



Open Call for

ITC Conference Grant (ITC CG) and Dissemination Conference Grants (DCG)

Grant Period 3
December 2023 – October 2024

The main aim and objective of the Action CA20128 “Promoting Innovation of ferMENTed fOods” (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.

Funding provided by COST supports, among others, these networking activities:

Presentation at conferences organised by third parties for:

- Capacity building (limited to young researchers and innovators from ITC or NNC),
- Dissemination of COST Actions’ work and results.

Presentation at conferences organised by third parties are implemented via a grant awarding process.

The grant awarding by COST Actions and its implementation

- Contributes to the visibility of COST as an open, flexible, and inclusive funding programme;
- Offers a valuable experience for Young Researchers and Innovators as well as for the already established researchers in supporting their career development;
- Can strengthen the existing networks by allowing researchers and innovators to foster collaboration both in a face-to-face and virtual setting, to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, disseminate the Action results, etc.

These opportunities are open to all members of CA 20128 PIMENTO (students / professors / researchers). This call will stay **CONTINUOUSLY OPEN** and selection of candidates will follow the method “**first-in-first-evaluated**”, until the end of the allocated budget or the grant period.

What is ITC CG and DCG?

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 anywhere in the world. Participation in these conferences helps young PIMENTO members to establish

a strong network, to increase their visibility in the research community by presenting their own work (**poster/oral presentation**), and to further develop their scientific knowledge. ITC CG are not limited to conferences organised by the COST Action.

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 ITC CGs in PIMENTO intend to support the capacity-building objectives of the COST Action and boost the networking capacities of young scientists. International conferences the most related to the CA 20128 are available in the Conference list 2024 (see at <https://fermentedfoods.eu/>). Participation on the ITC conferences can contribute to increasing visibility of the Action.

ITC CGs benefit to ITC Conference Grantee: he/she receives support for attending and presenting their work (poster/oral presentation) at a conference and can establish new contacts for future collaborations.

Dissemination Conference Grants (DCG) are addressed to **any COST Action participant** presenting an **oral presentation** at high-level conferences fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action.

Dissemination Conference:

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

DCGs benefit 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.

The DCGs in PIMENTO intend to increase visibility and awareness of the COST Action at well-known international events and build new contacts. International conferences the most related to the CA 20128 are available in the [Conference list 2024](https://fermentedfoods.eu/) (see at <https://fermentedfoods.eu/>).

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

WG	Title	Leader and Co-Leader
1	Build a multi-actor operational network	Biljana TRAJKOVSKA, Kathryn PIMENTEL
2	Cartography of Fermented Foods in the diet of COST Countries	Effie TSAKALIDOU, Photis PAPADEMAS
	Health benefits and risks of fermented foods	Guy VERGERES, Smilja PRACER
4	Federating scientists and Fermented Food producers to boost innovation for society	Marie Christine CHAMPOMIER VERGÈS, Antonio DELCASALE
5	Dissemination, training & events	Vittorio CAPOZZI, Elena GERBAUD

Who is eligible?

An ITC CG applicant can be a Young Researcher and Innovator, <40 years old affiliated with a legal entity strictly in ITC and NNC presenting a poster/oral presentation.

A DCG applicant can be any CA member presenting an oral presentation.

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

How to apply for an ITC CG and a DCG?

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

1. 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 for running a COST Action).
3. Applicants must have an e-COST profile with bank account information and an updated CV.
4. Applicants must complete and submit their ITC CG/DCG application on the e-COST-system using dedicated forms.

ITC CG and DCG applications must be filled in e-COST providing:

- **Title of the presentation;**
- **Conference title, date (within the active Grant Period, i.e. no overlap across two consecutive Grant Periods) and country;**
- **Total budget requested;**
- **Attendance type (face to face or virtual);**

ITC CG documentation which must be uploaded in e-COST:

- **ITC Conference Grant Application (based on e-COST [ITC CG template](#)) describing:** Relevance of the conference topic to the Action and Motivation describing the potential for impact on the applicant’s career;
- **Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral or poster presentation;**
- **Acceptance letter from the conference organisers;**
- **Other documents required by the Action:**
 - **Motivation letter**
 - **Recommendation letter from the WG leader**
 - **Breakdown of estimated costs (registration fees, travel costs, accommodation costs, daily allowances)**

DCG documentation which must be uploaded in e-COST:

- **Dissemination Conference Grant Application (based on e-COST [DCG template](#)) 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;**
- **Other documents required by the Action:**
 - **Motivation letter**
 - **Recommendation letter from the WG leader**
 - **Breakdown of estimated costs (registration fees, travel costs, accommodation costs, daily allowances)**

Priority criteria for selection

Applications will be assessed by the Assessment Committee consisted of the Chair, the Vice-Chair, the Grant Awarding Coordinator, the Science Communication Coordinator, WG Leaders and Co-leaders.

