



National Institute for Public Health  
and the Environment  
*Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport*

## Raising biosecurity awareness among professionals

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## Biosecurity policy: bottom-up approach

- The Dutch biosecurity regime works bottom-up
- Stakeholders responsibility involves;
  - Risk management (biosecurity, biosafety and non-proliferation)
  - Awareness and education
- Netherlands Biosecurity Office
  - National biosecurity knowledge and information center
  - Communication to stakeholders





## Aim of communication plan

- Identify stakeholders
- Inform stakeholders, share knowledge
- Raise awareness
- Encourage taking biosecurity measures





# Communication plan: step by step (I)

## 1. Biosafety officers of RIVM

- Message
- Needs assessment
- Tools/knowledge products
- Allergies



## 2. Expert group

- Biosafety officers of university medical centres, knowledge institute (RIVM), university laboratory
- Regional hospitals
- Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences
- Message, needs assessment, allergies etc.





## Communication plan: step by step (II)

### 3. Identify stakeholders

- Which parties should be involved
  - > Working in the field of biosciences
- About 350 stakeholders identified
  - > Universities
  - > (Academic) medical centers
  - > (regional) Medical laboratories
  - > Biotech/pharmaceutical companies
  - > Knowledge institutes
  - > Veterinary institutes
  - > Plant institutes





## Communication plan: step by step (II)

4. Non-university hospitals/ small diagnostic centres
  - Probe biosecurity awareness
  - Needs assessment
  - Whom to approach in absence of biosafety officer
5. Branche associations (University, microbiology, medical)
  - Create support
  - Involve in education of students and professionals
6. Organisation of national workshop days; Awareness raising
  - Preliminary program/ announcement
    - › Verify program with expert group



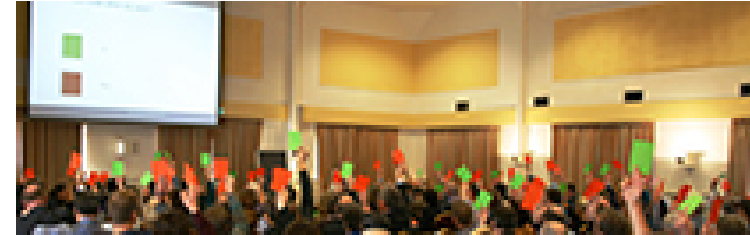


# National Workshops on Biosecurity

Aim:

**Create a network and raise awareness!**

- Two days
  - 30 October and 13 November 2014
- > 200 participants
- Scientists, Industry, Biosafety-, Biosecurity-, and Security professionals
- Representatives from the government
  
- Plenary morning session
- 7 workshops sessions in afternoon



# Program of the Workshops

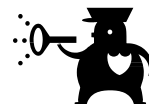
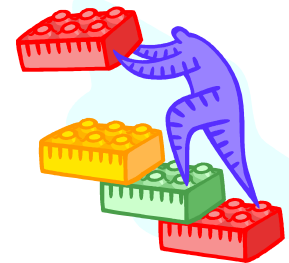
- Plenary session: government (MoHealth, MoSecurity&Justice)
  - Background information
    - › Biosafety biosecurity incidents
    - › Bioterroristic incidents
    - › International (BTWC, Geneva protocol, UN 1540)
    - › CWA 15793; CWA 16335
  - Examples to demonstrate importance of awareness





