
Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPTuuli

Title: Scaling precision fermentation food innovations in Europe: the role of regulatory sandboxes

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Template: General data management plan - University of Turku

Project abstract:

Precision fermentation is emerging as an important food innovation pathway in Europe, with applications in proteins, enzymes, fats, and other functional ingredients. Yet the scaling-up of such innovations takes place within a demanding EU regulatory environment shaped by the Novel Foods regulation, GMO regulation, EFSA safety assessment requirements, and broader concerns around consumer protection and public trust. While these regulations play a vital role in safeguarding health and legitimacy, they may also create uncertainty for innovators attempting to move from pilot to commercial scale. This thesis examines whether regulatory sandboxes could provide a structured governance mechanism to address such barriers. It asks how sandboxes might be designed within the European food governance system to support scaling while preserving safety, trust, and regulatory legitimacy. In doing so, the study also explores how sandbox experimentation could contribute to longer-term regulatory learning and harmonization across the European food innovation system.

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Scaling precision fermentation food innovations in Europe: the role of regulatory sandboxes

1. General description of the data

1.1 What kinds of data is your research based on? What data will be collected, produced or reused? What file formats will the data be in? Additionally, give a rough estimate of the size of the data produced and collected.

Semi-structured interviews with experts in the field of precision fermentation solutions for food applications are conducted and recorded. The collected data will be transcribed in text form and anonymised. The content of interviews is the perspectives of interviewees regarding bottlenecks in accelerating market entry of precision fermentation solutions for food applications and the role of regulatory sandboxes in scaling them up. The interviews will be approximately 45-60 minutes long.

1.2 How will the consistency and quality of data be controlled?

Consistency and quality are ensured by the use of an interview guide.

2. Ethical and legal compliance

2.1 What legal issues are related to your data management? (For example, GDPR and other legislation affecting data processing.)

[EU General Data Protection Regulation](#) (GDPR)

2.2 How will you manage the rights of the data you use, produce and share?

Data is protected by a separate privacy notice.

3. Documentation and metadata

How will you document your data in order to make it findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable for you and others? What kind of metadata standards, README files or other documentation will you use to help others to understand and use your data?

Data will not be made accessible to third parties.

4. Storage and backup during the research project

4.1 Where will your data be stored, and how will the data be backed up?

Data will be stored on the researcher's private laptop, with backup copies uploaded to the university-provided Seafile Cloud Service. The data retained on the researcher's personal computer will be kept for the required five (5) years following completion of the research and then securely destroyed. Backup data stored on the university-provided Seafile Cloud Service will be deleted once the research has been completed, and no later than 31 July 2026.

4.2 Who will be responsible for controlling access to your data, and how will secured access be controlled?

The researcher takes responsibility in controlling access to the data. No third parties have access to the data stored in researcher's laptop and external hard drive.

5. Opening, publishing and archiving the data after the research project

5.1 What part of the data can be made openly available or published? Where and when will the data, or its metadata, be made available?

Data will not be made available to any third parties and will be used solely for the purpose of drafting the researcher's Master's thesis.

5.2 Where will data with long-term value be preserved, and for how long?

Following the conclusion and acceptance of the Master's thesis work by the supervisor the data will be deleted from the university's Seafire Cloud Service (latest by 31 July 2026). The data will be retained on the researcher's personal computer for the required five (5) years following completion of the research and then securely destroyed (latest by 31 July 2031).

6. Data management responsibilities and resources

6.1 Who (for example role, position, and institution) will be responsible for data management?

Anastasia (Natasa) Mantziari, student, Turku School of Economics

6.2 What resources will be required for your data management procedures to ensure that the data can be opened and preserved according to FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Re-usable)?

Data will not be stored after the research is concluded (Seafire) and the recommended retention period of 5 years ends (researcher's personal computer).