

21st Annual Meeting of the TSE EURL



Rome 13rd -15th May 2024

Biosafety in prion labs: development of best practices

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Last episode....

- Survey on information regarding the biosafety measures currently implemented in the National Reference Laboratories for TSE
- Evidence of the need of implementation and harmonisation of procedures for biosafety
 1. Provide NRLs with access to international guidelines, relevant literature etc. in the EURL site
 2. Proposal of organization of virtual meetings
- Priorities
- Program of the WG on biosafety to be implemented from now on



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The survey carried out one year ago

A poster for this meeting and one collective paper for an international journal:

BIOSAFETY IN NATIONAL REFERENCE LABORATORIES FOR TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHIES

A SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

OBJECTIVES

to **(1) assess the adoption of biosafety practices** at National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) for TSEs and **(2) identify strategies** to promote their harmonisation and address critical issues.



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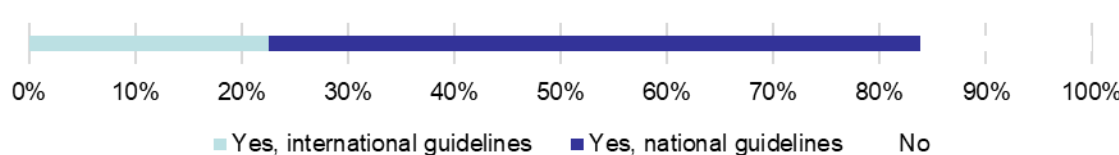
BIOSAFETY IN NATIONAL REFERENCE LABORATORIES FOR TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHIES

A SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

RESULTS

Survey response rate: 100% (n=31). NRLs mainly conduct **diagnostic** activities (96.8%, n=30), followed by **research** activities (35.5%, n=11). Only three NRLs (9.7%) perform **experimental inoculations** in laboratory animals.

Are there any specific national guidelines for safely working with TSE agents?



Application of specific biosecurity practices

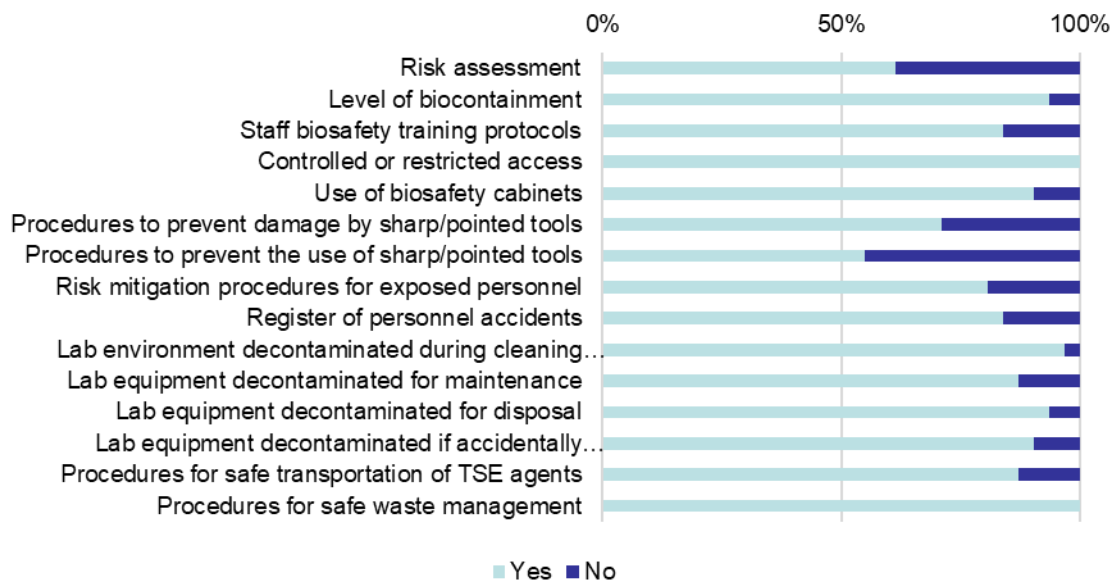


Figure: Countries hosting the NRLs surveyed.



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Figure: Countries hosting the NRLs surveyed.

