

# 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

 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>  
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](http://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/gecaM8hDRqawiJYmo4PWmQ>

*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/gecaM8hDRqawiJYmo4PWmQ>

*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 16<sup>th</sup> - Morning

**PROGRAMMING CA21122 INTERNAL MEETING (OPEN TO ALL CA MEMBERS)**

HOTEL DUBROVNIK

- 08:30-09:00: **Stakeholders' welcoming and introductions**  
**Briefing of the PROGRAMMING CA and its objectives**
- 09:00-09:15: **WG1: Summary results from the pan European web-based survey on educational gaps**
- 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**
- 10:00-10:30: **WG3: Proposed content of educational activities destined for professionals in acute, subacute and institutionalised long term care settings**
- 10:30-11:00: **WG4: Framework of training methods and professionalism within the geriatric team**
- 11:00-11:30: Coffee break
- 11:30-13:00: **Feedback by the panel of stakeholders and discussion**

Day 1 Tuesday June 16<sup>th</sup> - Afternoon

**PROGRAMMING CA21122 INTERNAL MEETING (OPEN TO ALL CA MEMBERS)**

HOTEL DUBROVNIK

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

14:30-16:00: **WG5: Presentation of Advocacy Briefs and feedback by the panel of stakeholders**

16:00-16:15: coffee break

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

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

Day 2 Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup> - Morning

**MAIN PROGRAM (OPEN TO ALL)**  
**BUILDING GERIATRIC MEDICINE IN EMERGING HEALTH SYSTEMS: FROM CONCEPT  
TO IMPLEMENTATION OF PERSON-CENTRED CARE**  
HOTEL DUBROVNIK

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

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

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

1. **Integrating Geriatric Medicine into National Health Strategies**
2. **Andrija Štampar – A Legacy of Social Medicine as a bridge to applied geriatrics**
3. **Translating Gerontological Insights into Geriatric Care Models**

11:00-11:30: Coffee break

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

1. **Developing Geriatric Education for Medical Doctors and Allied Health Care Professionals**
2. **From Concept to Practice: Organizing Geriatric Units, Consult Teams, and Community Services.**
3. **Implementation, Networks, Integration, Multidisciplinarity - How to put it together**
4. **Discussion” Road-map to Geriatric Medicine**

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

Day 2 Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup> - Afternoon

**MAIN PROGRAM (OPEN TO ALL)**

HOTEL DUBROVNIK

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

- **The Croatian Perspective**
- **The perspective of countries with emerging geriatric medicine**
- **Key recommendations and implementable actions**

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**

- 1. Medication optimization in long term facilities in Croatia; experience sharing by the DEP2OLD study**
- 2. Early detection of sarcopenia, malnutrition and cognitive impairment in the primary care setting.**
- 3. The role of the social worker and interdisciplinary collaboration in the care of the older persons**

18:30: **Closing remarks**

Day 3 Thursday June 18<sup>th</sup> - 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

**Visit to the Hospital Geriatric Unit**

**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**