

D31.2 Best practices for conducting risks assessments

PUBLIC SUMMARY ONLY (PS)

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1 Public Summary

Small and large public transport operators of various types face risks of all sorts, which may affect the achievement of their objectives. Consequently, any risks should be managed in what is called the risk management process. Risk assessment is the central part of this risk management process in so far, as risk assessment provides a structured and logical approach for identifying potential risks, and for analysing the likelihood as well as the potential consequences of any identified risk. This is the basis for informed decision making on the treatment of any risk.

The importance of a well-structured approach in dealing with risks was made clear during the “Joint UITP-CUTA International Security Conference: Public Transit Systems and Security: Achieving the right balance”; held in Montreal/Canada on 11.-12. November 2009, UITP and CUTA officially made the “Montreal Declaration”:

UITP and CUTA encourage their members to conduct a security risk assessment and to update it regularly. In so doing, transit organisations are prompted to put security matters at the centre of their operations and manage security risks in a methodical and transparent manner.

The Montreal Declaration

Joint CUTA-UITP Security Declaration on the Importance of Conducting Security Risk Assessment in Public Transit Systems

Generic Guidelines for Conducting Risk Assessment in Public Transport Networks in a methodical and transparent manner had been developed within the EU-funded project called COUNTERACT (PT4) in 2009. In the meantime, new findings have further-developed methodological approaches of assessing security-threats, for example by making the aspect of “vulnerability” more explicit and prominent. Also, it has become apparent, that there is a need to provide a robust and easy-to-use tool for public transport operations, and that especially small and medium-sized operator long for such a tool for risk-assessment. This SECUR-ED guideline and the software tool, which is developed based on this guideline, are filling this gap. Practical experiences of public transport operators in risk assessment and the process defined by ISO (IEC/ISO31010) are the base of this guideline for conducting risk assessment. The methodology is purely qualitative and not quantitative. The approach is adaptable to the level of detail as well as the provenance of risks (threats), which the public transport operator needs to assess.

In conducting risk-assessment public transport operators will – among others –

- develop a more confident and rigorous basis for decision making and planning,
- allocate and use their resources even more effectively and efficiently, and
- optimise corporate governance.

The overall purpose of risk and vulnerability analyses is to create a foundation for targeted and prioritised action and preparedness planning. This guideline and the corresponding software, which is developed, are providing the tool for public transport operators achieving these objectives.

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