

COST Action 24129
European Media and Born-digital Art Conservation and Knowledge Network (EMBARK)

Open Call for Dissemination Conference Grant (DCG)
for Participation in the International Conference on Digital Preservation iPRES 2026
Copenhagen (21–25 September 2026)

The COST Action CA24129 EMBARK is a pan-European research and collaboration network focused on the conservation of media and born-digital art, bringing together interdisciplinary expertise from academia, cultural heritage institutions, and the creative and technology sectors. Its main goal is to address the growing preservation crisis of media art by connecting fragmented knowledge, developing shared methodologies and tools, and strengthening Europe's capacity to sustainably conserve, document and access these technologically complex artworks, ensuring their long-term availability for research, culture and future generations.

More information including the Action's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) can be found in the following web page: <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA24129/>.

Important Dates:

Abstract submission to Grant Awarding Coordinator's email: 11 May 2026 (up to 500 words)

E-Cost Application (for a selected candidate): upon receiving acceptance (or invitation) letter from the conference organisers

Notification of Results: 15 working days after abstract/application submission

Conference dates: 21–25 September 2026

Grant Type Overview:

Dissemination Conference Grant (DCG) funds an oral presentation by an Action Participant of the work of the Action in a high-level conference fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action.

DC Conference grant:

- Significantly increases visibility of the Action in the research community, and can contribute to increasing visibility of the presenter;
- Attracts additional participants and stakeholders and disseminates Action results to relevant end-users at high profile conferences in the field on a topic relevant to the Action.

DC Conference grant benefits to:

- Dissemination Conference Grantee: receives support for attending and delivering an oral presentation of the Action, their activities, and results at a conference and for developing new contacts and potential future collaborations;
- COST Action: receives increased visibility and awareness, new contacts with potential stakeholders.

Eligibility:

DCG is intended for application of Action Participants who actively contribute to one or more Working Groups within COST Action CA24129 and who will deliver an oral presentation (Lightning Talk: high-energy, concise presentation covering recent developments, specific themes in digital preservation, or new project

ideas) of the Action at the International Conference on Digital Preservation iPRES 2026 (<https://ipres2026.dk/call-for-contributions/call-for-ad-hoc-contributions/>). The work proposed must be relevant to the scope and objectives of the Action. Applications will be evaluated based on criteria assessing the relevance, quality, feasibility of the proposed work, its expected impact for the Action, and the expected benefit for the applicant.

Before submitting an application, it is mandatory to ensure that all eligibility criteria are met. Applicants must carefully read the rules applicable to DCGs as specified in the following documents:

- Annotated Rules for COST Actions (pp. 96-104):
<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/11/COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V3.0-25-IX-2025.pdf>
- COST Grant Awarding User Guide:
<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/01/COST-Grant-Awarding-user-guide.pdf>

Financial Support

The total budget allocated for DC grants under this COST Action for Grant Period 1 (GP1) amounts to €1,200 with an estimated capacity to fund one applicant, based on typical average costs of €1,250 per DCG across COST Actions. Individual grant amount will be decided based on the applicant's requested budget, and should reflect the duration and location of the Conference and the actual conference fee, as well as overall funding considerations, including average grant levels across COST Actions. The financial contribution will be awarded as a fixed grant, subject to the evaluation of the application by the Grant Evaluation Committee. The awarded grant will be paid only after the successful completion of the DCG. The grant provide a contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, registration fee and overall effort. Applicants to Conference Grants shall not receive different types of conference grants in the same period.

Application

Please read the COST Annotated Rules and Grant Awarding User Guide before applying.

The DCG application procedure will be conducted online via the e-COST platform. Individuals can apply using their e-COST profile. Log in => Click COST Actions on left hand side of screen => My grant applications => Apply for a Grant => Dissemination Conference Grant (DCG).

To be filled in e-COST:

- Title of the presentation;
- Conference title, date (within the active Grant Period, i.e.no overlap across two consecutive Grant Periods) and venue;
- Budget requested;
- Attendance Type (face to face or online).

To be uploaded to e-COST:

- **Application form** (template available on e-COST) describing: Relevance of the conference topic to the Action and Motivation describing: Alignment with the Science Communication Plan adopted by the COST Action and Expected impact to the COST Action.
- **Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral presentation** focused on promoting the scientific achievements and activities being performed by the COST Action;
- **Acceptance (or invitation) letter** from the conference organisers.

Evaluation

DCG applications are evaluated by the Grant Evaluation Committee of the Action. The selection of DCG applications to be funded will be carried out based on the following main criteria:

- 1 Alignment with the objectives and priorities of the Action (including relevance to the Working Group and planned activities);
- 2 Quality and excellence of the proposed work (clarity of objectives, expected outcomes, or contribution to the Action);
- 3 Methodology/feasibility of the proposed work plan/activity (methods, planning, timeline, and expected outputs);
- 4 Expected benefit and impact for the Action and its Working Groups (scientific contribution, capacity building, collaboration, networking and dissemination potential, knowledge exchange);
- 5 Expected benefit for the applicant, taking into account their career stage (e.g. knowledge exchange, skills development, networking opportunities, and career advancement).

The Committee will also assess feasibility of the proposed activities, the profile of the applicant, and the expected output of the DC Grant. Gender balance, career stage, and geographical inclusiveness will be taken into consideration. Grant Evaluation Committee determines the final financial contribution, taking into account the available budget, the requested amount, the scope of the proposed activities, as well as overall funding considerations, including average grant levels (i.e. average costs) across COST Actions. Once the selection process is complete, applicants will receive a formal notification via the e-COST platform informing them of the outcome of the evaluation. If the application is successful, the applicant will receive a Grant Letter indicating the approved amount and the conditions for receiving the grant. The applicant may not start the DCG activities before receiving the Grant Letter.

Reporting and Grant Payment

Upon completion of the DCG, the grantee is required to submit a report via e-COST within 30 days after the end of the DCG, or within 15 days after the end of the Grant Period, whichever occurs first.

In addition to the report, the grantee is required to submit a set of mandatory supporting documents. The following mandatory documents must be uploaded in e-COST:

- **DC Grant Report** (template available in e-COST);
- **Certificate of attendance**;
- **Programme of the conference or book of abstracts / proceedings** indicating the oral presentation;
- **Copy of the given presentation that must include the COST and EMBARK Action logos and a clear acknowledgment of funding**;
- **One-page summary of the DC Grant (template to be provided)** including the title of the DCG presentation, name of the grantee, name of the conference, as well as a short descriptive paragraph outlining the presented work and activities undertaken. The summary should also include a photo of the grantee and one representative photo illustrating the DCG activities. This material is intended for communication and dissemination purposes and may be published on the Action's dedicated webpage or other dissemination channels.

Upon approval of the report by the Grant Awarding Coordinator, the grant will be processed and paid directly to the grantee.

Contact person

Grant Awarding Coordinator – Dr Jelena Brajković, jelena.brajkovic@arh.bg.ac.rs