



pan-European Management of Biological toxin incidents through standaRdisAtion
initiatives for Crisis response Enhancement

D2.1

Biotoxin Task Force



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D2.1 Biotoxin Task Force

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Glossary of Terms

EMBRACE has created and continues to maintain a central glossary of terms on its website here: <https://embracebiotoxhub.eu/glossary/>.

This Deliverable relies on the terminology and definitions referenced in version 01 of that Glossary of terms unless stated otherwise within the text.

Abbreviations

Acronym	Meaning
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AI	Artificial Intelligence
BTF	Biotoxin Task Force
BTWC	Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention
CB	Chemical, Biological
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear
CBRNe	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives
CEN	European Committee for Standardization (Comité Européen de Normalisation)
CERIS	Community of European Research and Innovation for Security
CMINE	Crisis Management Innovation Network Europe
CoE	Centre of Expertise / Centre of Excellence (context: DG ECHO, NATO CBRNe CoE)
CONOPs	Concepts of Operations
CSTAC	CBRN Sub-Group for Toxins and Chemicals (linked to EuroBioTox network)

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Acronym	Meaning
CWC	Chemical Weapons Convention
DG ECHO	Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
DG HERA	Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority
DG HOME	Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs
DG INTPA	Directorate-General for International Partnerships
DG SANTE	Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety
DRS	Disaster Resilience (cluster)
EC	European Commission
ECDC	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
EMBRACE	European Biotoxin Hub Project (full title: EMBRACE Biotox Hub)
EQuATox	Establishment of Quality Assurances for Toxin Detection Assays (FP7 project)
EUBRF / EBRF	European Biosecurity Regulators Forum
EU	European Union
EUCOPE	European Confederation of Pharmaceutical Entrepreneurs
FP7	Seventh Framework Programme (EU Research Framework 2007–2013)
H2020	Horizon 2020 Research & Innovation Programme (2014–2020)
HSC	Health Security Committee
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
JRC	Joint Research Centre (European Commission)
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OPCW	Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
QUB	Queen's University Belfast
R&D	Research and Development
RAN	Resilience Advisors Network
REA	Research Executive Agency (European Commission)

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Acronym	Meaning
REACH	EU Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals
SERB	Service d'Aide Médicale d'Urgence
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SRC	Security Research Cluster
ToR	Terms of Reference
UCPKN	Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network
UCPM	Union Civil Protection Mechanism
UN	United Nations
UNICRI	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
VERIFIN	Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention
WHO	World Health Organization
WP	Work Package

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1 INTRODUCTION

This deliverable describes the preparatory work undertaken in the first twelve months of the project to establish the European Biotoxin Task Force – known as the BTF.

1.1 Context

The Description of Action describes this activity in terms of a number of steps: Carrying out a survey of the research networks of EMBRACE partners and those established through the Community of European Research and Innovation for Security (CERIS), together with their links to relevant initiatives and projects to identify the most active and well-informed partners within this cluster with expertise required by the BTF.

Select and invite advisors to the BTF to ensure comprehensive coverage of all expertise and experience needed to deal with biotoxin incidents. Draw up a constitution for the BTF to enable it to become a self-refreshing and sustainable body, with access to operational experts, forensic laboratories, and top researchers and scientists in each niche field, and to present the BTF as an available resource for expert Biotoxin advice to agencies of the European Union agreed with the Commission.

1.2 Objectives

Objective 2.1 relates directly to the BTF: stating that the project will “Establish a Biotoxin Task Force consultancy group with comprehensive expertise on disaster resilience and biotoxin-related topics”. That objective has been achieved and is described in this Deliverable

1.3 Relation to work packages and project tasks

Creation of the BTF fell under Work Package 2 (Task 2.1) of the Embrace project, addressing the Crisis Management of Biotoxin Incidents – The BTF has launched and featured at the meeting of the EMBRACE 2025 symposium Scientific Pathways to Biotoxin Preparedness running at the OPCW ChemTech Centre, The Hague on October 14th and 15th 2025.

