

COST Action CA23103 'BlueRights'

Life, Liberty and Health: Ensuring Universal Protection of Human Rights at Sea

Open Call for Young Researcher and Innovator (YRI) Conference Grants

COST Action CA23103 Life, Liberty and Health: Ensuring Universal Protection of Human Rights at Sea (BlueRights) is offering up to **six Young Researcher and Innovator (YRI) Conference Grants** for young researchers/innovators who are Action Participants **to make an in-person presentation on a topic falling within the scope of COST Action BlueRights** at an international high-level conference. The grant provides a contribution to travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses, registration fees, and other relevant costs.

Applications can be filed until 1 September 2026 and will be assessed on a rolling basis until funds are exhausted. Applicants can expect to hear whether they have been successful within 14 days after submitting their application.

Eligibility

In order for applications to be eligible for funding, **all** of the following conditions need to be met:

- the applicant must be under 40 years old;
- the applicant must be affiliated to a legal entity located in a COST Full/Cooperating Member Country or Near Neighbour Country (NNC);
- the presentation must relate to the aim of COST Action BlueRights: that is, to assess, from a legal perspective, how human rights can be enjoyed *also* by people at sea and by *all* people at sea;
- the applicant must have already been selected to present the paper at the conference when the application for the grant is submitted (as per the COST rules, applicants must include the abstract of the accepted presentation and an acceptance letter of the conference organizers in their application for a grant);
- the presentation must be in person (no grants will be awarded for presentations given remotely, even if the conference is hybrid);
- the conference must take place before or on 30 September 2026;
- the applicant must already be a member of Cost Action BlueRights when the application for the grant is submitted;
- the applicant commits in writing to publish an output (for example, a working paper or blog post) based on the oral presentation within three months of the conference, acknowledging funding by COST Action BlueRights.

How to Apply

Before applying, carefully read the [Grant Awarding User Guide](#).

Protecting People at Sea

Their Rights to Life, Liberty and Health.

Applications must be submitted online in [e-COST](#) and using the application template available for [YRI Conference Grants](#).

To be filled in e-COST by the applicant:

- title of the *accepted* oral presentation;
- conference title, date and country;
- budget requested;
- attendance type (face-to-face).

To be uploaded to e-COST by the applicant:

- application form;
- CV (including list of academic publications);
- acceptance letter from the conference organizers;
- copy of the abstract of the *accepted* oral presentation;
- a written commitment indicating their intent to publish an output based on the oral presentation within three months of the conference.

Incomplete applications will automatically be rejected.

Evaluation and Selection

Applications will be reviewed according to COST procedures. The Core Group of COST Action BlueRights evaluates the YRI Conference Grant applications on behalf of the Management Committee (MC).

Selection criteria:

- relevance of the topic being presented for the objectives and aims of BlueRights;
- relevance of the presentation for ensuring a high-quality deliverable for BlueRights, including, for example, concrete plans for publication in an edited volume of proceedings, a special issue of a journal, etc;
- an equitable geographical distribution of grants, taking into account the State where the applicant is based and the State where the conference takes place: as a general rule, no more than one grant will be given to applicants from the same State;
- the need to ensure as broad a participation as possible by BlueRights members: as a general rule, priority will be given to BlueRights members who have not yet received a BlueRights conference grant or STSM;
- the need to ensure an equitable distribution among members of all three Working Groups (WGs), and that the themes of all three WGs are represented;
- the need to ensure an equitable distribution of grants taking into account, in particular, gender, career stage, and the type of organisation for which the applicant works;
- active participation by BlueRights members in the Action's activities, prioritising applications from BlueRights members who have actively participated in the meetings and other activities of their working group.

Important Notes

- The awarded amount may be lower than requested, subject to budget availability, the number of selected applications, and the reasonableness of the expenses indicated;

- Grantees must retain receipts and evidence of all expenditures in case of audit;
- Only activities fully completed and reported before the financial closure will be reimbursed;
- Grants will be reimbursed after the conference and only if the recipient of the grant:
 - submits their report in accordance with the applicable rules, including the output generated by the presentation and any plans for further publication;
 - provides proof of attendance;
 - provides the programme of the conference or book of abstracts/proceedings indicating the oral presentation of the grantee;
- Grantees must duly acknowledge BlueRights funding in any publication made in relation to the presentation/grant, including PowerPoint presentations used at the conference, articles, book chapters, or blog posts, social media posts etc.

Important Dates

- Deadline for applications: any time until 1 September 2026
- Notification of Results: within 14 days after submission of the application
- Acceptance of grant: within 7 days following notification of results
- Presentation to be made by 30 September 2026
- Submit all relevant documents through e-COST: 14 days after the presentation and at the latest by 10 October 2026

Key Contacts

Grant Awarding Coordinator of COST Action BlueRights:
Professor Youri van Logchem (youri.vanlogchem@uit.no).

Further Information

- Annotated Rules for COST Actions (see Annex 2 for YRI Conference Grants):
https://www.cost.eu/Annotated_Rules_for_COST_Actions_C
- Grant Awarding User Guide:
https://www.cost.eu/grants_userguide
- e-COST Platform Guide:
<https://rise.articulate.com/share/BrjGlalM0EuVkJXk7uFzzpC4nkLXJtaA2#/lessons/X2hdnJQ6qtpNCm0rc5NBvC77G8luKXH>
- FAQs (see section 'Mobility of researchers and innovators and presentations at conferences organised by 3rd parties'):
<https://www.cost.eu/cost-actions/annotated-rules-qa/>

Dissemination

This call will be published on the BlueRights website and shared via the Action's social media channels. For visibility purposes, applicants are encouraged to share news of successful applications, tagging BlueRights.

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