The criteria for selection of candidates are as follows:

- 1) Excellence of the application promoting the direct contribution to the PIMENTO WGs, as assessed by the Assessment Committee
- 2) Active participation of the applicant in the COST working groups, as assessed by the WG leader

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

The requested budget must be calculated based on the estimated real costs related to participation in the conference.

- ITC CG and DC grants provide a contribution for **travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, registration fee, printing of scientific poster and overall effort**. They do not necessarily cover all the expenses.
- According to the MC decision, **the maximum amount for ITC CG/DC grants is 1,500 €**. The amounts may change taking into consideration the specific conditions of the applicant and the available budget of the Action and should reflect the duration and location of the conference and the actual conference fee.
- **If the Application is approved by the Assessment Committee, the Applicant will receive a confirmation with a link to the official Grant Letter.**

Implementation of ITC CG/DCG

- The Grantee must start and complete the mobility within the approved period and carry out the activities in accordance with the approved programme described in the Application.
- In line with the visual identity of the Action, the Grantee must use **the logos** of the COST Action CA20128, the COST programme and the European Union as well as **templates** for i) PowerPoint presentations, ii) template for word documents and iii) template for posters and include **the acknowledgement** to the abstract/oral presentation/poster presentation.

One of the following sentences, which are in line with COST instructions on acknowledgements, should be used:

i) In the case of a publication from the research group dealing with PIMENTO objectives, but that was not based on activities performed within the framework of COST Action CA20128: "This publication is based upon work from COST Action CA20128 (Promoting Innovation of ferMENTed fOods; <https://fermentedfoods.eu/>), supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology; www.cost.eu)."

ii) In the case of a publication that was based on activities performed within the framework of COST Action CA20128, but for which the author did not receive money from COST to cover the publication fee: "This study was performed within the framework of COST Action CA20128 (Promoting Innovation of ferMENTed fOods; <https://fermentedfoods.eu/>), supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology; www.cost.eu)."

iii) In the case of a publication that was based on activities performed within the framework of COST Action CA20128 and for which the author did not receive money from COST to cover the publication fee: “The authors would like to acknowledge the support by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology; www.cost.eu), in the framework of COST Action CA20128 (Promoting Innovation of ferMENTed fOods; <https://fermentedfoods.eu/>).”

iv) In the case of a publication in which one of the authors has been directly financed by one of the CA20128 open calls (e.g. STSM, CG): “(Name Surname) would like to acknowledge the direct support by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology; www.cost.eu), in the framework of COST Action CA20128 (Promoting Innovation of ferMENTed fOods; <https://fermentedfoods.eu/>).”

- The Grantee must collect a **certificate of attendance** and prepare a **scientific report**.
- Scientific report templates are available in [Grant Awarding User Guide](#) or through the following links: [ITCCG Report Template](#); [DCG Report Template](#)
- The required report should describe conference details in terms of grantee’s visibility, including the establishment of new contacts for future collaborations.

After the ITC CG/DCG

Reporting and claim for payment of the grant:

- When the activity has ended, the Grantee must upload 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, the required documentation:
 - a) scientific report,
 - b) certificate of attendance,
 - c) programme of the conference or book of abstracts/proceedings indicating the oral/poster presentation,
 - d) copy of the given presentation (oral or poster for ITC CG; oral for DCG).
- The scientific report will be assessed by the PIMENTO Assessment Committee.
- If the report is approved, the Grant Holder financial and accounting department will process the Grant transfer.
- Failure to submit the scientific report within the requested period will effectively cancel the grant.

Dissemination and visibility of a grantee:

The report and the given presentation will be uploaded to the PIMENTO webpage <https://fermentedfoods.eu/> by the Grant Awarding Coordinator. It is recommended to produce photos and videos about the mobility which can be placed on the CA website, the on-line newsletter and other communication media.

For more general information on ITC CG/DCG please contact the Grant Awarding Coordinator:

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