



Open Call for

**ITC Conference Grant (ITC CG)**

**Dissemination Conference Grants (DCG)**

**Young Research and Innovator Conference Grants (YRI CG)**

Grant Period 4

**November 2024 – October 2025**

**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.

**Presentations 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, DCG and YRI CG?

**ITC Conference Grant (ITC CG)** funds an **oral presentation** of their **own** work within the scope of the Action by an Action Participant affiliated to a legal entity located in an Inclusiveness Target Country / Near Neighbour Country in a high-level conference fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized nor co-organized 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 scientists. International conferences the most related to the CA 20128 are available in the Conference list 2025 (see at <https://fermentedfoods.eu/>). In 2025, the participation in the **XXIII EuroFoodChem 2025** is welcome. Participation on the ITC conferences can contribute to increasing visibility of the Action.

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

**Dissemination Conference grant** 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.

Dissemination Conference grant:

- 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.

**Dissemination 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.

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 2025](#) (see at <https://fermentedfoods.eu/>), e.g. **XXIII EUROFOODCHEM 2025**.

**Young Researcher and Innovator Conference grant (YRI CG)** funds a presentation (**poster/oral presentation**) of their own work by a Young Researcher and Innovator (YRI) in a high-level conference fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action.

YRI Conference grant: • Serves COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy; • Supports Young Researchers and Innovators to establish a strong network and increase their visibility in the research community through sharing their work and to gain knowledge; • Can contribute to increasing visibility of the Action.

### YRI Conference grant benefits to:

- YRI Conference Grantee: receives support for attending and presenting their own work within the scope of the Action (poster/oral presentation) in a conference and can establish new contacts for future collaborations.

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 Researcher and Innovator affiliated with a legal entity strictly in ITC and NNC presenting an oral presentation.

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

**A YRI CG applicant** can be a Young Researcher and Innovator, <40 years old, CA member, presenting a poster/oral presentation.

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

### How to apply for an ITC CG, DCG and YRI CG?

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

1. Applicants must carefully read the funding rules detailed in the Annex 2 of [the Annotated Rules for COST Actions - Level C](#).
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/YRI CG application on the e-COST-system using dedicated forms.

### ITC CG, DCG and YRI CG 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 presentation;**
- **Acceptance letter from the conference organisers;**
- **Other documents required by the Action:**
  - **Motivation letter**
  - **Recommendation letter from the WG leader**
  - **Justification 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**
  - **Justification of estimated costs (registration fees, travel costs, accommodation costs, daily allowances)**

#### **YRI CG documentation which must be uploaded in e-COST:**

- **YRI Conference Grant Application (based on e-COST 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/poster presentation;**
- **Acceptance letter from the conference organisers;**
- **Other documents required by the Action:**
  - **Motivation letter**
  - **Recommendation letter from the WG leader**
  - **Justification 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 an ITC CG, DCG grant and YRI CG grants is 1,200 €**. 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/YRI CG

- 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.

### [Guidelines for Acknowledgements](#)

*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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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/YRI CG

### 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 for ITC CG and DCG, oral or poster for YRI CG).

- 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 Grantee acknowledges and consents that upon completion of the mobility, information about the mobility and the Grantee, the presentation, and visual documentation (photos, videos) will be placed on the PIMENTO website <https://fermentedfoods.eu/>, in the on-line newsletter and other communication media of the project.

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

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