Management of the BTF will continue for the duration of the project under Task 1.1 whereby, once established, the BTF will essentially function as an advisory group to EMBRACE as well as the kernel for the sustainable BTF envisaged in this proposal.

Task 8.1 makes the link between the BRSH (WP7) and the BTF, stating that a recruitment system will be established to identify and engage selected members from other organisations in training activities, trials, workshops, and in the Biotoxin Task Force (BTF), a dedicated ‘rapid reaction’ reference group of Biotoxin experts available for advice and expertise during live incidents.

This Deliverable describes establishment of the BTF and lays a foundation for delivery of these other Tasks through the remainder of the project. It outlines how the BTF will contextualise all other activities of the project through creation and ongoing maintenance of a horizon-scanning position paper currently known as the “State of the Biotox Union”.

2 WHAT IS THE BIOTOXIN TASK FORCE

2.1 Purpose

The European Biotoxin Task Force (BTF) has been established as an expert body convened, in part, to advise the EMBRACE project on technical and scientific matters. It will be available for consultation on high-priority issues and challenges emerging from the project relating to securing societies from the threat of potential biotoxin incidents.

It will also provide a Rapid Reaction component available to advise European decision-makers on operational considerations arising from a biotoxin incident.

The BTF will consist of a core team of acknowledged experts from various disciplines of the Biotoxin sector and call upon a broader membership of experts from more niche disciplines.

2.2 Why is a BTF needed?

Biotoxins represent a complex and evolving risk for European societies. Unlike many conventional chemical or biological hazards, biotoxins can arise from both natural and deliberate sources, ranging from accidental releases during research or industrial processes to their potential misuse in terrorist or criminal acts. Their effects can be acute, widespread, and difficult to manage, particularly as knowledge, expertise, and response capacities are scattered across different sectors and member states. This fragmentation creates a gap in Europe's ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond effectively to biotoxin-related incidents.

There's considered to be a grey area between the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention (BTWC) when it comes to biotoxins due to their dual classification as both chemical and biological agents. While the CWC regulates toxic chemicals regardless of origin, and the BTWC addresses biological threats, certain biotoxins (such as ricin and botulinum toxin) have dual classification, leading to potential regulatory ambiguity. This gap is further complicated by the lack of comprehensive international standards for biotoxin incident management or detection, making coordinated response efforts and legal enforcement challenging.

Creation of a dedicated Biotoxin Task Force (BTF) will seek to address this gap by pooling expertise across scientific, technical, and operational disciplines. Europe already benefits from strong academic and institutional capabilities in toxicology, biosafety, and public health; however, these resources are not consistently accessible in a coordinated way when rapid advice is needed. The BTF will seek to provide a single, recognised environment where experts can be consulted on emerging issues, ensuring that decision-makers and practitioners can receive authoritative guidance in real time.

A rapid-reaction function, critical during emergencies when operational advice is essential will also be beneficial. In the event of an incident—whether accidental or intentional—member states, EU institutions, and first responders will be able to draw on a trusted, multidisciplinary body with the necessary breadth of expertise to sign-post expert knowledge and advice. By bridging scientific insight with operational considerations, the BTF will contribute to a coherent European response, strengthen resilience, and building confidence among stakeholders and the wider public.

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Ultimately, the establishment of a European Biotoxin Task Force reflects a proactive approach to security and resilience. Rather than responding reactively to crises, it evidences Europe's commitment to anticipating threats, coordinating knowledge, and safeguarding society from a class of hazards that carry significant potential impact but are often overlooked.

