

# Annual Report 2025



Swiss Biorisk  
Alliance

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## Highlights 2025

- **Establishment at national level:** Expansion of the network to 34 member institutions and 5 cooperation partners. The Alliance is now represented in all linguistic regions of Switzerland.
- **Annual symposium:** The symposium “One Health Preparedness: From Pathogen Surveillance to Vaccines” on November 7, 2025, attracted around 90 participants and enabled a broad exchange of knowledge and expertise.
- **Further development of activities:** The future activities of the Swiss Biorisk Alliance were further developed in a strategy workshop and through numerous discussions with stakeholders and experts.
- **New name and look:** Renaming of the Network Biological Risks to Swiss Biorisk Alliance and implementation of a new corporate design and professional website.

## 1. Background & objectives

The Swiss Biorisk Alliance was founded in 2023 as an association under the original name “Network Biological Risks” and focuses on the prevention, detection, and management of biological risks due to infectious diseases. The association aims to establish a comprehensive national network with international reach, bringing together institutions and individuals with expertise and infrastructure in this area. It follows the 'One Health' approach and connects the fields of human, veterinary, and environmental health as well as different sectors, i.e., public institutions such as universities, hospitals, and authorities, private companies, and non-profit organizations such as expert committees and associations (see figure 1).

In its founding year of 2023, the association was launched with 13 members and two cooperation partners, mainly from the Bern region. The association established its board and office and presented itself to the public at a symposium. In 2024, the association expanded its network and gained new members and cooperation partners from various regions of Switzerland. In addition, a strategy workshop was held to define the association's vision, mission, and fields of activity, and two working groups were established to focus on the key topics of “prevention” and “detection.” The primary goal for 2025 was to establish and promote the network at the national level and to involve other key players with infrastructure and competences in the

prevention, detection, and management of infectious diseases. In addition, initial future activities in “detection” and “prevention” were to be developed together with members, cooperation partners, and stakeholders.

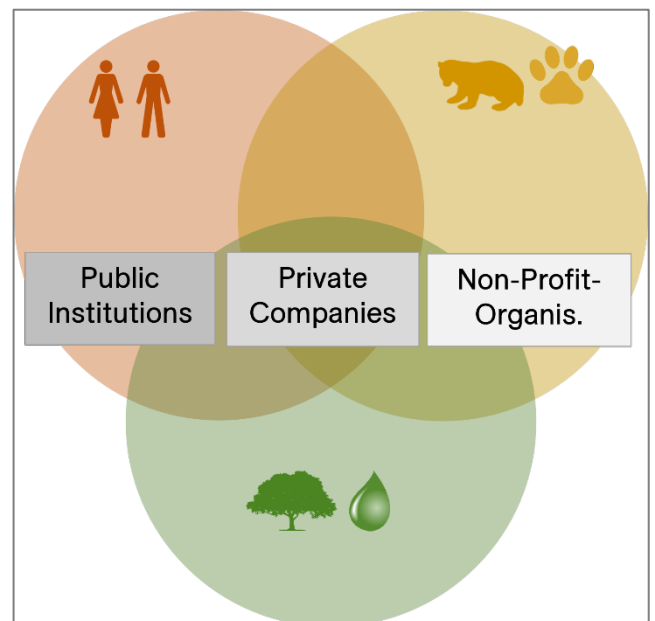


Fig. 1. The Swiss Biorisk Alliance pursues a 'One Health' approach and connects the human, veterinary, and environmental fields as well as the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

## 2. Activities in 2025

### 2.1 Expansion of the network & establishment at the national level

In the reporting year, the Swiss Biorisk Alliance further expanded its reach and established itself as a nationwide platform. Through targeted discussions with around two dozen organizations, the network grew to 34 member institutions (+12) and 5 cooperation partners (+1).

The network now includes institutions in all language regions of Switzerland, including Romandie, the Basel, Bern, and Zurich regions, Eastern Switzerland, and Ticino. In addition, various nationwide organizations are members of the Swiss Biorisk Alliance (siehe figure 2).

