

Building Geriatric Medicine in Emerging Health Systems: From Concept to Implementation of Person-Centred Care

PROGRAMMING COST ACTION 21122 AND SPRIN-G JOINT EVENT



Zagreb
Hotel Dubrovnik



16th - 18th
June 2026



Free Registration
Register here

Internal PROGRAMMING CA 21122 meetings

Annual SPRIN-G event by EuGMS Global Europe Initiative

International participation, including Board Members of the EuGMS

Exchange session with local stakeholders - person-centred, multidisciplinary care

Policy, practice & education in one room

More information coming soon to www.cost-programming.eu

WELCOME ADDRESS

Dear Colleagues and friends,

It is a distinct honour to welcome you to the joint event co-organised by PROGRAMMING (PROMoting GeRIAtRic Medicine in countries where it is still eMergING) COST Action 21122 and the Global Europe Initiative (GEI) group of the European Geriatric Medicine Society-SPRIN-G which will be organized in Zagreb on June 16-18th, 2026.

*This year's meeting, entitled **Building geriatric medicine in emerging health systems: from concept to implementation of person-centred care** will be the 5th Sprin-G annual interdisciplinary educational event developed by the GEI, as well as a milestone scientific encounter for PROGRAMMING COST Action, which is approaching to its end.*

Following a first day focused on PROGRAMMING meetings, when the main scientific outputs of the Action will be presented and reviewed (16/6), the open conference part of the program (17th of June) is designed to help bridge the gap between theoretical geriatric principles and the practical realities of developing healthcare systems. We will explore how to transition from traditional, disease-oriented models to a holistic approach that prioritizes functional ability and the individual values of older adults. We will focus on the conceptual framework of ageing in countries with emerging economies, clinical excellence in managing geriatric syndromes, and the implementation science required to integrate these assessments into existing support structures despite resource constraints.

We envision this event as more than just a series of lectures. It will be a collaborative forum where we encourage local audience and stakeholders to discuss national challenges, engage in rigorous debate, and network with international experts. We hope that the insights gained here will serve as a catalyst for meaningful change, ensuring that person-centred geriatric care becomes a lived reality for older adults in our communities.

We look forward to hosting you in the Croatian capital and to the advance we will achieve together.

Marina Kotsani

*Chair of PROGRAMMING
COST Action 21122 and GEI
Group*

Tahir Masud

President of the EuGMS

Tajana Pavic

*President of the Croatian
Society for Gerontology and
Geriatrics*

INFORMATION

The event will take place in Zagreb at the Hotel Dubrovnik, Ljudevita Gaja 1 on June 16-17-18, 2026. Official language is English.

STREAMING

Open Sessions will be streamed on zoom at the following link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/gecaM8hDRgawiJYmo4PWmQ>

Chat function will be available for comments and questions.

The times of sessions in the program are Central European Summer Time (CEST, UTC+2). Please adapt to your local time zone.

REGISTRATION

Registration for the event is free for both onsite and online participation.

Even though showing up to the publicly open sessions is possible, pre-registration is strongly recommended, whether you intend to participate online or onsite. To pre-register, please use this link to register:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/gecaM8hDRgawiJYmo4PWmQ>

*Following this you will receive the **formal invitation via the e-COST platform that we kindly ask you to accept** by clicking to the right link, to officialise your participation to the event.*

VIDEO RECORDINGS

Most of the event's sessions, will be videorecorded and videos will be accessible on the website and social media of the PROGRAMMING COST Action <https://cost-programming.eu/> and of the EuGMS <https://www.eugms.org>. Acceptance of the e-COST invitation implies consent for recording and appropriate dissemination.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

in alphabetical order

Benetos, Athanase
Bogdanovic, Nenad
Buzaco, Rui
Duque, Sofia
Kotsani, Marina
Masud, Tahir
Pavic, Tajana
Petrovic, Mirko
Piotrowicz, Karolina

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

in alphabetical order

Bellotti, Benedetta
Benetos, Athanase
Bogdanovic, Nenad
Duque, Sofia
Kotsani, Marina
Pavic, Tajana
Petrovic, Mirko
Piotrowicz, Karolina
Silvani, Sabrina

Joint event from the **PROGRAMMING COST Action 21122** and the **SPRIN-G Project** of the EuGMS Global Europe Initiative

16-17-18 June 2026
HOTEL DUBROVNIK
Ljudevita Gaja 1, ZAGREB, CROATIA

Building geriatric medicine in emerging health systems: from concept to implementation of person-centred care

