

**DECLARATION FORM ON NOTHING TO DECLARE OR NOTHING NEW TO
DECLARE FOR USE IN THE INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

Measure	Nothing to declare	Nothing new to declare
A, part 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A, part 2 (i)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A, part 2 (ii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A, part 2 (iii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B (I)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B (ii)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
F	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(Please mark the appropriate box(es) for each measure, with a tick.)

Date: 1 April 2008

State Party to the Convention: Finland

CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURE Part 1

Exchange of Data on Research Centres and Laboratories -#1

1. Name(s) of the Facility

Centre for Biothreat Preparedness

2. Responsible public or private organization or company

Centre for Military Medicine, Finnish Defence Forces under the Ministry of Defence and the National Public Health Institute under Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.

3. Location and postal address

Tukholmankatu 8 A, FI-00290 Helsinki and Mannerheimintie 166, FIN-00300 Helsinki.

4. Source(s) of financing of the reported activity, including indication if the activity is wholly or partly financed by the Ministry of Defence

The Centre is financed jointly by the Finnish Defence Forces and National Public Health Institute.

5. Number of maximum containment units within the research centre and/or laboratory, with an indication of their respective size (m²)

There are no BSL-4 units at the Centre.

6. If no maximum containment unit, indicate highest level of protection

BSL-3, 120m²

7. Scope and general description of activities, including type(s) of micro-organisms and/or toxins as appropriate

The Centre for Biothreat Preparedness started its activities in May 2005. During 2007, the Centre developed rapid PCR detection assays for selected microbial agents.

Exchange of Data on Research Centres and Laboratories -#2

1. Name(s) of the Facility

National Public Health Institute, Bacteriological and Virological laboratories

2. Responsible public or private organization or company

National Public Health Institute under Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

3. Location and postal address

Mannerheimintie 166

FI-00300 Helsinki

4. Source(s) of financing of the reported activity, including indication if the activity is wholly or partly financed by the Ministry of Defence

Funding from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and large variety of external research funding.

5. Number of maximum containment units within the research centre and/or laboratory, with an indication of their respective size (m²)

There are no BSL-4 laboratories or other units at this containment level.

6. If no maximum containment unit, indicate highest level of protection

Three BSL-3 level laboratories. 120m² and 20m² in Helsinki, 80m² in Turku.

7. Scope and general description of activities, including type(s) of micro-organisms and/or toxins as appropriate

Clinical and environmental microbiological research and reference laboratory facilities in Helsinki, Turku, Kuopio and Oulu. Work mainly with ordinary occurring endemic and epidemic bacteria and viruses with main emphases on vaccine preventable diseases, enteric pathogens, zoonoses, tuberculosis spp, enteroviruses, polioviruses, influenza, HIV, Hepatitis viruses and environmental fungi and bacteria causing human health problems. The Institute manages regional Influenza and Polio laboratory facilities. The Institute is in charge of biothreat preparedness in public health context. National focal point for IHR started June 2007.

Exchange of Data on Research Centres and Laboratories -#3

1. Name(s) of the Facility

Yersinia Research Laboratory

2. Responsible public or private organization or company

University of Helsinki

University of Turku

3. Location and postal address

Department of Bacteriology and Immunology

Haartman Institute, University of Helsinki

Haartmaninkatu 3

P.O Box 21

FI-00014 University of Helsinki

Helsinki, Finland

and

Department of Medical Biochemistry

University of Turku

Kiinamylynkatu 10

FI-20520 Turku, Finland

Yersinia-research home page: [Http://www.hi.helsinki.fi/yersinia/](http://www.hi.helsinki.fi/yersinia/)

4. Source(s) of financing of the reported activity, including indication if the activity is wholly or partly financed by the Ministry of Defence

Academy of Finland

5. Number of maximum containment units within the research centre and/or laboratory, with an indication of their respective size (m²)

No BSL-4 laboratories.

6. If no maximum containment unit, indicate highest level of protection

Containment level BSL-2. The studied microbes have been attenuated or are avirulent.

7. Scope and general description of activities, including type(s) of micro-organisms and/or toxins as appropriate

The research is focused on genetics of the biosynthesis of *Yersinia pestis* lipopolysaccharide (LPS), as well as on the role of LPS in virulence. Another research topic is *Y. pestis* specific bacteriophage receptors.