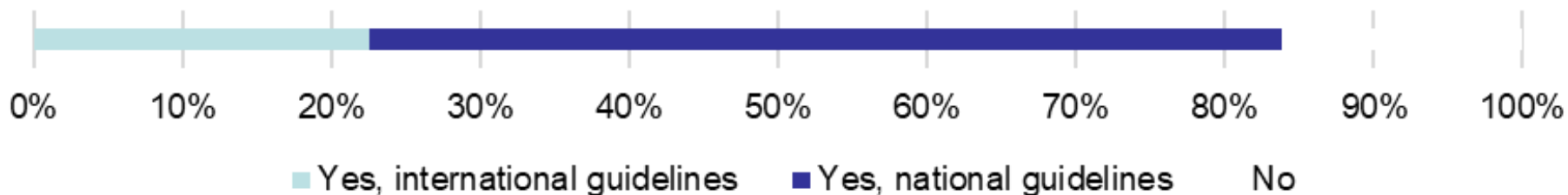
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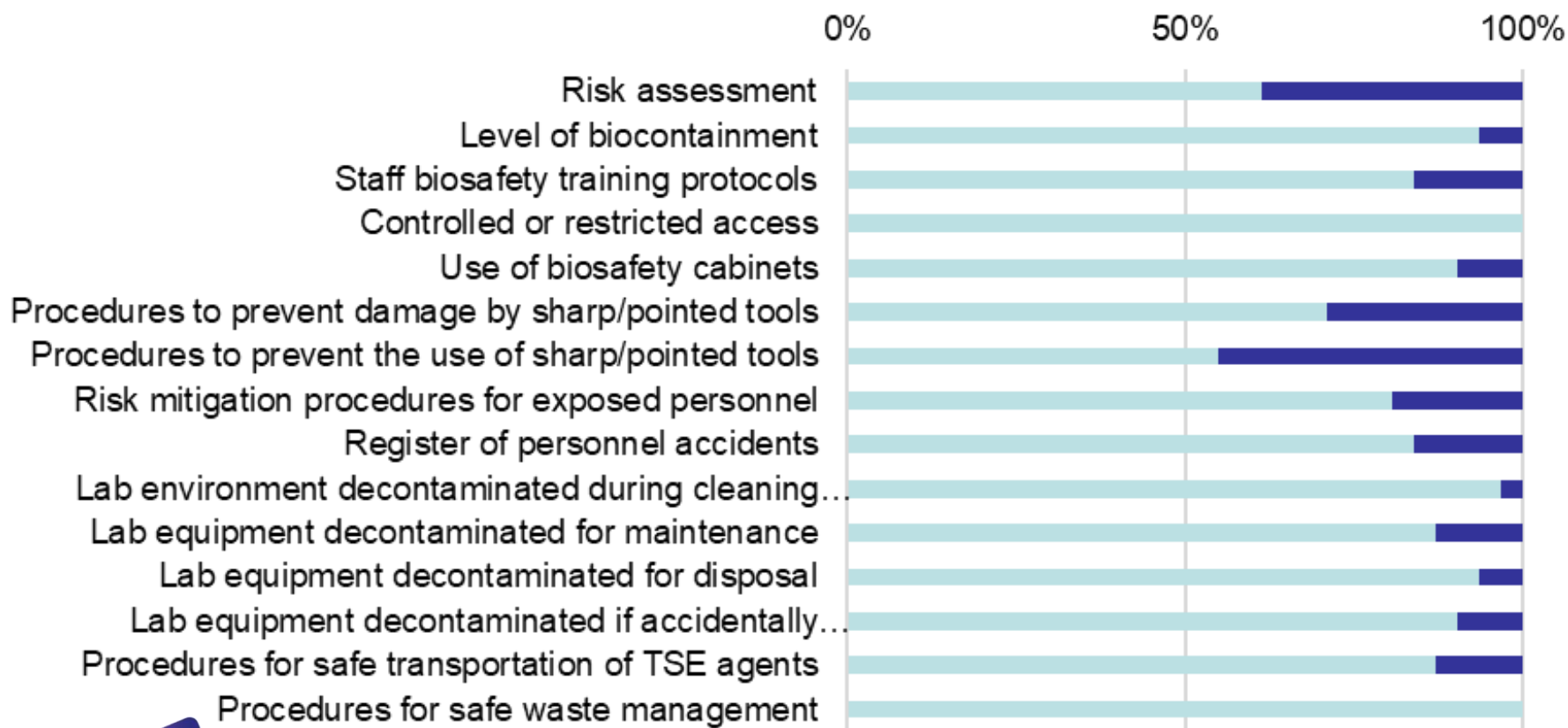
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Application of specific biosecurity practices



■ Yes ■ No



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An ad hoc folder



EURL TSE > Legal sources & documents

Legal sources & documents

- [EU Regulations](#)
- [EFSA publications](#)
- [EURL publications](#)
- [Biosafety issues](#)
- [Other publications](#)
- [Proficiency Test Reports](#)
- [Workshops Reports](#)

[EU Regulations](#)



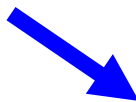
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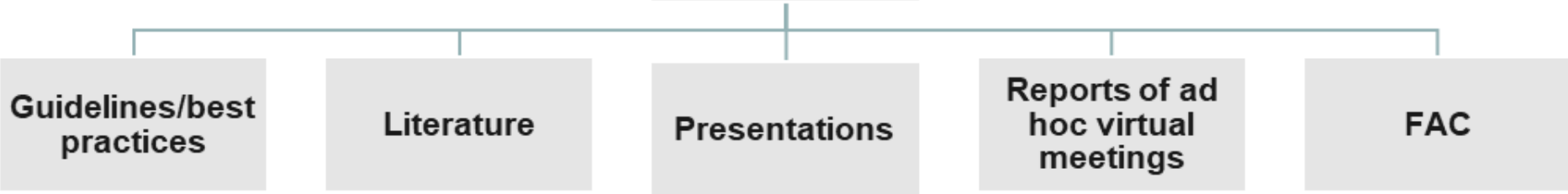
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Biosafety issues



<https://www.eurl-tse.eu/biosafety-issues/>



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Virtual meetings

How?

- short (~2 hours)
- informal, to encourage all colleagues to share their problems or solutions
- focus on a specific biosafety topic at each meeting
- presentations for those who want to share their views or problems
- group discussions about the available strategies to tackle the problems that arise
- the EURL staff will share own strategies and procedures
- after each meeting, we will prepare a summary of the discussion and publish it on the EURL website



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Virtual meetings

1° scheduled for 18 june 2024

Priority themes proposed by email

- a. Risk assessment and biosafety level;
- b. Biosafety issues related to a diagnostic procedure (i.e. ELISA);
- c. Decontamination of lab equipment/environment;
- d. Waste management and safe transportation of samples;

Identified through discussion with NRLs: DECONTAMINATION (old equipment)

Further priorities?



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