Day 1 Tuesday June 16th

PROGRAMMING CA21122 INTERNAL MEETING (OPEN TO ALL CA MEMBERS)

HOTEL DUBROVNIK – Zrinki room

- 08:30-09:00: **Stakeholders' welcoming and introductions**
Briefing of the PROGRAMMING CA and its objectives
(*Marina Kotsani*)
- 09:00-09:15: **WG1: Summary results from the pan European web-based survey on educational gaps** (*Giulia Ogliari*)
- 09:15-09:30: Coffee break
- 09:30-10:00: **WG2: Proposed content of educational activities destined for professionals in ambulatory, primary and home care settings** (*Eyridiki Kravvariti, Nenad Bogdanovic*)
- 10:00-10:30: **WG3: Proposed content of educational activities destined for professionals in acute, subacute and institutionalised long term care settings** (*Sylvie Bonin-Guillaume*)
- 10:30-11:00: **WG4: Framework of training methods and professionalism within the geriatric team**
(*Regina Roller-Wirnsberger, Michael Vassallo*)
- 11:00-11:30: Coffee break
- 11:30-13:00: **Feedback by the panel of stakeholders and discussion**
Moderators: *Mirko Petrovic, Marina Kotsani*

13:00-14:30: Mid-day break

14:30-16:00: **WG5: Presentation of Advocacy Briefs and feedback by the panel of stakeholders**
(Karolina Piotrowicz)
 Discussion moderators: *Montserrat Conde*

***Acknowledgements:** We are grateful to our respected guests who undertook the role of stakeholders and provided valuable feedback during this whole day session: *Ksenija Arbanas Kovačević, Ivan Bautmans, Antonio Cherubini, Lyndsey Dunn, Vasileios Gkolias, Ana Kotarski, Anastasia Koutsouri, Finbarr Martin, Cornel Sieber, Jennifer Stevenson, Areti Triantafyllou, Mehmet Uyar, Nathalie Van der Velde, Mariano Votta, Slobodanka Zdravkovska Lazovska*

16:00-16:15: Coffee Break

16:15-17:15: **Plenary session and Management Committee (MC8)**
(Marina Kotsani)

17:15-18:00: **Core Group meeting (open to WG leaders and Additional Leaders)**

Day 2 Wednesday June 17th

MAIN PROGRAM (OPEN TO ALL)

**BUILDING GERIATRIC MEDICINE IN EMERGING HEALTH SYSTEMS: FROM CONCEPT
 TO IMPLEMENTATION OF PERSON-CENTRED CARE**
HOTEL DUBROVNIK – Jelacic Room

08:45-09:00 **Welcoming to the SPRIN-G – PROGRAMMING meeting**

Chair: *Athanase Benetos*

- About PROGRAMMING CA and SPRIN-G *(Marina Kotsani)*

- What has evolved in the field of Geriatrics since my city hosted the SPRIN-G/PROGRAMMING event *(Symeon Panagiotakis)*

09:00-09:30: **Opening Plenary: “Why Geriatric Medicine Matters: Lessons from Established European Models”** *(Mirko Petrovic)*

Chairs: *Nenad Bogdanovic, Tajana Pavic*

09:30-11:00: **Round table - Conceptual Clarity**

Chairs: *Dimitrije Jakovljevic, Nathalie Van der Velde*

1. Integrating Geriatric Medicine into National Health Strategies *(Matteo Cesari)*

2. Andrija Štampar – A Legacy of Social Medicine as a bridge to applied geriatrics
(Mirjana Kujundžić Tiljak)

3. Translating Gerontological Insights into Geriatric Care Models *(Finbarr Martin)*

11:00-11:30: Coffee break

11:30-13:00: **Round table - Building the Geriatric Workforce: Education, Teams, and Networks**

Chairs: *Tamar Yellon, Karolina Piotrowicz*

1. **Developing Geriatric Education for Medical Doctors and Allied Health Care Professionals** (*Tahir Masud*)
2. **From Concept to Practice: Organizing Geriatric Units, Consult Teams, and Community Services.** (*Nenad Bogdanovic*)
3. **Implementation, Networks, Integration, Multidisciplinarity - How to put it together** (*Regina Roller-Wirnsberger*)
4. **Discussion**

13:00-14:30: Mid-day break

14:30-16:30: **Stakeholders' session - Integrating Geriatric Medicine into National Health Strategies: From Concept to Clinics – Roadmap for Action**