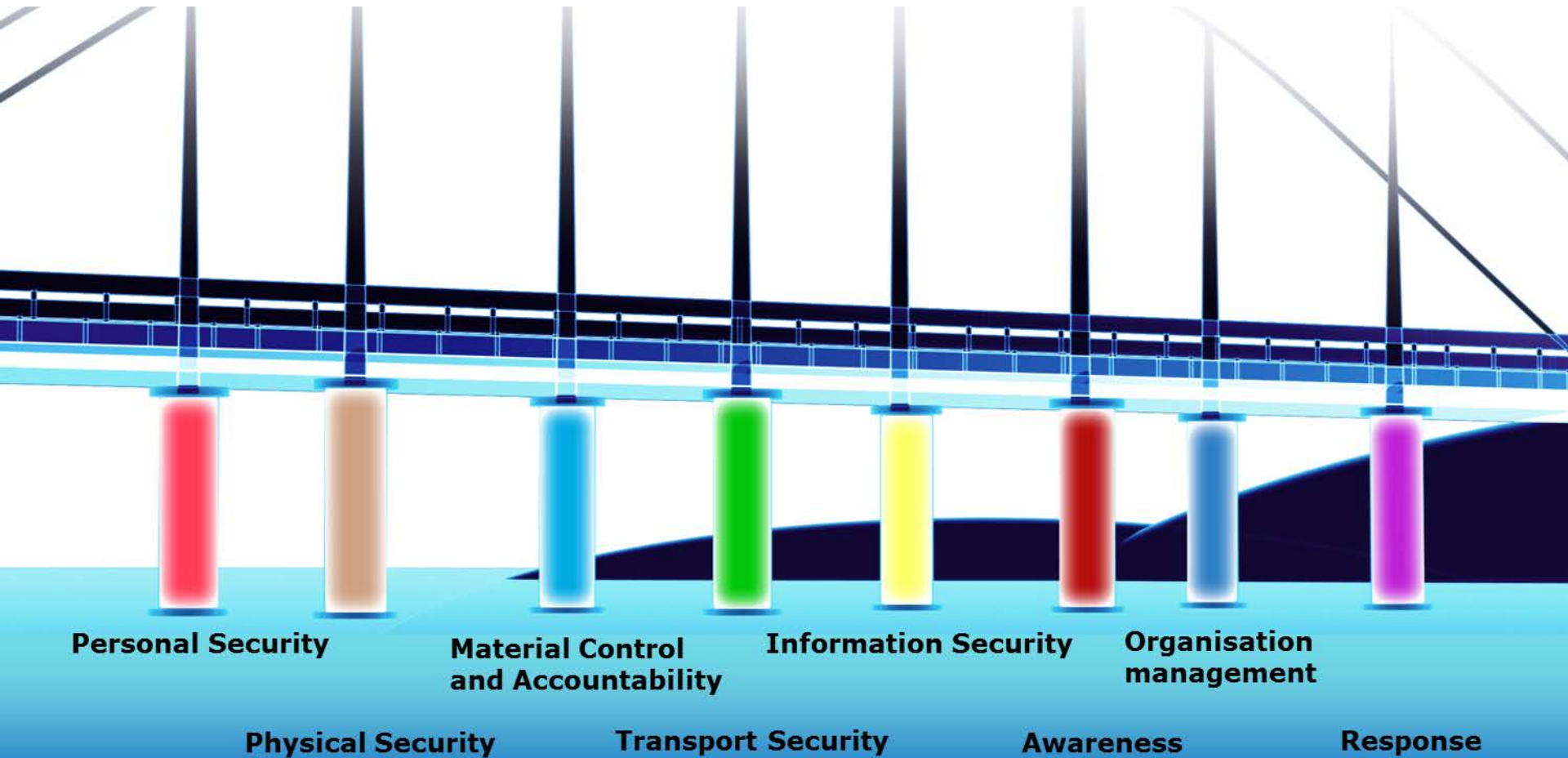
# Program of the Workshops

- Afternoon sessions (choice of 2 workshops):
  - Introduction to Biosecurity
  - Management & Organisation
  - Personnel screening and measures
  - Bioethics and Dual Use research
  - Transport and Export
  - Synthetic Biology & Biosecurity
  - Material Control, Physical Security and Information Security





