

Second Period Report

BetterCare - COST Action 22152
2024-2025





BetterCare Meetings

Hybrid meetings

28-29/11/2024 — Alicante (Spain)

Global Summit on Medication Safety in Homecare

(International summit on medication safety in home care)

26/06/2025 — Zagreb (Croatia)

WG2 Meeting (third in-person meeting)

(Mapping and evaluation of materials, final glossary, publication strategy)

27/06/2025 — Zagreb (Croatia)

Core Group Meeting

(Updates on WG activities, STSM mobility programme, cooperation and next steps)



BetterCare Meetings

In-person meetings

26/01/2025 — Helsinki (Finland)
WG3 Meeting
(Regular WG3 technical meeting)

16/02/2025 — Valletta (Malta)
WG1 Meeting
(Regular WG1 technical meeting)

20/04/2025 — Alicante (Spain)
WG3 Meeting
(Regular WG3 technical meeting)

17/06/2025 — Helsinki (Finland)
WG3: Meeting with decision-makers
(Ministry of Social Affairs and Health)
(Discussion with ministry representatives
on key Bettercare issues)

18/06/2025 — Helsinki (Finland)
WG3: Meeting with a Member of
Parliament (Policy-oriented discussion
on Bettercare priorities)



BetterCare Meetings

In-person meetings

22-24/09/2025 — Wiesbaden, Germany
2nd Training School

16-17/10/2025 — Msida (Malta)
WG1 & WG4 Joint Preparatory Meeting
(Joint preparation of WG1 and WG4 activities)

24/10/2025 — Munich (Germany)
Bettercare Munich Meeting
(Ensuring Bettercare's impact on key stakeholders and critical audiences)



BetterCare Meetings

Online meetings

08/12/2024

Core Group Online Meeting

(General updates and coordination)

15/12/2024

WG4 Online Meeting

(Regular WG4 coordination)

12/01/2025

WG3 Online Meeting

(Regular WG3 coordination)

12/01/2025

WG1 Online Meeting

(Regular WG1 coordination)

16/01/2025

WG2 Organisational Meeting

(Review of pending tasks and approach to the glossary)

14/02/1995

Bettercare – Eurocarers Meeting

(Common priorities and possible joint activities)

04/03/2025

CA22152 Bettercare WG3 Case Studies Q&A Meeting

(Questions and clarifications on WG3 case studies)



BetterCare Meetings

Online meetings

11/03/2025

Bettercare. WG2 Online Meeting

(Review of WG2 aims, glossary, Bettercare survey results, scoping review topic, educational materials and Zagreb planning)

06/04/2025

Core Group Online Meeting

(General updates and coordination)

08/04/2025

WG3 Case Study Monitoring (III)

(Review of survey progress per country against the plan)

16/05/2025

WG1 Meeting with WG Co-Leaders

(Improving communication, planning Zagreb, blog section, activity update and coordination)

25/06/2025

Bettercare WG3 Meeting

(Ensuring Bettercare's impact on key stakeholders and critical audiences)

26/06/2025

WG2 Online Meeting

(Follow-up to in-person meeting and preparation of next tasks)



BetterCare Meetings

Online meetings

17/07/2025

WG4 Online Meeting

(Regular WG4 coordination)

27/10/2025

Management Committee Online Meeting

(Reports on STSM grants, dissemination, meetings, budget and gender plan)

GLOBAL SUMMIT

ON MEDICATION SAFETY IN HOME CARE

NOVEMBER
28th & 29th
2024



Event hosted at **Miguel Hernandez University, Sant Joan Campus – Severo Ochoa Building**
Conference Room – **Sant Joan d'Alacant, Alicante (Spain)**

Or you can access online by clicking the next link:

<https://zoom.us/j/93509179263?pwd=Y6rtW90livtIWfXKprCOa4aUg8n6nb.1>

Global Summit 2024

Alicante - Spain

This past November 28th–29th, Alicante proudly hosted the Global Summit of COST Action BetterCare (CA22152) at the Sant Joan Campus of Miguel Hernández University. The event brought together experts and professionals to discuss advancements in preventing home care errors and improving patient safety.