New members:

- Alveolix AG
- Association of Swiss Cantonal Veterinarians
- Department of Infectious Diseases, Inselspital, Bern University Hospital, University of Bern
- Department of Infectious Diseases and Hospital Epidemiology, University Hospital Zurich (year 2026)
- Elionova AG
- Genossenschaft KPT
- Institute of Microbiology, SUPSI
- SAFOSO AG

- Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH)
- University of Zurich, represented by the One Health Institute
- Vaccine Formulation Institute (VFI)
- Zentrum für Labormedizin St. Gallen

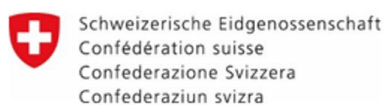
The Swiss Round Table for Antibiotics joined as a new cooperation partner. In addition, regular information exchange was established through participation in the plenary meetings of the Swiss regional laboratory network. An important milestone was the anchoring of the Swiss Biorisk Alliance in the National Pandemic Plan, which serves as an important planning tool for federal and cantonal authorities. In the revised version, published in July 2025, the Swiss Biorisk Alliance is named as a point of contact for providing consolidated expertise and improving information exchange and coordination.

Alongside its national establishment, the Alliance began building international relations. Initial discussions were held with the Abbott Pandemic Defense Coalition and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) to promote networking on a global level.

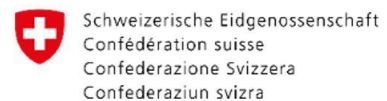
## Members



## Collaboration partners



Federal Department of Defence,  
Civil Protection and Sport DDPS  
Federal Office for Civil Protection FOCP  
SPIEZ LABORATORY



Institute of Virology and Immunology IVI

**Federal Office of Public Health**  
Communicable Diseases Division &  
Competence Center for Supply Security



Fig. 2. At the end of 2025, the Swiss Biorisk Alliance counted 34 member institutions and 5 cooperation partners.

## 2.2 Strategic orientation & planning of future activities

A key focus of the work in the reporting year was on strategy development and securing sustainable financing for the Swiss Biorisk Alliance. Different development options were explored by researching background information and holding discussions with potential funding partners, stakeholders, and experts (e.g. with cantonal and federal authorities and the Task Force Medicine Bern). This resulted in the development of an initial model for the future functioning of the Swiss Biorisk Alliance (see figure 3).

In order to develop and prioritize specific activities for the various fields of action, the Swiss Biorisk Alliance held a half-day workshop on October 27, 2025, with around 20 participants from the two working groups "Detection" and "Prevention" as well as external experts. The workshop focused on the areas of diagnostics and surveillance, as well as the translation of vaccine research into commercializable products.

The workshop resulted in the following lines of action for potential future activities:

### **Diagnostics & Surveillance:**

- Establishment of a coordination platform to map the testing systems and capacities available in Swiss diagnostic laboratories
- Setting up a joint knowledge platform with an overview of ongoing and planned studies on test development and 'One Health' surveillance
- Identification of priorities and gaps in surveillance and dissemination of this information to policy makers
- Contacting regulatory authorities for early clarification of regulatory aspects of diagnostic tests

### **Vaccines:**

- Prioritization of vaccine platforms/technologies for rapid deployment, based on suitability for priority pathogens and the expertise and infrastructure available in Switzerland
- Bringing together academic researchers with industry partners at an early stage of research and development projects
- Preparation of a playbook for priority platforms and testing of the procedure by developing a prototype vaccine

In a next step, these ideas for action will be further prioritized and specified (see also Outlook).

