



IMPRESS



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

PRESS RELEASE n° 5/2025

IMPRESS Final Conference is a success

(Paris, 14 May 2025), Over 50 delegates, representing more than 35 companies, gathered at UIC Headquarters in Paris, France on 14 May 2025 to discuss the findings and main outputs of the IMPRESS (IMPRoving Railway sEcurity through awareneSS and training) project, co-funded by the European Union.

After two years of research and co-creation, IMPRESS is ready to showcase its developments, including six training modules and several different (public) awareness materials.

During her introductory speech, Ms Marie-Hélène Bonneau, UIC Security Department Director and IMPRESS Project Coordinator, said:

“Over the past two years, IMPRESS has focused on one key goal: improving railway security through awareness and training. Today, we’re proud to share the results of this work.

When I say “we,” I speak on behalf of the dedicated teams from UIC, DHPOL, NS, FS, PKP, and SNCB—who worked side by side to make this project a success.

Together, we’ve developed six training modules and a range of public awareness materials- These are designed to support those on the front-line: rail staff, security professionals, and service providers in stations and on board trains. The tools we’ve created help them to better detect, prevent, and respond to potential terrorist threats.

Security is about more than technology—it's about people. With the right knowledge and training, we can build a safer, more resilient railway network for everyone.

Thank you to the European Commission—especially DG HOME—for co-funding this project and making it possible.”

The Project Officer from EU DG HOME, Laurence Wathy, shared:

“The consortium stood out because of its representatives from four major European railway companies, from one Police University, and from an extended network of international security experts.

These are key elements in the projects we finance under Union Actions, because the goal of our funds is to bring an added value to the EU as a whole, to complement the work done at national level, and to promote cooperation and knowledge exchange across different MS.

Moreover, this project ... is one of the pioneers in public transport security”

The co-creation methodology used in the project to ensure that the trainings were both practical and aligned with real-world needs was explained by DHPol, the German Police University, who emphasized that through integrating the knowledge of those with hands-on rail security experience, the modules have been developed with the needs and expectations of the rail sector.

During the session on lessons learned, the railway partners (FS, PKP S.A., SNCB & NS) in the project shared valuable insights gained from the pilot trainings. By using a training-of-trainers approach combined with modular, editable training materials, staff were able to experience the trainings in their native languages, adapted to their local contexts, and therefore gain valuable insights on how to both identify and react to various security threats. Following which, trainees participated in an exercise to test knowledge acquisition. The overwhelmingly positive feedback from the pilots underscores the effectiveness and relevance of the IMPRESS training modules.

To broaden the scope of the conference, a synergies session is organised, whereby a former British Transport Police Officer provided a training and the Secure Worship and Public Spaces EU projects Cluster shared their experiences.

About IMPRESS

The EU co-funded project IMPRESS (IMProving Railway sEcurity through awareneSS and training) aimed to improve the protection of stations and trains by developing security training and awareness programmes for all stakeholders, including railway

staff (e.g., security, frontline, train conductors), other staff working at stations (e.g., retail) or on trains (e.g., catering) and the general public. IMPRESS was implemented in partnership with the security services of major European railway companies (from Italy, Netherlands, Poland and Belgium), the German Police University and UIC – the worldwide railway association.

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.

CONTACT

For further information, please contact the UIC Security Department at security@uic.org