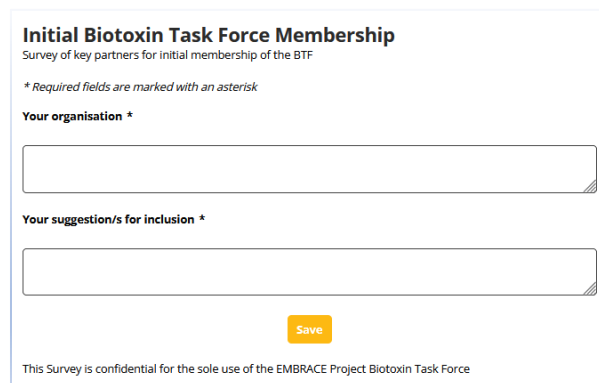
Innovations in biotechnology and the subsequent expansion of related laboratory infrastructure have increased the potential for both accidental and intentional harm to society, e.g., through experimental errors, insufficient biosafety precautions, or inadequate biosecurity. Furthermore, designer engineered threat agents are potentially more dangerous than biotoxins with a natural origin and could be released with dramatic effect. Concerns over the security of communities has driven a need for binding international standards for safe and responsible work on these highly dangerous pathogens.

3 METHODOLOGY

To create credibility of the BTF from the outset, it has been built as a trusted, multi-layered knowledge network, anchored by a small core of acknowledged experts representing key institutions. Credibility will be underpinned by rigorous governance arrangements and a clear foundation based on a common view of the current Biotox environment, secure handling of sensitive matters, and the ability to demonstrate value to diverse stakeholders from the outset.

3.1 Survey

The organisations of those proposed for initial membership are well established and known in the professional field but an ongoing mechanism has been established to manage an initial and perennial survey of existing expertise to raise awareness of new entrants and provide a mechanism by which they might be introduced to the BTF. The simple survey is hosted on the EMBRACE Biotoxin Task Force area of CMINE here <https://www.cmine.eu/surveys/forms/7517>.



Initial Biotoxin Task Force Membership
Survey of key partners for initial membership of the BTF

* Required fields are marked with an asterisk

Your organisation *

Your suggestion/s for inclusion *

Save

This Survey is confidential for the sole use of the EMBRACE Project Biotoxin Task Force

Figure 1 - BTF Membership Survey

Work on core membership ran throughout April and May 2025 resulting in the foundation of the organisations presented in [section 5 of this Deliverable](#)

3.2 Constitution

A constitution for the BTF has been created to enable it to become a self-refreshing and sustainable body, with access to operational expertise, forensic laboratories, and leading researchers and scientists in each sector and niche field. The underlying document for the constitution is the Terms of Reference (ToR) which will be adopted at the first full meeting following the launch event in October and are [presented in Annex B](#) in draft form.

3.3 Ongoing Resource

Once established, the BTF will be introduced as an available resource for expert Biotoxin advice to the EMBRACE project as well as to relevant agencies of the European Union through presentations

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and dissemination. It will be a self-sustaining resource presented as part of the impact and sustainability plan for EMBRACE.

4 ACTIVITIES OF THE BTF

The construction of the BTF is such that its own professional knowledge and vision will be used to shape its activities. That said, some basic functions are envisaged and will form the basis of an annual work plan designed to meet the needs of the project and other stakeholders.

4.1 Key Activities

The Biotoxin Task Force will:

1. **Provide and maintain** a small expert community to be known as **the “Core BTF”** for signposting and/or considering specific problems relating to Biotoxin management and response.
2. **Maintain a broader** register of expertise to be known as the **BTF membership**.
3. **Undertake an ongoing survey** of appropriate skills availability amongst project partners, CSTAC Cluster members and members of CERIS and the wider Biotoxin sector to identify the most active and well-informed partners with the required expertise **to populate its own Membership**.
4. Enable the Core BTF to **act as an Advisory Board to the Embrace Project** and its management for the duration of its work
5. **Provide a communication platform** for discrete communication amongst the project, the Core BTF and its broader membership.
6. Provide **oversight of gaps and needs in current civil protection mechanisms** for dealing with biotoxin incidents through creation, publication and maintenance of a position paper known as the “State of the Biotox Union” (working title).
7. **Evaluate and critique the developing Biotoxin CONOPs** for an effective response capacity in consultation with the broader EMBRACE stakeholder community the UCPKN and rescEU requirements
8. **Establish a dedicated ‘rapid reaction’ reference group** of Biotoxin experts available for advice and expertise during live incidents.