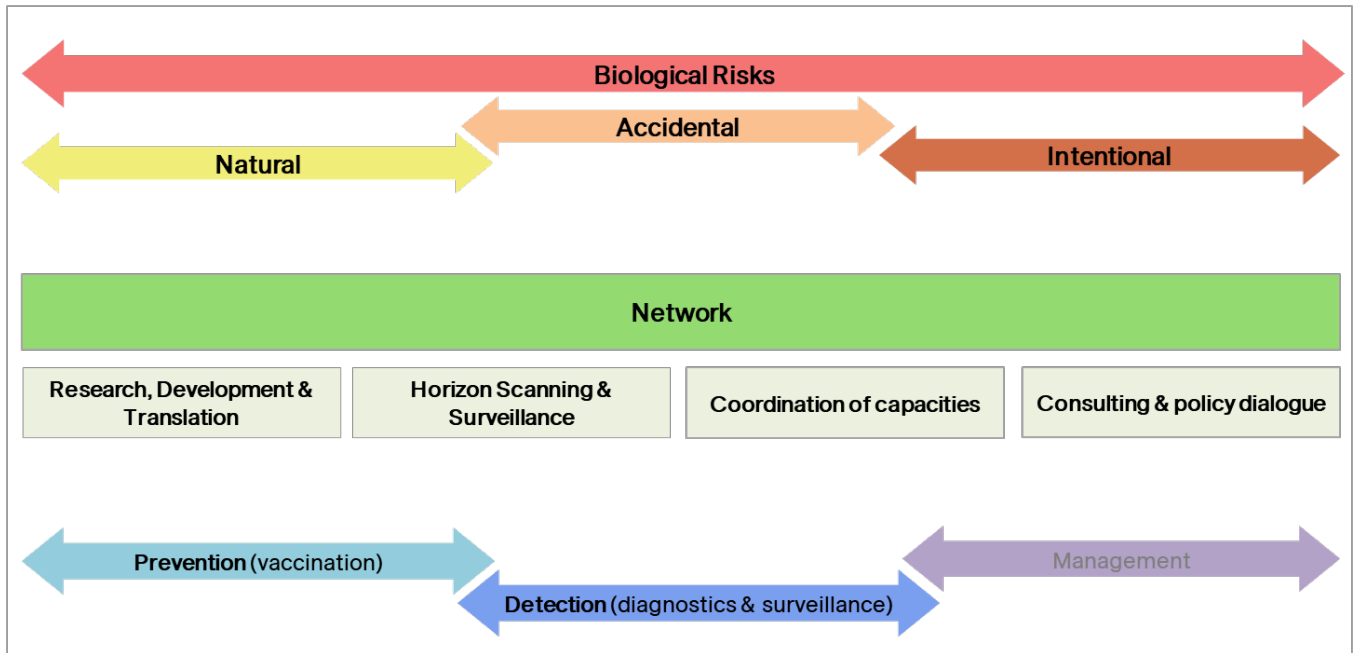


Fig. 3. Possible model for the future activities of the Swiss Biorisk Alliance: The Swiss Biorisk Alliance contributes to the prevention, detection, and management of biological risks due to infectious diseases, regardless of whether these are of natural origin or have been released unintentionally or deliberately. Its foundation is its multidisciplinary, multisectoral network that facilitates contacts, promotes the exchange of information and experience, establishes communication channels, builds trust, and supports cooperation and the use of synergies. Building on this network, a range of services can be offered in the future, depending on demand and finances from different sources. The key areas of activities are research and innovation, surveillance and horizon scanning, coordination of capacities for diagnostics and vaccination, as well as consulting and policy dialogue.

## 2.3 Coordination of the development of a guidance document

The Swiss Biorisk Alliance has been mandated by the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) to coordinate the development of guidance on implementing the Major Accidents Ordinance for establishments with biological hazard potential. To this end, the Alliance is collaborating closely with the Biosafety Centre of the Institute of Infectious Diseases (IFIK) at the University of Bern, as well as with representatives of the cantonal authorities and the FOEN. Work was initiated in summer 2025 and initial criteria for assessing the potential for major accidents were developed and discussed. The aim is to finalise the project in 2026 and publish a guidance document for establishments and enforcement authorities.

## 2.4 Knowledge exchange & networking

On November 7, the Swiss Biorisk Alliance held its annual half-day symposium on “One Health Preparedness: From Pathogen Surveillance to Vaccines” at sitem-insel, featuring seven expert

presentations. The event was fully booked with 90 participants and served not only as a forum for professional exchange but also for networking with the wider community (figure 4).

On December 5, the Swiss Biorisk Alliance, together with IFIK and MCID at the University of Bern, organized a scientific seminar with Prof. Marcel Salathé, EPFL, on the topic of “Development of AI in Health,” which also attracted considerable interest with around 40 participants.

The Swiss Biorisk Alliance was represented with a poster at the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction from October 28 to 30 as well as at the Annual Conference of the Multidisciplinary Center for Infectious Diseases (MCID) at the University of Bern on November 21. It also contributed to two FOPH workshops on respiratory pathogens and vector-borne diseases.

The Swiss Biorisk Alliance's General Assembly took place online on March 10.

