WG1 | OUTPUTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

From mapping the landscape to identifying educational priorities

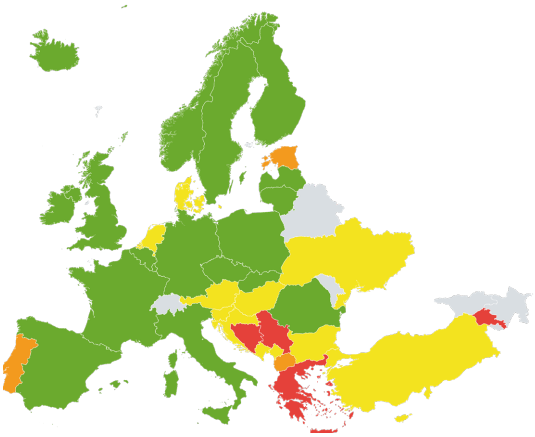
WG1 mapped how Geriatric Medicine is recognised, taught and delivered across Europe, and then used the PROGRAMMING survey to identify where professionals perceive the greatest educational needs.

MAPPING GERIATRIC MEDICINE ACROSS EUROPE

KEY FINDINGS

Across **38 European countries**, Geriatric Medicine (GM) showed substantial variation in recognition, training, education and service provision.

- GM was recognised as a distinct specialty in **24** countries, while specialty training was available in **21**.
- Principles of GM were included in undergraduate curricula in all or most medical universities in **24** countries, in nursing education in **26**, and in AHP education in **19**.
- Geriatric hospital wards were present in **28** countries; eight countries reported no GM clinical services, particularly in Southern Europe.
- GM was a standalone academic discipline in **20** countries and advanced doctoral study was available in **18**.
- Overall, GM was more established in Northern and Western Europe. [1]



Geriatric Medicine postgraduate training opportunities in Europe. [1]

DS – distinct specialty

SS/C – subspecialty or competency

DS/SS/C – legislation only

Not DS/SS/C

CONCLUSION

The study highlights the inconsistent development of GM across European countries and provides a foundation for policy development and educational reform to meet the needs of Europe's ageing population. [1]

KEY OUTPUT

Publication

[1] Herghelegiu AM, Piotrowicz K, Wissendorff Ekdahl A, Masud T, et al. Mapping the landscape of Geriatric Medicine education, training and practice in Europe. Age Ageing. 2026;55(4):afag092. doi:10.1093/ageing/afag092

HOW THIS INFORMED FURTHER WORK

These results provided the foundation for the PROGRAMMING survey, which explored the educational needs and interests of health and social care professionals and medical students across Europe.

WG1

THE PROGRAMMING SURVEY ON EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

PROGRAMMING conducted a mixed-methods online open survey to explore the self-perceived educational interests and needs in Geriatric Medicine of health and social care professionals and medical students. The survey also explored attitudes towards caring for older adults and exposure to Geriatric Medicine during formal education.

A COLLABORATIVE SURVEY

WG1 conceived the idea for the survey and developed the initial draft. The survey was then developed through an iterative co-creation process involving PROGRAMMING members and an external panel of international stakeholders.

The final survey, and its dissemination across the network, were truly collaborative achievements, made possible through the valuable contributions and engagement of all WG leaders and PROGRAMMING members.

Originally developed in English, the survey was translated into **24 languages** to maximise accessibility and participation.

FROM CO-CREATION TO WIDE DISSEMINATION

The survey was disseminated across Europe and beyond between **9 October 2023** and **5 June 2024** through multiple strategies and with the active involvement of a diverse range of stakeholders [1–3].

6,099 responses received

5,922 valid responses after data cleaning

5,474 health & social care professionals | **448** medical students

WHAT DID THE SURVEY COVER?

The survey included multiple sections, collecting data on participants' perceived knowledge, relevance and interest across key geriatric topics and skills, exposure to Geriatric Medicine education, attitudes towards caring for older adults, interest in further training and preferred delivery of training.

ETHICS & TRANSPARENCY

Ethical approval was obtained in countries where local regulations required formal review. Where formal approval was not required, the study followed local regulations and institutional policies. Electronic informed consent was obtained from all participants before survey access.

For transparency and to facilitate future replication or adaptation, the original English-language survey questionnaire was published as an open-access resource [1]. It may be used free of charge, provided the original source is acknowledged [1, 2].

