



BETTER

COST ACTION CA20103

Biosecurity Enhanced Through
Training Evaluation and Raising Awareness

Newsletter

Issue 06 | April 2024



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01.

Some Words from the Chair

Dear all,

We are arriving to the end of our third granting period, and we have been able to achieve most of our goals planned for this period. We have significantly increased our visibility through the participation in several conferences and relevant meetings and we are beginning to prepare the first drafts of several papers.

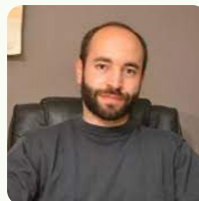
Thanks again for your great effort and contributions to our Action.



Alberto Allepuz
Chair

Autonomous University of
Barcelona

 Spain



Ilias Chantziaras
Vice-Chair

Ghent University

 Belgium

02. Recent event update

General meeting in Padua

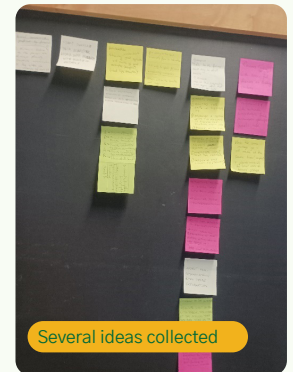
(6th –7th February 2024)



BETTER



Group photo at the meeting in Padua



Several ideas collected

During these two days we had the opportunity to interact and listen to progress made by the Net-poulsafe project.

We also had several short presentations from BETTER members and lots of good ideas written in posits around communication on biosecurity, improvement programs and contents for webs targeting biosecurity and trainings for vets and farmers.

Presentations provided during the general meeting can be found in our repository [here](#).

Training school in Uppsala

(18th –19th March 2024)

A training school on biosecurity assessment and motivation interviews has been conducted in Uppsala (Sweden) hosted by Lena-Mari Tamminen from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. During these two days attendants were trained on how to assess biosecurity in a farm, how to perform a good report on biosecurity and how to communicate to promote behavioural change.

The course had several practical activities including a visit to a dairy farm in which trainees assessed biosecurity, oral presentations, and open discussion with veterinarians from the farm to discuss possible improvements and a role play to put into practice motivational interview skills in which several participants demonstrated to be good actors.

The trainer team was composed by Lena-Mari Tamminen and Catarina Svenson from SLU (Sweden), Mattias Delpont from ENVT (France) and Alberto Allepuz from UAB (Spain).

Special thanks also for colleagues from SLU (Niclas Högberg, Karin Alvasen and Ulf Emanuelson) to become farmers during one day.

Fig. 1 – SLU colleagues preparing themselves to act as farmers during the farm visit

Fig. 2 – During the visit to the dairy farm to assess biosecurity.

Fig. 3 – During the visit to the dairy farm to assess biosecurity.

Fig. 4 – Review of the data collected during the assessment at the dairy farm and preparing the report on biosecurity to propose recommendations on possible improvements

Fig. 5 – Vets (on the right) putting into practice the concepts of motivational interviews through a tough discussion with farmers (on the left).

Fig. 6 – Social dinner after the first day in the training school.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

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. Surveys on small farms definitions and biosecurity practices on this type of farms have been launched.

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 have been initiated.

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 a descriptive paper will be prepared in the following months. The next task related to evaluate the effectiveness of improvement biosecurity programs has already begun.

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” has been published and can be downloaded from [here](#).

A paper will be prepared in the following months integrating the results from the different world cafes and the survey.

Further info contact WG leaders:

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

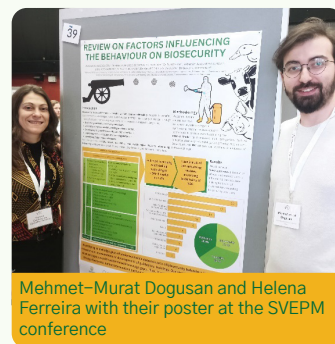
Science communication

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)**.