### Program Annual Symposium 2025

- 13:00 Welcome & News from the Swiss Biorisk Alliance**  
Stephen Leib and Franziska Oeschger, Swiss Biorisk Alliance
- 13:15 Wildlife health surveillance in Switzerland**  
Simone Pisano, Institute for Fish and Wildlife Health, University of Bern
- 13:45 Animal disease surveillance and control strategies and their relevance to human health protection**  
Isabel Lechner, SAFOSO
- 14:15 Current priorities for Switzerland in emerging and re-emerging viral diseases**  
Isabella Eckerle, Geneva Center for Emerging Viral Diseases
- 14:45 Coffee break**
- 15:15 100 Days Mission: Preparing for future pandemics by advancing vaccine innovations**  
Katja Roll, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations CEPI
- 15:45 Vaccine development and production in Switzerland: insights from start-ups and industry**
- Philippe Paroz, BernaVax Biotech
  - Tim Keys, Baxiva
  - Kurt Reichen, Bavarian Nordic Berna
- 16:45 Wrap-up & Networking apéro**

Moderators: Salomé Dürr, Stephen Leib, Franziska Oeschger



Fig. 4. Impressions from the annual symposium and other events to which the Swiss Biorisk Alliance contributed in 2025.

## 2.5 A new look as Swiss Biorisk Alliance

During a strategy workshop in October 2024, the decision was made to rename the “Network Biological Risks” to “Swiss Biorisk Alliance.” The name change led to a comprehensive rebranding in April 2025, which included the development of a new logo and corporate design, and a professional website.

In April 2025, the new website created by the Bern-based company Terminal8 went online at <https://biorisk.ch>. A key feature is a searchable and filterable directory of member and partner organizations (figure 5). Four short videos featuring members of the Swiss Biorisk Alliance were filmed and published to raise awareness of the association and its topics. A simple analysis of visitor numbers showed an average of around 70 visits to the website per month. Since the

beginning of December, the website has also been available in French and German.

The presence on LinkedIn was significantly increased again in 2025 through regular posts and had around 600 followers (+230) at the end of December.

