GLITSS Call for Grants - June 2024

Dear GLITSS action members,

We are happy to announce a sixth call for grants in this COST-funded Action. GLITSS will be running for four consecutive years until October 2026. This is the third call that applies to the second year of the GLITSS project, ending October 2024. Any approved projects under this call must be finalized and reported by mid-October 2024 so that there is time to finalize the administration afterwards.

What can be applied for?

In COST projects, there are grants available for three purposes, with different options within them:

- Mobility
    - o Short-term Scientific Mission (STSM)
    - o Virtual Mobility (VM) (no budget available this Grant Period)
- Conferences
    - o Participation in a dissemination conference (DCG)
    - o Participation in an Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC)-conference
- Virtual Networking support (VNS) (no budget available this Grant Period)

Detailed information on these activities can be found in Annex 2 (pages 95-97) of the [Annotated Rules for COST actions](), published on the COST website.

As one of GLITSS's objectives is to facilitate the networking of young researchers in ITC countries, **we prioritize awarding grants to young ITC researchers for participating in conferences** in this call

According to the COST Association, young researchers are researchers under the age of 40, with the ITC country criteria applying to the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine.

An overview of the projects approved in the first round of applications at the end of this document provides examples of the type of projects for which funding is available. Please consider that we have not had any ITC conference grants in previous rounds, which is why DCG conference grants may serve as an example in this case.

What budget is available?

In this round, we are able to fund the following types of activities:

- A Short-Term Scientific Mission, for max 2000 euros (max **2** places)
- Participation (onsite) in a conference, for max 800 euros. This can be either:
    o Dissemination Conference Grants (max **5** places)
    o Dissemination at a Conference for participants from Inclusiveness Target Countries (**prioritized**) (max **9** places)

Please note that the exact amount of available budget is dependent on some, partly external, factors, such as the number of applications and the spending of overall GLITSS funding. The number of projects that can be approved might, therefore, be limited. In such a case, we will fund ITC applications first. Also, if there are fewer applications in a category than the maximum available, these places may be redistributed to the other categories.

How to apply?

A detailed explanation of the grant-awarding process, including instructions on how to apply for a grant, is described in the [Grant Awarding user guide](#).

Applying for a grant is done through the e-COST portal. Please remember to include the grant application form in the files you upload to the portal.

The deadline for applications in this round is **30 June 2024.**

How is the application to be assessed?

The applications are assessed by the Grant Awarding Coordinator on behalf of the Management Committee. The most important criterion is the extent to which the activity will contribute to the attainment of the objectives of the GLITSS action. Attention will also be paid to striking a good balance in the action's beneficiaries in terms of early career investigators/experienced investigators, gender, and geographical location. As said, ITC researchers will be prioritized if they request an ITC conference grant. Multiple applications benefiting one researcher will, as a rule, not be funded. After approval, the activity can be carried out.

After the activity is completed, the researcher has to submit a report of the activity through the e-COST portal. This reporting has to describe the activity (in the case of an STSM) or the presentation, certificate of attendance or conference programme (in the case of a Dissemination or ITC Conference Grant). The Core Group decides on approval or rejection of the report with a simple majority on the basis of a proposal by the Grant awarding coordinator. Only after approval of the report will the grant awarding process be finalized, and reimbursement can commence.

Please take into account that we cannot promise to deliver advance payments. Reimbursements will only be made well after the activity is completed and approved, in most cases up to six weeks after that. If you need funding earlier than that, it is advised to request an advance from your home university or organization.

After completing the activity, you may be asked to provide a short video or to participate in a short interview as a testimonial to be published on the GLITSS website. Also, if you take any photographs, please provide us with high-quality pictures. Next to this, we might also ask you for a summary of the activity report to be published on the GLITSS website. It is also requested that you include a GLITSS, COST and EU logo in your presentation or other publicity material if you use that in your activity. You can find these logos under this link.

We are looking forward to receiving interesting grant applications so that the work of the Action may be adequately supported!