Over the life of the project, we will work to **ensure that the BTF becomes self-sustaining** and a valuable part of the broader network of initiatives to ensure long-term sustainability beyond the project's conclusion. This will be largely founded on the ongoing status of the CMINE platform and the facilities for sustainability that it offers.

4.2 General Communication facilities

Use of CMINE

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The Crisis Management Innovation Network Europe (CMINE) is an open, cooperative and inclusive information network for sharing information, experiences, best practice and lessons learned among individuals, crisis management organisations, researcher entities, industry and policy makers throughout Europe and beyond.

CMINE provides a window to participate in and observe discussions on innovation and thereby establish an unprecedented sharing of knowledge across all fields of Crisis Management and Disaster Risk Reduction.

CMINE also links stakeholders from existing projects, networks, communities and initiatives to reduce repetition and fragmentation whilst encouraging new ideas, and identifying innovative solutions to improve European resilience.

Developed and funded within the H2020 mechanism as part of the Driver+ project, CMINE has the ongoing support of the Commission's Research Executive Agency (REA) with a stated ambition to grow it to add users and functionality to the existing DG HOME 'Community of Users' and DG ECHO UCPM 'Knowledge Network'. The platform is now managed by EMBRACE partners, Resilience Advisors Network (RAN) for the purpose of supporting individual crisis managers, project teams and research establishments.

Who uses it?

It is already well-used by some 2500 individuals. It hosts many H2020 and Horizon Europe projects and clusters of thematic projects such as those involved in CBRNe and Standardisation activities. It also hosts the Network of Centres of Expertise which were formed to support projects and initiatives that involve the trialling of innovative technical solutions in the field of Crisis Management.

What does CMINE do for the BTF

Firstly, it connects EMBRACE members with others with a similar or the same interest or profession. Crisis Management can be viewed as a process of planning, collaboration and mutual support. CMINE provides a platform and communication means to make that a reality by connecting registered professionals, individuals and organizations with an international network of likeminded individuals with a range of complimentary skill and experiences.

Members have the opportunity to engage with established groups and project teams, organisations and response teams, international players and policy setters as well as event organisers and trainers.

4.3 BTF Communication & Networking

A Private Group has been established for communication and information sharing amongst BTF members.

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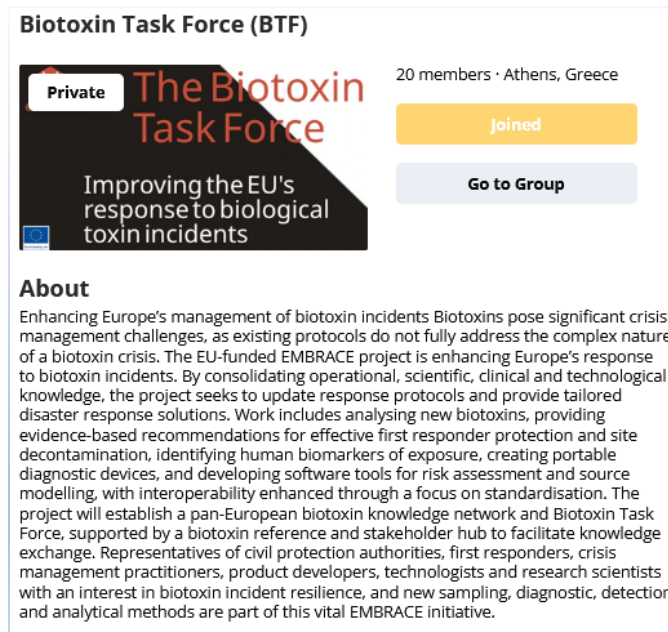


Figure 2 - BTF Communication Group

Based on the CMINE platform, it contains facilities for: announcements, informal discussions, document and file sharing, event awareness and promotion and a member contact environment.