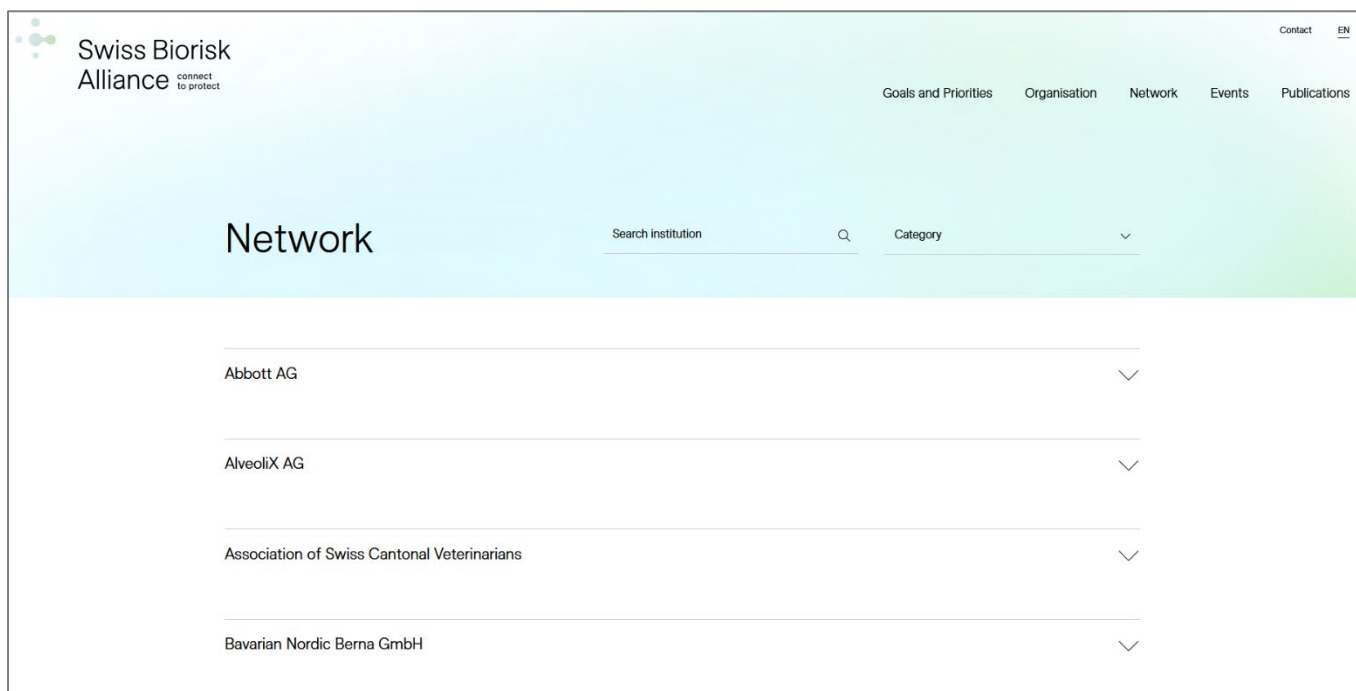


Fig. 5. The new trilingual website features a new logo and design, as well as a searchable and filterable directory of all members and cooperation partners (<https://biorisk.ch/network>).

### 3. Outlook 2026

Strengthening and fostering the network as the core of the Swiss Biorisk Alliance will remain a priority in 2026. At the national level, this includes involving additional key players with expertise in the prevention, detection, and management of biological risks. At the same time, international networking with organizations and initiatives with similar goals, for example in the areas of pandemic preparedness and 'One Health', will be intensified.

Building mutual understanding and facilitating professional exchange within the Swiss Biorisk Alliance and with the extended network will also continue to be a high priority. Among other things, another edition of the established and

well-attended annual symposium is planned for November 20, 2026.

In view of the approaching end of the development phase, which is financially supported by the Canton of Bern, at the end of 2026, preparing for the next project phase and securing sustainable funding will be another key focus. The specific activities developed in the 2025 strategy workshop are to be further elaborated and, where considered useful, implemented in initial pilot projects. Possible examples include the development of a coordination platform for recording diagnostic capacities and the creation of an overview of actors in vaccine research, development, and provision.

## 4. Finances

### 4.1 Annual financial statement 2025

<b>ASSETS (31.12.2025)</b>	CHF	<b>LIABILITIES (31.12.2025)</b>	CHF
Bank BEKB	83'524.50	Deferrals	11'944.80
Accruals	126.50	Profit brought forward	69'137.50
		Annual profit	2'568.70
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>83'651.00</b>	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>83'651.00</b>

<b>EXPENSE</b>	CHF	<b>REVENUE</b>	CHF
<b>Management Office</b>		Funding Canton of Bern	125'000.00
Salary expenses (60-80 %) incl. VAT	132'364.90	Membership fees	13'000.00
Office operations (fees, auditing, materials, meetings)	3'430.50	Mandate FOEN guidance document	20'000.00
<b>Concept and project work</b>			
Strategy workshop (room, catering)	2'083.90		
Services Biosafety Center for FOEN mandate	9'944.80		
<b>Event</b>			
Symposium (catering, expenses)	3'246.00		
<b>Website &amp; Communications</b>	3'688.90		
Website (Development & Hosting)	4'036.90		
Graphics work	324.30		
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>155'431.30</b>	<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>158'000.00</b>
Result			2'568.70

In 2025, the association's income and expenditure were nearly balanced, with a small profit of around CHF 2'500.

The association still has financial resources from 2023 amounting to approximately CHF 70,000. Following consultation with the Canton of Bern, these funds can expectedly be used for a cost-neutral extension in 2027, i.e. after the funding phase has ended.

The annual financial statement was audited by the auditors Huwiler Revisionen AG and found to be correct.

## 4.2 In-kind contributions 2025

ACTIVITY	CHF
<b>Management Office</b>	
Expert support of the management office by IFIK	15'120.00
Overhead (10% of salaries) by IFIK	12'026.00
Office space by IFIK	3'608.00
<b>Board</b>	
Time commitment for the Presidium and Executive Board members	22'680.00
<b>Strategy development</b>	
Time commitment preparation strategy workshop	8'190.00
Time commitment participation strategy workshop	17'430.00
<b>Events</b>	
Time commitment General Assembly	17'640.00
Time commitment speakers, moderators and participants Annual Symposium	24'780.00
Event space and equipment Annual Symposium by sitem-insel	1'470.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>122'944.00</b>

In 2025, the association's member institutions and cooperation partners made in-kind contributions, i.e. contributions without cash flow, totalling nearly CHF 123'000. These primarily involve the participation of experts from the respective institutions on the board and at association events such as the strategy workshop, the symposium, and the general assembly.

In total, the experts involved contributed around 450 hours of work to the association. In addition, the association's office was provided expert, administrative, and technical support as well as office and event space.



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