



# BETTER

COST ACTION CA20103

Biosecurity Enhanced Through  
Training Evaluation and Raising Awareness

# Newsletter

ISSUE 1 - AUGUST 2022



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## 01. Some Words from the Chair

Dear all,

We are in our first year of the BETTER Cost Action ([www.better-biosecurity.eu](http://www.better-biosecurity.eu)) and, despite our initial challenges (e.g., postponing meetings due to covid, working online, etc), we have begun several of the tasks planned in the project, we have organized a great meeting in Lisboa (thanks Telmo Nunes and colleagues from Portugal), planned some mobilities of researchers, and we have been able to bring together 230 people from 41 different countries interested on biosecurity.

We must make a profit from this extensive network to achieve our research and capacity-building objectives and to establish new collaborations, sure we will do it. Thanks to all of you for being so active and committed to work.



**Alberto Allepuz**  
Chair

Autonomous University of  
Barcelona

 Spain



**Illias Chantziras**  
Vice-Chair

Ghent University

 Belgium

02.

# Recent Event Update: First Face-to-face Meeting in Lisbon

(8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2022)



BETTER group photo at Lisbon

The first face-to-face meeting of the BETTER COST Action was organized in Lisbon on 8–9 June 2022. In total, 84 participants from academia, international animal health organizations, and industry, coming from 33 countries attended the meeting.

## Key-note presentations

During the meeting, we had two great presentations. Jean-Pierre Vaillancourt, from the University of Montreal (Canada), gave the presentation “Biosecurity has been applied for centuries – What have we done lately?” and Rui Gaspar, from Universidade Catolica Portuguesa (Portugal), presented “A Mental Models Approach to Biosecurity Risk Communication”. Both presentations can be found on our [webpage](#). Thanks, both for giving the presentation and for sharing them with the network.



Jean-Pierre Vaillancourt



Rui Gaspar

## Flash talks and poster session

During the meeting, 19 posters were displayed based on participants contributions. Five of them were selected and presented as a flash talk:

- Kureljušić et al. Low biosecurity measures as a key factor for first African swine fever occurrence in Serbia in 2019 – case analysis.
- Ferreira et al. Biosecurity at the livestock-wild ungulates interface in the south hunting areas of Portugal.
- Plut et al. Pig Production Characteristics and Biosecurity Measures in Slovenia.
- Suprani et al. Public and private Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of AMR/AMU.
- Ibrahim et al. Biosecurity in small-scale poultry farms in Bangladesh.

## Parallel working group meetings

The different working groups ([www.better-biosecurity.eu/structure](http://www.better-biosecurity.eu/structure)) had some time to discuss their current activities. Planning of activities was agreed upon by the members.

## World café on stakeholder's engagement

On the first day of the face-to-face meeting in Lisbon, all participants were involved in a World café with 4 tables of discussion.

The aim was to emerge ideas on the needs and expectations of stakeholders, negative and positive determinants of stakeholder engagement, and finally, to identify practical proposals of how to engage stakeholders in livestock biosecurity.



Brainstorming as a “serious” game



Maria Costa & Giovanna Ciaravino



04.

# Upcoming Events



## TRAINING SCHOOL

### A first training school on biosecurity SOPs will take place in Liège, Belgium, between 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2022.

The objective of this training school is to gain knowledge and practical skills in livestock biosecurity and how to concept, design, implement and assess biosecurity standard operating procedures (SOPs) in a Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. It will take place in Liège between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2022.

The deadline for applications is the **15<sup>th</sup> of September.**

 [FURTHER INFO CAN BE FOUND HERE](#)



## MEETING

### Next face-to-face meeting in Ghent, Belgium between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2023.



The forthcoming 2023 Annual General Meeting of the COST action BETTER will be held in Ghent, Belgium, on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of February. With its beautiful medieval center and its lively and lovely folk, Ghent will not let you down.

We are working on creating an interesting agenda with plenary lectures, and oral and poster presentations of the most recent research findings that will provide the participants the state-of-the-art of biosecurity in Europe.

More information regarding the agenda and the venue will follow.

05.

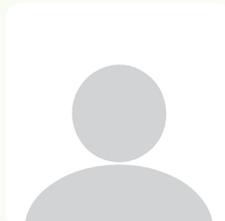
# STSM and VM in Progress and to be Conducted



Six participants of the COST Action BETTER will receive short-term scientific mission and virtual mobility grants to perform scientific activities for different WG and in different institutions, until the end of 2022.



**Marta Leite**, from the National Institute for Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences (INIAV) in Portugal, will conduct an STSM in November at the University of Padua (Italy), hosted by Alessandra Piccirillo and Giuditta Tilli. During the STSM, Marta will contribute to WG1 by reviewing and collecting data on biosecurity in commercial poultry farms and during transport across Europe.



**Sebastián Jesús Moya Durán**, from the national institute of research in agriculture, nutrition and the environment (Institut national de recherche pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation et l'environnement, INRA) in France will contribute to WG2 by developing a protocol for reviewing the social, economic and psychological factors affecting the decision-making of biosecurity measures by farmers, veterinarians, and traders. He will conduct this work through virtual mobility that will finish by the end of August.



**Fernando Duarte-Godoy** from the Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain) is conducting during July a virtual mobility for WG3. During this period, he has been developing a questionnaire to identify methods used to assess biosecurity.



**Aya Attia Koraney Zarea**, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro in Bari (Italy), will conduct an STSM to contribute to WG4 activities during November 2022 in Çukurova University hosted by Handan Hilal Arslan. During this time, she will prepare a questionnaire for research institutes, universities, government bodies, and other stakeholders that can be used to identify all existing training and research projects on biosecurity according to animal species.



**Metin Petek**, from Bursa Uludag University (Turkey), will visit the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences located in Uppsala (Sweden) in September. He will conduct an STSM hosted by Lena-Mari Tamminen and Susana Sternberg-Lewerin and will contribute to WG3 activities by designing the search methodology for the literature review for assessing biosecurity and its benefits.



**Ivana Milosevic-Stankovic** from Star Impex (Serbia) is conducting a virtual mobility during July. She is performing a literature review under the supervision of Marnie Brennan from the University of Nottingham (United Kingdom) to identify different methods that have been used to achieve consensus on definitions. Such methodologies will be further reviewed to identify the best consensus method to be applied to further work on the biosecurity definition.

06.

# BETTER in Numbers



- 41** Countries participating
- 230** Members participating in the Working Groups
- 53** Management Committee members
- 06** Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) and Virtual mobility grants (by end of 2022)
- 34** Full COST Members
- 02** Near Neighbor Countries: Jordania, Tunisia
- 04** International Partner Countries: Australia, Argentina, Canada and New Zealand
- 01** COST Partner Member: Israel



**21% of Action time completed by August 2022**

Start date – 21/10/2021

End date – 20/10/2025



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