Figure 3 - BTF Hub facilities

5 MEMBERSHIP

5.1 Basis of Membership

Members have been invited to help establish the Core BTF to ensure comprehensive coverage of all related expertise and experience needed to deal with biotoxin incidents.

Project members were asked to propose organisations that they wanted considered for membership of the BTF via a structured survey hosted on the BTF Group of CMINE here: <https://www.cmine.eu/surveys/forms/7517>.

A second tier of membership has already been suggested and will be discussed by the Core membership at its first meeting.

5.2 Initial Membership

Initial high-level membership has been proposed to address key as:

- **CERIS** Expert Group - EC CBRNe Security Research Advisor
- European Centre for Disaster Medicine (**CEMEC**) - Disaster Medicine Liaison
- Research & Academia - Research sector Liaison
- **SERB** - Medical Director
- Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (**VERIFIN**) - Sector intelligence & Risk awareness
- **DG ECHO CoE** - CBRNe Centres of Expertise
- **DG ECHO rescEU** - EC rescEU Capability & Capacity Lead
- **DG ECHO UCPKN** - Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network
- **EUCOPE** - Industry Liaison (EUCOPE Health Crisis Management and Preparedness Steering Group)
- Critical Medicines Alliance (**CMA**) - Organisational Liaison
- **DG SANTE** - EC DG Bio expertise
- Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (**OPCW**) - Organisational Liaison
- **EuroBioTox** Network - CSTAC Sub-Group Lead & Research Cluster Liaison
- **CEN** - Standardisation & Security Representative (CHAIR)
- **CBRNe World** - Communications Lead
- **Johanniter** - Practitioner / Responder Lead
- **EMBRACE Biotox Hub** - Project lead /liaison
- **CMINE** - Facilitator & Secretariat
- **INTERPOL** - Security Advisor
- **DG HOME** - Internal security policy & civil protection and resilience aspects that overlap with crisis management and disaster response.
- **DG HERA** - Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority
- **NATO** - Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellence - CBRNe Centre of Expertise

6 LAUNCH EVENT

The BTF launched at the end of September 2025 in accordance with the EMBRACE project Description of Action. It will be further developed with the assistance of attendees at the EMBRACE '25 event held on 15 October 2025 in the Hague (see below).

6.1 EMBRACE 2025 Symposium: Scientific Pathways to Biotoxin Preparedness

The EMBRACE 2025 Symposium, "Scientific Pathways to Biotoxin Preparedness", marks a pivotal moment in Europe's efforts to strengthen resilience against biotoxin threats. Organised under the Horizon Europe EMBRACE project, the event will convene leading scientists, practitioners, policymakers, and international organisations on 15 October 2025 at the OPCW ChemTech Centre in The Hague. The symposium's central purpose is to advance a shared scientific, operational, and policy agenda that will close current gaps in crisis management, reinforce preparedness, and launch the EMBRACE Biotoxin Task Force (BTF). The session will be separated into three sections:

6.1.1 Introduction of the Biotoxin Task Force

Following a networking lunch, the symposium will shift its focus to development of the Biotoxin Task Force (BTF), one of EMBRACE's cornerstone initiatives. Jon Hall QFSM and Professor David Crouch of the Resilience Advisors Network will introduce the Task Force, explaining its vision, scope, and intended role within the European and international security landscape. Conceived as a sustainable, multi-sectoral knowledge and expertise hub, the BTF will be explained as drawing together scientists, responders, regulators, and industry actors to provide a standing capacity for advice, guidance, and rapid mobilisation in the face of biotoxin incidents.

6.1.2 The BTF discussion workshop

A dedicated workshop session will follow, open to all participants. Structured around scientific and technical activities, operational and response support, and EU policy and strategy dimensions, this discussion will enable stakeholders to further shape the Task Force's priorities and operating model. Input from practitioners, forensic specialists, emergency responders, and policymakers will contribute to ensuring that the BTF will develop as a relevant, credible, and user-driven platform. The workshop exemplifies EMBRACE's stakeholder engagement strategy, where active co-creation will be deployed in preference to passive consultation.

