Conditions

All grant activities supported under this Call must comply with the CRICULT COST Action MoU and the COST Association regulations. All activities must start and end within the active Grant Period. Overlaps between two consecutive Grant Periods are not permitted. After the official communication of the award, the grant transfer to the grantee will be organised following the COST rules

Reporting: within 30 days after the activity (or 15 days after the Grant Period ends, whichever comes first), the grantee must submit: a scientific report outlining the work done, main outcomes, and future collaboration potential, following the COST-provided templates; a communication activity for wider dissemination via the CRICULT website and social media.

Payment is subject to the approval of the scientific report by the Grant Awarding Coordinator and the Core Group.

10.1. Conditions for STSM grants

The **grants for the STSMs** will be awarded as lump-sum (block) grants and will be:

- For STSMs in a COST Full Member state: **1,200 EUR**;
- For STSMs in other countries: **2,400 EUR**;

For STSMs with a duration of **less than 7 days** (including travel), the lump-sum grant will be reduced by 50%. For STSMs with a duration of **over 25 days**, the lump sum grant will be increased on a per diem basis, up to a max. of 1,200 EUR (under prior approval by the GAC and subject to available budget).

Once approved, the granted STSM can be subjected to a variation of the dates declared in the proposal, but it must be performed **within 3 months** from the approval. Otherwise, the grant will be canceled, and a new submission will be necessary. Any change of dates, work plan, or budget requires prior approval by the Grant Awarding Coordinator before implementation.

In case of postponed mobility, the grantee needs to provide a concrete and transparent justification to be approved by the GAC. In case of its absence, a **30% overall score deduction** will be applied to the following grant applications of the candidate, to be effective in the ranking list.

10.2. Conditions for conference grants

The **conference grants** will be awarded as lump-sum (block) grants and will be:

- For conferences held in a COST Full Member state: **1,000 EUR**;

- For conferences held in other countries: **2,000 EUR**;
- For virtual conferences: **500 EUR**.

10.3. Conditions for Virtual Mobility grants

The **grants for Virtual Mobility** will be awarded as lump-sum (block) grants and will be:

- For virtual mobility: **800 EUR**.

For virtual mobilities with a duration of **less than 7 days**, the lump-sum grant will be reduced by 50%. Once approved, the granted virtual mobility can be subjected to a variation of the dates declared in the proposal, but it must be performed **within 1 month** from the approval. Otherwise, the grant will be deleted, and a new submission will be necessary. Any change of dates, work plan, or budget requires prior approval by the Grant Awarding Coordinator before implementation.

In case of postponed mobility, the grantee needs to provide a concrete and transparent justification to be considered by the GAC and GEC. In case of its absence, a **30% overall score deduction** will be applied to the following grant applications of the candidate, to be effective in the ranking list.

11. Rejection and resubmission policy

If the grant application will not be approved within the call's selection, the same application on the e-COST will not be deleted, but it will be restored in draft version from the system. The candidate can still be available to edit it and resubmit for evaluation in the following call for grants.

12. Transparency and Documentation

All procedures, decisions, and evaluations are documented. Applicants receive formal notification through e-COST. Records are retained for monitoring and audit purposes.

13. Ethical Conduct and Conflict of Interest

All actors adhere to the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity. Conflicts of interest must be declared and managed according to COST rules. Non-compliance may lead to exclusion or sanctions.

14. Entry into Force and Revision

These Action-specific Grant Rules enter into force upon approval by the CRICULT MC. They may be revised by MC decision to reflect updates in COST regulations or Action strategy.