The survey journey

1. **CO-CREATE** — WG1 draft, PROGRAMMING members and an external stakeholder panel
2. **TRANSLATE** — from English into **24 languages**
3. **DISSEMINATE** — **9 Oct 2023 – 5 Jun 2024**, across Europe and beyond
4. **RESPOND** — **6,099** responses received
5. **CLEAN** — **5,922** valid responses: **5,474** professionals, **448** students
6. **PUBLISH** — protocol and survey findings [1–3]

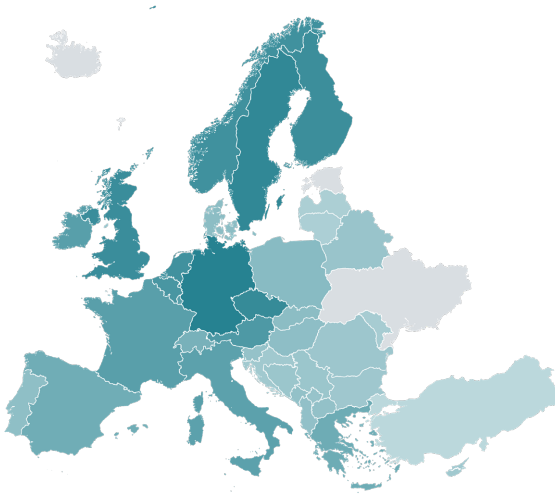
KEY SURVEY RESULTS

1 Knowledge varies across Europe

Mean perceived overall knowledge differed by **country of work** and **profession**, reinforcing the need for flexible educational approaches rather than a single uniform model.



Mean perceived overall knowledge across European countries.

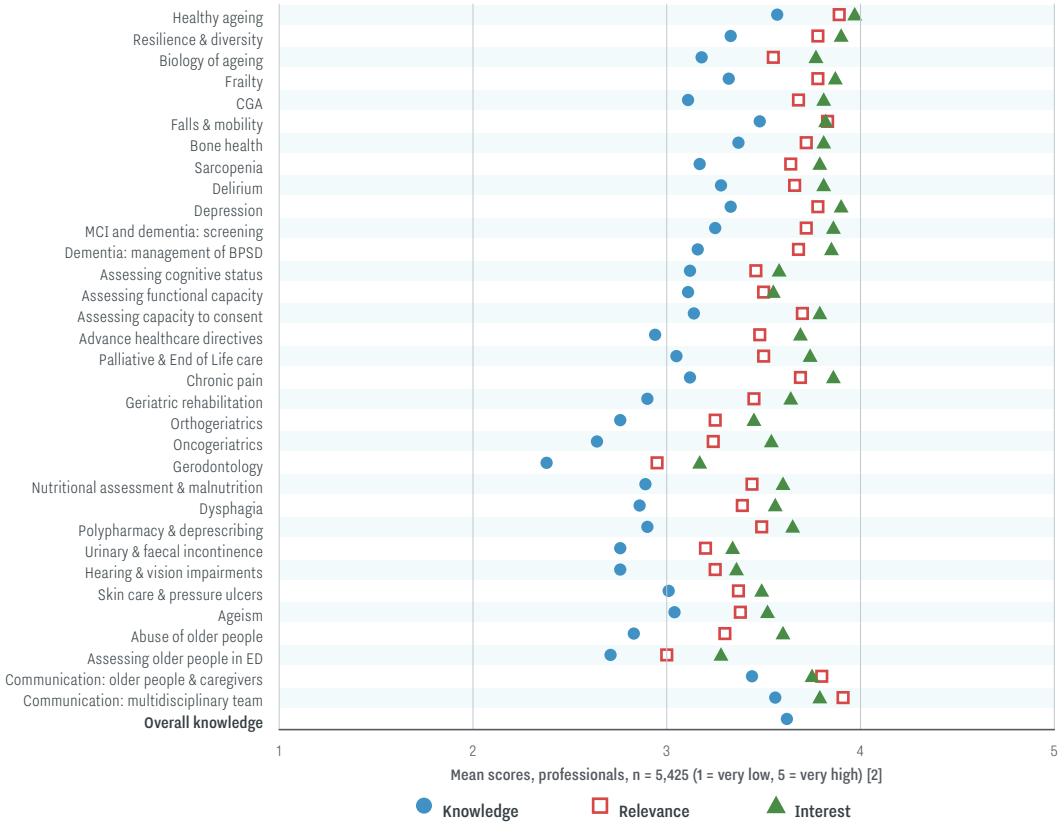


2 33 key geriatric topics and skills

Professionals rated their:

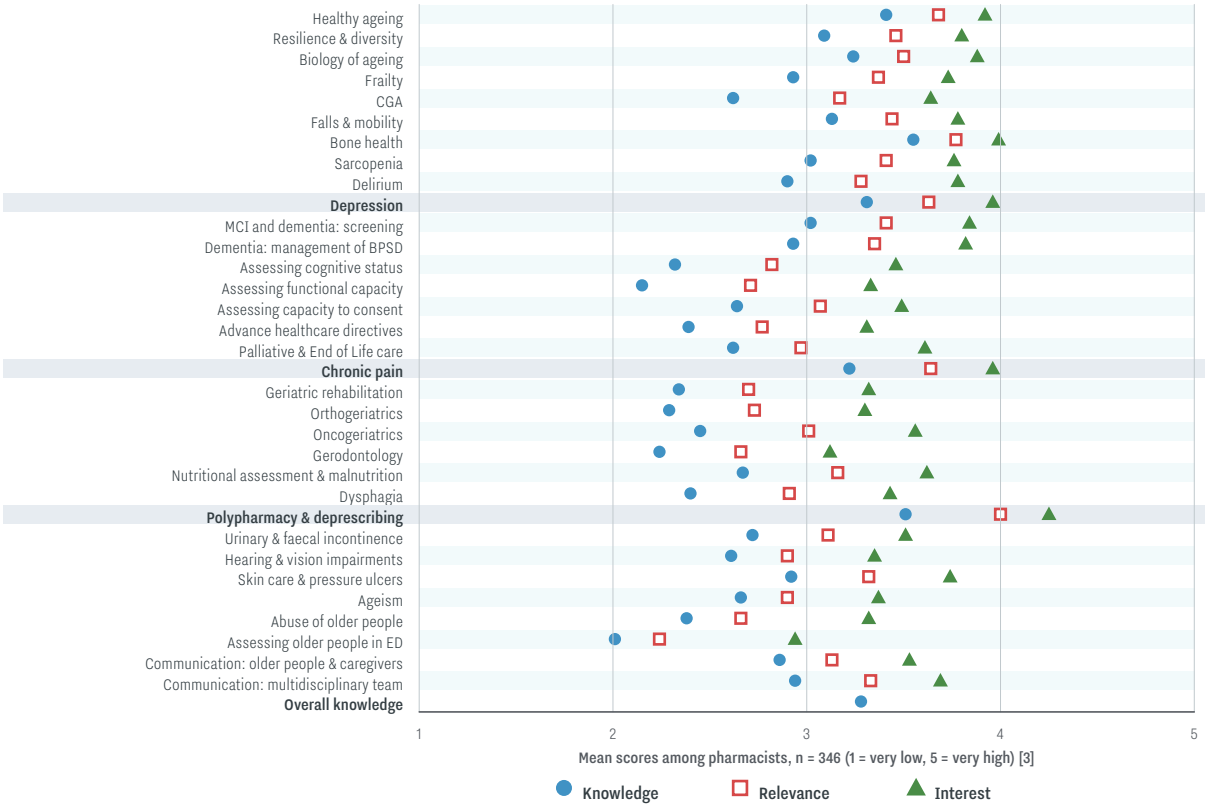
- **perceived knowledge** or competence (blue dots),
- **perceived relevance** of the topic or skill to their current or future work or clinical practice (red squares), and
- **perceived interest** in receiving further education or training in each topic (green triangles).

Potential responses ranged from very low (scored as 1) to very high (scored as 5). A final question asked about perceived overall knowledge and competence in the care of older people, in relation to what was needed for their role or profession.



3 Different professions, different needs

Among the **346 pharmacists** surveyed, **polypharmacy and deprescribing, chronic pain, and depression** were identified as the areas with the greatest self-perceived educational needs [3].



KEY OUTPUTS: PUBLICATIONS

[1] Ogliari G, Masud T, Herghelegiu AM, et al. Educational Needs in Geriatric Medicine Among Health Care Professionals and Medical Students in COST Action 21122 PROGRAMMING: Mixed-Methods Survey Protocol. JMIR Res Protoc. 2025;14:e64985. doi:10.2196/64985

[2] Ogliari G, Kotsani M, Benetos A, et al. Perceived educational needs in geriatric medicine of professionals: a multinational multilingual open online survey. Eur Geriatr Med. 2026;17(3):1281–1294. doi:10.1007/s41999-026-01456-4

[3] Harasani K, Ogliari G, Soraci L, et al. Pharmacists' perceived knowledge, attitudes and practice in geriatrics: findings from a multinational multilingual open online survey. Eur Geriatr Med. 2026;17(4):1857–1871. doi:10.1007/s41999-026-01504-z

WG1 AT A GLANCE

38 European countries mapped	**24** languages of the survey	**6,099** survey responses received	**5,922** valid responses analysed	**33** geriatric topics and skills rated	**4** key publications

Thank you very much
to all survey participants and everyone who contributed to its development and dissemination.

Meet the WG1 Leaders



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