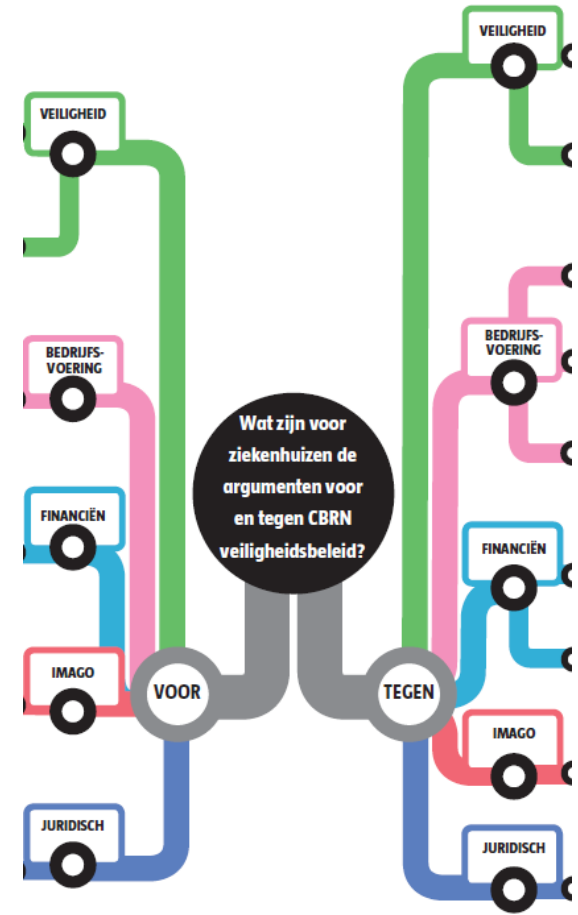
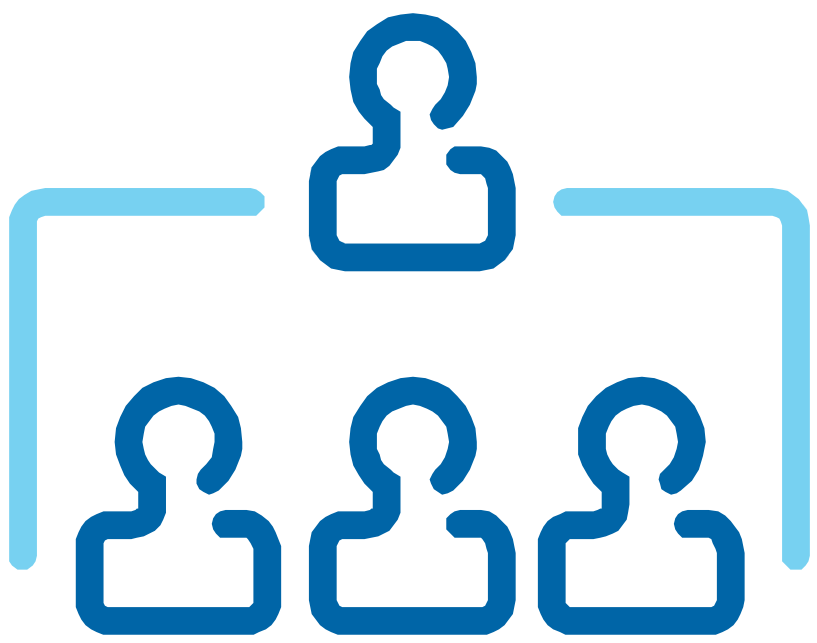
# 1. Introduction to biosecurity





