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Evaluating Safety Culture of European Railways

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Evaluating Safety Culture of European Railways:

A **safety culture evaluation**
done on the sector level,
reaching beyond a single organisation
or even one Member State

Art. 29 (2)
Railway Safety Directive (EU) 2016/798

The Agency shall **evaluate the development of a safety culture** including occurrence reporting.

It shall submit to the Commission **a report containing**, where appropriate, **improvements to be made to the system**.

The Commission shall take appropriate measures on the basis of **these recommendations**

Objectives:

- **A picture of railway safety culture in the EU**
- **Improving safety of EU railways**
- **Testing the methodology**

Scope and subject:

- **Evaluation at EU level**
  Stakeholders from all EU Member States
- **All types of railway stakeholders included**
  Operating companies, regulatory bodies, supporting organisations
- **Railway professionals in different roles**
  Staff with safety and operation tasks (i.e. train drivers, traffic controllers), but also support staff and managers

Main elements of the evaluation

- **Data collection tools**
- **Analysis of the collected data**

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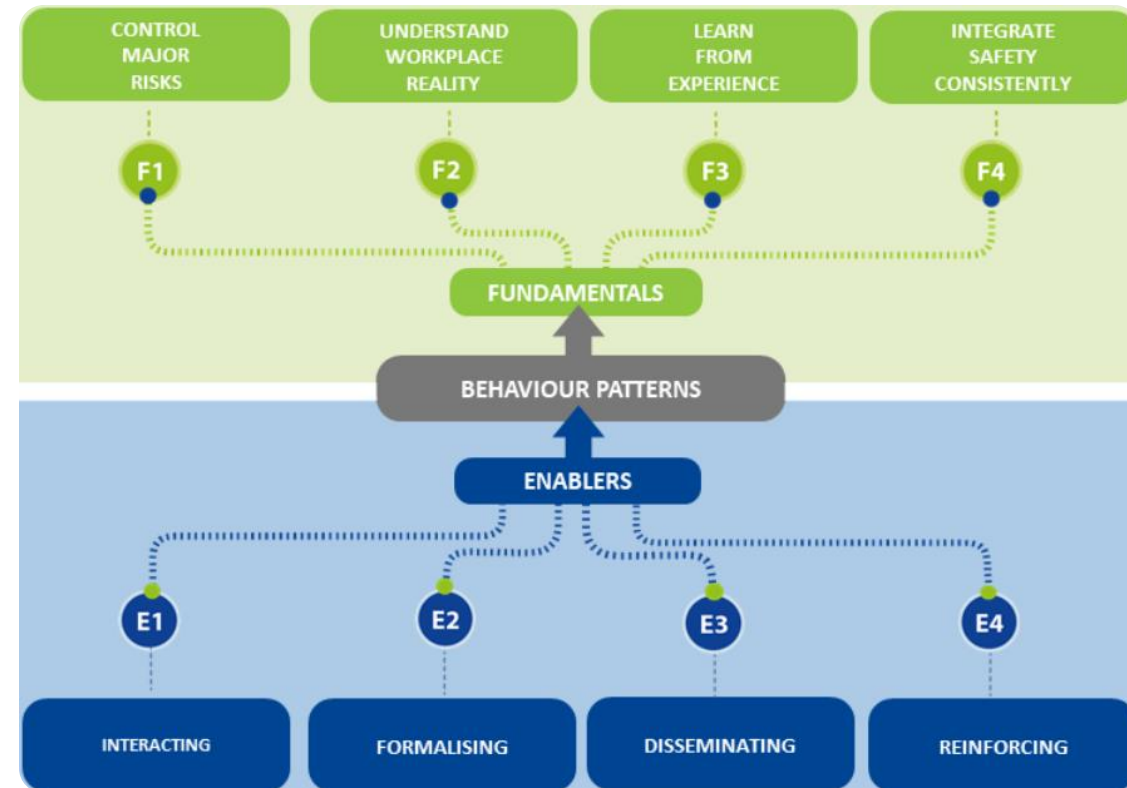 ERA Safety Climate Survey (47 000 replies from all EU)
  Individual interviews and focus groups
  Document review
- **Analysis of the collected data**

Main elements of the evaluation

- **Data collection tools**
- **Analysis of the collected data**
  European Rail Safety Culture Model
  (ERA-SCM)
  Qualitative analysis (strengths and
  weaknesses)
  Comparing perspectives in different
  types of organisations and roles

Outcomes – recommendations

- **Improvement of the risk-oriented safety management**

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Outcomes – recommendations

- Improvement of the risk-oriented safety management
- Strengthening the competence management
- Better sharing of safety information and investigation of occurrences
- Implementation of human and organisational factors
- Promoting of management engagement in safety and the concept of safety leadership
- **Enhancing the safety oversight of the railway sector**

Key takeaways

- The project has been a **first (known) attempt to evaluate safety culture on an international level**
- The methodology used has been effective and **produced a comprehensive picture of safety perception of EU rail** – but **further improvements are possible!**
- The report shows a **way forward for the EU decision makers**, but the outcomes can be used to **support rail safety by any entity in the sector**.