On behalf of the Core Group,

Pim Geelhoed (Grant Awarding Coordinator)

Overview of approved GLITSS projects in round 1

Nataliia Versal (Dissemination conference)

- Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (Ukraine), Faculty of Economics
- Topic: How do savings and personal budgeting matter on financial literacy and well-being
- One of the main questions of this GLITSS project is: "How can local experiences enhance regional responses to illicit trade challenges?" and the need to ensure "the 3Ss" (Safety, Security and Sustainability). Getting involved in illicit trade can have many motives, but one of the most important is the low standard of living of certain sections of society. That is why a deeper understanding of how to improve the financial well-being of the population is essential. Financial literacy is the key to financial well-being and, at the same time, the key to the fight against financial fraud, which is also part of the illicit trade. That is why this study allows us to find answers to specific questions of the Action. Firstly, I will present the ideas and tasks of the Action at the conference as much as possible during the speech and further communication with colleagues. This conference is well-known in the scientific community and brings together researchers of economic issues from different countries. Secondly, I will draw attention to the issues that this Action will solve in the context of the need to combat the illicit trade. One of the instruments for tackling this can be the increase in the financial well-being of the population and financial literacy. Thirdly, we will involve stakeholders in the work of the working groups and highlight the areas that are currently being discussed, in particular, working group 1 and group 3.
- To be presented at the conference: 13th International Scientific Conference "Business and Management 2023" in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 11 to 12 May 2023
- Grant awarded: 800 euros

Andreja Pirc Barčić (Short-term scientific mission)

- University of Zagreb (Croatia), Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology
- Topic: Contribution and potential of the wood industry and its products to the better understanding of illicit trade practices
- The aim of this STSM is to present the challenges but also the contribution and potential of the wood industry and its products to a better understanding of illicit trade. Deliverables: 1.) three versions of questionnaires - for governmental institutions/organizations, associations and the scientific community; b) wood industry companies; c) sales managers of wood products selling places; 2.) database of collected information about wood products that can be bought at

selling places aiming to analyze the quality, quantity, transparency and accuracy of available information; 3.) Study report

- Visit to the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia) from 4 to 9 September 2023
- Host: prof. Leon Oblak
- Grant awarded: 1000 euros

Māris Jurušs (Short-term scientific mission)

- Riga Technical University (Latvia), Department of Customs and Taxes
- Topic: Fight against illicit tobacco trade
- Obtain information for research on the fight against the illegal tobacco market. Use the acquired knowledge for the preparation of the publication and in the study process. Face-to-face interviews with officers from Europol dealing with the enforcement/international cooperation, involved in the detection and monitoring of illicit tobacco flows and in international cooperation activities. To discuss specific questions about cooperation and best practices, to look for a solution in the application of new methods in the fight against the illegal tobacco market. Prepare and process initial information for research. Use the obtained information in research activities as well as in the study process by holding seminars with other researchers and students.
- Visit to Europol, the Hague (Netherlands) from 3 to 9 July 2023
- Host: Dmitrijus Frolovas
- Grant awarded: 2000 euros

Laurena Kalaja (Short-term scientific mission)

- Active Learning Lab, Tirana (Albania)
- Topic: Technological innovations facilitating illicit trade
- Analyzing technological innovations that facilitate Illicit Trade and ways of fighting it by taking into consideration legal, criminological and social components. Comparing Albania and the United Kingdom's legislation on facing digital platforms and legislation on combating Illicit Trade. Part of my working plan is preparing a range of questionnaires and forms to be filled by the students of the above-mentioned university, with a focus on the subject. Together with Professor Sievers, we are planning to do a seminar series during this STSM in order to share my insights in the Department of Law of this University.
- Visit to Bournemouth University (United Kingdom) from 10 March to 6 April 2023
- Host: Dr Stephanie Schwandner-Sievers
- Grant awarded: 2000 euros

Francesco Rossi (Short-term scientific mission)

- Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (Spain), Department of Criminal Law, Procedure and Legal History
- Topic: Improving social reuse of confiscated assets in transnational cases as a restorative response to illicit trade
- The goal of the STSM is to acquire new knowledge on the topic of social reuse of confiscated assets in transnational cases as a restorative response of judicial cooperation in criminal matters to illicit trade. Great attention has been paid to the immediate restrictive effects that freezing and confiscation orders produce, especially with respect to the protection of the fundamental rights of the accused, whereas little has been done to address the issues concerning the management and reuse of frozen and confiscated assets for restorative purposes. During the STSM, I intend to conduct a preliminary investigation and to set a more detailed research agenda on this topic.
- Visit to the University of Groningen (Netherlands) from 4 September to 4 October 2023
- Host: Dr Pim Geelhoed
- Grant awarded: 1000 euros