COST Action CA24103

EUropean COllaborative Network on electroCatalysis for Efficient Renewable Technologies (EU-CONCERT)

Call for applications for Dissemination Conference Grants

for implementation from January to May 2027

Call 1

Deadline 15/12/2026

1. About EU-CONCERT

EU-CONCERT (European Collaborative Network on electroCatalysis for Efficient Renewable Technologies) is a COST Action dedicated to advancing the fundamental understanding and modeling of electrocatalytic processes at electrified solid-liquid interfaces. Electrocatalysis underpins key technologies for the green energy transition, including water splitting, hydrogen production, and the electrochemical conversion of small molecules such as CO_2 and N_2. However, predictive descriptions of these processes remain limited due to the complexity of interfacial phenomena and the lack of systematic validation of theoretical models against well-controlled experimental data.
EU-CONCERT addresses this challenge by encouraging close collaboration between theoretical, computational, and experimental communities, with a strong focus on benchmarking, reproducibility, and data sharing. The Action aims to improve the accuracy and reliability of electrochemical modeling approaches while strengthening links between simulations and experiments through coordinated research, dissemination, and targeted networking activities.

The objectives of EU-CONCERT are:

- Develop and assess advanced theoretical and computational methods for modeling electrified solid-liquid interfaces, including solvent, electrolyte, and potential-dependent effects.
- Generate high-quality, reproducible experimental data on well-defined model systems suitable for rigorous comparison with simulations.
- Establish shared benchmarking protocols and promote open data sharing to enhance reproducibility and comparability across studies.
- Facilitate knowledge transfer and interdisciplinary collaboration between theory and experiment.
- Train and support early-career researchers and strengthen capacity building across the European electrocatalysis community.

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EU-CONCERT is organized into the following Working Groups (WGs):

- WG1 - Advanced Theoretical and Computational Approaches in Electrocatalysis: development and improvement of computational methods for electrochemical interfaces, including potential-dependent phenomena and reaction kinetics.
- WG2 - Collection of Experimental Data on Model Systems and Comparison with Simulations: design and execution of experimental studies on well-defined systems and direct comparison with theoretical predictions.
- WG3 - Benchmarking and Data Sharing: development of standardized benchmarking protocols and promotion of FAIR data sharing practices.
- WG4 - Communication, Dissemination, and Capacity Building: training activities, dissemination, mobility grants, and engagement with the broader scientific community.

2. What is a Dissemination Conference Grant?

A Dissemination Conference Grant supports an EU-CONCERT Action participant in delivering an oral presentation about the work of the Action at a high-level conference fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized or co-organized by EU-CONCERT.
This grant funds an **accepted oral presentation that substantively promotes the scientific activities, collaborative results, methods, achievements or ongoing work of COST Action CA24103 EU-CONCERT**. **It is not intended merely to present independent research** falling within the Action's broad scientific scope. A poster alone is not eligible.
The aim is to raise the visibility of EU-CONCERT among relevant scientific audiences and end-users, attract new participants and stakeholders, establish contacts for future collaborations, and communicate the value of coordinated theoretical and experimental research in electrocatalysis.

A Dissemination Conference Grant should:

- support an Action participant in delivering an oral presentation that clearly **communicates EU-CONCERT activities and results**;
- significantly **increase the visibility of EU-CONCERT** and its Working Groups in the relevant scientific community;
- reach potential **new network members, partners, end-users, or stakeholders** and create opportunities for future collaborations;
- reinforce **knowledge transfer, science communication**, and the professional networks of the grantee.

3. Call information

Applications are invited for Dissemination Conference Grants supporting oral presentations dedicated to promoting the scientific activities and achievements of EU-CONCERT at relevant third-party conferences.
Applications can be submitted until 15 December 2026 and will be checked and evaluated after the deadline.
The conference must take place between **1 January 2027 and 31 May 2027**.
The number of grants awarded under this call is **two (2)**. The maximum contribution per approved application is **EUR 1,000**.

