

# **The International Biological Security Education Network: an imperative and timely tool for global biosecurity**

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MS IRIS MAGNE

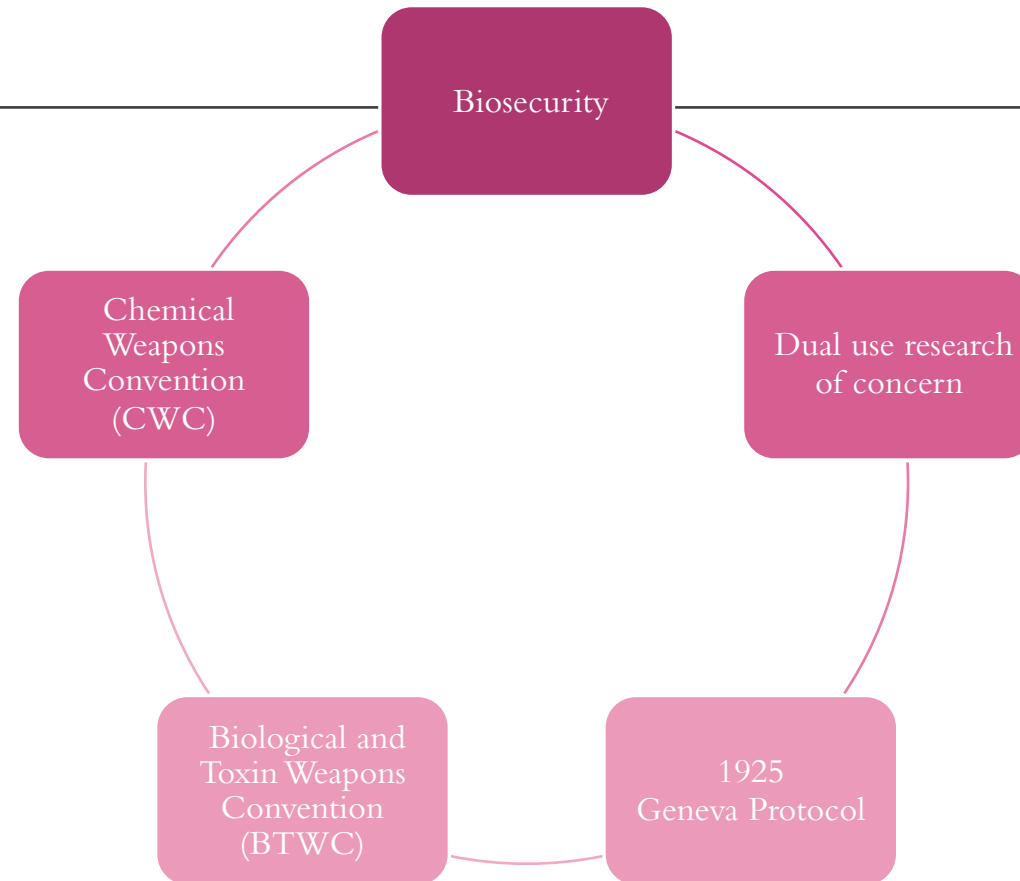
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# Why is biosecurity education important?



- Creation of the International Biological Security Education Network (IBSEN)