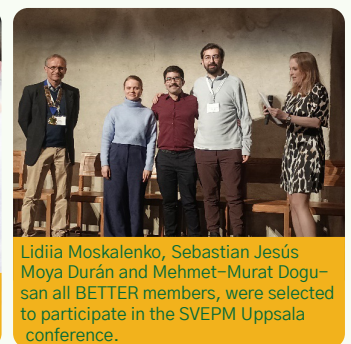
We invite you to follow these pages, so that you stay updated for useful and interesting information linked to the activities of the Action and biosecurity! We also invite all of you to share information about activities linked to the Action and biosecurity! You can easily do this by typing @COST BETTER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

Dissemination activities

- Evelien Biebaut et al., from Ghent University (Belgium), has received a dissemination grant from BETTER to present the 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).
- Dogusan et al., from Burdur University (Türkiye) presented a poster entitled “Review of factors influencing the behaviour on biosecurity” in the SVEPM conference conducted from 20–22 March in Uppsala (Sweden).



Mehmet-Murat Dogusan and Helena Ferreira with their poster at the SVEPM conference



Lidija Moskalenko, Sebastian Jesús Moya Durán and Mehmet-Murat Dogusan all BETTER members, were selected to participate in the SVEPM Uppsala conference.

03.

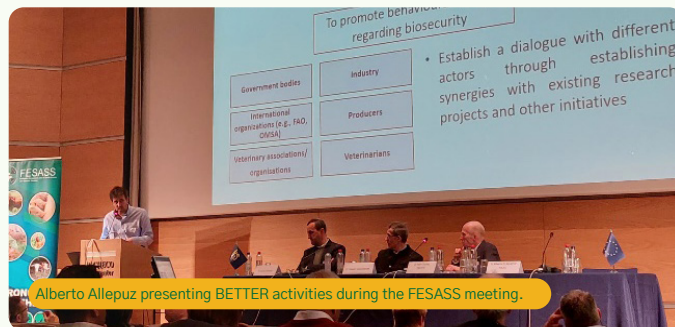
Work in Progress



Participation in relevant events

Alberto Allepuz (UAB) presented our Action in European Symposium on biosecurity in livestock farms organized by FESASS. The title of the presentation was “BETTER project – A COST Action to improve biosecurity in farmed animals”.

The meeting had the participation of several CVOs, Veterinary Attachés, DG SANTE, DG AGRI, EFSA, other representatives of the competent authorities, private vets, representatives of FESASS organizations, WOA and FAO, stakeholders’ representatives.



Webinar series

Our COST action BETTER Webinar series is running. You can see the videos of the different webinars by clicking the link on the right.

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



04.

Upcoming Events

MEETINGS

Next meeting location



Save the date!

Our next BETTER meeting will be conducted the 30th and 31st of May 2024 in Tartu (Estonia). In the Estonian University of Life Sciences.



05.

STSM and VM Grants



We have had launch a new call with several interesting topics to contribute to our BETTER Action.

Topic 1: Biosecurity analysis of biosecurity legislation/ compliance in cattle production systems in Europe

- **Host institution:** GD Animal Health (Netherlands)
- **Supervisor:** Inge Santman-Berends

Topic 2: General public and biosecurity

- **Host institution:** Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) – Inverness campus, Scotland, UK
- **Supervisors:** Maria Costa and Kate Lamont

Topic 3: Review on social, economic and psychological factors affecting decision making of biosecurity

- **Host institution:** Lusófona University, Lisbon, Portugal
- **Supervisors:** Rui Gaspar

Topic 4: Analysis of literature review on methods for assessing biosecurity and its benefits

- **Host institution:** Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, North Macedonia
- **Supervisors:** Miroslav Kjosevski

Topic 5: Define criteria for evaluation of biosecurity improvement programs

- **Host institution:** Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
- **Supervisors:** Lena-Mari Tamminen

Topic 6: Putting together a publication: What is a “good” biosecurity training or website for a farmer or a veterinarian

- **Host institution:** LUKE (Finland)
- **Supervisors:** Jarkko Niemi

Open Calls

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 26TH OF APRIL

Want to know more details about the 3rd Call for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) and Virtual Mobility Grants (VM)?

