

Teresa Oliveros

From: finance
Subject: Virtual networking tools additional support
Attachments: COST Action online networking tips.pdf

From: Science Administration <Science.Administration@cost.eu>

Sent: 27 May 2020 14:28

Subject: Virtual networking tools additional support

Dear Action Grant Holders,

We are aware of the difficulties presented in managing activities in these troubled times, and more specifically the difficulties Actions might face in implementing traditional networking tools over the time to come. In order to try to overcome some of these difficulties, below you will find additional information with respect to provisions for financial support of virtual/hybrid networking tools:

Virtual Communication tools:

As communicated on March 27 2020 in the Letter from the COST Director to Grant holders, the derogation for the use of online tools to allow networks to continue sharing knowledge and ideas in a safe and effective manner, has been extended to the current grant period (01/05/2020 until 30/04/2021), up to the cost of 500 euros excluding VAT.

Eligible LOS items for large Virtual Meetings/Training schools:

Fully virtual or hybrid events can claim LOS. The following items can be encoded under "Technical equipment rental":

- Specific openings days before for all to test with a technician available, registration, attendee management, configuration and setup, communication, and monitoring attendees
- Customer support for attendees Live-stream tech support via email and/or chat.
- Pre-recording of Keynotes/teaching sessions for training schools.
- Post-event process management: Video editing, recording management.

Encoded under "photocopying and printing of posters, programmes, book of abstracts, book of proceedings, flyers".

- Handouts, event material, programmes, book of abstracts, book of proceedings, flyers

Shipping of samples is possible only for training schools.

The maximum claimable amount limit for LOS remains at 10 000 EUR (excl. VAT). Supporting documents are required.

While there is no signed attendance list for virtual events, attendance logs from the virtual tools used can be uploaded into e-COST.

Presential events (whether hybrid or not) must abide by already existing rules. LOS non-eligible expenses remain as outlined in the COST Vademecum.

Virtual Conference Registrations for ITC Grants and Dissemination meetings:

The virtual conference fees for ITC conference grants and Dissemination meetings can be considered eligible, provided all other eligibility conditions are fulfilled. These fees are not to be taken from the virtual communication's tool kit allowance.

We hope these measures will allow some flexibility in the organisation, planning and implementation of the network activities of each of your Actions in these trying times.

On behalf of Science Administration and Finance Units