



BETTER

COST ACTION CA20103

Biosecurity Enhanced Through
Training Evaluation and Raising Awareness

Newsletter

Issue 04 | July 2023



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01.

Some Words from the Chair

Dear all,

I think we had a great year with different interesting activities running, different meetings (we just had a great face-to-face meeting in Tirana) and several mobilities between institutions (i.e., Short Term Scientific Missions) planned for the next months. I hope you all have a good rest this summer and get enough energy to continue with this great work after the summer break.



Alberto Allepuz
Chair


Autonomous University of
Barcelona

 Spain



Ilias Chantziaras
Vice-Chair

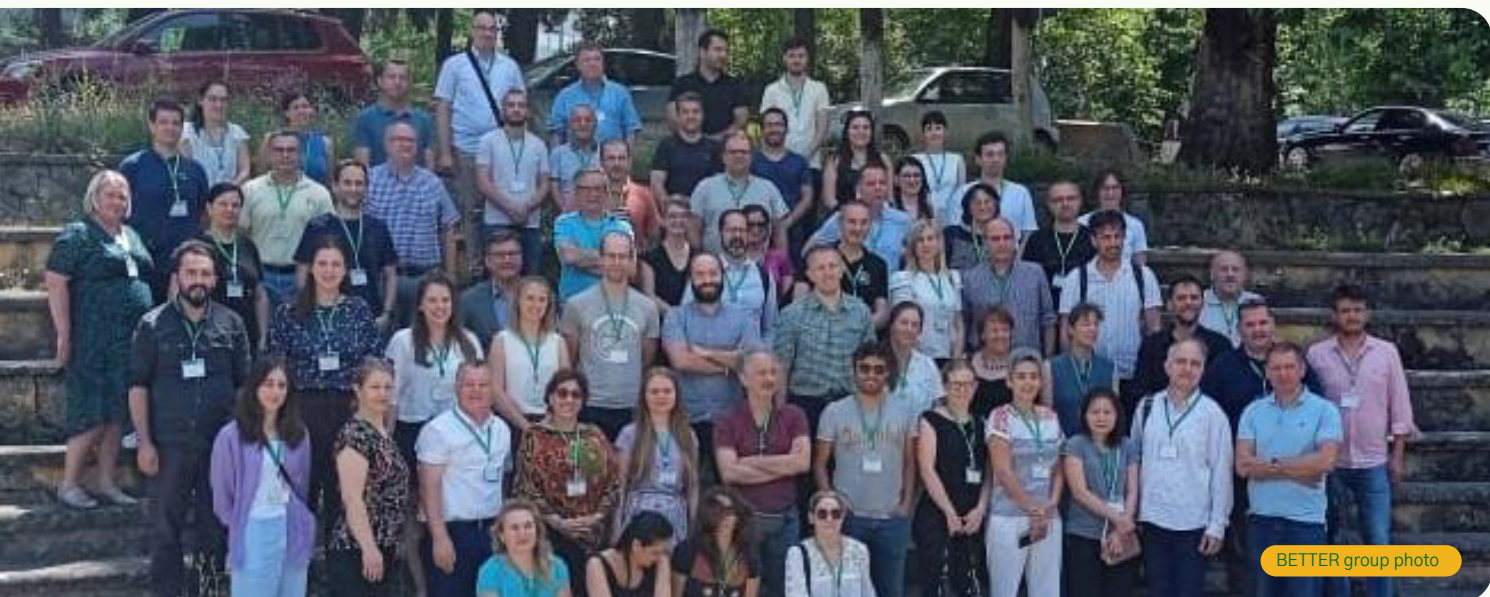
Ghent University

 Belgium

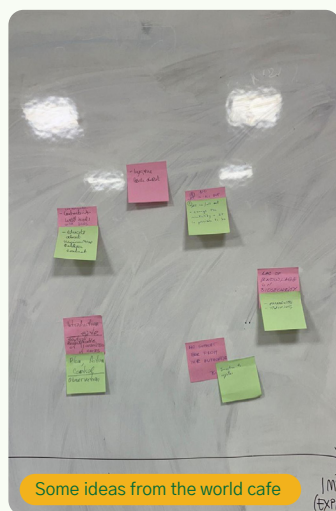
02.

Recent event update: Tirana meeting

(20 – 21st of June 2023)



Around 75 people attended our fourth BETTER meeting. On day 1 of the meeting, a plenary session was held on the topic of challenges on implementation of biosecurity in smallholder farms with the participation of Susanna Sternberg from SLU and of Laura Batista, a swine consultant. Following these inspiring sessions, a world café on the same topic took place, during which, we discussed over challenges and possible solutions of related issues in different groups. After this session, selected oral presentations from the BETTER group were presented and discussions were held in each WG parallel session.