Exchange of Data on Research Centres and Laboratories -#4

1. Name(s) of the research centre and/or laboratory

Department of Virology

2. Responsible public or private organization or company

University of Helsinki

3. Location and postal address

P.O. Box 21

Haartman Institute

00014 University of Helsinki

4. Source(s) of financing of the reported activity, including indication if the activity is wholly or partly financed by the Ministry of Defence

Helsinki University Hospital EVO-fund, University of Helsinki, National Technology Agency of Finland, Academy of Finland, Sigrid Jusélius Foundation, European Union, University of Helsinki Funds

5. Number of maximum containment units within the research centre and/or laboratory, with an indication of their respective size (m²)

There are no BSL-4 laboratories.

6. If no maximum containment unit, indicate highest level of protection

BSL-3, 75 m² (at Meilahti campus) and 100 m² (at Viikki campus)

7. Scope and general description of activities, including type(s) of micro-organisms and/or toxins as appropriate

The Helsinki University Viral Zoonoses Group (HUVZG) conducts research on virology, cell biology, ecology and epidemiology of zoonotic viruses, especially hantaviruses and certain other rodent-borne and arboviruses occurring in Northern Europe. Our research group operates within Faculty of Medicine, Haartman Institute Department of Virology, and partially at the Division of Microbiology and Immunology at the Veterinary Faculty, has a BSL-3 facility in both faculties and is also connected to diagnostic laboratory of viral zoonoses in HUSLAB, Helsinki, and also acts as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Arbo- and Zoonotic Viruses. Principal investigators of the group are Alexander Plyusnin, Antti Vaheri and Olli Vapalahti.

Exchange of Data on Research Centres and Laboratories -#5

- 1. Name(s) of the Facility**
Finnish Food Safety Authority
- 2. Responsible public or private organization or company**
Finnish Food Safety Authority under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- 3. Location and postal address**
Mustialankatu 3
FI-00790 Helsinki
- 4. Source(s) of financing of the reported activity, including indication if the activity is wholly or partly financed by the Ministry of Defence**
Financing from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- 5. Number of maximum containment units within the research centre and/or laboratory, with an indication of their respective size (m²)**
None
- 6. If no maximum containment unit, indicate highest level of protection**
Six containment level 3+ laboratories, total size 473,5m²
- 7. Scope and general description of activities, including type(s) of micro-organisms and/or toxins as appropriate**
Diagnostics of animal diseases, for example rabies, avian influenza, Newcastle disease, foot and mouth disease, classical swine fever, anthrax, tuberculosis, verotoxic *E. coli*.

Exchange of Data on Research Centres and Laboratories -#6

1. Name(s) of the Facility

Finnish Defence Forces Technical Research Centre (PVTT)

2. Responsible public or private organization or company

Finnish Defence Forces Technical Research Centre (PVTT), Finnish Defence Forces under the Defence Staff

3. Location and postal address

P.O. Box 5 (Paroistentie 20)
FI-34111 Lakiala
Finland

4. Source(s) of financing of the reported activity, including indication if the activity is wholly or partly financed by the Ministry of Defence

Finnish Defence Forces

5. Number of maximum containment units within the research centre and/or laboratory, with an indication of their respective size (m²)

No BSL-4 laboratories.

6. If no maximum containment unit, indicate highest level of protection

Biosafety laboratory level BSL-2, 20 m². CB-deployable laboratory has been equipped with BSL-3 glovebox

7. Scope and general description of activities, including type(s) of micro-organisms and/or toxins as appropriate

The objective of the research work has been in the development of detection/identification methods for biowarfare microbes and toxins. The main activity in 2007 has focused on the development of a bioaerosol detection method. A deployable BC-laboratory has been developed. All biodefence research has been carried out with non-pathogenic strains, or otherwise harmless microbes.

