COST Action CA24103

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

Call for applications for Young Researcher and Innovator 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.

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- Train and support early-career researchers and strengthen capacity building across the European electrocatalysis community.

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 YRI Conference Grant?

A Young Researcher and Innovator Conference Grant supports the participation of a Young Researcher and Innovator (YRI) in a high-level scientific conference fully organized by a third party, i.e. a conference that is not organized or co-organized by the COST Action.
The grant supports an accepted oral or poster presentation of the applicant's own work that is **clearly within the scope of EU-CONCERT**.
The purpose of the grant is to support young researchers and innovators in establishing scientific networks, increasing their visibility in the research community, gaining knowledge through conference participation, and to contribute to the visibility of EU-CONCERT.

A YRI Conference Grant should:

- support a YRI in presenting original work related to one or more EU-CONCERT objectives or Working Groups;
- increase the visibility of EU-CONCERT in relevant scientific communities;
- help the grantee establish contacts that may lead to future collaborations within or beyond the Action;
- contribute to the professional development of the applicant.

3. Call information

Applications are invited for YRI Conference Grants supporting conference participation and presentation activities aligned with the scientific objectives of EU-CONCERT.
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 four (4). The maximum financial contribution per approved application is EUR 1,000.

4. Priorities for applications

The call prioritizes conference participation that directly supports the scientific and dissemination objectives of EU-CONCERT.

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In line with the purpose of YRI Conference Grants, priority will be given to applications that satisfy the following elements:

- clear relation to one or more EU-CONCERT Working Groups and to the Action objectives;
- presentation of the applicant's own accepted work at a scientifically relevant third-party conference;
- capacity to increase the visibility of EU-CONCERT in electrocatalysis, electrochemistry, computational chemistry, surface science, materials modeling, operando characterization, benchmarking, or related fields;
- clear benefit for the professional development and scientific networking of the applicant;
- contribution to COST Excellence and Inclusiveness principles, including gender balance, geographical diversity, and participation of researchers from Inclusiveness Target Countries where applicable;
- engagement of the grantee to share the outcomes with the relevant EU-CONCERT Working Group(s), if requested by the WG Leader(s).

5. Eligibility and general rules

- **Applicants must be Young Researchers and Innovators, i.e. researchers or innovators under the age of 40**, and must comply with the COST eligibility rules in force at the time of application.
- Applicants must be PhD candidates, postdoctoral researchers, or researchers/innovators employed by or affiliated to an eligible institution or organization in a COST country or another eligible entity according to COST rules.
- 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 fully organized by a third party and must not be organized or co-organized by EU-CONCERT.
- The applicant must present their own work at the conference through an **accepted oral presentation or poster**.
- **The presented work must be relevant to the objectives of EU-CONCERT** and should acknowledge the Action.
- The grantee is responsible for all arrangements concerning travel, accommodation, health, personal security, taxation, social security, and insurance.
- Applicants must not receive another type of COST Conference Grant in the same Grant Period. They should not make non-refundable bookings before receiving the official Grant Letter.

6. Financial support

A YRI Conference Grant is a fixed financial contribution based on the requested budget, the location and duration of the conference, the relevance of the activity, and the available budget of the Action. It does not necessarily cover all expenses incurred by the applicant.
The maximum financial contribution under this call is EUR 1,000 per approved application. The requested amount will be evaluated by the Grant Awarding Coordinator and

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may be reduced by decision of the Core Group and/or Grant Holder, in line with COST rules and available funds.

Eligible cost categories may include:

- travel costs;
- accommodation and subsistence costs;
- conference registration fee;
- printing of a scientific poster or other presentation material required for the conference.

Research materials and costs not related to conference participation are not eligible under this grant type. Grants are paid after the conference, following the approval of the required report and supporting documentation. Applicants must therefore be able to pre-finance the costs related to the conference.

7. Application procedure

Applications must be submitted through the e-COST platform using the online grant application system: https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants/add
Applicants must submit a complete application. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated; the Grant Awarding Coordinator may request additional information where necessary.

The application must include:

- the online e-COST grant application;
- a short proposal describing the alignment with the EU-CONCERT objectives and Science Communication plan, the expected impact for the Action, and the expected benefit for the applicant;
- a copy of the accepted abstract for the oral presentation or poster, focused on work relevant to EU-CONCERT;
- an acceptance or invitation letter from the conference organizers confirming the oral or poster presentation;
- information on the conference, including title, dates, location, website, and scientific scope;
- an estimated budget, clearly separating travel, accommodation/subsistence, registration fee, poster printing or other eligible presentation costs, and any 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 the Action. Incomplete applications are rejected with the possibility to resubmit. Applications that are out of scope (not related to EU-CONCERT) are also rejected and cannot be resubmitted.
Each complete application will then be evaluated by a reviewer chosen by the Grant Awarding Coordinator from among the Action members. To avoid conflicts of interest, individuals with a direct institutional, supervisory, collaborative, or personal conflict with an applicant will not take part in the evaluation of that application.

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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 criteria, will be considered fundable. The Grant Awarding Coordinator informs the Grant Holder of approved applications, after which the Grant Holder issues the official Grant Letter through e-COST. The grant is valid only after the applicant has signed and returned the Grant Letter.
Evaluation criteria are reported in Table 1.

Table 1 Evaluation criteria

Criterion	Assessment focus	Score
Relevance to EU-CONCERT	Relation of the presentation to one or more EU-CONCERT objectives and Working Groups.	1 - 10
Scientific quality and relevance of the conference	Scientific quality of the conference, relevance of the conference audience, and suitability of the accepted oral or poster presentation.	1 - 10
Expected impact on the Action	Expected contribution to the visibility, dissemination, networking, and scientific objectives of EU-CONCERT.	1 - 10
Contribution to the applicant's development	Expected benefit for the YRI's scientific profile, networking, skills, 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 across the network.	1 - 5
Grant request suitability	The requested funding is justified, proportionate to the planned conference participation, and consistent with eligible costs. If not, a budget revision may be requested.	Y / N

9. After the YRI Conference Grant: reporting and payment

After the conference, the grantee must upload the required report and supporting documentation in e-COST within 30 days after the end of the conference and in any case early enough to allow administrative processing before the closure of the Grant Period. For activities close to the end of the Grant Period, a shorter reporting deadline may be required by the Grant Holder.

The report and supporting documents must include:

- a short scientific report describing the purpose of the conference participation, the presentation delivered, the main outcomes, contacts established, and possible follow-up activities;
- the certificate of attendance;
- the conference programme, book of abstracts, or proceedings showing the oral or poster presentation by the grantee;
- a copy of the presentation, poster, or other dissemination material produced for the conference, including evidence that **COST Action CA24103 EU-CONCERT was duly acknowledged** in accordance with COST visibility rules.
- a short publishable summary of approximately 200 words for EU-CONCERT communication channels, including newsletters, website, or social media;

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- any additional documentation requested by the Grant Holder or required by COST rules.

The grant will be paid only after the conference has taken place and after the report and all required supporting documents have been approved. Failure to submit the required report and documentation within the required deadline may cancel the grant.

10. Acknowledgement and visibility

Successful YRI Conference Grant holders **must acknowledge** COST and EU-CONCERT in any presentation, poster, publication, or dissemination output resulting from the funded activity. When possible, the COST and EU-CONCERT logos should be displayed in the presentation or poster according to COST visual identity guidelines.
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 provide dissemination material to EU-CONCERT Working Groups or communication channels after the conference.

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