



# HOW TO DEVELOP QUALITY ASSURANCE AND BECOME A BRC

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# Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

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- 30 member countries and 70 associated countries
- 2008 : edition of guidelines related to good practices regarding Biological Resource Centres (health and microbiology)





# Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

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- Targets: definition of high standards of quality concerning the preservation of bio-diversity and the distribution of biological resources
- Two parts:
  - Management relating to requirements (like the organization, the audits, the management review....)
  - Technical requirements (the validation of methods, the traceability...)





# Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

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- Definition of the bottomline for standards
  - The working conditions
  - The confidence of scientists
  - The confidence between all BRC
- Certification/accreditation of BRC





# Goal of Quality Assurance

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- To formalize the existing documents
- Improve the management and the internal organization
- Provide reliable products and services
- Ensure the conformity of the strains according to the established requirements





# BRC processes

**Piloting**

**To enforce  
the strategy**

**Manage Quality system and develop it**

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**Acquisition of biological  
material by BRC**

**Preservation of biological  
material**

**Distribution of  
biological material**

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# Implementation of Quality Assurance

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- To be helped by a staff specialized in Quality
- Motivate all the staff
- Perform an initial diagnostic and an action plan
- Follow-up regular development



# Keys to success (1)

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- the training
- a strong involvement of the Head of the laboratory
- a clear definition of the responsibilities of all the staff
- everybody's participation to the writing of procedures





## Keys to success (2)

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- To give off time for the implementation of the system
- Begin on writing technical standard operating procedures
- Follow-up regularly
- Take in account each suggestions (if possible)
- Work step by step



# Everyday follow-up

- To update standard procedures regularly
- Have regular internal audits
- Follow up complaints and laboratory incidents
- Follow up the corrective and preventive actions
- Perform an annual management review



# Management review

## Participants

- A representative of the Management Institution
- A representative of the Quality department
- BRC managers or all the BRC staff

## Goals

- To define the quality policy
- To plan the objectives for the following year



# Advantages of a Quality System

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- All the staff works similarly -> team cohesion
- Improve the traceability
- Save time
- Economical: best monitoring of the reagents and the equipments





# Evaluation

- Practice laboratory examination by the expert audit
  - One quality audit for organizational aspect
  - One or more technical audits for the validation of methods

# Conclusion

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- To have a Quality System is a good way for BRC to reply to proposals and to find funding for some specific aspects