Over these two days, participants shared innovative solutions, participated in inspiring presentations, and engaged in collaborative exchanges that emphasized the importance of supporting caregivers and strengthening the quality of care at home.

Face to face attendees: 60

Online attendees: 120



CIAORG/2023/145 - Conselleria d'Educació, Universitats i Ocupació (Department of Education, Universities and Occupation)

This report is based upon work from COST Action, BetterCare, CA22152, supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology).
COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers.
This boosts their research, career and innovation.



STSM 2025

Short Term Scientific Missions

Visits between April 7th to 20th September 2025



STSM Participants

Short Term Specific Mission

Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) is a collaboration opportunity within the COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) framework that allows researchers to visit a host institution in another country.

• 8 participants this period

Prof. Balázs Juhász — Hungary

Prof. Anatoliy Goncharuk — Norway

Dr. Ali Galip Ayvat — Türkiye

Prof. Pınar Ayvat — Türkiye

Prof. Sandra C. Buttigieg — Malta

Ms. Nida Abed — Israel

Sr. Alejandro Gil Salmerón — Spain

Dr. Aleksandar Petrovski — North Macedonia



STSM Mobility Grants aim at promoting individual mobility, strengthening Bettercare networks, and fostering collaboration between PhD students, residents, and young researchers pursuing the objectives of the COST Action 22152.

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2nd Training School BetterCare

Wiesbaden, Germany – September 22nd–24th 2025
RheinMain University of Applied Sciences



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2nd Training School

Wiesbaden - Germany

Training Schools typically include lectures, hands-on workshops, and interactive sessions led by experienced experts in the field.

They are designed to enhance participants' skills, knowledge, and understanding of current trends and methodologies, fostering collaboration and networking among attendees.

- **9 trainers participated**
- **33 trainees participated**







GENDER ROLES

Gender Equality Plan

Summary

Prepared by Marina Odalovic (Serbia), responsible for the Gender Equality area in BetterCare.

As part of BetterCare's commitment to strengthening gender awareness and improving the integration of gender perspectives across all its activities, a comprehensive analysis of gender balance was conducted to ensure equitable participation, fair access to leadership roles, and equal opportunities for young researchers and participants from Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC).

Gender balance

Among participants who self-identified their gender, women represent the majority (115), followed by men (59). Two individuals identified with another gender, and one preferred not to say.



GENDER ROLES

Gender Equality Plan

Leadership positions

Leadership roles reflect this balance, with 34 women and 19 men in leadership positions. No participants identifying as non-binary or other categories hold leadership roles, indicating a positive trend toward gender-balanced governance.

Young participants (ECI)

Early Career Investigators follow the same pattern, with 46 women and 19 men, suggesting that younger cohorts within BetterCare continue to be predominantly female.

ITC participation

Participation from ITC countries includes 68 women, 33 men, and 1 person who preferred not to disclose gender.



GENDER ROLES

Gender Equality Plan

Conclusions

Overall, the analysis shows a strong and consistent female representation across participation, leadership, and early-career involvement in BetterCare, reflecting a solid foundation for gender balance within the Action.

These results highlight positive progress and reinforce our commitment to fostering equality, inclusiveness, and fair opportunities for all members.

BetterCare will continue to monitor gender indicators, promote balanced participation, and further strengthen gender-sensitive practices throughout the duration of the Action.



