

COST Action CA24145

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

Call for applications for Inclusiveness Target Country grants (ITC)

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 an Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC) grant

A ITC conference grant supports an oral presentation of the work given by a Researcher and Innovator affiliated in an Inclusiveness Target Country / Near Neighbour Country. The purpose is foster grantees' participation in high-level conferences fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized or co-organized by the COST Action. An ITC Conference Grantee receives support for attending and presenting their work as oral presentation at a conference. 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. This:

- Serves COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy;
- Supports Researchers and Innovators affiliated in a legal entity in an Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC)/Near Neighbour Countries (NNC) to establish a strong network and increase their visibility in the research community through sharing their work and to gain knowledge;
- Contributes to increasing visibility of the Action.

The list of COST ITCs is available [here](#), and the list of [COST NNCs](#) is available [here](#).

5. Eligibility

Grant applications need to meet the following criteria:

- The applicant must be a Researcher or Innovator with a primary affiliation in an institution located in a participating ITC or NNC;
- The applicant must make an oral presentation at the conference;
- The applicant must be listed in the official event/conference programme;
- The application should be sent at least 45 days before the start date of the conference;
- The main subject of the oral presentation at the approved conference must be relevant to one Working Group and must acknowledge COST.

For more details regarding the regulations related to ITC conference grants, please refer to the [COST ANNOTATED RULES](#).

6. Financial Support

ITC grants are a contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, and registration fee. The financial support is provided in the form of a grant. No invoices are required. The maximum grant amount for this 1st period is 2,000 EUR/per grant.

7. 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. 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.

8. 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 an ITC conference grant application by logging into e-COST and selecting the 'ITC' type option.

The following documents need to be uploaded:

1. Application form describing relevance of the conference topic to the Action and motivation describing the potential for impact on the applicant's career, available [here](#). The Application should include:
 - Title of the presentation
 - Conference title, date (within the Grant Period, i.e. no overlap across two consecutive Grant periods);
 - Budget requested;
 - Attendance type (face-to-face or virtual)
2. Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral presentation;
3. Acceptance 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 or José Bonilla, bonilla@food.ku.dk) with Cc for the Chair of COST action (Jack Yang, jack.yang@wur.nl).

9. Submission of the ITC 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 ITC report template before 15 October. The template for the report is [here](#).

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 or José Bonilla, bonilla@food.ku.dk) with Cc for the Chair of COST action (Jack Yang, jack.yang@wur.nl).

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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