



In this number

First combined
newsletter **INSIGHT**
& **BIOSAFE**

From The
Coordinator

In The Spotlight

News flash

This is the first issue of the combined newsletter of **INSIGHT** and **BIOSAFE**. In this newsletter you will be updated every month on the progress in both projects. A partner of one of the projects will each month be in the spotlight. The newsletter will in the future also contain articles and discussion topics.

From The Coordinator



Both projects are progressing as planned.

BIOSAFE has finished the first deliverables of work package 2 and the first work package 3 meeting was very productive.

The next **BIOSAFE** project meeting will be in Portugal on March 21 and 22.

INSIGHT is making progress in work package 3. The next **INSIGHT** workshop will be in Copenhagen on May 24 and 25.

I'm currently in contact with the European Commission about the ways to prevent the malicious use of the results of the **BIOSAFE** project. The project is an example of 'dual-use' research, which is gaining more attention.

I hope to see you soon.

Kind regards,

Ben van der Zeijst

Work In Progress - Introduction

Both the **INSIGHT** and the **BIOSAFE** project have their origin in the 'Sheraton initiative'; a network of experts in the area of public health and bio-terrorism in Europe. The Sheraton initiative was launched in order to identify the potential needs of the governments of a number of European countries to deal with the threats of infectious diseases. Following the Sheraton initiative the **INSIGHT** and **BIOSAFE** projects have extended the effort at the European level.

INSIGHT:

The project started the first of August 2005. The project is co-financed by the European Commission under the 2004 Work plan of the EU Public Health Programme. Its mission is to enhance preparedness and response in the EU to major health threats (emerging infections and bioterrorist attacks), with a focus on smallpox, influenza, anthrax and SARS. The project aims to promote the information exchange and capabilities on emergency vaccination strategies, and it is anticipated that in the course of the project the core principles on emergency vaccination strategies of all European states will be documented. The core principles are the activities that countries have to carry out to prepare for an outbreak of infectious diseases. Some countries will do more than these core principles. This difference depends mainly on the perceived risk for a specific country. Some countries are possible less targets and threat may change over time. For more information on the **INSIGHT** project you can check the website at www.eu-insight.eu.

BIOSAFE

BIOSAFE aims to enhance the capability of public health- and civil protection authorities to respond adequately to the deliberate releases of biological agents by terrorists. In pursuit of this aim **BIOSAFE** will bring together, interpret and analyze existing expertise on virulence factors of those pathogens and toxins that may be used in acts of bioterrorism, by means of the establishment of a European-wide network and a database information system. This database will be complemented by information on the disinfectants for these biological and on drugs, antisera and vaccines to stop terrorist infection outbreaks. For more information on the **BIOSAFE** project you can check the website at www.eu-biosafe.eu.

In The Spotlight

The Netherlands Vaccine Institute (NVI)

The NVI is one of the few government-based vaccine institutes left in the world. The Dutch government opted for a NVI that would be sufficiently independent of commercial vaccine suppliers in the case of vaccine shortages. The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport remains responsible for the content of the National Immunisation Programme, and decisions on developing and producing vaccines in-house or purchasing them on the market. The institute builds on more than 100 years of vaccine knowledge and experience gained through research and production. Strengthening the links in the vaccine value chain has allowed the NVI to become a more responsive, customer-oriented organisation, where quality continues to receive the highest priority. At www.nvi-vaccin.nl you can find the 'Scientific Report' summarizing the research projects over the last years. The report can also be obtained in hard copy by sending an email request to helen.macleam@nvi-vaccin.nl.