Podcast Series

Expert voices, real-world insights

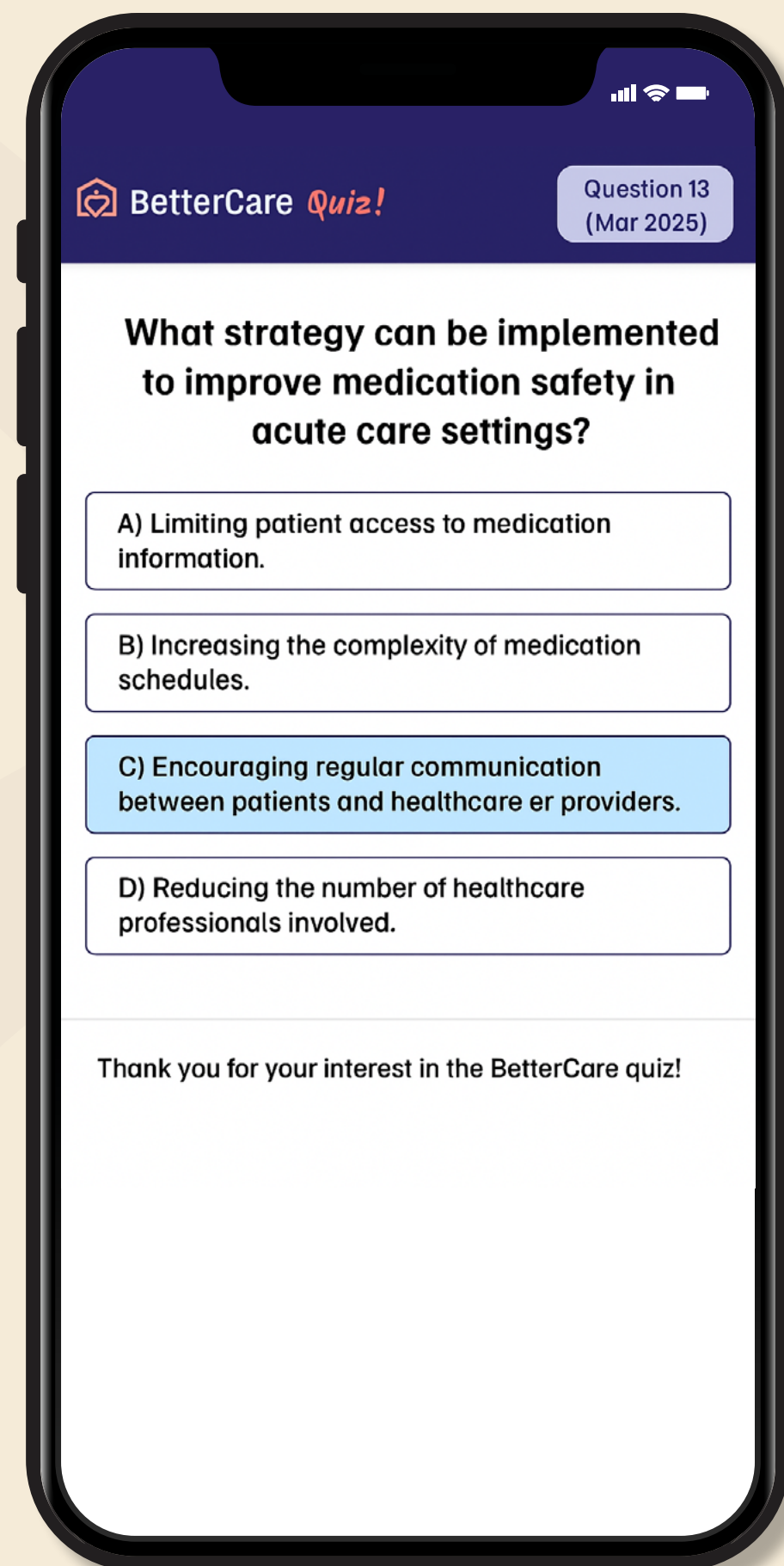
The Bettercare Podcast Series offers a space for reflection and dialogue on key challenges in home healthcare, patient safety, and the support of informal caregivers.

Through expert voices and real-world insights, each episode aims to inform, inspire, and contribute to the continuous improvement of care practices. This series is part of Bettercare's broader commitment to promoting safe, person-centered, and resilient care at home.

