



NETWORK **Biological Risk**

«One Health» network for the detection, prevention and management of biological risks in Switzerland

NETWORK

Biological Risk

The Network Biological Risk was founded in 2023 as an association to consolidate and optimize existing infrastructures and expertise in the field of biological risks, strengthen synergies and close gaps. The aim is to establish and operate an efficient national «one health» network with an international reach for the detection, prevention and management of biological events and infectious diseases with epidemic and pandemic potential.

Current situation

Switzerland has a unique concentration of institutions with specialists, infrastructures, expertise and knowledge that has grown over the years to recognize and manage biological risks and infectious diseases with epi- and pandemic potential.

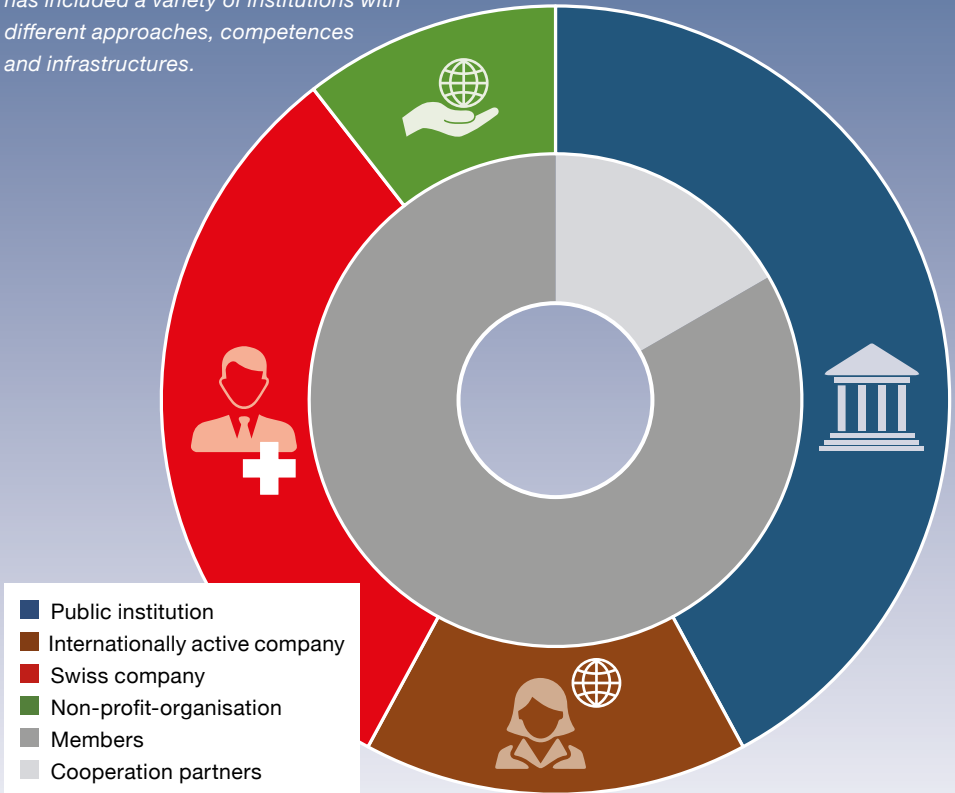
These competences and infrastructures are currently not very visible to politicians, authorities, industry and the public and there is no common point of contact. As a result, when needed, they cannot be deployed in an optimal manner and in some cases are insufficiently coordinated.

Founding of the association «Network Biological Risk»

The Network Biological Risk was founded on 12th January 2023 as an association based in Bern. The association is continuously being formed and is open to further network organizations from private and public institutions.

Members of the association currently include public institutions, private companies, non-profit organizations and authorities in the fields of research, diagnostics, vaccine and therapeutic development, biosafety and human and animal healthcare.

Since its foundation, the Network Biological Risk has included a variety of institutions with different approaches, competences and infrastructures.



Objectives of the Network Biological Risk

The Network Biological Risk has created a platform with the aim of pooling and optimally utilizing existing synergies in the area of biological risks and consolidating available infrastructures and expertise. The association aims to establish and operate an efficient «one health» institution of national importance and international reach for the detection, prevention and management of biological events and infectious diseases with epi- and pandemic potential.

The Network Biological Risk is to become an important partner and a competent pool of expertise for decision-makers and federal and cantonal authorities and to strengthen the innovative and translational capacity of public and private institutions.

Outlook

After establishing the network with an organizational structure and a management office, it is set to be expanded at national level through agreements with additional actors. A key question will be how the network can best be integrated into the Swiss research and innovation landscape in order to strengthen existing synergies and close gaps. It should also be clarified how the network can be developed into a technological competence center or a national research infrastructure in order to establish and operate durable technology platforms (particularly for vaccines and diagnostics).

In a second phase, national recognition by the federal authorities will be sought, including long-term funding for the development and maintenance of the national platforms. The second phase is anticipated to focus on the detection and prevention of biological risks. A key topic for prevention will be vaccines. The network's research and development activities should lead to products that can be used for the baseline utilization of the existing infrastructure. This will provide the federal government with production reserves for epidemics and pandemics. In addition, the expertise of the network members will be made available to politicians, authorities and the public in order to support situation-specific strategies, measures and actions in managing biological risks.



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