

## BBP Policy Plan 2015 – 2017

### 1. Introduction

The BBP policy plan 2015 – 2017 describes the mission of the association, the vision of the steering team and the objectives for the period until the end of 2017.

### 2. Legal structure and secretariat

BBP was established in 2005 and organized its first event in spring 2006. Legally, BBP is a regional working group within EBSA, but it functions as an autonomous organization that has a Memorandum of Understanding with EBSA. BBP has a steering team, a number of task forces, and several contact persons for specific topics. More details can be found on <http://www.ebsaweb.eu/about-bbp-2>.

Outlook: BBP will continue to function as a regional working group of EBSA and will not set up its own separate legal structure. Within that framework BBP will continue to make use of the services provided by the EBSA secretariat for membership administration, website hosting, and financial services.

BBP members are automatically also EBSA member. There is no distinction between the two.

### 3. Mission

The Belgian Biosafety Professionals (BBP) provide a forum for biosafety professionals to exchange experience, developments and issues in biosafety practices and regulation in a Belgian context.

### 4. Vision

The steering team strives to provide in the coming years more targeted and practical support to the biosafety professionals in Belgium. To this end, it will aim to include amongst its membership not only appointed biosafety coordinators, but also persons with partial biosafety responsibilities. Knowledge will be collected and spread among members. The steering team strives to secure and strengthen contacts with government authorities in order to convey input from members. Contacts with existing networks of experts, also outside the biosafety profession, will be intensified. New technological developments will be followed closely by the association to assess the possible consequences for the biosafety professionals community.

### 5. Objectives

In line with the vision of the steering team, the following objectives have been identified:

#### *Membership*

BBP strives to have a significant part of the biosafety coordinators in Belgium as its member, representing biosafety professionals active in Flanders, Brussels and Wallonia. In addition, BBP

also welcomes persons with partial biosafety responsibilities (e.g. lab leaders, HSE officers, etc.) thereby reaching the wider biosafety community with its activities.

#### *Continuous education*

BBP wishes to further contribute to the continuous education of the Belgian biosafety professional with the goal to further professionalize biosafety in Belgium. For this BBP aims to organize two to three half-day workshops and a full-day symposium every year, allowing to meet and exchange information on a regular basis.

#### *Practical tools*

BBP wishes to contribute to the development and distribution of practical tools, guidelines and educational materials that a biosafety professional can use in the execution of its tasks. Focal points for the period 2015 – 2017 include at least:

- Movement of biological materials
- Waste
- Equipment (e.g. selection of biological safety cabinets)

#### *Representation*

BBP will pro-actively represent its members and contact relevant authorities to provide information or advice whenever relevant. BBP wishes to be recognized by these authorities as an important contact, genuinely representing the Belgian sector of biosafety and biosecurity, such that these authorities will spontaneously contact BBP whenever relevant.

#### *Interaction with authorities*

BBP has established a privileged good working relationship with the Section Biosafety & Biotechnology (SBB) of the Scientific Institute of Public Health. Other authorities with whom BBP wishes to further build a good working relationship are the contained use regulatory authorities, the authorities involved in waste, those involved in import and export of biological materials (FAVV-AFSCA), those involved in worker protection (in particular biological agents) and those involved in biosecurity.

#### *Communication to members*

BBP will keep its members informed on its activities on a regular basis. BBP strives to have its communication appreciated by its members as relevant and useful. Other channels of communication will be explored (e.g. a discussion forum) and a new website will be developed.

#### *Interaction with biosafety associations*

BBP will explore possibilities of organizing joint workshops with the Dutch **BVF platform**, but no target will be set on the number of joint meetings that will be organized.

BBP will continue to be an observer member of **IFBA**, the International Federation of Biosafety Associations, and will critically follow its activities. BBP will not become a full member of IFBA, as BBP from a legal point of view is not a separate entity.

#### *Interaction with Belgian professional organizations*

BBP will strive to interact more with colleague professional organizations in Belgium such as the environmental coordinators, occupational health professionals and prevention advisers.

#### *EBSA conference*

BBP will support the annual EBSA conference by providing possible topics for the coming conferences, as well as help in identifying possible Belgian instructors or speakers. In addition, it will actively promote the conference and the pre-conference workshops amongst its members, and organize a get-together dinner for the Belgian participants to the conference.

#### *New technological developments*

Current and former members of the BBP steering team are involved in different discussion groups and reviewing teams regarding new technologies (e.g. synthetic biology, new plant breeding techniques, gene editing), and will follow-up on relevant developments and inform the steering team as appropriate.