



# Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

## Biosecurity: securing pathogens in laboratories

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# Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

- Inter-governmental organisation
- 30 member countries representing the most industrialized economies
- Shared commitment to democratic government and the market economy

# Activities

- Undertakes the collection & Analysis of Data
- Provides a Forum for Member countries to debate issues of international policy and arrive at consensus solutions
- Produces a range of policy instruments: from analytic reports to legally binding policy guidelines.
- Develops 'Soft Law' instruments (biosafety, 'blue book')

# Global Biological Resource Centres Network

- Biological Resource Centres (BRCs) are repositories of biological material
- Provide source material for biosciences research, development of biotechnologies, ultimately driver for economic growth
- Quality collection and storage is essential
- Current standards of curation vary; poor quality material
- OECD Task Force is developing a set of quality standards – establish quality network, Global Biological Resource Centres Network
- Aim: GBRCN to provide for the high quality maintenance and exchange of biological material

# OECD Group of Experts on Biosecurity to the Task Force on Biological Resource Centres

- Mandated to develop rules on security and access to biological resources within the GBRCN
- Mechanism must not hinder research nor be excessively financially burdensome
- BIOSAFETY Existing classification of biosafety levels not suited to biosecurity
  - An organism may require extreme safety in handling, but have poor characteristics as a biological weapon.
  - alternatively, safe to handle, but capable of causing significant damage.

# Definition of Biosecurity

- No single, internationally-agreed definition of biosecurity
- Draft definition of biosecurity for the purposes of the GBRCN:
  - ‘Biosecurity is defined as measures to protect against the loss or theft and/or malicious use and/or misuse of pathogens, parts of them and/or their toxins, and/or toxin-producing organisms, [ ...] in direct or indirect acts against humans, animals, plants another economically-valuable entities.’

# Proposal: Institutional Biosecurity Programme for BRCs

## ● Elements:

- Assessing the risk associated with material in the collection: List-based or risk assessment approach?
- Risk management strategy: proposed a draft set of principles
- Facility for audits: responsible government agency
- Designated biosecurity officer in each BRC

# Other activities

- Website on biosecurity and codes-of-conduct in the biosciences <http://www.biosecuritycodes.org>
- **JOINT OECD / RUSSIAN FEDERATION WORKSHOP ON “BIOSECURITY OF MICROBIAL BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – COMPLEMENTING INNOVATION”** Moscow, 20-21 September 2006
  - Discuss the challenge of balancing the needs for controlled access to dangerous biological material and their availability for R&D
  - Identify opportunities for international collaborative research and policy making