• **4 episodes available**

<https://cost-bettercare.eu/news/podcast-series/>

Stay tuned for brand new episodes soon!



Monthly Quiz

Test your knowledge

At Bettercare, we're introducing a Monthly Quiz for all project participants. Each month, you'll receive a brief, engaging questionnaire straight to your inbox with questions related to the project and key health topics.

Designed to be both fun and informative, the quiz helps you test your knowledge, stay connected to program updates, and identify areas where extra support could be helpful. Your responses also provide valuable feedback so we can refine our content and services.

Keep an eye on your email and take a few minutes each month to stay informed and track your progress.

• **21 quizzes submitted!**

A photograph of a person's hands working at a desk. One hand is holding a red pen and writing on a notepad. The other hand is resting on a laptop keyboard. A tablet is also visible on the desk, displaying some text. The background is a light-colored wall with a large, abstract, curved shape in the upper right corner.

Publications

Published

1. [Enhancing home care safety. Journal of Healthcare Quality Research. Enhancing home care safety - ScienceDirect](#)

2. [Defining Informal Caregivers by their Characteristics Safety Roles and Training Needs in Europe](#)

In progress publications

1. SCR-Caring at Home: A Scoping Review of Informal Caregivers' Skills and Prevention Programs for Safe Home Care.

2. Enhancing Safety for Informal Caregivers in Home Care

A photograph of a person's hands working at a desk. One hand is holding a red pencil and writing on a piece of paper with a diagram. The other hand is holding a pen over a tablet. A laptop is open in the background, and a computer mouse is visible. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting a focused work environment.

Publications

In progress publications

4. Promoting Safety and Addressing Risks in Home Care:
Consensus-Based Recommendations

5. Safety in home healthcare: key issues for formal and informal caregivers—a brief review

Articles still under development

1. Mapping Definitions of Informal Caregivers in EU Countries-policy review



Call for participation

European Study on the “Double Victim” Phenomenon

BetterCare Action is launching a multi-country study on the “double victim” phenomenon, a concept developed by Prof. Reinhard Strametz and colleagues in Germany (Bushuven S, Trifunovic-Koenig M, Klemm V, Diesener P, Haller S, Strametz R. The “Double Victim Phenomenon”: SeViD-VI Study. J Patient Saf. 2024;20(6):410-419. doi:10.1097/PTS.0000000000001251).

Thanks to the collaboration of our Core Group, we have prepared a study protocol and a set of critical questions to deepen understanding of this phenomenon across Europe.

We invite BetterCare members to participate in this new project, more info available here:

<https://cost-bettercare.eu/news/call-for-participation-european-study-on-the-double-victim-phenomenon/>

Second Grant Period Applications

Total new applications and new partners

Lejla Dervisevic
Esra Dogru-Huzmeli
Denise Gatti
Amanda Klahr
Jingjing Zhang
Nurten Terkes
Marcel Leppée
Noel Borg
Suzanna Mežnarec Novosel
Taivi Mutso
Aliaksei Andrushevich
Matic Lesjak
Zorana Sicherl
Gordana Šantek-Zlutar
Marina Friščić
Muhammed Halid Kafadar
Jelena Lučan
Andreea Badache
Elona Bellaja

Almudena Arroyo Rodríguez
Željka Ostović
Pavel Bachmann
Fulya İpek Erdem
Yakup Akyüz
Sabri Erdem
Kamel Jebreen
Ebru Sakine Sevlı
Canan Birimoglu Okuyan
Elena Kkolou
Gamze Bozkul
Guilhermina Rego
Francisca Rego
Alice Masini
Ana Sofia Nunes
Nilgün Özbaş
Alireza Khoshghadam
Rui Nunes
Francesca Maiorano