Moderators: *Tajana Pavic, Athanase Benetos*

- **The Croatian Perspective** (*Tajana Pavic*)
- **The perspective of countries with emerging geriatric medicine** (*Marina Kotsani*)
- **Key recommendations and implementable actions** (*Panel Discussion*) (*TBC*)

16:30-17:00: Coffee Break

17:00-18:30: **Panel Discussion - Geriatric Giants-still the essential framework for clinical and educational design in emerging systems**

Chairs: *Biljana Zovic, Thomas Munzer*

1. **Medication optimization in long term facilities in Croatia; experience sharing by the DEP2OLD study** (*Maja Ortner Hadžiabdić*)
2. **Early detection of sarcopenia, malnutrition and cognitive impairment in the primary care setting.** (*Ksenija Arbanas Kovačević*)
3. **The role of the social worker and interdisciplinary collaboration in the care of the older persons** (*Miroslav Hanževački*)

18:30: **Closing remarks**

Day 3 Thursday June 18th - Morning

These activities are not included in PROGRAMMING's official program.
They are organized and hosted by the SPRIN-G Project and are accessible upon invitation

Departure: 9am - Return: 3.30pm

Visit to the Psychogeriatric Clinic

Visit to the Krapina Neanderthal Museum*:

It is a world-renowned paleoanthropological site offering unparalleled collection of over 900 Neanderthal fossils, representing roughly 80 individuals from 125,000 BC. The museum offers an interactive, immersive experience exploring human evolution, prehistoric daily life, and the origins of civilization.

***Participation in this activity is possible upon specific invitation by the organizing committee**

Participants' affiliations (alphabetical order)

Ksenija Arbanas Kovačević
MD; Health center Zagreb-Center

Benedetta Bellotti
Grant Holder Manager of PROGRAMMING COST Action 21122
Global Coordinator, EuGMS

Athanase Benetos
PROGRAMMING COST Action 21122 Grant Holder Scientific Representative
University of Nancy, INSERM u1116, Nancy, France
Past President, EuGMS

Nenad Bogdanovic
Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

Rui Buzaco
Clínica CUF Alvalade, Lisboa, Portugal

Matteo Cesari
DR. Prof. PhD in Preventive medicine in older people
World Health Organization

Montserrat Conde

PgDip, MSc, PhD - University of Oxford - Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, University of Oxford; Researcher - Cochrane Global Ageing Thematic Group; co-leader

Sofia Duque

Hospital CUF Descobertas, Lisboa, Portugal
Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal

Miroslav Hanževački

Professor; University of Zagreb, Zagreb School of Medicine

Dimitrije Jakovljevic

Päijät-Häme Joint Authority for Health and Wellbeing, Services for Older People - Päijät-Häme Joint Authority for Health and Wellbeing, - Lahti – Finland

Marina Kotsani

PROGRAMMING COST Action 21122, Chair
Responsible for Scientific Groups of HeSSRA, Greece
EHPAD VDC, LNA santé, France

Mirjana Kujundžić Tiljak

Professor; University of Zagreb, School of Public Health "Andrija Štampar", Zagreb School of Medicine

Finbarr Martin

Geriatrician and Emeritus Professor of Medical Gerontology at Guy's & St Thomas's Hospital in London and King's College London, UK

Tahir Masud

Prof Honorary Professor of Geriatrics Medicine at the Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust
EuGMS President

Thomas Munzer

Geriatrische Klinik St. Gallen

Maja Ortner Hadžiabdić

Professor; University of Zagreb, Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry

Symeon Panagiotakis

MD, MSc, PhD, Physician Consultant, Internal Medicine Department of the University Hospital of Heraklion

Tajana Pavic

President of the Croatian Society for Gerontology and Geriatrics

Mirko Petrovic

Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium
EuGMS Past President
PROGRAMMING CA21122 co-chair

Karolina Piotrowicz

Jagiellonian University Medical College, Krakow, Poland
General Secretary, EuGMS

Regina Roller-Wirnsberger

Professor at Medical University of Graz

Sabrina Silvani

Administrative secretary, PROGRAMMING COST Action 21122
Secretary, EuGMS

Nathalie van der Velde

Amsterdam UMC, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Academic Director, EuGMS

Tamar Yellon

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Faculty of Medicine, Hadassah School of Nursing

Biljana Zovic

PHI Specialized Hospital for Geriatric and Palliative Medicine 13 November Skopje