

# OBJECTIVELY MEASURING THE BIOSECURITY STATUS THROUGH THE BIOCHECK.UGENT SCORING TOOL



## MAIN KEY POINTS

- Measure biosecurity level
- Online scoring tool
- Commercial poultry biosecurity



At Ghent University, the Biocheck.UGent™ biosecurity scoring system was developed for poultry, pigs and cattle farming ([www.biocheck.ugent.be](http://www.biocheck.ugent.be)) and allows to quantify the on-farm biosecurity levels. The Biocheck.UGent™ online tool is freely accessible to everybody and its use is free of charge.

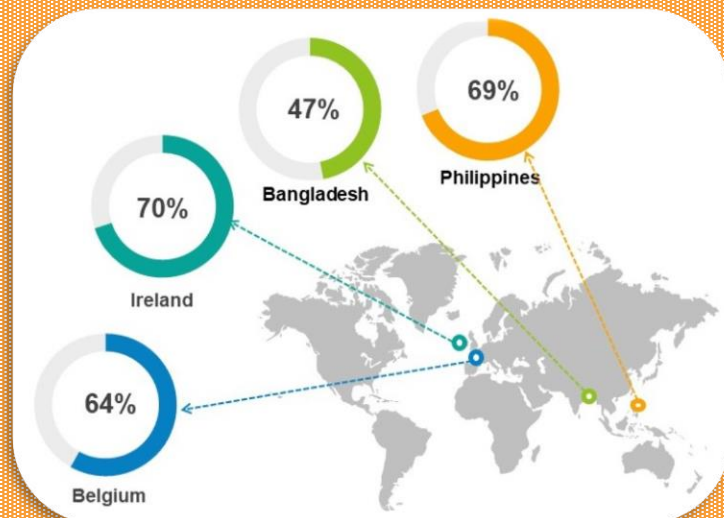
The online tool focuses on biosecurity measures related to the transmission of different types of infectious poultry diseases.

The quantitative assessment can identify poor areas of biosecurity compliance.

The Biocheck report helps to set quantitative goals and benchmarks.

Improvements in farm operations can be easily planned and carried out.

The scoring system is being used worldwide and provides the user the nation wise scores and world average scores.



Total biosecurity score - statistics for broilers (June,2022)