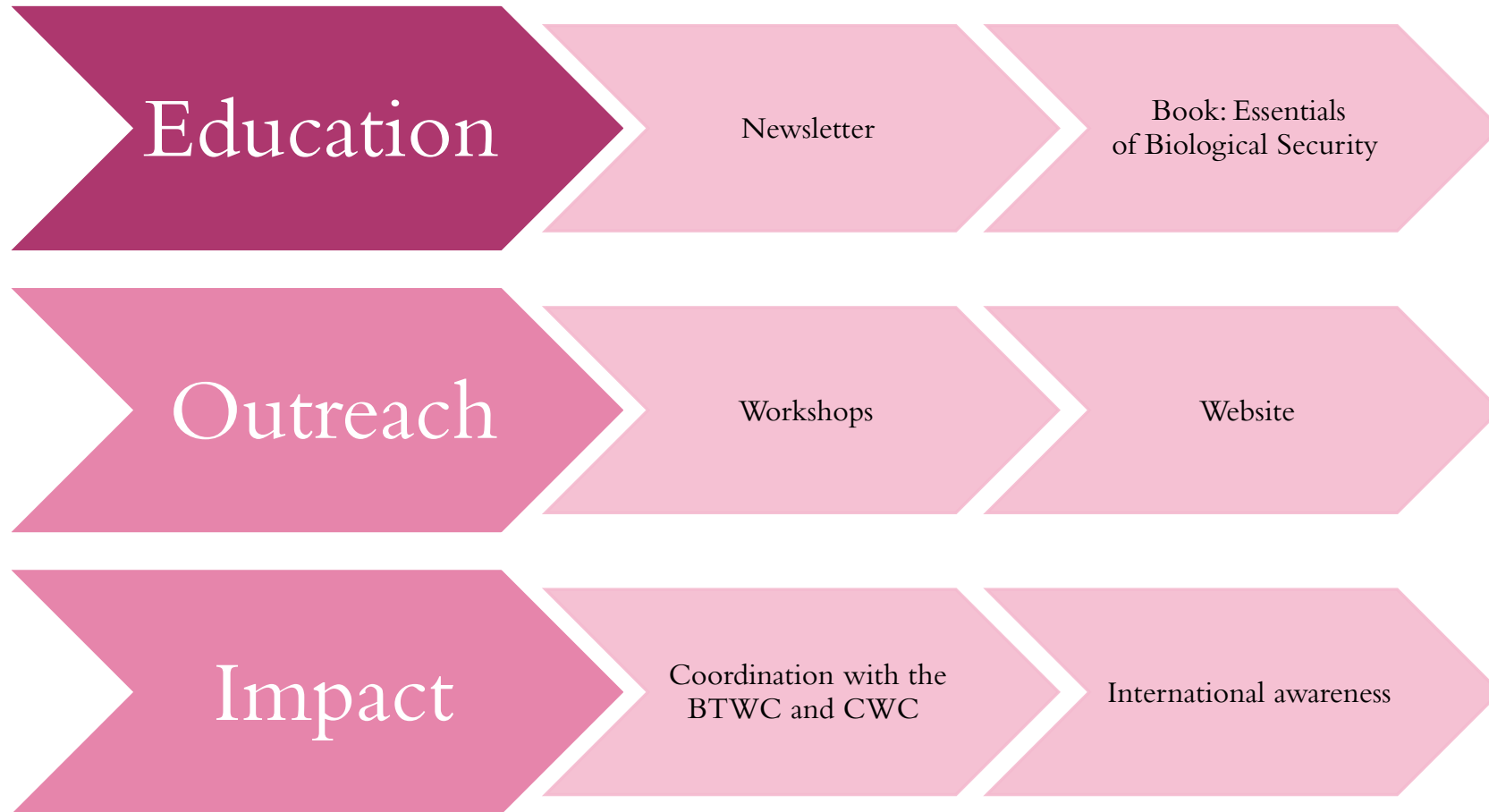
# 1. Introducing IBSEN

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- Founded in February 2024 by the Biological Security Research Centre, London Metropolitan University
- Establish international awareness of biosecurity and dual-use research of concerns
- Formulate tools to address the gaps in biosecurity education
- Create a sustainable network of academics and policymakers to develop initiatives at the regional levels
- 8 international oversight board members and 200 contacts

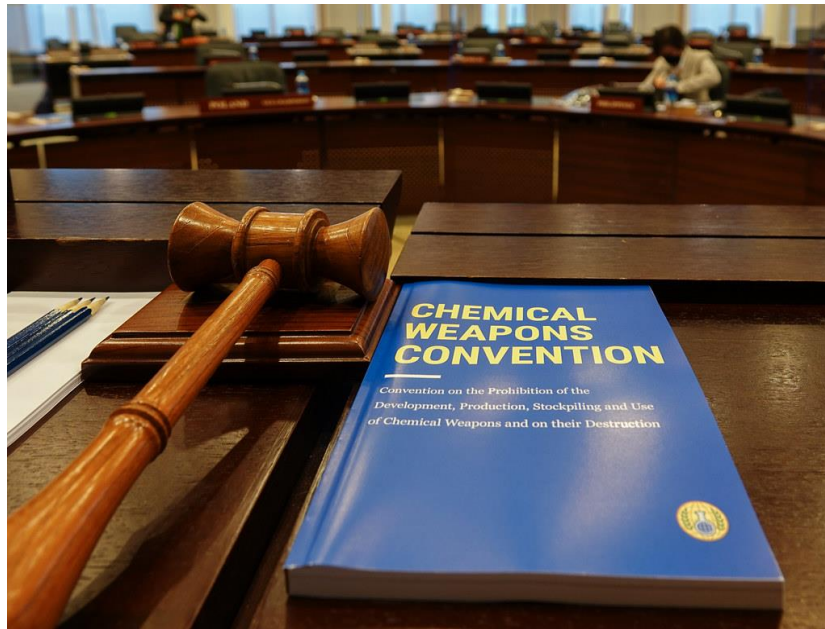
# 1.2 Scope of the IBSEN project

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## 2. Relevance of IBSEN

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Chemical Weapons Convention



Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention

# 2.1 Lessons learnt from INSEN

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**INSEN**  
International  
Nuclear Security  
Education Network

