

PREFACE

University of Food Technologies Plovdiv has established itself as a leading research centre in the field of food technology, biotechnology, tourism, and food-related technical sciences. This is evidenced by the number of research projects that are being developed at our university.

72nd International Scientific Conference "FOOD SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY - 2025" is an annual meeting organized by the University of food technologies, Plovdiv, Bulgaria. This year's conference was held on 13-14 November 2025. The scientific symposium program consisted of plenary sessions and included the following topics: Food Science and Technology; Food Chemistry, Microbiology and Biotechnology; Food Process Engineering; Food, nutrition and dietetics; Tourism, Linguistics.

This scientific conference was held with the support of the project: E-learning tools for Food technology and development education (E-Food); Programme: ERASMUS+ KA220-HED Project number: 2022-1-BG01-KA220-000085089; Duration: 36 months; Start: 01.12.2022 COVID-19 highlighted the importance of digital education for the digital transformation that Europe needs. The aim of the proposed project is to develop elements of an e-learning training system in the field of food technology, based on open access resources and developed on the basis of new educational standards. These general objectives and their results will be achieved through the realization of development of educational standards and materials for e-learning training for food industry. The project consortium includes partners from Bulgaria (University of Food Technologies), France (University Claude Bernard Lyon 1), Romania (University Lucian Blaga of Sibiu), Spain (University of Zaragoza) and Hungary (University of Debrecen).

Invited speakers of the conference were **Prof. Youling L Xiong**, University of Kentucky, U.S.A., Department of Animal and Food Sciences, **Prof. Tuba Esatbeyoglu**, Head of Institute of Food and One Health, Leibniz University Hannover, Germany, **Eng. Luca Bellocchio**, MSc in Chemical Engineering - Politecnico di Milano, Application Development Dept. for cryogenic processes in F&B and C&P market, SIAD Group, **Prof. Francesco Vizzarri**, National Agricultural and Food Centre, Department of Nutrition and Small farm animals, Hlohovecká 2, Lužianky, Slovakia and **Prof. Georgi Kostov**, Department of Wine and Beer Technology, University of Food Technologies, Plovdiv, Bulgaria.

Another important element is the national and international recognition of the conference. This year, scientists from USA, Italy, Slovakia, Vietnam, Israel and Poland took part in it with reports and posters. On Bulgarian part, the Conference is attended by professors and scientists from a number of universities and institutes of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Agricultural Academy. A total of 89 oral presentations and posters were presented at the conference, and all submitted materials underwent at least two anonymous reviews by experts in the relevant fields. As a result, only 53 papers were selected for publication.