



First Call for
Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM)
and ITC Conference Grants (ITC CG)

May 2022 – October 2022

The deadline for applications is 30th April 2022

The main aim and objective of the Action CA20128 PIMENTO is to federate and structure the scientific community working on **Fermented Foods**, building a multi-stakeholder vision and a transdisciplinary perspective. The long-term vision of PIMENTO is to place Europe at the spearhead of Fermented Foods, promoting health, sustainability, regional diversity, and innovation.

What is STSM and CGs?

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) consists in a visit to a host organization located in a different country than the country of affiliation by a researcher or innovator for a specific work to be carried out and for a determined period. The aim is to strength the existing networks and foster collaborations with other institution.

ITC Conference Grants (ITC CG) are aimed at supporting young researchers - Early Career Investigators (ECI) and PhD students - from Participating Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) or Near Neighbour Countries (NNC) to attend international science and technology related conferences not specifically organised by the COST Action anywhere in the world in order to establish a strong network and increase their visibility in the research community by presenting their own work (poster/oral presentation) as well as to gain knowledge.

COST Full Members: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, The Netherlands, The Republic of North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom.

COST Cooperating Member: Israel.

COST Partner Member: South Africa.

COST Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC): Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey.

COST Near Neighbour Countries (NNC): Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Russia, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine.

The STSMs in PIMENTO intend to contribute to the scientific objectives and deliverables of the COST action, while providing mission participants with the opportunity to establish long-term collaborations with an international team and gain new knowledge or access to equipment or techniques not available in the home institution/organisation.

The CGs in PIMENTO intend to support the capacity building objectives of the COST Action and boost the networking capacities of young scientists

Applicants are invited to apply to one of the proposed topics related to specific [Working Group \(WG\) objectives](#).

WG	Title	Leader
1	Build a multi-actor operational network	TBA
2	Cartography of Fermented Foods in the diet of COST Countries	Prof Effie TSAKALIDOU
3	Health benefits and risks of fermented foods	Dr Guy VERGERES
4	Federating scientists and Fermented Food producers to boost innovation for society	Dr Marie Christine CHAMPOMIER VERGÈS
5	Dissemination, training & events	Dr Vittorio CAPOZZI

PIMENTO STSMs are addressed to:

- The Action Cartography of Fermented Foods (WG2): establishing the methodology, collecting and analysing the first dataset,
- The Action Health benefits and safety aspects of Fermented Foods (WG3): establishing the methodology, collecting and analysing the first dataset,
- The Action Bottlenecks and innovation for Fermented Foods (WG4): identifying priorities and setting our organisation model

The STSMs will support in priority the Working Activities of WG2 and WG3 (also WG4 but in a second priority). They should contribute to the mobility and collective working activities of the most active WG members. STSM should support bilateral interactions between WG members.

Outputs: STSMs will boost the work activities of WG2 and WG3 to meet deadlines and progress quickly. It will make it possible to federate the members of the WG of the community and to support young researchers and their development whenever possible.

PIMENTO ITC Conference Grants are addressed to:

- The Action Website (WG5): virtual co-working place + external communication to create our European Web platform (Hub),
- The Action Cartography of Fermented Foods (WG2): establishing the methodology, collecting and analysing the first dataset,
- The Action Health benefits and safety aspects of Fermented Foods (WG3): establishing the methodology, collecting and analysing the first dataset,
- The Action bottlenecks and innovation for Fermented Foods (WG4): identifying priorities and setting our organisation model

Outputs: The ITC grants will support the capacity building objectives of the COST Action and boost the networking capacities of young scientists. They can bring to the network new knowledge and information from the conferences about Fermented Foods. Productions of videos about the presentation and travel can be placed on the CA website.

Who is eligible?

The STSM applicant can be any person affiliated with a legal entity located in a COST Full or Cooperating Member or a Near Neighbour Country or a European RTD Organisation. The applicant must have an [e-COST profile](#).

The ITC CG applicant can be a Young Researcher and Innovator <40 years affiliated with a legal entity strictly in ITC and NNC

See section 6.4 “Eligibility to receive financial support” in [the Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#) for further details.

COST PIMENTO makes available multiple grants to be awarded and conducted until **31st of October 2022**.

How to apply for an STSM and an ITC CG?

