



EBSA STRATEGY 2024-2028



EBSA Council 2023-2024

The European Biosafety Association (EBSA) was founded in 1996 and has since then been an influential European forum to discuss biosafety and biosecurity issues and provided a platform of common interest to those working in the area.

In consultation with its members, and to provide a framework underpinning EBSA's activities, EBSA Council has laid out its objectives and priorities within multi-year strategic plans since 2008, within which time EBSA has grown in both membership numbers and in the breadth of its activities. The annual conference and pre-conference courses have become a calendar highlight, acclaimed in the community and successful year after year. In response to COVID-19, new strategies were developed to meet the needs of EBSA Members. Free of charge members events were delivered and our training courses were delivered on-line. These virtual events will continue to be run, in addition to our in-person conference and courses, as an attractive alternative to members facing constraints associated with travel.

This strategy outlines our mission and objectives for the coming years and sets out our plans for achieving our goals. EBSA Council will drive implementation of this strategy over the years 2024 – 2028 and regularly review it to ensure compliance.

Our Mission

EBSA's vision is a world where biological safety and – security are integral to all relevant organisations and facilities handling of biological materials. Our mission is to:

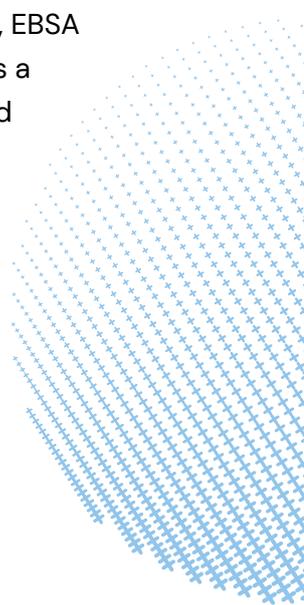
- Enhance biological safety and security and promote its awareness through better understanding of biological risks and their management.
- Establish and communicate best laboratory biosafety and laboratory biosecurity practices among members and encourage dialogue and reflection on developing issues in biological risk management.
- Influence and support the development of emerging legislation and standards, with the objective of ensuring the prevention of harm to humans, animals, plants and the environment from biological materials while advancing biological science.

Looking forward

Developments in diagnostics, research and industry have ensured that biological science and biotechnology are undergoing a phase of unprecedented growth. Biological risk management must therefore evolve to ensure workers, society and the environment reap the benefits from these developments with minimal risk and in a sustainable fashion.

To this end, biological risk management plays an important part in many international calls for action and global initiatives, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the One Health Initiative and the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) as well as the International Health Regulations (IHR). As demand for biosafety professionals increases, EBSA will support its members in adapting to ongoing progress. Biological risk management is a dynamic field, evolving to meet new requirements and moving towards a more risk- and evidence-based path. Investment is needed to

- better understand biological risks and their mitigation,
- develop the evidence base of sustainable biological risk controls,
- understand human factors in biological risk control systems.



Objectives

The primary objectives of the EBSA Strategy 2024 - 2028 are as follows:

- Develop the EBSA community, ensuring representation from across Europe, particularly underrepresented countries.
- Continue to develop high quality content and resources for members and other stakeholders in the biosafety community.
- Accelerate engagement with stakeholders including new and renewed partnerships with external organisations and contribute to EU and global initiatives.
- Strengthen our internal and external communications to underpin our mission.

EBSA Community

EBSA members – individual and corporate – are the heart of our association, and offering an attractive membership experience is a top priority. We will continue to keep membership cost at modest levels to ensure this does not act as a barrier to joining, and to support a broad membership base.

While EBSA members come from many European and non-European countries, the majority originate from a small number of countries, and we will strive to drive membership in underrepresented countries.

EBSA will focus on

- expanding membership in underrepresented European countries,
- increasing networking opportunities for members that are new to the biosafety field,
- advancing contact with national or regional biosafety networks to promote cross membership,
- reaching out to our partner organisations to discuss common areas of synergy for our members.

Content and resources

EBSA will continue to be a fulcrum for up-to-date knowledge in biosafety and biosecurity, while supporting our members' professional advancement. EBSA affirms its commitment to providing high quality, relevant training, and engaging, contemporary conferences and events through supporting and resourcing our working groups and focal points.

In-person and online training courses are coordinated by the Education and Training Working Group (ETWG) with topic input from EBSA members and EBSA Council. The Conference Programme Working Group (CPWG) manages overall Conference programmes in coordination with local organizing committees (LOCs) and ETWG. Focal Points are designated subject matter experts who can represent EBSA in specialist fora and curate information on the EBSA web page to inform members about current topics and developments.

Areas we may target for increased knowledge dissemination and interaction include:

- Advances in biotechnology including synthetic biology and New Genomic Techniques (NGTs)
- Gene therapy
- Animal biosafety
- Arthropod biosafety
- Biosafety in clinical or hospital settings
- Dual-use research and export control
- Laboratory biocontainment
- Laboratory biosecurity
- Large-scale production biosafety
- Plant biosafety
- Risk-based, applied and evidence-based biosafety
- Transport of hazardous biological materials

Stakeholder engagement

EBSA and its members represent the interests of the biosafety community in many fora and the Association cooperates and forms alliances with various associations and societies. These partner organisations represent fields complementary to our members' interests and offer opportunities for mutual advancement. As well as strengthening relationships with our established partner organisations, we will additionally focus on enhancing interactions with European and global organisations to share knowledge and expertise, such as:

- European Commission (EC)
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
- United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (BWC)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH)

And others where we identify areas for collaboration.

Communication

We will strengthen our communication efforts to ensure that those working in the field, as well as allied professions are familiar with EBSA's vision, our resources and working groups, and how we can contribute to mutual advancement. To serve this purpose, we will reinstate the Information and Communications Working Group (ICWG) that will be tasked with:

- Ensuring bilateral dialogue between EBSA members and the leadership team (EBSA Council, ETWG, CPWG, and ICWG).
- Facilitating dialogue and discussion between EBSA members on the Association's digital platform.
- Assuring that the EBSA website provides information on EBSA activities and continues to be an up-to-date source of information within the field
- Continued promotion of EBSA events and membership benefits.
- Gathering feedback from members for improvement of EBSA and its activities.
- Promoting current opportunities for EBSA members to actively engage in working groups, project and other initiatives.