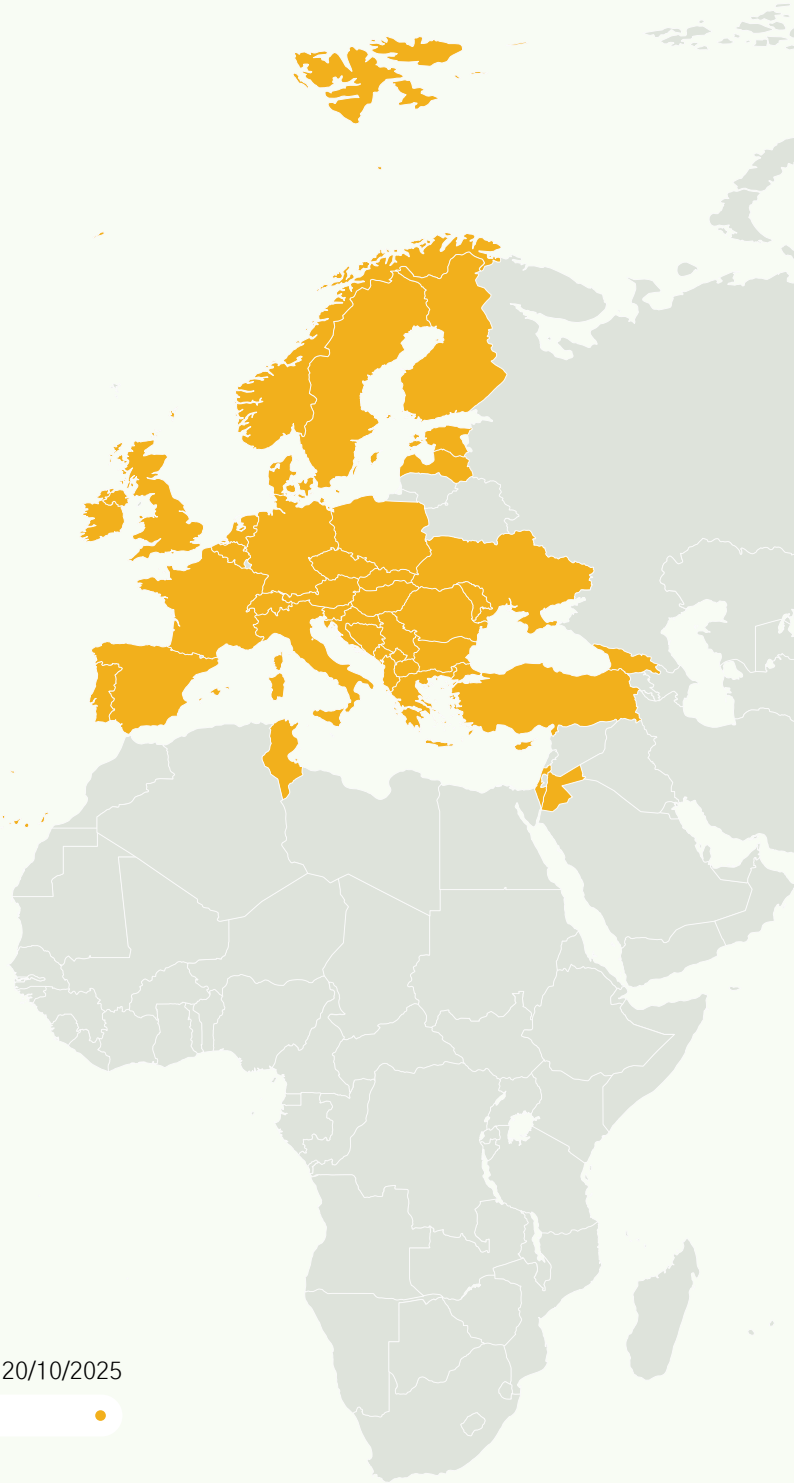


06.

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
- 347** Members participating in the Working Groups
- 55** Management Committee members
- 21** 16 Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) and 5 Virtual mobility grants conducted.
- 10** 2 Training schools and 8 webinars conducted.
- 02** Papers published.



62.5% of Action time completed in March 2024

Start date – 21/10/2021

End date – 20/10/2025



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