

Thematic conferences

Thematic conferences are international events of at least 1,5 days on targeted themes that bring together approximately 30-50 participants from adjacent disciplines or professional networks with overlapping interests, including demography, economics, psychology, political science, epidemiology.

The ECSR board considers proposals for thematic conferences from junior (PhD, post-doc) or senior researchers at member institutions.

Applications for a conference must be submitted by 15 February 2025 for conferences taking place between April 2025 and December 2025.

The ECSR's annual budget for thematic conferences is 10,000 euros in total. One or several conferences can be funded yearly.

Grants may cover costs for travels grants for selected young scholars or scholars from lower-income countries; catering up to a limit of 50 euros per person per full day; travel and accommodation of keynotes speakers. It does not cover overheads, administrative and staff costs.

Eligibility

- Applicants should be affiliated to a member institution of ECSR.
- Joint organization and funding of thematic conferences with other professional networks or organizations is necessary. Co-financing should be at least 40% of the total cost of the conference (including in-kind contributions).
- In the call for papers, priority must be given to participants from ECSR member institutions.
- The budget should be in conformity with the ECSR regulations/restrictions on travel and accommodation costs (see appendix).

Process

Applications should include:

- A letter of request for funding outlining the aims and anticipated outcome of the conference and motivating the particular ECSR-related benefits;
- A short presentation of organisers (maximum 250 words each);
- A description of the conference: format, type of audience, expected number of persons (including expected number of ECSR members), number of sessions, process of paper selection, name of keynotes speakers, type of circulation of the call for papers, possible further developments...). This description should make it clear how the proposal meets the eligibility criteria.
- A first version of the call for papers;
- A detailed cost plan that gives details of lump sums and expected spending at the personal level. All revenues should be detailed (including the financial contribution of other institutes);
- Applications will be reviewed by the ECSR with attention the scientific quality; the format and participants; the calibration of the budget and co-financing. Decisions on the applications will be made by the ECSR board and will normally be communicated to the applicants within two weeks of the closing date (i.e., in this case by the end of February 2025).

The call for papers should be circulated to ECSR members via its newsletter. The ECSR logo should be present on all communication materials for this conference. Furthermore, we ask you to provide us with the link to the conference website, in order to post it on the ECSR website.

If the project is accepted, the funding is granted after the workshop on the basis of a short report.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal or have further questions, please contact Are Skeie Hermansen (a.s.hermansen@sosgeo.uio.no).

Appendix

- i. The reimbursement of costs is only for the participants for a visit at the host institution for the length of the conference/workshop.
- ii. Expenses cannot be claimed for an accompanying travel partner who is not a conference/workshop participant.
- iii. The following types of costs will be covered up to the maximum sum as specified in the grant approval letter:
 - a. Costs of one return travel from the place of residence of the conference/workshop participant to the accommodation at the place of the ECSR host institution.
 - b. Costs of the accommodation (incl. breakfast if part of accommodation deal) at the place of the ECSR host institution.
- iv. The reimbursement does not cover any costs incurred for a stay beyond the duration of the conference/workshop. Additional costs for extended stays must be fully covered privately.
- v. In general, the most economical way of travel should be chosen. Costs of the return travel of above 450 Euro require prior approval by the ECSR Treasurer. Costs of accommodation of above 120 Euro/night require prior approval by the ECSR Treasurer.
- vi. For air travel, only economy class tickets (including costs for luggage transportation) are eligible to be reimbursed. For trains and public transport only 2nd class tickets are eligible to be reimbursed. Costs for cancellation insurance are covered. Extra costs for extra legroom, exit row seats, fast lane, priority boarding, meals/drinks are not eligible to be reimbursed.
- vii. Public transport should be used. The use of taxi/Uber etc. requires extra justification (e.g. no (reasonable) public transport available at the time of travel, etc.).
- viii. The use of a private car requires extra justification and approval by the ECSR Treasurer at least 14 days before the start of travel.
- ix. It is recommended to book travel options with cancellation option.
- x. The reimbursement does not cover any costs arising from deviations from the eligible direct travel route between the place of residence of the conferences/workshop participant and the accommodation at the place of the ECSR host institution.
- xi. The reimbursement does not cover any additional costs, such as costs for per diem, meals/food (beyond the catering costs of max. 50 Euro per workshop/conference day and participant), insurance (life, health, etc.), costs of daily commuting from the accommodation to the ECSR host institution, etc.
- xii. The calculation of travel expense reimbursement shall only be made if the expenses claimed are proven by means of original receipts or other supporting documents. The receipts and/or supporting documents provided by the grant holder shall clearly detail the type of service, the name of the service provider, the full price paid for the service, the name of the grant holder, the dates of travel/accommodation and the booking class for travel. Booking confirmations are not sufficient; invoices are needed.
- xiii. If the conferences/workshop participant suffers from a medical illness or encounters a case of Force Majeure (e.g. a strike or natural disaster) and, as a result, there is an expressed need to cancel/change travel ticket(s) and/or accommodation reservation(s), then the proven non-refundable amounts or additional expenses can be considered as being eligible for reimbursement.