- A bottom-up approach with an organisation based on membership
- Issue of sustainability and funding of the network
- Fragile balance between global initiatives and regional application of nuclear security
- Limited outreach can have a negative impact by preventing the enlargement of the audience

## 2.2 Lessons learnt from the ABEO, OPCW

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- A top-down approach with the ABEO being a deliberative body
- Competitive objectives of different branches of the OPCW and the Director-General
- Lack of clear vision and objective of the Board in the first years
- Difficulty in creating a dialogue with the National Authorities

# 3. Implications for IBSEN

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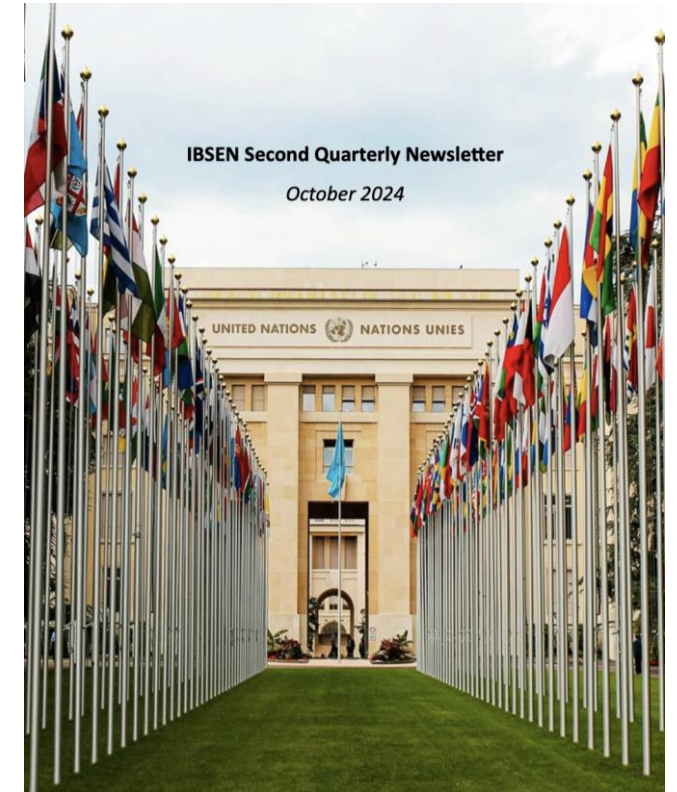
- **Create a strong working relation with regional and national actors:** IBSEN is also a top-down organisation and will have to develop a strong partnership with universities and local actors
- **Define a clear vision** and objectives to ensure a broad impact
- **Independence** from an international organisation's affiliation
- **Collaborate** with other initiatives in security education, such as the ABEO



# 4. Next steps

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- 4 editions of the *IBSEN Quarterly Newsletter* (in English, French and Spanish)
- Handbook on biosecurity
- Increased social media presence
- Presentation of IBSEN at the BTWC and ABEO of the CWC
- Collaboration with national and regional actors to develop resources in biosecurity education



# 4. Conclusion

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- Established need for a sustainable biosecurity network to prevent the instrumentalization of life science research.
- Good practices can be found in other initiatives in nuclear and chemical security education
- The IBSEN is a necessary tool to urgently strengthen global biosecurity

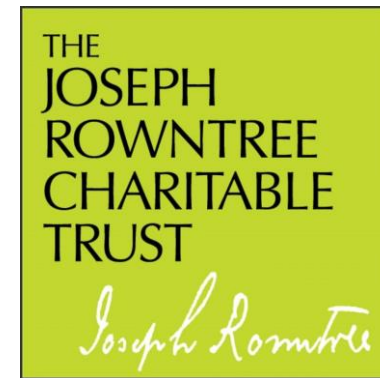
# 5. Acknowledgements

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We would also like to acknowledge and thank the **JRCT** for its financial support.

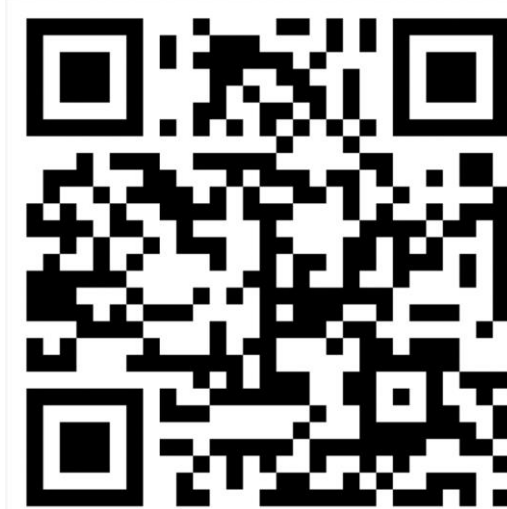


# Thank you!

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IBSEN Website



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