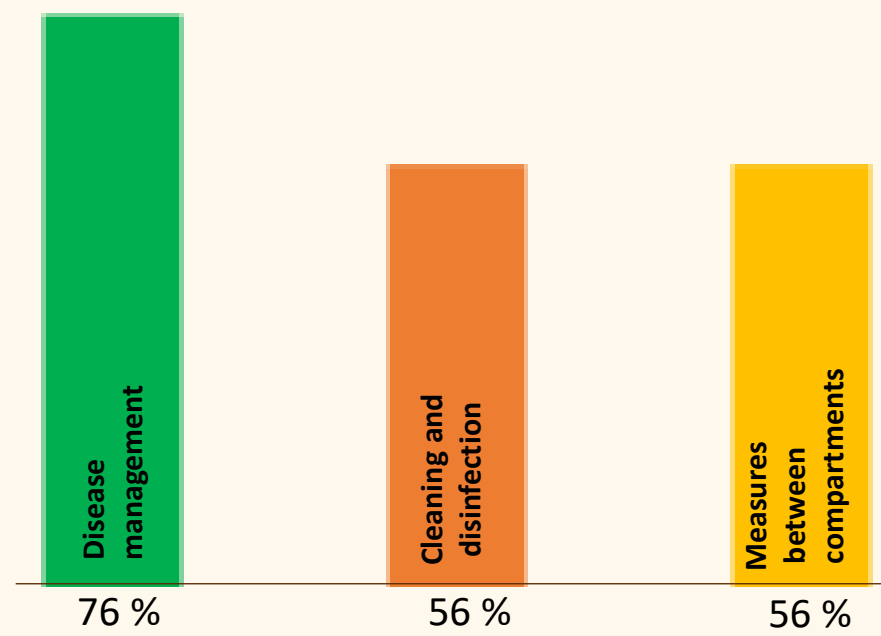
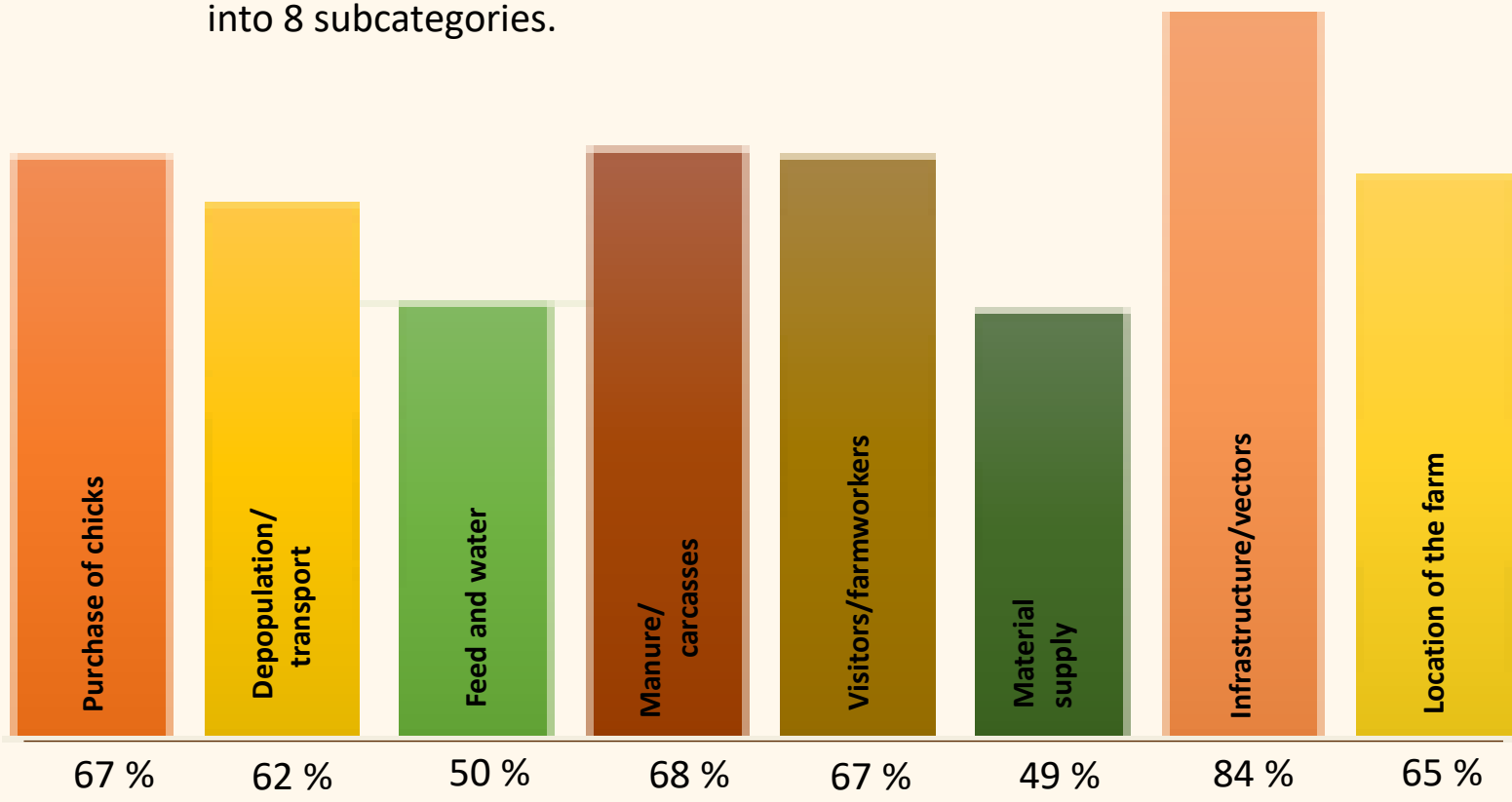
The Biocheck questionnaire is based on the principles of bio-exclusion and bio containment. It consists of a series of questions (measures) that are divided into two main categories.