On day 2, an interesting session on Biosecurity in the Balkan area was provided by some of the members of BETTER. In addition, we had the participation of Polychronis Kostoulas (Chair from the COST Action Harmony) who provided a talk about diagnostic accuracy and its impact on Biosecurity.

The different presentations held in the agenda can be found here: <https://better-biosecurity.eu/repository/>

The book of abstracts can also be found here: <https://better-biosecurity.eu/repository/>

03.

Work in Progress



What are the different working groups doing at this moment?

WG1

“Mapping biosecurity measures applied on farms and transport across Europe”

Data collection on biosecurity practices applied in animal production systems has been completed and will be analysed in the following months. Moreover, a new subgroup in small ruminants has been created. The activity on biosecurity in settings more challenging to be applied has also been initiated.

Further info contact WG leaders:

Jasna Prodanov-Radulovic (jasna@niv.ns.ac.rs) or Telmo Nunes (tnunes@fmv.ulisboa.pt)

WG2

“Scaling-up the knowledge and experience of stakeholders”

Data from the survey to assess consumers' perception of biosecurity and the role they could play in disease spread will be analyzed in the following months. The literature reviews on the social, economic, and psychological factors affecting the decision-making to implement biosecurity measures by farmers, veterinarians and traders are progressing.

Further info contact WG leaders:

Maria Costa (maria.costa@sruc.ac.uk) or Giovanna Ciaravino (giovanna.ciaravino@uab.cat)

WG3

“Methods for evaluation of biosecurity and benefits of its implementation”

Data collected through the online survey about methods currently used in different countries to assess biosecurity will be analyzed in the following months. The literature review on methods to assess biosecurity and to demonstrate the benefits of implementing biosecurity is progressing and first brainstorming sessions have been done to tackle the next objective which is “to evaluate the effectiveness of improvement biosecurity programs”.

Further info contact WG leaders:

Lena-Mari Tamminen (lena.mari.tamminen@slu.se) or Miroslav Kjosevski (miro@fvm.ukim.edu.mk)

WG4

“Training and dissemination”

The survey on the identification of training needs on biosecurity among different stakeholders has been launched. It has been elaborated together with the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe and intend to collect information about ongoing or past biosecurity and herd health management research projects and training. The survey is mainly targeted to the veterinary schools, veterinary associations, research centres, agricultural colleges, government bodies, farming and livestock sector organizations and other who are involved with the topics.

Please, collaborate in disseminating the survey which is available in this link: <https://emu.questionpro.com/Betterwg4>

Further info contact WG leaders:

Claude Saegerman (claude.saegerman@uliege.be) or Tarmo Niine (tarmo.niine@emu.ee) or Niemi Jarkko (jarkko.niemi@luke.fi)

Science communication

To increase the communication and visibility of our work, together with the development of the [Action's webpage](#), a LinkedIn and a Twitter account have been set up: COST BETTER (LinkedIn) and BETTERbiosecurity (Twitter). We are happy that the number of followers of these accounts keeps rising and counts almost 500 followers in total (07/2023).

We invite you to follow these pages, so that you stay updated for useful and interesting information linked to the activities of the Action and biosecurity! We also invite all of you to share information about activities linked to the Action and biosecurity! You can easily do this by typing @COST BETTER in your LinkedIn post, and @BETTERcost in your Twitter post.



Marilena Filippitzi
Science Communication Coordinator
(mefilippi@vet.auth.gr)

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH)
Greece

Webinar series

Our COST action BETTER has launched a series of webinars focusing on various topics related to farm biosecurity. A dedicated place for the webinars in our BETTER web page has been created.

Please, visit the following link:

<https://better-biosecurity.eu/webinars/>

04.

Upcoming Events

MEETINGS

Next meeting location



Padova, Italy

Our next BETTER meeting will be conducted in Padova (Italy) from the 6th to the 7th of February 2024. Further details will follow, but please, for the moment SAVE THE DATE.

WG Meetings

In the late September beginning of October, three WG meetings (with the option to connect online) will be done with a reduced number of participants:

- WG1 meeting: in the University of Belgrade–Faculty of Agriculture (Serbia) from 25th to 26th of September.
- WG2 meeting: in the Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain) from 28th to 29th of September 2023.
- WG3 meeting: in the Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain) from 9th to 10th of October 2023.

05.