In addition, PVTT has been involved in developing antibody based detection kits for ricin, botulinum and SEB toxins

Exchange of Data on Research Centres and Laboratories -#7

1. Name(s) of the Facility

Finnish-Russian Joint Biotechnology Laboratory

2. Responsible public or private organization or company

University of Turku; Department of Chemistry

3. Location and postal address

BioCity 6A
FI-20520 Turku
Finland

4. Source(s) of financing of the reported activity, including indication if the activity is wholly or partly financed by the Ministry of Defence

Academy of Finland, University of Turku, Sigfrid Juselius Foundation.

5. Number of maximum containment units within the research centre and/or laboratory, with an indication of their respective size (m²)

There are no BSL-4 units at the laboratory

6. If no maximum containment unit, indicate highest level of protection

BSL-1

7. Scope and general description of activities, including type(s) of micro-organisms and/or toxins as appropriate

The mission of the laboratory is to enhance collaboration of Finnish and Russian scientists in the field of biotechnology. The results are published in scientific journals, books, and patents. All organisms studied are non-pathogenic.

CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURE A Part 2 (i, ii, iii)

National Biological Defence Research and Development Programme Declaration

Description and Facilities

The Finnish Strategy to Secure Vital Functions of Society from November 2003 (and Nov. 2006) defined vital functions of Finnish society and established targets and development policies that would guide each administrative branch of the government in dealing with its strategic tasks. The strategy called for co-operation between each government sector in combating against new threats towards society. According to the Government Report on Finnish Security and Defence Policy of 2004, terrorism and epidemics caused by infectious diseases were listed as key threats affecting national security.

Based on the above resolutions The Centre for Biothreat Preparedness started operations in Helsinki in May 2005. The Centre combines Finnish scientific and laboratory knowhow on biological defence, as well as on biothreat assessment and preparedness. The Centre is actively seeking domestic and international collaboration, especially in the field of rapid detection and identification methodologies of selected biological agents. The Centre is composed of two Units; the Biological Defence Unit of the Finnish Defence Forces, and the Biological Threat Unit of the National Public Health Institute (NPHI). Scientific work is carried out in a biological safety level 3 laboratory at the NPHI facilities. Furthermore, the Centre works in close contact with the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology of the NPHI. In addition, the Centre has acquired space within the Biomedicum Helsinki Institute, where work is carried out in close contact with the Medical BC Defence and Environmental Health Unit of the Centre for Military Medicine.

CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURE B

Background information on outbreaks of reportable human infectious diseases

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Number of cases per year</u>								
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2 004	2005	2006	2007
Tularaemia	87	926	29	106	823	151	62	475	403
Anthrax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
Diphtheria	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Febris typhoides	8	0	1	3	6	6	8	5	10
Febris paratyphoides	36	3	7	1	4	9	5	5	9
Salmonellosis alia	2801	2624	2734	2351	2170	2248	2477	2565	2732
Ornithosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
Shigellosis	71	75	223	85	64	110	113	74	112
Nephropatia epidemica (Puumala virus infection)	2300	774	1057	2603	1566	1429	2402	1890	1726

CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURE C:

Encouragement of publication of result and promotion of use of knowledge

Publications:

1. Pérez-Gutiérrez, C., C. M. Llompарт, M. Skurnik, and J.A. Bengoechea. The expression of *Yersinia enterocolitica* pYV-encoded type III secretion system is modulated by lipopolysaccharide O antigen status. *Infect Immun.* 2007, 75:1512-6.
2. Skottman, T., Piiparinen, H., Hyytiäinen, H., Skurnik, M., Mylly, V. and Nikkari, S.. Simultaneous real-time PCR detection of *Bacillus anthracis*, *Francisella tularensis* and *Yersinia pestis*. *Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis.* 2007, 26:207-11.
3. Vincent, P., Salo, E., Skurnik, M., Fukushima, H., and Simonet, M. Similarities with Kawasaki disease and *Yersinia pseudotuberculosis* infection epidemiology. *Pediatr Infect Dis J.* 2007, 26:629-31.
4. Skurnik, M., Biedzka-Sarek, M., Lübeck, P. S., Blom, T., Bengoechea, J.A., Pérez-Gutiérrez, C., P. Ahrens, and J. Hoorfar. Characterization and biological role of the O-polysaccharide gene cluster of *Yersinia enterocolitica* serotype O:9. *J. Bacteriol.* 2007, 20:7244-53.
5. Skurnik, M. Phage Therapy. Viruses vs. Superbugs: A Solution to the Antibiotic Crisis? A book review. *JAMA.* 2007, 297:644-45.
6. Skurnik, M., Pajunen, M. and Kiljunen, S. Biotechnological challenges of phage therapy. *Biotechnol Lett.* 2007, 29:995-1003.
7. Skurnik, M. My life with *Yersinia*. In *The Genus Yersinia: from genomics to function*. Perry, R.D. and Fetherston, J.D. (eds). New York: Springer, 2007 pp. 44-73.
8. Kinnunen PM, Billich C, Ek-Kommonen C. Henttonen H., Kallio ERK, Niemimaa J, Palva A, Stäheli P, Vaheeri A, Vapalahti O. Serological evidence for Borna disease virus infection of wild rodents, horses, cats and humans in Finland. *J Clin Virol.* 2007, 38:64-9
9. Laakkonen J, Kallio-Kokko H, Vapalahti O, Vaheeri A, Vyskoilová M, Munclinger P, Macholán M, Henttonen H. The screening of parasites and viral pathogens of small mammals from a farm in southern Finland, and genetic identification of the Finnish house mouse, *Mus musculus*. *Ann Zool Fennici.* 2007,44:102-8.
10. Alekseev AN, Dubinina HV, Jääskeläinen AE, Vapalahti O, Vaheeri A. First report on tick-borne pathogens and exoskeleton anomalies in *Ixodes persulcatus* ticks (Acari: Ixodidae) collected in Kokkola coastal region, Finland. *Int J Acarol.* 2007, 33:253-8.
11. Huhtamo E, Uzcátegui N, Manni T, Munsterhjelm R, Brummer-Korvenkontio M, Vaheeri A, Vapalahti O. Isolation of a novel orthoreovirus from a diseased crow suspected for West Nile encephalitis, Finland . *Emerg Infect Dis.* 2007 13:1967-9.
12. Kallio ER, Voutilainen L, Vapalahti O, Vaheeri A, Henttonen H, Koskela E, Mappes T. Endemic hantavirus infection impairs the winter survival of its rodent host. *Ecology.* 2007, 88:1911-6
13. Jääskeläinen K, Kaukinen P, Minksaya ES, Plyusnin A, Vapalahti O, Elliott RM, Weber F, Vaheeri A, Plyusnin A. Tula and Puumala hantavirus NSs ORFs are functional and the products inhibit activation of the interferon-beta promoter. *J Med Virol.* 2007, 79:1527-36.
14. Mähönen SM, Sironen T, Vapalahti O, Pääkkö E, Hautala N, Ilonen J, Vainio O, Glumoff V, Kauma H, Vaheeri A, Plyusnin A, Hautala T. Puumala virus RNA in cerebrospinal fluid of a patient with uncomplicated nephropathia epidemica. *J Clin Virol.* 2007,40:248-51
15. Putkuri N, Vaheeri A, Vapalahti O. Prevalence and protein specificity of human antibodies to inkoo virus infection. *Clin Vaccine Immunol.* 2007,14:1555-62
16. Golovljova I, Vasilenko V, Mittzenkov V, Prükk T, Seppet E, Vene S, Settergren B, Plyusnin A, Lundkvist A. Characterization of hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome caused by hantaviruses, Estonia. *Emerg Infect Dis.* 2007, 13:1773-6.
17. Plyusnina A, Deter J, Charbonnel N, Cosson JF, Plyusnin A. Puumala and Tula hantaviruses in France. *Virus Res.* 2007, 129:58-63.
18. Avsic-Zupanc T, Petrovec M, Duh D, Plyusnina A, Lundkvist A, Plyusnin A. Puumala hantavirus in Slovenia: analyses of S and M segment sequences recovered from patients and rodents. *Virus Res.* 2007, 123:204-10.
19. Hardestam J, Simon M, Hedlund KO, Vaheeri A, Klingström J, Lundkvist A. Ex vivo stability of the rodent-borne Hantaan virus in comparison to that of arthropod-borne members of the Bunyaviridae family. *Appl Environ Microbiol.* 2007, 73:2547-51.
20. Tuuminen T, Kekäläinen E, Mäkelä S, Ala-Houhala I, Ennis FA, Hedman K, Mustonen J, Vaheeri A, Arstila TP. Human CD8+ T cell memory generation in Puumala hantavirus infection occurs after the acute phase and is associated with boosting of EBV-specific CD8+ memory T cells. *J Immunol.* 2007, 179:1988-95.
21. Laman, A., Shepelyavkoya, A., Berezin, I., Boziev, K., Rodionov, I., Chulina, I., Malakhova, G., Brovko, F., Murashev, A., Korpela, T., and Nesmeyanov, V. Identification of pentadecapeptide mimicking muramyl peptide. *Vaccine* 2007, 25:2900-6
22. Zavialov, A., Zavialova, G., Korpela, T. and Zavialov, V. FGL chaperone-assembled fimbrial polyadhesins: anti-immune armament of Gram-negative bacterial pathogens. *FEMS Microbiol Rev.* 2007, 31:478-514.