6.1.3 Conclusion

The day will culminate in a session celebrating formal launch of the Biotoxin Task Force. This moment will take the feedback gathered throughout the workshop, consolidate BTF's membership, and outline immediate next steps. The event symbolises the transition from preparatory work to operational reality: from a project deliverable to a community-anchored mechanism with enduring impact. By embedding the BTF within networks such as the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network and linking it to initiatives like CMINE and CSTAC, EMBRACE will ensure that the Biotoxin Task Force is positioned for long-term relevance and sustainability.

7 CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK

The BTF has been established and launched. It will be presented, discussed and further developed at the event “EMBRACE 25” to be held on 15 October 2025 at OPCW in the Hague.

In this way, it will mark the conclusion of Task 2.1 and delivery of Objective 2.1.

The BTF will now hold a series of meetings to adopt and ratify its own ToR throughout 2025/26 becoming an increasingly credible source of expertise in the field of Biotoxin reference.

Creation and updating of an ongoing position paper “State of the Biotox Union” will be used to position the BTF as the primary source of expertise across all disciplines (defence, civilian, dual use, research, policy, training etc.) and will work to become recognised as the “go to” body for information in these areas.

As work continues, the BTF will be reporting frequently to the EMBRACE consortium and extensive updates will be included in future review reports, starting with Month 18.

The BTF will continue to grow and become more influential as the EMBRACE project progresses and will ensure that all project partners have access to top-level expertise as the project objectives are delivered.

ANNEX A – PROJECT UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2025

Europe's Biotoxin Task Force



The European Biotoxin Task Force (BTF) is an expert body providing a Rapid Reaction reference team available to advise both the Project and European players on operational considerations arising from biotoxin incidents.

Established within the EC-funded [EMBRACE Biotiox Hub](#) project and populated with individuals holding current and relevant knowledge of a technical and scientific nature, the BTF will consist of a core team of

acknowledged experts from various disciplines of the Biotoxin sector and a broader membership of experts from more niche disciplines.

Amongst key objectives, the Task Force will provide ongoing oversight: for the **BioTox Hub project**, of **gaps and needs in current civil protection mechanisms** for dealing with biotoxin incidents and, will evaluate and critique the **developing Biotoxin Concept of Operations (CONOPs)** for an effective response capacity serving the broader CBRNe and Health crisis stakeholder community including the UCPKN and rescEU practitioners.

The BTF will meet twice a year and is available to be consulted on high-priority issues and challenges relating to securing societies from the threat of potential biotoxin accidents.

Membership will be drawn from key sector areas including industry, health, science, practitioners / capability leads, security specialists and cross-discipline specialists with civil and defence experience.

The Task Force will benefit from the full resources of a secretariat and dedicate communication environment facilitated within the [CMINE platform](#). This area will also provide gateway membership approval and advice in support of the Biotoxin Reference & Stakeholder Hub (BRSH)

The BTF launches at the [EMBRACE 25](#) event at the offices of [OPCW in the Hague](#) on 15th October 2025 where a panel will discuss its hopes and aspirations for the Task Force. It will convene for the first time as a formal group before the end of the year.

The benefit to members will be framed around their specific expertise but including a seat at the table at which emerging threat and priority activities are discussed as well as a voice contributing advice back into EU/EC institutions. Although having a European focus, named international partners will also be engaged to support the Task Force on the basis of mutual benefit within a secure environment. The opportunity for relationship building and networking will grow considerably as the Task Force establishes itself.

Jointly funded by the European Union, EMBRACE is a forward-thinking initiative under the Horizon Europe programme, addressing the critical need for enhanced crisis management strategies tailored to biological toxin incidents. Recognising the unique complexities of biotoxin crises, the project seeks to fill gaps in current protocols derived from broader Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) frameworks.