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4. Priorities for applications

This call prioritises oral contributions with a clear and demonstrable dissemination benefit for COST Action CA24103 EU-CONCERT.
In line with the purpose of Dissemination Conference Grants, priority will be given to applications demonstrating:

- a direct and substantial link between the proposed oral presentation, the Action objectives, and one or more EU-CONCERT Working Groups;
- an accepted oral presentation describing the Action's scientific activities, joint achievements, shared methods, results, or relevant collaborative work;
- the scientific quality of the third-party conference and its capacity to reach audiences beyond the existing EU-CONCERT network;
- a concrete communication and networking plan to engage potential collaborators, new participants, end-users, or stakeholders;
- potential benefits for the applicant's scientific development and for follow-up dissemination or collaborative activities;
- contribution to COST Excellence and Inclusiveness principles, including fair distribution of opportunities, gender balance, and geographical diversity, including ITC participation where applicable.

5. Eligibility and general rules

- Applicants must be participants in EU-CONCERT (e.g. Management Committee or Working Group members) and must be affiliated to a legal entity eligible for COST financial support. **There is no age restriction** for Dissemination Conference Grants.
- Applicants must comply with the COST eligibility rules in force at the time of application. Overlapping or double funding is not permitted, including simultaneous funding from different COST Conference Grant schemes for the same activity.
- The conference must be a high-level event fully organized by a third party; it must not be organized or co-organized by EU-CONCERT or another COST Action.
- The applicant must deliver an **accepted oral presentation** and be identified as a speaker in the conference programme. **A poster presentation alone does not qualify**.
- The oral presentation must focus on EU-CONCERT activities, results, or achievements and align with its Science Communication Plan (or, if not yet adopted, the relevant dissemination objectives of the Action MoU). A passing acknowledgement of the Action in unrelated work is not sufficient.
- The grantee is responsible for all arrangements concerning travel, accommodation, health, personal security, taxation, social security, and insurance.
- Applicants should not make non-refundable bookings before receiving the official Grant Letter through e-COST.

6. Financial support

A Dissemination Conference Grant is a fixed financial contribution based on the requested budget, the location and duration of the conference, the dissemination value of the oral presentation, and the available Action budget. It may not cover all expenses incurred by the applicant.

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The maximum contribution under this call is **EUR 1,000 per approved application for face-to-face conferences**. Online contributions are not funded by this call. Requested amounts may be reduced by the Action Management Committee or delegated Core Group, in line with COST rules and available funds.

The grant may contribute to the following conference-related costs:

- travel costs;
- accommodation and subsistence costs;
- conference registration fees;
- other eligible costs directly linked to participation and delivery of the approved oral presentation, in accordance with COST rules.

Research materials, employment costs and expenses unrelated to conference participation are not eligible. Grants are paid after the conference, following approval of the required report and supporting documentation. Applicants should therefore be able to pre-finance their participation.

7. Application procedure

Applications must be submitted online through the e-COST Grant Application system: https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants/add
Applicants must submit a complete application and maintain an up-to-date CV in their e-COST profile. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated; the Grant Awarding Coordinator may request additional information when necessary.

The application must include:

- the online e-COST application, indicating the oral presentation title, conference title, dates, venue, and requested budget;
- the official e-COST application form explaining **alignment with the EU-CONCERT Science Communication Plan and Action objectives, the intended audience, dissemination approach, expected impact on the Action, and benefits for the applicant;**
- a copy of the accepted abstract for the oral presentation, clearly focused on promoting scientific achievements and activities carried out within EU-CONCERT;
- an acceptance or invitation letter from the conference organizers confirming that the applicant will deliver an oral presentation;
- information on the conference, including title, dates, location, website, audience, and scientific scope;
- an estimated budget distinguishing travel, accommodation/subsistence, registration fee, and other relevant costs, together with any financial support already obtained from other sources.

Any documents that cannot be uploaded through e-COST should be sent directly to the Grant Awarding Coordinator and the Action Chair.