Active promotion of contacts

No international conferences, symposia, seminars, and other similar forums are planned for the year 2008

1. Planned international conferences, symposia, seminars, and other similar forums for exchange

For each such event, the following information should be provided:

- name of the conference:
- arranging organizations:
- time:
- place:
- main subject(s) for the conference:
- conditions for participation:
- point of contact for further, information, registration:

Declaration of legislation, regulations and other measures

<u>Relating to</u>	<u>Legislation</u>	<u>Regulations</u>	<u>Other measures</u>	<u>Amended since last year</u>
(a) Development, production stockpiling, acquisition or retention of microbial or other biological agents, or toxins, weapons, equipment and means of delivery specified in Article I	YES	YES	YES	NO
(b) Exports of micro-organisms* and toxins	YES	YES	YES	NO
(c) Imports of micro-organisms* and toxins	YES	YES	YES	NO

* Micro-organisms pathogenic to man, animals and plants in accordance with the Convention.

Declaration of past activities in offensive and/or defensive biological research and development programmes

Nothing to declare.

CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURE G

Declaration of vaccine production facilities

There are no vaccine production facilities in Finland.

Declaration of legislation, regulations and other measures

Additional information

Finland's legislation on biological weapons is based on the Biological Weapons Act 257/1975 and Decree 258/1975. Corresponding penal provisions were included in the Penal Code, chapter 11, section 7 b (Breach of the prohibition of biological weapons), with amendment 17/2003. Penal Code (39/1889) chapter 11, section 1 (War Crime), chapter 5, section 3 (Complicity in an offence) and section 6 (Abetting), chapter 34, sections 4 (Health endangerment) and 5 (Aggravated health endangerment), and chapter 34 a (Terrorist offences) are also applicable.

Exports of micro-organisms and toxins are regulated by the Act on the Control of Export of Dual-Use Goods (562/1996, as amended by Acts 891/2000, 884/2001 and 581/2003), Government Decree on the Control of Export of Dual-Use Goods (924/2000 as amended by Decree 924/2000) and EC Council Regulation 1334/2000. Corresponding penal provisions were incorporated in the Penal Code (39/1889), chapter 46, sections 1-3 by Acts 769/1990, 1522/1994 and 706/1997. Since 2003, the authority responsible for export controls of micro-organisms and toxins is the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Export Control Unit).

Imports of micro-organisms and toxins are regulated by the Biological Weapons Act 257/1975 and Decree 258/1975. Transports of micro-organisms and toxins are also regulated by the EC Council Directives 94/55/EEC and 96/49/EEC, the Communicable Diseases Act 583/1986 (as amended), section 33; Communicable Diseases Decree 786/1986 (as amended); Act on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (719/1994 as amended) and related decrees, Act on Protecting Plant Health (702/2003), section 7, and related decrees, Act on Animal Diseases (55/1980 as amended) and related decrees, Act on Veterinary Border Control (1192/1996 as amended) and related decrees. The corresponding penal provisions are included in the Penal Code (39/1889 as amended), chapter 44, section 2 (Health protection violation), chapter 44, section 13 (Transport of dangerous substances offence) and chapter 46, section 4 (Smuggling).