



# Discussion results: EU directive on biological agents – relevance of the findings

Workshop on work-related diseases from exposure to biological agents,  
10 October 2017, Amsterdam

**In your national context, are there any differences between the Directive and the national legislation? Is there a broader definition of biological agents?**

**For example is the sensitising or toxic potential of microorganisms and their constituents explicitly included?**

- YES
- No need to change the scope
- But: need to change/update annexes
- Broader definitions are used for example including sharps directive and including mites
- Minority is of the opinion that the definition should be broadened

**Is prevention and legislation linked to the approach of classifying agents into groups and linking prevention measures to the classification?**

**Or are there other approaches, e.g. defined prevention approaches or legislation for particular work processes, sectors or occupational groups?**

**Could these be applied elsewhere?**

- **Implementation could be improved**
- **Directive is difficult to understand for non-experts**
- **More emphasis on how to prevent exposure (instead of on focus on micro organism)**
- **Taking better into account the context of sectors, jobs, vulnerable groups etc.**

# Could we build on different national approaches, e.g. to address unintentional exposures?

- **YES**
- **Germany: Technical rules from Germany**
- **England: difference between intentional and unintentional risks/issues**
- **Hungary: clear terminology for PPE**
- **France: monitoring system Anses**
- **The Netherlands: more incentives for employers (information/education)**

# Are there any sectors not well covered by legislation?

## What are the challenges?

- YES
- World is changing
- New risks, a.o., older working population

## In your view, what would be the best approach?

Is there a need to improve cooperation between countries? If yes, how to improve? YES

Could anything be done at EU/international level?

- Continuous update

Is there a need or benefit to cooperate with other policy areas, e.g. public health?

- YES because they use different lists