Over its 36-month duration, EMBRACE aims to revolutionise Europe's biotoxin incident response capabilities by integrating advanced scientific knowledge, innovative technologies, robust operational approaches, and a robust wide network of stakeholders.

ANNEX B – BTF TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

1. Introduction

The European Biotoxin Task Force (BTF) is established as an expert advisory body under the EMBRACE project. It provides technical and scientific input on biotoxin-related issues and challenges, as well as rapid operational advice in the event of biotoxin incidents.

2. Rationale

Biotoxins present complex risks due to their dual classification as both chemical and biological agents. Current international frameworks (CWC, BTWC) do not fully cover their governance, leading to regulatory and operational gaps. The BTF is created to address these gaps by pooling expertise across disciplines and sectors.

3. Objectives

The BTF will:

- Maintain a small expert community (the **Core BTF**) for focused consultation on biotoxin management and response.
- Develop and manage a broader register of expertise (the **BTF membership**).
- Conduct ongoing surveys of skills and expertise within EMBRACE, CERIS, CMINE, UCPKN, and the wider biotoxin community.
- Serve as an Advisory Board to the EMBRACE project management.
- Provide a secure communication platform for its members.
- Identify and assess gaps in current civil protection mechanisms for biotoxin incidents.
- Review and critique evolving Concepts of Operations (CONOPs) in consultation with EMBRACE stakeholders, UCPKN and rescEU requirements.
- Establish a rapid reaction reference group of experts available during live incidents.
- Support the long-term sustainability of biotoxin expertise networks beyond the EMBRACE project.

4. Membership

Eligibility for membership of the Biotoxin Task Force is based on recognised expertise in biotoxin science, public health, security, civil protection, or other related fields. Members should be affiliated with a reputable institution, agency, or organisation, and must demonstrate a clear commitment to confidentiality and the responsible handling of sensitive information.

The Core BTF will be selected based on expertise, balance of disciplines, and representation from relevant sectors.

Members are expected to actively participate, respond to consultations, and contribute to outputs.

Roles:

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Chair: Provides leadership, convenes meetings, represents the BTF externally.

Vice-Chair (optional): Supports the Chair and deputises as required.

Members: Provide expert input, contribute to reviews, and support outputs.

Secretariat: Administrative and coordination support, record-keeping, communications.

5. Governance and Structure

The Biotoxin Task Force will operate under the leadership of a nominated Chair, supported by a Secretariat. The Chair is responsible for convening and leading meetings, overseeing the delivery of outputs, and representing the BTF in external forums. The Secretariat provides essential administrative support by coordinating logistics, maintaining records, and managing communication among members. Where necessary, sub-groups or thematic working groups may be established to address specific areas of focus or emerging issues.

6. Meetings

The BTF will meet at least twice per year. Additional ad-hoc meetings may be convened in response to urgent issues or incidents. Meetings may be physical or virtual. Notes of meetings will be prepared by the Secretariat and circulated to members.

7. Resources and Support

The BTF is funded under the Horizon Europe EMBRACE project (Grant Agreement N° 101168322). Secretariat services are provided by project partners.

8. Duration

The BTF is established under the EMBRACE project timeframe but aims to create a self-sustaining structure that will continue beyond the project's conclusion.

11. Confidentiality and conflict of interest provisions

All members of the Biotoxin Task Force (BTF) are required to respect the confidential nature of the information shared within the group. Documents, discussions, and deliberations may include sensitive material relating to security, public safety, or research that is not for public disclosure. Members must ensure that such information is safeguarded and only shared with prior authorisation from the Chair or Secretariat.

Members are expected to declare any potential or actual conflicts of interest that could affect, or be perceived to affect, their impartiality. This includes personal, professional, or financial interests that may influence their contributions to BTF discussions or recommendations. Where a conflict of interest is declared, the Chair may request that the member withdraw from specific deliberations or decision-making processes.

Breaches of confidentiality or failure to disclose a conflict of interest may result in suspension or termination o