STSM and VM Grants

We have had a great success in our last call and several candidates have received a grant for an STSM or VM grant.

10 different topics (9 STSM and one VM) were offered and all of them have received applications to be conducted.



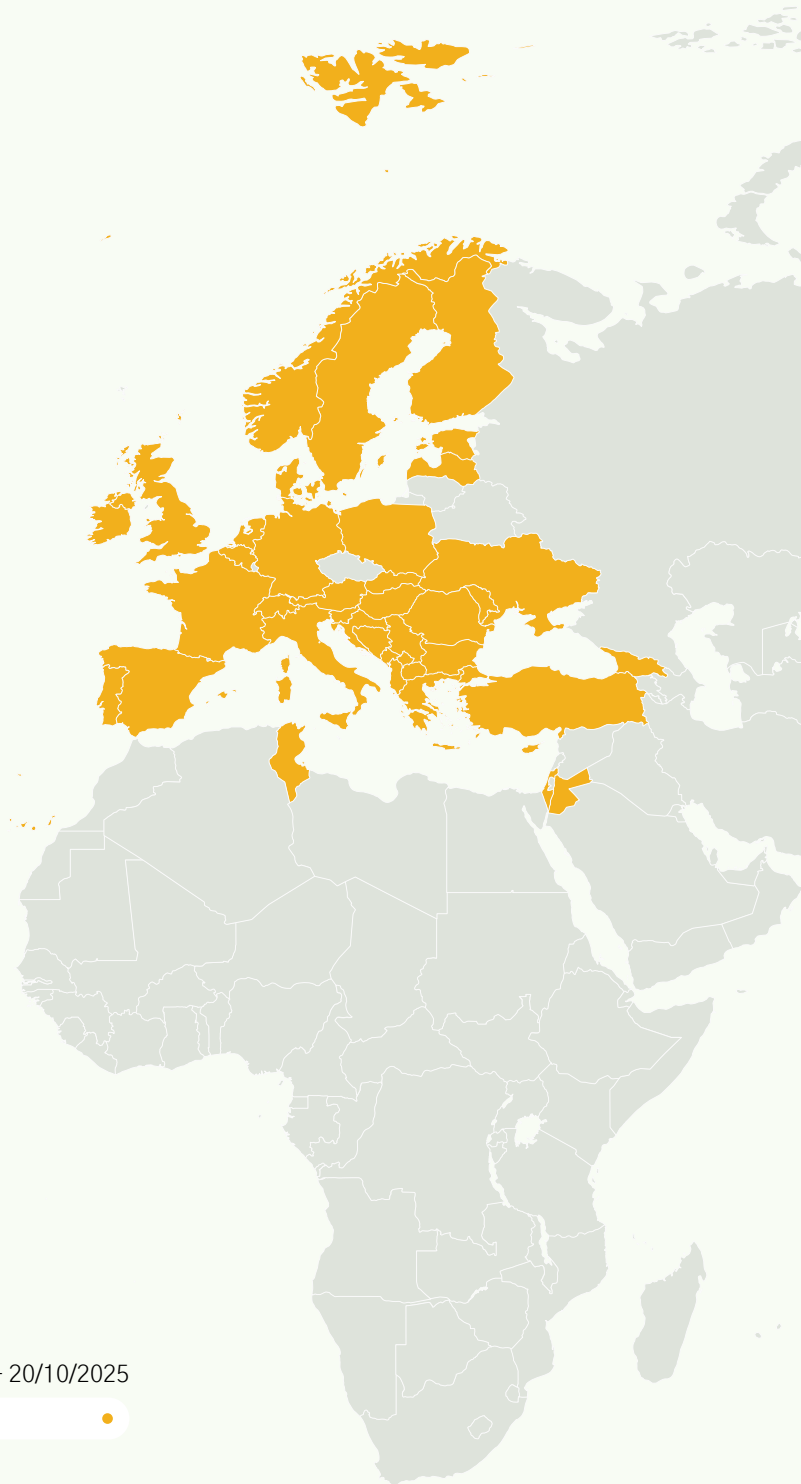
06.

BETTER in Numbers



BETTER

- 45** Countries participating
- 35** Full COST Members
- 02** Near Neighbor Countries: Jordania, Tunisia
- 06** International Partner Countries: Australia, Argentina, Burkina Faso, India, Canada and New Zealand
- 01** COST Partner Member: Israel
- 315** Members participating in the Working Groups
- 54** Management Committee members
- 06** 3 Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) and 3 Virtual mobility grants conducted



43.8% of Action time completed in July 2023

Start date – 21/10/2021

End date – 20/10/2025



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