8. Evaluation and selection procedure

The Grant Awarding Coordinator will pre-process each application to check completeness, eligibility, budget consistency, and relevance to EU-CONCERT. Incomplete applications may

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be resubmitted when the call permits; irrelevant or ineligible applications will not proceed to evaluation.
Each complete and eligible application will be evaluated by a reviewer selected by the Grant Awarding Coordinator from among the Action members. Reviewers with direct institutional, supervisory, collaborative, personal, or other relevant conflicts of interest will not assess the application concerned.
Only applications reaching a minimum total score of **30/40**, with no score below **6/10** in the first three criteria and no score below **3/5** in the remaining two numerical criteria, will be considered fundable.
Fundable applications will be ranked by their evaluation scores. Up to two grants may be awarded, subject to the available budget and approval by the Management Committee or its delegated Core Group. The Grant Holder will issue the official Grant Letter through e-COST; the award takes effect only once the letter has been accepted by the grantee.
The evaluation criteria are presented in Table 1 and follow the scoring scheme used for the EU-CONCERT YRI Conference Grants.

Table 1 Evaluation criteria

Criterion	Assessment focus	Score
Relevance to EU-CONCERT	Relation of the proposed oral presentation to EU-CONCERT objectives, Working Groups, and actual Action activities or results.	1 - 10
Scientific quality and relevance of the conference	Scientific standing of the third-party event, relevance of its audience, and suitability of the accepted Action-focused oral presentation.	1 - 10
Expected impact on the Action	Expected contribution to EU-CONCERT visibility, dissemination of results, outreach to stakeholders, networking, and future collaborations.	1 - 10
Contribution to the applicant's development	Expected benefit for the applicant's scientific profile, communication skills, networking, and future collaborations.	1 - 5
Excellence and Inclusiveness	Consideration of career stage, gender balance, geographical diversity, ITC participation where applicable, and fair distribution of opportunities.	1 - 5
Grant request suitability	Requested funding is justified, proportionate to conference participation, and consistent with COST rules and eligible cost categories. A budget revision may be requested.	Y / N

9. After the Dissemination Conference Grant: reporting and payment

After the conference, the grantee must upload the report and supporting documentation in e-COST within 30 days of the end of the activity or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period, whichever comes first. A shorter deadline may be required by the Grant Holder to allow timely processing.

The report and supporting documents must include:

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- a short report on the oral presentation delivered, dissemination of the Action, target audience reached, outcomes, new contacts or stakeholders identified, and possible follow-up activities;
- a certificate of attendance;
- the conference programme, book of abstracts, or proceedings identifying the grantee and confirming delivery of the oral presentation;
- a copy of the presentation slides or other dissemination material, demonstrating appropriate acknowledgement of COST and EU-CONCERT and, where possible, use of their logos;
- a short publishable summary of approximately 200 words for EU-CONCERT communication channels, such as the website, newsletter, or social media;
- any further documentation requested by the Grant Holder or required under the applicable COST rules.

The grant will be paid only after the conference has taken place and the required report and supporting documents have been approved. Failure to submit the documentation by the applicable deadline may result in cancellation of the award.

10. Acknowledgement and visibility

Dissemination Conference Grant holders **must explicitly acknowledge** COST and EU-CONCERT in their oral presentation and associated dissemination outputs. The COST and EU-CONCERT logos should be displayed in accordance with the COST visual identity guidelines, where possible.
The following acknowledgement text should be used where appropriate:

"This presentation/publication is based upon work from COST Action CA24103, EUropean COllaborative Network on electroCatalysis for Efficient Renewable Technologies (EU-CONCERT), supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology)."

Grantees may be asked to share presentation material and a short description of outcomes with the relevant EU-CONCERT Working Group(s) and the Action communication channels.

11. Contact

For questions regarding this call, eligibility, application documents, or reporting requirements, applicants may contact:
Grant Awarding Coordinator: Michele Re Fiorentin, michele.refiorentin@polito.it
Action Chair: Giancarlo Cicero, giancarlo.cicero@polito.it

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