

# Improving the European response to biological toxin incidents

## A multi-pronged approach



## Background to the Project

The threat of biotoxin incidents in which pathogens are released accidentally or intentionally into the community is increasing.






Human error and poorly designed processes increase the risk of accidental laboratory leaks, while the relative ease with which some biotoxins can be produced makes their use in bioterrorist incidents a real possibility.

To protect civilians and responders, Europe requires an effective crisis management capacity that considers the idiosyncrasies of biotoxins.

Solutions that provide interoperability across services and EU nation states and a recognised body of biotoxin expertise are urgently required.

## How this will be achieved

### Expected Outcomes

-  **Biotoxin incident response** Requirements for a European biotoxin incident response capacity
-  **Forensic Guidelines** Harmonised guidelines for forensic analysis of biotoxins
-  **Unified Approaches** Standardised approaches, interoperability and knowledge exchange
-  **Rapid Field Diagnostics** Portable devices for rapid on-site field diagnostics and biotoxin detection
-  **Safety Recommendations** Evidence-based recommendations for personal protective equipment and decontamination measures for biotoxins

-  **Biotoxin Task Force**  
Creation of a pan-European multidisciplinary task force of biotoxin experts
-  **PPE & Decontamination Testing**  
Laboratory and field evaluations of personal protective equipment and decontamination measures
-  **Biothreat Risk Tools**  
New tools for biothreat risk assessment
-  **Biomarkers & Susceptibility**  
New methods for identifying human biomarkers of biotoxin intoxication and individual differences in susceptibility
-  **Enhanced Response Capacity**  
Revised CONOPs, new training materials, and specification of a biotoxin response capacity
-  **Regulatory Roadmap**  
Creation of a regulatory and standardisation roadmap
-  **Portable Breath Sampling & Biotoxin Detection**  
New portable devices for breath sampling, and biotoxin field detection
-  **Secure Sampling Procedures**  
Development of secure and legally valid sampling procedures for enhanced provenance and analytical accuracy

### Partners