**External biosecurity**

measures preventing the introduction of off-farm pathogens and is subdivided into 8 subcategories.

**Internal biosecurity**

measures preventing the spread of pathogens inside the farm and is subdivided into 3 subcategories.



## WHO can fill ?

The questionnaire can be filled in by anybody who wants to do so, yet experience learns that it is often done by veterinary consultants or advisors.

## HOW to fill ?

A brief farm visit to observe the farm prior to filling the questionnaires and also asking the farmer to explain their daily routine.

## Data protection ?

All information is stored anonymous in a fully secured database and is fully protected according to the GDPR regulations.

External biosecurity	
A. Purchase of one-day-old chicks	79%
B. Depopulation of broilers (slaughterhouses, traders, individuals)	54%
C. Feed and water	64%
D. Removal of manure and carcasses	58%
E. Visitors and farmworkers	66%
F. Material supply	90%
G. Infrastructure and biological vectors	68%
H. Location of the farm	64%
<b>Subtotal external biosecurity</b>	<b>67%</b>

## WHAT to do after ?

The report will show the scores gained. These results can be discussed with the farmer to draw an action plan focusing on areas that scored low.

The scoring system

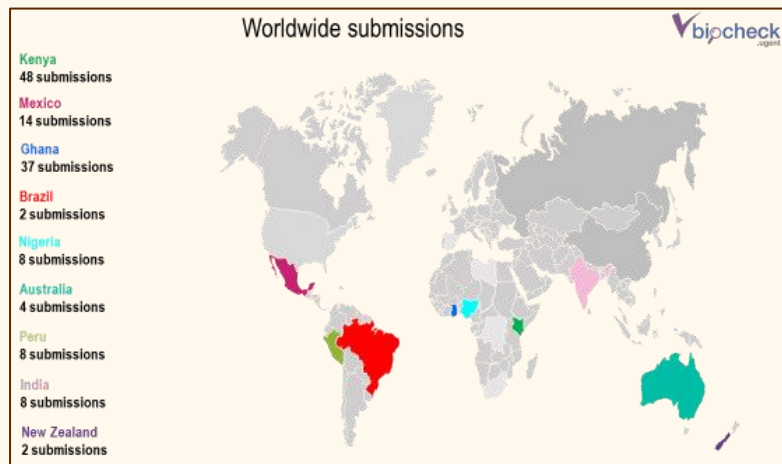
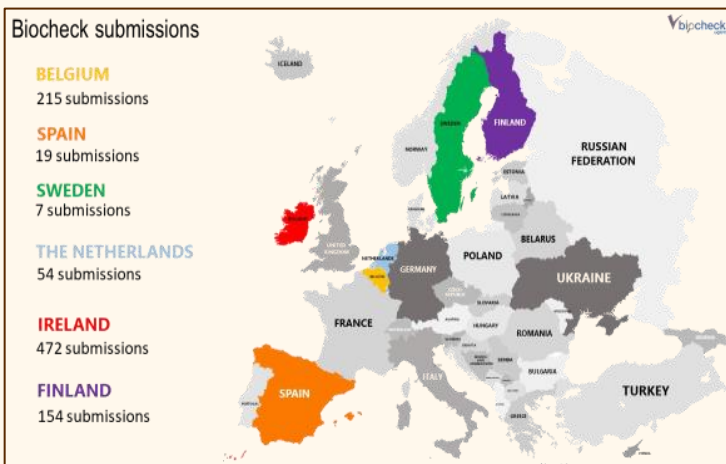


The answer to every question results in a score between zero and one.

- '0' when the measure is not implemented at all
- '1' when the measure is fully implemented.

The score is multiplied by a weight factor. The subcategories have a specific weight factor equal to their relative importance for disease transmission.

The final score for both internal and external biosecurity ranges from zero, indicating a total absence of biosecurity measures, to 100, indicating a full application of the measures.



Biocheck is used in many countries and is available in many languages - English, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Albanian, Vietnamese

### For more information:

- QR code to the podcast
- Link to scientific publications <https://doi.org/10.3382/ps.2014-04002>
- NETPOULSAFE project : <https://www.netpoulsafe.eu>



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