Mediha Sert Gokcebel
Mirit Cohen
Ali Kaplan
Laetitia Tanqueray
Güven Soner
Mehmet Emin Kenanoğlu
Cisel Demiralp Ovgun
Marie-José Ruiz
Rita Fussenegger
Rachid Al Bitar
Goran Frangež
İsmail Aşatır
Şule Şenol
Adelajda Matuka
Fatma Dursun Ergezen
Aynur Ataman Kufaci
Mustafa Ay
Ivana Prga Borojevic



External activities

Eurocarers Research Working Group (ERWG) Vilnius Meeting 2025

9th and 10th October - Presentation by Nida Abed (University Miguel Hernández, Spain):
"BetterCare COST Action: an overview"

An important meeting was held in Vilnius, co-organised by Eurocarers with the Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences (Day 1) and the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (Day2).

The focus covered the ethics of involving carers organisations in research, advances in support solutions, carers wellbeing, and improving care outcomes. The meeting brought together researchers and organisations from 15 countries, fostering collaboration between research, policy, and practice in informal care.



Patient Safety Conference 2025

The Patient Safety Conference 2025, held under the theme “Rethinking patient safety: Evolving roles and responsibilities in a changing healthcare landscape,” (October 24th, 2025), gathered international experts to explore new paradigms for ensuring safe, high-quality care across diverse health settings. Discussions focused on the growing complexity of healthcare delivery, the expansion of home-based care, and the evolving responsibilities of healthcare professionals, patients, and caregivers in maintaining safety and continuity of care.

BetterCare (CA22152) contributed to the event by sharing insights from its European network on medication safety in homecare and integrated care systems. Its participation emphasized the importance of collaboration, evidence-based policy, and digital innovation to support safe medication practices beyond hospital environments. The Action's perspective reinforced the need to bridge clinical, social, and patient-centered approaches to achieve sustainable patient safety across all levels of care.

External activities

The 7th Global Ministerial Summit on Patient Safety 2025

The 7th Global Ministerial Summit on Patient Safety, held in Manila, Philippines on 3–4 April 2025, was organized by the Philippine Department of Health with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO). Under the theme “Weaving Strengths for the Future of Patient Safety Throughout the Health-care Continuum,” the event gathered delegates from 64 countries, experts, professionals, and patient representatives to address key implementation gaps identified in the Global Patient Safety Report 2024. Discussions emphasized accelerating progress on the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021–2030, with WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros reaffirming that patient safety must be a non-negotiable priority in every health system.

The Summit concluded with the adoption of the Mandaluyong Declaration, which calls for renewed urgency and global commitment to make patient safety a universal imperative and a foundation of resilient, people-centred, and equitable health systems. Continuing a series that began in London in 2016, the Manila Summit built on previous milestones to strengthen political commitment and promote collaboration, learning, and innovation. It reaffirmed the importance of translating global policy into concrete action to eliminate preventable harm and improve health outcomes worldwide.



Budget

Second Grant Period, 2024 - 2025

		APPROVED	EXPENDED
MEETINGS		73.320,00 €	75.332,84 €
TRAINING SCHOOLS		58.848,00 €	46.084,52 €
(STSM) + (VM GRANT)		18.000,00 €	17.950,00 €
COST ACTION DISSEMINATION		10.700,00 €	8.127,29 €
TOTAL		160.868,00 €	147.494,65 €
FSAC EXPENDITURE	15% Expenses	24.130,20 €	22.124,20 €
FINAL BUDGET		184.998,20 €	169.618,85 €

The initially approved budget was reviewed by the Core Group and the Management Committee for a more efficient use of funds.

Budget

Third Grant Period, 2025 - 2026

		APPROVED
MEETINGS		83.199,00 €
TRAINING SCHOOLS		58.836,00 €
(STSM) + (VM GRANT)		21.000,00 €
COST ACTION DISSEMINATION		12.000,00 €
TOTAL		175.135,00 €
FSAC EXPENDITURE	15% Expenses	26.270,25 €
FINAL BUDGET		201.405,25 €

The initially approved budget was reviewed by the Core Group and the Management Committee for a more efficient use of funds.

Stay tuned at
cost-bettercare.eu



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