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Milan, 25th November 2015

PRESS RELEASE

The threat of biological attacks is back: ASSET contribution

Terror is back to Europe, and the threat of **biological attacks** comes along, as it happened after 11th September 2011.

Following the recent terrorist attacks in Paris, French PM Manuel Valls warned that the associates of extremists who targeted France could use chemical and biological weapons, as well.

The problems posed by intentionally caused outbreaks are within the scope of [ASSET](#), an EU funded project aimed to improve preparedness and response to epidemics and pandemics. It combines public health, vaccine and epidemiological research, social and political sciences, law and ethics, gender studies, science communication and media, in order to develop an integrated and transdisciplinary strategy.

Our [Report on Intentionally Caused Outbreaks](#) can provide journalists covering the news with some clues about:

- **Analysis** of history, terrorism and science progress and its potential consequences (sections 2-4)
- **Countermeasures** to respond to any biological threat (section 5)
- Overview of International and National **Policies** (Sections 5-6).

The document includes an analysis of the current knowledge, the main policy documents concerning intentionally caused outbreaks and a taxonomy of the main governance problems posed by such a risk in democratic societies, chiefly the tension between secrecy and transparency, freedom of research and security, citizen involvement and experts' decisions.

ASSET experts from the [Norwegian Defence Research Establishment \(Forsvarets forskningsinstitutt, FFI\)](#) are available for comments and interviews:

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