

## **COST Action CA24145**

### **International Food Techno-functionality - Data (INFOTECH-DATA)**

#### **Call for applications for Dissemination conference grants (DCG)**

**for implementation from March 2026 to October 2026**

#### **Call 1**

**Continuously open  
(first come first served basis)**

### **1. About INFOTECH-DATA**

The production of food products that meet all societal requests (e.g. sustainable, biodiversity-friendly, healthy and affordable) is impaired due to a lack of data. To be specific, techno-functionality data is needed to formulate new food products. The data is currently being obtained by a widespread analysis of techno functionality using different techniques by food companies and research groups. The result is a lack of comparable, accessible and reusable data, which thus hampers the food formulation process, especially in terms of predictive decision-making. Therefore, INFOTECH-DATA (International FOod TECHno-functionality – DATA) aims to create a network and facilitate the creation of open-access databases with comparable techno-functionality data of food ingredients. The Action will create methodologies with the whole EU food science community to achieve this. The methodologies will consist of 1) standardised techno-functionality method and 2) blueprints from database architecture and data management strategies. Consensus on these methodologies will lead to an immense scientific milestone within the community and have immense technological and socio-economical impact on the food industry. Additionally, this Action will host an extensive educational programme to empower young, talented researchers, who will play a key role in implementing these methodologies in the future. By bringing together food techno-functionality and data scientists, INFOTECH-DATA will be able to create effective methodologies that will accelerate the production of healthy, sustainable and affordable foods, and, at a same time, build an interactive and collaborative community which will support these methodologies and collaborate in long-term joint research.

## 2. The key objective of the INFOTECH-DATA Action

- Determine key techno-functionalities that require standardisation;
- Develop standardised and approachable techno-functionality methodologies;
- Develop open-access databases and approachable storage methodology;
- Build a community which will support the methodologies and provide data.

## 3. Five working groups (WG) focus on work as follows

**WG1.** Validation, dissemination and implementation to ensure the long-term success of INFOTECH-DATA.

**WG2.** Review and definition of techno-functional characteristics

**WG3.** Methodology standardisation for techno-functionality analysis

**WG4.** Data infrastructure and management

**WG5.** Communication and dissemination

## 4. What is a Dissemination conference grant (DCG)

A dissemination conference grant supports an oral presentation of the work of the Action by an Action participant at a high-level conference fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action. This presentation should significantly increase the visibility of the Action in the research community, contribute to increasing visibility of the presenter, and attract additional participants and stakeholders. It must disseminate Action results to relevant end-users at high profile conferences in the field on a topic relevant to the Action.

## 5. This open call:

Applications are invited from scientists and innovators for STSMs that support the INFOTECH-DATA objectives and Working Groups as described in this document. This call is continuously open. Each application will be processed on a *first-come first-served basis*, response up to 1 month after submission.

It is especially aimed at DCGs that will be implemented from March 2026 to October 2026.

## 6. Eligibility

Grant applications can be made by any Action participant who is making an **oral** presentation of the work done in the Action. Presentations should relate strongly to one or more of the Action's Working Groups.

## 7. Financial Support

The financial support provides a contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, insurance costs, conference registration fee, and any publication costs arising.

The financial support is provided in the form of a grant. No invoices are required. The maximum grant amount for this 1<sup>st</sup> period is 2,000 EUR/per grant.

## 8. The grant awarding process

The supported activity, including reporting and payment, must be carried out entirely within one Grant Period. Each Grant Period runs from the 1 November until the 31 October of the following year.

Each application is reviewed by a minimum of two up to four MC or WG members who are guided by the Grant Awarding Coordinator. This assessment considers the relevance of the presentation and of the conference to the Action and its dissemination potential.

The Grant Awarding Coordinator advises the Action Chair who acts on the advice if the budget allows. Successful grantees receive a grant letter.

The supported activity ends when the payment is recorded. Therefore, applicants should allow time for submitting the report, evaluating it, and processing the payment within the Grant Period. This means that the work of conference participations funded in this call should be complete by 30 September to give adequate time for reporting and grant payment by 31 October.

## 9. Application procedure

Applicants must have an [e-COST profile](#) and applications must be submitted online in e-COST via <https://e-services.cost.eu/user/activity/grants>. The applicant encodes a dissemination conference grant application by logging into e-COST and selecting the 'Dissemination Conference' type option. In addition to completing the fields, the following should be uploaded:

1. Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral presentation
2. Acceptance (or invitation) letter from the conference organisers

Note: Any documents that cannot be uploaded via the e-COST interface should be sent directly to the Grant Awarding Coordinators (Cláudia P. Passos, [cpassos@ua.pt](mailto:cpassos@ua.pt) or José Bonilla, [bonilla@food.ku.dk](mailto:bonilla@food.ku.dk)) with Cc for the Chair of COST action (Jack Yang, [jack.yang@wur.nl](mailto:jack.yang@wur.nl)).

### 3. Submission of the STSM report and payment

The applicant claims the payment of the grant via e-COST when the activity has ended and the report is submitted and accepted. For this, the grantee submits the report using the dissemination conference report template before 15 October. The report should include:

- A report on the contacts made and potential future collaborations.
- The certificate of attendance to the conference.
- The programme of the conference or book of abstracts/proceedings indicating the oral presentation of the grantee.
- A copy of the given presentation.

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**Notes:** Each publication produced with support of a DCG must acknowledge the support of the COST Action and whenever possible use the COST and INFOTECH-DATA logos (on slides and posters).

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