



IMPRESS



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## **Official launch of the European Research Project IMPRESS (IMProving Railway sEcurity through awareneSS and training), 20- 21 June 2023, Paris, UIC HQ**

***UIC, coordinator of IMPRESS, officially launched the project today in presence of the Members of the Consortium (DHPOL, FS, NS, PKP and SNCB).***

*(Paris, 21 June 2023)* The IMPRESS project, funded by the European Union's Internal Security Fund Police and addressing rail security in Europe, held its kick-off meeting today in Paris at UIC headquarters.

IMPRESS project, coordinated by the UIC Security Division for a duration of 24 months, aims at enhancing and harmonising the operational security level of stations and trains in Europe by enhancing training and security awareness of the stakeholders working in stations and trains. The project will be implemented in partnership with the security services of major European railway companies (FS, NS, PKP S.A. and SNCB), one Police University (DHPol) and an extended network of international security experts recruited through UIC.

The scope of the project is both security culture in general (with a wide range of significant threats for several European rail operators) and CBRNe threats specifically, which represent a more challenging scenario. It will focus on the 'immediate responders' from the railway environment who are most likely to be the first to prevent or react to a security incident when it occurs on railway premises. This target group of end-users includes the railway staff (e.g., non-security staff at stations and onboard trains, security staff) and stakeholders at stations (e.g., shops, business area) or in trains (e.g., catering, cleaning).

During the meeting, members of UIC staff from Security Division and External Funding Unit presented the project in more detail as well as the project management rules. Discussions were held on the organisation of the work and the next steps of the project.

The project is structured into three technical work packages (WP):

Training needs assessment – led by UIC

Training programme/curriculum development– led by DHPOL

Curriculum implementation, testing, validation – led by SNCB

For an effective project impact and long-term exploitation of the training modules, synergies will also be developed with international organisations such as CER, COLPOFER, UITP, RAILPOL and relevant EU bodies such as CEPOL and EUROPOL.

The project has received funding from the European Union's Internal Security Fund Police under the grant agreement No 101100521.

## **CONTACT**

For more information, please contact the UIC security division, coordinator of the project at: [security@uic.org](mailto:security@uic.org).

The website will be soon available at <https://impress-rail-project.eu/>