## 2. How do I get my boss on board?

Management & Organisation





### 3. Can I rely on my colleagues?



Personnel security





## 4. Is this possible, allowed, desirable?

Bio-ethics en dual-use





# 5. Help! How do I get my bug across the border?

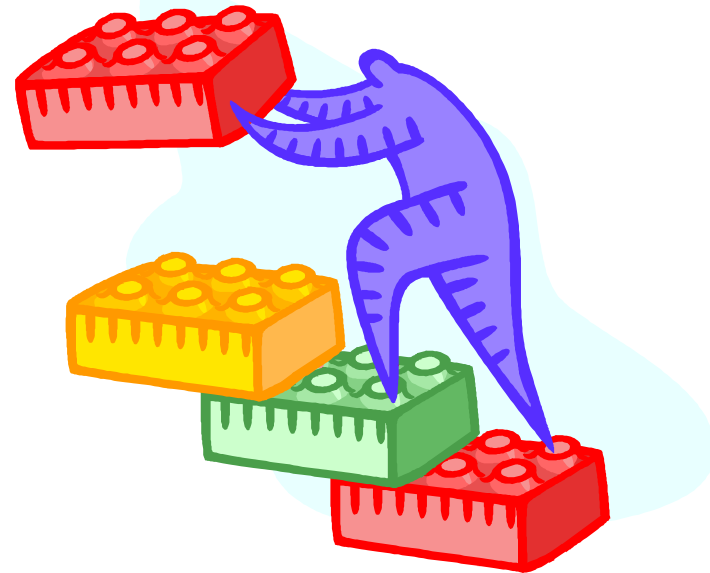
Transport and Export





## 6. Looking ahead: creativity with genes and DNA

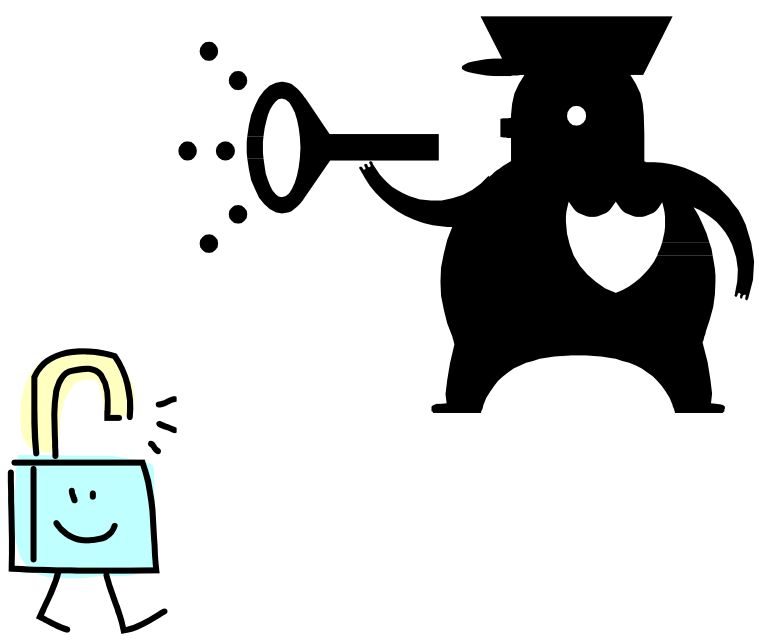
Synthetic Biology and Biosecurity





# 7. Break-in causes break-out

Material security, physical security en information security







## Participants feedback

- Many positive responses to workshops
  - Increased insight into biosecurity issues
    - › Several examples from the work floor
    - › Diversity of topics
  - Awareness raising
    - › Changed mindset
    - › For starters and experienced professionals
  - Availability of information and toolkits
    - › Guidelines, codes of conducts and tools
  - Networking options
    - › To exchange experiences, information and good practices





## Recommendations

- Improvements, the next step
  - How to implement biosecurity on the work floor
  - Some topics might need more in depth information
    - › Ethics, dual-use, personnel
  - Include other topics
    - › Animal and plant pathogens
    - › Risk perception
  - Share best practices to learn from each other
    - › Networking day 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015!





## Conclusions

- The Netherlands identified 350 professional stakeholders that have to deal with biorisk management
- The Netherlands Biosecurity Office established a network of professionals in the field of biosecurity
- Several activities were arranged that increased biosecurity awareness of the stakeholders
- Assistance of the Biosecurity Office in the implementation of a biosecurity culture is well appreciated by the stakeholders

