

International Network on Biotechnology (INB)

UNICRI

United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute.

Headquarters based in Turin, with further offices in Geneva and Rome.

We are also present in different regions around the world through our project offices, including in:

- African Atlantic Façade;
- North Africa and Sahel;
- Central and Eastern Africa;
- Middle East;
- Gulf Cooperation Council;
- Central Asia
- South East Asia;
- South East and Eastern Europe



Background

A report studying the security implications of advances in the life sciences.

This process involved a diverse set of stakeholders - including scientists, security experts, law enforcement agencies, research institutions, industry, academia and DIYbio groups.

The key outcome:

The top-down arms control approach should be complimented with a bottom-up approach, which focuses on creating a culture of shared responsibility; empowering stakeholders to play an active role in managing safety and security risks in the life sciences.



Background

Following this report, the Landau Network-Centro Volta in collaboration with Luigi Sacco University and UNICRI started working on the:

“International network of universities and institutes for raising awareness on dual-use concerns in biotechnology”

The project focused on implementing a bottom-up approach in close collaboration with universities around the world to develop awareness raising and educational materials tailored to local needs.

This Initiative is implemented and funded by the European Commission in cooperation with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). The European Criminal Action Scheme (ECAS) is also involved in the follow-up of the Initiative. The Initiative is developed with the technical support of relevant international and regional organizations, the EU Member States and other stakeholders, through coherent and effective cooperation at the national, regional and international level.

Project 18 INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF UNIVERSITIES AND INSTITUTES FOR RAISING AWARENESS ON DUAL-USE CONCERNS IN BIO-TECHNOLOGY

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:
Landau Network-Centro Volta (LNCV, lead partner), Italy; Agrarian University of Georgia (AUG), Georgia; Royal Scientific Society (RSS), Jordan; Middle East Scientific Institute for Security (MESIS), Jordan; National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS), Lebanon; National Center of Public Health (NCPH), Moldova; University Mohamed V-Agdal (UMSA), Morocco; Faculty of Sciences of Tétouan, Abdelmalek Essadi University (UAE), Morocco; Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), Pakistan; College of Medicine, University of the Philippines Manila (UPCM), the Philippines; Palladin Institute of Biochemistry (PIB), Ukraine; Taiz University (TU), Yemen; Universität Hamburg (RGBAC), Germany; University of Milan (UNIM), Italy; University of Turin (UNITO), Italy; Delft University of Technology (DUT), the Netherlands; University of Coimbra (UC), Portugal; University of Uppsala (UU), Sweden

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:
1 January 2013 – 1 January 2015

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE:
The project is international in scope

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES:
Albania, Cambodia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of Congo, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYRoM), Gabon, Georgia, Iraq, Jordan, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritania, Moldova, Morocco, Pakistan, the Philippines, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia

BUDGET:
399,719.00 euro

With the support of:

United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

Action implemented by:


This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union. All information provided in this document has been prepared by UNICRI and is accurate as of March 2014. It is subject to change resulting from developments in the implementation of the project.

International Network on Biotechnology (INB)



Scope of the INB

1. To expand the existing network and strengthen international collaboration by including new universities and research institutes, as well as stakeholders from the public and private sector (security agencies, biotech industry consortia, and others);
2. To support Network Partners in the development of new awareness raising materials and innovative teaching methods tailored to local needs and capable of keeping pace with advances in the life sciences and biotechnology;
3. To inform policy options that promote responsible life science and sustainable innovation in biotechnology.

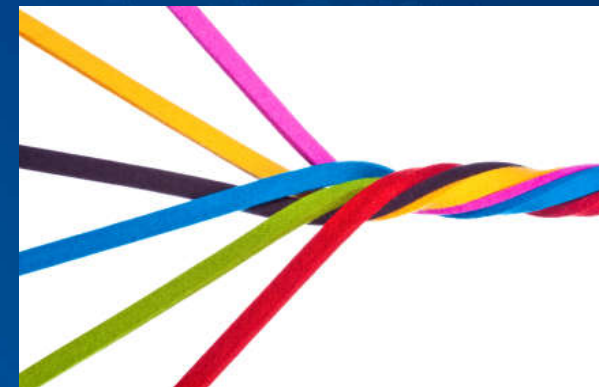
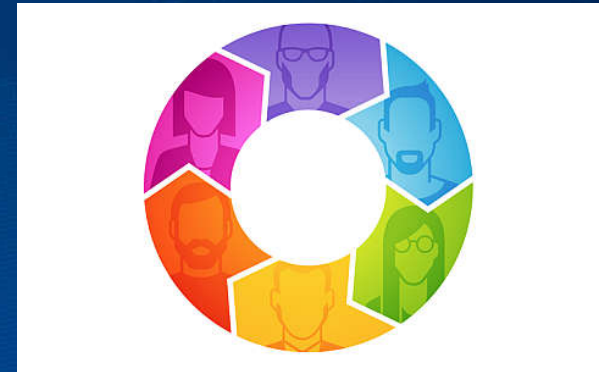


Key Features of the INB



Interdisciplinary

1. By involving different stakeholder groups, including academia, industry, policymakers and international organizations (many of whom we have worked with in the past, e.g. Network Partners and contributors to the Biotech Report)
2. By looking across disciplines with a view to studying how convergence enables new possibilities in terms both risks and benefits (e.g. Premera hacks, UNICRI's programme on emerging tech and Big Data Analytics Report)



User-oriented

1. By dividing the material into basic, intermediate and advanced modules, helping users choose the module that best suites their needs;



2. By further adapting the material to the 'local' context (regional, national and institutional levels) and tailoring the material to meet the specific needs of a diverse audience.



Cutting-edge materials and methods

By supplementing traditional content with enhanced educational materials and new types of trainings.

1. Scenario based exercises (e.g. NAPs, Biotech Report and Big Data and the video), which encourage active learning and 'contingent thinking' (this is linked to convergence);
2. Developing audio-visual content that is engaging, accessible and easily disseminated;
3. Developing immersive trainings through the use of Virtual Reality Technology.



What you can expect in the coming months

- Launch of a **web-based portal**, offering INB members open access to basic, intermediate and advanced educational and teaching materials (covering core aspects of biosafety, biosecurity and bioethics), locally-tailored content, and ‘future-oriented’ content focusing on emerging developments in biotechnology;
- **Education and awareness raising videos;**
- **Scenario-based training seminars;**
- Easy to share **Virtual Reality Trainings.**



Francesco Marelli
Programme Head
marelli@unicri.it

Jayant Sangwan
Associate Programme Officer
sangwan@unicri.it

