



# BETTER

COST ACTION CA20103

Biosecurity Enhanced Through  
Training Evaluation and Raising Awareness

# Newsletter

Issue 05 | December 2023



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## 01. Some Words from the Chair

Dear all,

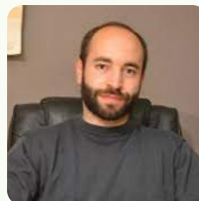
We have arrived at the end of the year, and I hope you all have some time to rest and enjoy with your families. We just begun our third granting period, and we have reached the halfway point of our project. Now is time to begin to disseminate the achievements that we have had until now and to establish new goals and objectives for the second part of our Action. Several interesting activities are on the way to achieve this, so thanks once again for your great work.



**Alberto Allepuz**  
Chair

Autonomous University of  
Barcelona

 Spain



**Ilias Chantziaras**  
Vice-Chair

Ghent University

 Belgium



**BETTER**

02.

# Recent event update: Small working group meetings

(September – October 2023)

Small working group meetings were performed in Serbia and Spain during September and October 2023. Around 10 people attended each meeting and good progress was made with WG activities.

## Group photos

### WG1



Members of working group 1 at the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Belgrade (Serbia)



Members of working group 1 during the meeting

### WG2



Working group 2 discussions at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain)



Working group 2 members having dinner in Barcelona



WG3 Group photo

### WG3

WG3 members after the meeting at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain)



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 in poultry, pigs and cattle production systems has been completed and has been analysed. Publications are being prepared. The activity on biosecurity in small farms has been initiated. Two surveys are under development. One intends to capture the different existing definitions about small farms and which biosecurity measures are mandatory. The other will target field vets and animal health technicians, to identify attitude towards biosecurity in small farms animal production and identificatory of areas that they see as feasible and useful to improve.

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 for consumers to assess their perception of biosecurity and the role they could play in disease spread has been analyzed and a paper is under preparation. Data extraction on the literature reviews on the social, economic, and psychological factors affecting the decision-making to implement biosecurity measures by farmers, veterinarians and traders is progressing. Participative actions to evaluate how biosecurity is being communicated are being designed.

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 has been analyzed and a paper is under development. 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 “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 done and data analysed. Participative actions to evaluate training needs are under development. The paper entitled “Scanning European needs and expectations related to livestock biosecurity training by using the World Café method” was submitted.

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 (<https://better-biosecurity.eu/>), a LinkedIn and a Twitter account have been set up: COST BETTER (LinkedIn) and BETTERbiosecurity (Twitter).

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.

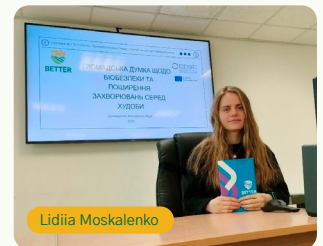
03.

# Work in Progress



## Dissemination activities

- Evelien Biebaut et al., from Ghent University (Belgium), sent an abstract entitled “Mapping biosecurity legislation in the intensive pig production across Europe” to the 15th European Symposium of Porcine Health Management, to be conducted in June 2024 in Leipzig (Germany).
- Alexandrina Sirbu, from the Constantin Brancoveanu University of Pitesti (Romania), presented our Action at an EFSA meeting conducted in Bucharest (Romania) the 12th of October. More info [here](#).
- Xhelil Koleci et al., from the Agricultural University of Tirana, presented our Action during the [4th International Conference on Agriculture and Life Science](#) conducted during November 2023 in Tirana (Albania).
- Alberto Allepuz, from the Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain), presented the webinar “First two years of the BETTER project – A COST Action to improve biosecurity in farmed animals” in the webinar series organized by the Veterinary Public Health Institute of Bern University (Switzerland). You can find the presentation [here](#)
- Jarkko Niemi et al., from Natural Resources Institute Finland (Lue) presented a poster “Biosecurity enhanced through training evaluation and raising awareness” presented at the 2023 international ISES-SAH conference, June 13–15, 2023, Helsinki, Finland.
- Several abstracts have been sent for the next Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine conference (SVEPM) to be conducted in Uppsala in March 2024:
  - Fernando Duarte et al., from the Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain) “Characterization of methods used to assess biosecurity on animal production farms in different countries.”
  - Lidiia Moskalenko et al., from the Institute of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences (Estonia) “What does the general public know about biosecurity and disease spread in livestock?”
  - Helena Ferreira et al., from ILVO (Belgium) “Review of social, economic and psychological factors affecting decision making around biosecurity”.
- Lidiia Moskalenko et al., from the Institute of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences (Estonia) presented our COST Action BETTER in the international conference conducted in Ukraine “Biosecurity, safety and welfare of animals” in December 2023



Lidiia Moskalenko

## Webinar series

BETTER Webinar series is running. You can see the videos of past webinars by clicking the link on the right.



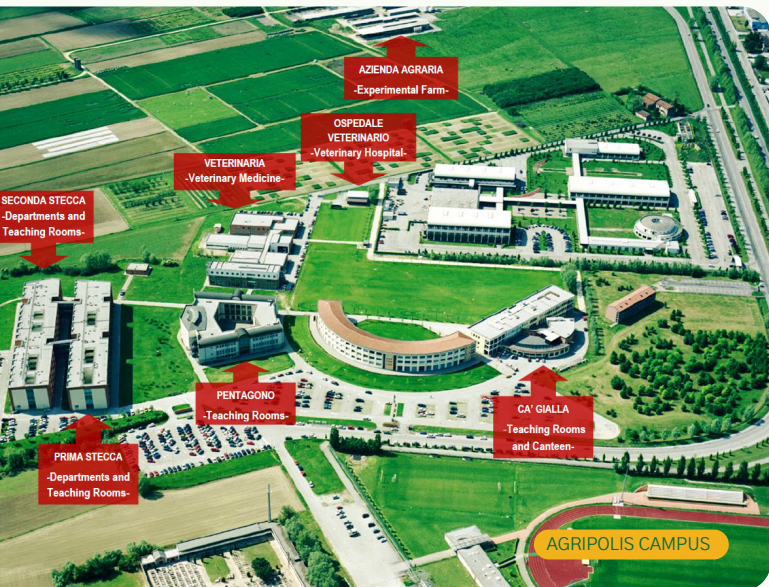
Don't miss the webinars planned for the coming months:

Presenter	Topic	Date and time
Laura Valeria Alarcón (Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina)	To improve the level of application of biosecurity in pig farms: group methodology	13/12/2023 at 2:00 pm CET
Pankaj Dhaka (Centre for One Health, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, India)	Securing the Sustainability of Dairy Farming in India: A Comprehensive Overview of Biosecurity Measures and Implementation	10/1/2023 at 2:00 pm CET
Saúl Jiménez (IREC, Spain)	Standardisation of biosecurity methods in outdoor Iberian farms	14/2/2023 at 2:00 pm CET

# 04. Upcoming Events

## MEETINGS

### Next meeting locations



Our next BETTER meeting will be conducted in Padova from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2024.



### Save the date

Remember that in 30 and 31st of May 2024 our next BETTER meeting will be conducted in Tartu (Estonia).

## TRAINING SCHOOLS

### Next training school

The 18th and 19th of March 2024, two days before the Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine conference (SVEPM) conference, a training school will be conducted around the topic of biosecurity assessment in farmed animals.

The training will be conducted in Uppsala. Interested people can already apply for the training.

The deadline to apply for this training school is the 12th of January.





# 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.

## Topic 1: Biosecurity mapping in pig production systems in Europe

- Evelien Biebaut, Ghent University, Belgium

## Topic 2: Biosecurity mapping in cattle production systems in Europe

- Bojan Milovanović, Institute of Veterinary Medicine of Serbia, Serbia.

## Topic 3: Biosecurity mapping in poultry production systems in Europe

- Ilias Chantziaras, Ghent University, Belgium.
- Marta Leite, University of Coimbra, Portugal.

## Topic 4: General public and biosecurity

- Lidiia Moskalenko, Institute of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences, Estonia.

## Topic 5: Review on social, economic, and psychological factors affecting decision making of biosecurity

- Helena Cardoso de Carvalho Ferreira, Instituut voor Landbouw (ILVO), Belgium.
- Mehmet Murat Dogusan, Mehmet Akif Ersoy University, Turkey.

## Topic 6: Analysis of literature review on methods for assessing biosecurity and its benefits

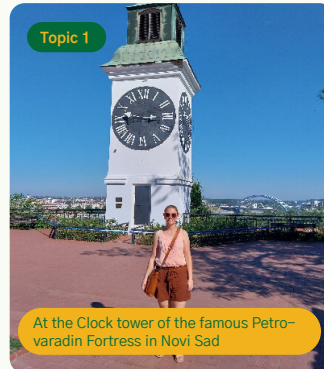
- Lena-Mari Tamminen, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden.
- Miroslav Kjosevski, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, North Macedonia.
- Murat Yilmaz, Osmaniye Korkut Ata University, Turkey.

## Topic 7: Methods used to assess biosecurity

- Fernando Duarte Godoy, University Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain.

## Topic 8: Mapping on biosecurity projects and trainings

- Anna Maria Iatrou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.
- Georgis Batikas, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.



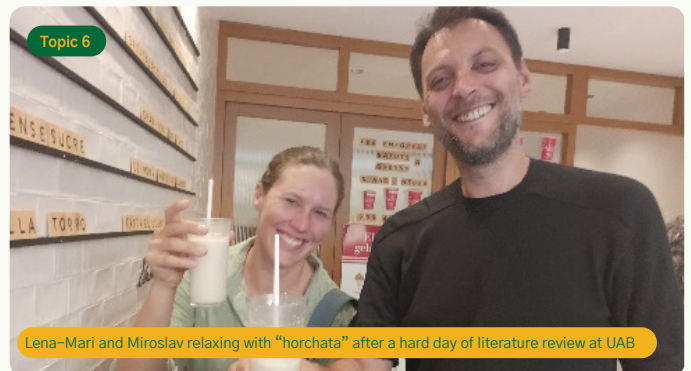
Topic 1

At the Clock tower of the famous Petrovaradin Fortress in Novi Sad



Topic 4

Lidiia Moskalenko at UAB



Topic 6

Lena-Mari and Miroslav relaxing with "horchata" after a hard day of literature review at UAB



Topic 7

Group photo with the team during the STSM of Fernando at Ghent University



Topic 8

Anna M. Iatrou working at the Institute of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences in Estonia

## VMs topics in the second call and selected applicants:

### Topic 9: Mapping on existing biosecurity websites

- Maria Eleni Filippitzi, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.

### Topic 10: Structured review of the literature focused on methods for achieving consensus

- Marietta Máté, University of Veterinary Medicine Budapest, Hungary.

06.

# BETTER in Numbers



- 47** Countries participating
- 37** Full COST Members
- 02** Near Neighbor Countries: Jordania, Tunisia
- 07** International Partner Countries: Australia, Argentina, Burkina Faso, Canada, Cameroon, India, and New Zealand
- 01** COST Partner Member: Israel
- 331** Members participating in the Working Groups
- 55** Management Committee members
- 21** 16 Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) and 5 Virtual mobility grants conducted.
- 06** 1 Training school and 5 webinars conducted.
- 01** Paper published.



**56.3% of Action time completed in December 2023**

Start date – 21/04/2021

End date – 20/10/2025



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