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CBRNe4rail EU project, coordinated by the UIC Security Department, begins in the presence of DG HOME

(Paris, 4 June 2025) The EU ISF co-funded project “**CBRNe** preparedness **for** passenger **rail** transport hubs” (CBRNe4rail) held its kick-off meeting on 4 June in Paris at the UIC headquarters. The event was attended by 30 participants, representing the 12 European consortium partners from six different EU Member States, including four UIC members.

The project, coordinated by the UIC Security Department, commenced on 1 June 2025, for a 30-month period and with a budget of almost 2.5 million euros. It aims to enhance the awareness and capabilities of railway operators to effectively respond to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNe) emergencies at railway stations by improving their security plans and training railway staff.

The meeting opened with welcoming remarks from Marie-Hélène Bonneau, UIC’s Security Department Director, and Grigore Havârneanu, the CBRNe4rail Project Coordinator. They highlighted the growing need to provide UIC members with the knowledge and skills required to address low-probability-high-impact events such as CBRNe scenarios. They further emphasised the complementarity between CBRNe4rail and previous and ongoing security research projects in which the UIC Security Department has been involved, either as a partner or coordinator.

This was followed by a presentation from the Project Officer, Laurence Wathy (DG HOME), who described the European Commission requirements and underlined the project’s key role in protecting public spaces by fostering cooperation between the railway sector, law enforcement and first responders.

The consortium partners then discussed how they would develop exploitable results to enhance the preparedness and protection capabilities of the railway sector against CBRNe threats. To start with, surveys, expert-led visits to railway stations and workshops will be used to co-create and validate an effective railway CBRNe security concept. This will incorporate security-by-design principles and result in actionable guidelines for railway end-users, infographics and recommendations on how to adjust security plans. Consequently, an integrated, agile and scalable training curriculum for the railway sector – and for improved cooperation with the relevant first responders – will be developed, tested and updated. This will involve at least four in-situ exercises at railway stations. By the end of

the project, a harmonised and certified CBRNe rail training programme will be available to the rail community.

CBRNe4rail can be followed on [LinkedIn](#), and the project website will soon be available.

This project is co-funded by the European Union. The views and opinions expressed are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

About CBRNe4rail

The EU co-funded project CBRNe4rail (CBRNe preparedness for passenger rail transport hubs) aims to enhance the awareness and capabilities of railway operators to effectively respond to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNe) emergencies at railway stations by improving their security plans and training railway staff. It tackles the whole CBRNe threat spectrum, including explosives as a means of delivery for CBRN agents. The proposal focuses on railway stations as both a critical element of railway infrastructures and a key vulnerability element of public spaces. The public space inside stations and the adjacent public space in the vicinity of stations are both considered.

About UIC

UIC is the worldwide organisation for the promotion of rail transport at global level and the collaborative development of the railway system. It brings together some 200 members on all five continents, among them rail operators, infrastructure managers, railway service providers, etc. UIC maintains close cooperative links with all rail transport players throughout the world, including manufacturers, railway associations, public authorities and stakeholders in other domains and sectors whose experiences may be beneficial to rail development. UIC's main tasks include understanding the business needs of the rail community, developing innovation programmes to identify solutions to such needs, and preparing and publishing a series of documents known as IRSs that facilitate the implementation of these innovative solutions.

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