Applications are submitted online in e-COST using dedicated forms available at: <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants>

1. All applicants must carefully read the funding rules detailed in the Annex 2 of [the Annotated Rules for COST Actions](#).
2. For guidance on the e-COST tool, applicants can consult [the Grants User Guide](#) (see Documents & Guidelines).
3. All applicants must have an e-COST profile with bank account information and an updated CV.
4. STSM applications must be made through the above link by logging into e-COST and clicking on the Grant Applications tab.
5. All applicants must obtain a letter of invitation from the host institution confirming that they can undertake the STSM/ITC Conference on the given dates prior to submitting an application.
6. All applicants must complete and submit their STSM/CG application on the e-COST-system using dedicated forms available.

To be filled in e-COST:

- Title
- Start and end date (within the active Grant Period)
- Budget requested by the applicant
- Information about the host institution and contact person (only for STSM)

To be uploaded in e-COST

- Application form (template available on e-COST) describing: Goals; Description of the work to be carried out by the applicant; Plan for participation; Expected outcomes; and Description of the contribution to the PIMENTO Action MoU objectives (available in the Action documents [here](#));
- Confirmation of the host on the agreement from the host institution in receiving the applicant (only for STSM);

A STSM Grant application Template is available at:

https://www.cost.eu/STSM_GrantApplication

Similarly, the ITC Conference – supporting documentation is:

- ITC Conference grant application (based on e-COST template)
- Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral or poster presentation
- Acceptance letter from the conference organisers
- Other documents required by the Action: Estimated expenses (fees, travel, accommodation, daily allowances)

An ITC CG application Template is available at:

https://www.cost.eu/ITCConference_GrantApplication

The deadline for applications in the first call is 30/04/2022.

Priority criteria for selection

Applications will be assessed by the Committee consisted of the Chair, the Vice-Chair, the Grant Awarding Coordinator and the WG Leaders. The criteria for selection of candidates are as follows:

- 1) COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy:
 - a. Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) members (+ 1 point)
 - b. Young Researchers (< 40 years) (+ 2 points)
- 2) 1st time participant in PIMENTO COST STSM (+ 1 point)
- 3) Excellence of the application assessed by the Grant Awarding coordinator and the host institution supervisors (+ 4 points)
- 4) Active contribution of the applicant in the COST working groups (+ 2 points)

The requested budget must be compatible with the activities and their time frame proposed by the applicant to be developed during the STSM.

The applicant will receive an official confirmation of the STSM with a link to the official grant letter.

COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy

The COST Excellence and Inclusiveness policy is developed around three main elements:

- *Geographical diversity,*
- *Career stage: involving Young Researchers and Innovators,*
- *Gender balance.*

The COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy shall contribute to the objectives of the 'Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area' Work Programme under Horizon Europe.

Financial support

- Providing a contribution for **travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses** and implementation of the project.
- According to the MC decision, the maximum amount for STSM grant is 2,800 € and the maximum amount for ITC Conference grant is 1,500 €. The amounts may change after taking into consideration the specific conditions of applicant and available budget of the Action.

Obs.: STSMs grantees may request up to 50% pre-payment of the approved grant. The remaining 50% of the Grant is paid after the completion of the activity and approval of all required report/documentation.

After the STSM

Reporting and claim for payment of the grant:

- Payment will be completed when a short scientific report is approved.
- The required report for claiming the grant of a STSM should describe the work developed, main achievements of the STSM and planned future follow up activities.
- Once the activity has ended, the grantee has to submit the required reports and relevant documentation in e-COST within 30 days after the end date of the activity or 15 days after the end of the Grand Period, whichever comes first.
- Reports need to be approved by the PIMENTO MC.
- Payment of the grant have to be claimed via e-COST.
- Failure to submit the scientific report within the requested period will effectively cancel the Grant. The report will be uploaded to the PIMENTO webpage portal upon approval by the Grant Awarding Coordinator Committee.
- The final report will be uploaded to the COST applications webpage. A scientific report template is available on the Documents & Guidelines page or through the following links:
 - o Template for STSM Report: https://www.cost.eu/STSM_Report

After the ITC Conference

Reporting and claim for payment of the grant:

- Payment will be completed when a short scientific report is approved.
 - The required report should describe conference details in terms of grantee's visibility, including the establishment of new contacts for future collaborations
 - Certificate of attendance
 - Programme of the conference or book of abstracts / proceedings indicating the presentation (oral or poster)
 - Copy of the given presentation (oral or poster)
- o Template for ITC CG Report: https://www.cost.eu/ITCConference_Report

For more general information on STSMs/CGs please contact the Grant Awarding Coordinator:

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