



## COLLABORATION IN EVENT SAFETY AND SECURITY RISK PREVENTION: CASE RUISROCK

Anja Aatsinki & Hanna Iisakkila Rojas / Laurea University of Applied Sciences / 2023

### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this article is to demonstrate the importance and process of collaboration in event safety and security. The best practice demonstrates the model used by South-West Finland's authorities when collaborating with event organizers. The process follows ISO 31000:2018 risk management process. The representatives of Finnish police and South-West Finland rescue authority have been consulted and interviewed for this article.

### 1. Introduction

Event organizer is responsible for preventing and managing the risks and collaborating with different actors and authorities. Event safety and security is heavily legislated in Finland and for that reason planning the event safety and security in time is essential. The most essential legislation in Finland includes Assembly Act, Rescue Act and Land Use and Building Act. In every event the organizer has to prevent and manage the risks of the particular event. The size and the risk profile affect the demands but basically all events where the risks are considered bigger the emergency plan is obligatory.

This article concentrates in event risk prevention in summer festival Ruisrock held in Finland. Ruisrock is one of oldest festivals in Finland. It is held in Ruissalo island that is part of city of Turku (Ruisrock 2022a). Ruissalo is a unique site for events because its nature is heavily protected and the location on the island creates its own challenges for risk management. The island is connected to the mainland via one bridge. Ruisrock is a three-day festival and approximately 100000 people visit the event during the weekend (Ruisrock 2022b). In this article the collaboration model between organizer and different authorities is presented. The process adapts to the ISO 31000:2018 standard risk management process.

### 2. Case

Planning annual big events like Ruisrock is usually continuous and planning the next year event starts right after the previous event is finished. Finnish Assembly Act (530/1999) regulates that event organizer needs to notify police at least five days in advance of the event but in case of the bigger events collaboration, planning and consulting is practically constant all year round. Rescue Act (379/2011) in Finland requires that all public events that have 200 or more persons present at the same time, needs to draw up an emergency plan. Responsibility lies with the organizer.

Organizing the event also requires collaboration with other stakeholders like the performing artists with their organizations and different companies that offer services at the event. Planning is done in close collaboration with organizers event security provider, police, rescue services and health



service provider. In this article the best practice presented is the rewarded collaboration model with South-West Finland authorities (Varsinais-Suomen pelastuslaitos 2019).

In this article this model is presented via ISO 31000:2018 Risk-management framework (Figure 1).

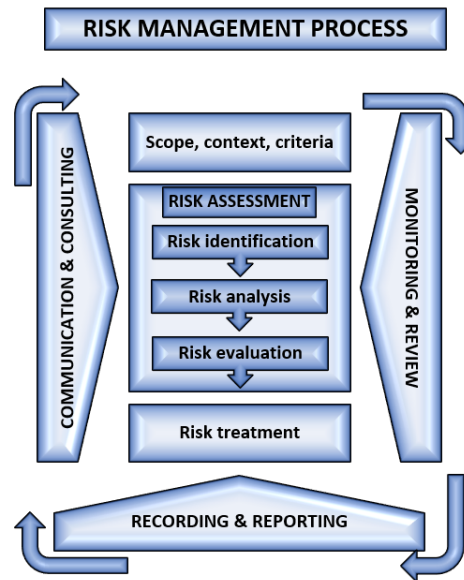


Figure 1. Risk management process (adapted from ISO 31000:2018)

### 3. Best practice

#### Communication and consultation

For safe and secure event close and immediate multi-authority cooperation is essential, as well as continuous interaction with the event organizer. Due to cooperation with the authorities, expertise is available in a wide area of event safety, which is combined with up-to-date information with the organizer. Safety and security planning is started early enough by the event organizer. It also requires and assures that concrete preparations for the event are made in time. In big events it's usually necessary for the event organizer to consult experts in safety and security, rather than doing everything by themselves. It's important to be able to recognize the areas where own expertise isn't sufficient. The authorities will advise on the basics, but the responsibility lies on the organizer. Beside the supervision, authorities also provide information and guidance. Regardless of the collaboration, the juridical responsibility lays on the event organizer. Therefore, the organizer shall submit the rescue plan of the event to the regional rescue authorities no later than 14 days before the start of the event (Rescue Act 379/2011).

Functional safety and security measurements are fundamental for successful event, so therefore it's vital that organizer is motivated and understanding towards safety and security culture, even though it would mean investing more money or resources.

#### Scope, context, criteria

When the group for Ruisrock's risk assessment is formed, the following aspects are considered to find enough expertise to cover the specific risks and features:

- The specific characteristics of the area (water, location on an island, heavy traffic, elevation differences, urban environment, public transport, etc.)



- Number of people participating in the event (environmental maintenance, security stewarding, guidance, services, exits, etc.)
- Nature of the event (whether there are topics or performers that stir up the mind, people with disabilities, children, the elderly)
- Whether there are any special programs or equipment at the event that require special safety planning and expertise, the availability of the organizer/ resources of public authorities.

According to the Rescue Act (379/2011) the dangers and risks concerning the event need to be detailed and assessed. All measures in the emergency plan must be based on this risk assessment. The event organizer must take care that all needed legislation is taken into consideration.

### **Risk assessment**

First in the risk assessment process the overall situational picture is drawn up. It includes the structures, program, environmental management and placement, human resources, and all other essential factors. Identification of the risks is based on the specific features of the event and the lessons learned from a previous years. Analysis of the risks is done by recognizing causes and consequences for each risk. After this the analysis is used to evaluate the magnitude of risks. All key authorities affecting event safety must participate in risk assessment in the form of a joint meeting. The organizer presents the factors affecting the situational picture to the authorities, and together the severity of risks and the level of preparedness for them are considered. Organizer makes a preliminary emergency plan that can be discussed with authorities.

Recognized causes and consequences are used for creating event specific treatment measures. Event organizer needs to have a reliable criterion and demonstrate that their risk management measures are risk-orientated and compliant with the legislation. Authorities evaluate if the measures presented in the rescue plan are sufficient and they can ask event organizer to enhance the event safety and security plan.

In addition, regarding the overall security of society, the authorities must then carry out an assessment of the risks posed by the event and how the authorities should prepare for identified risks that are not directly the responsibility of the event organizer. This preparedness may include increasing authorities' resources, reserving additional spaces, ensuring the internal flow of information, and providing information etc. In addition to the event area, the mega-scale event has a wider impact on society, and the risk assessment generated by its impact is the responsibility of the authorities.

### **Risk treatment**

The risk treatment is combination of structural, technical and operational measures that are based on risk assessment. Preventing crimes and other deliberate harmful acts is largely directed by legislation. Different laws regulate the powers of different actors (security stewards, security guards, police). For example, the security checks and searches on persons, removal from the area and apprehension are regulated by law. In bigger events like Ruisrock besides rescue plan multiple other plans must be drawn up and they are part of the risk treatment.

### **Monitoring and review**

Monitoring in Ruisrock is done with an official inspection just before the start of the event. During the event onsite monitoring is done with both authorities and security service provider. Security service and health service providers are also obliged to keep a logbook of the service events



that help organizer to develop and plan the event for the future. After the event debriefing session is held with the organizer. Information is also obtained from the media and other public sources. All this information and sources are helping to review and develop the Ruisrock festival.

The authorities always go through the most significant events together afterwards. Often, debriefing is also carried out together with the organizer. If criminal investigation measures must be carried out, the aim is to bring the responsible persons to criminal responsibility for their negligence.

### Recording and reporting

In all phases authorities take notes, so that after a year, the shortcomings identified are considered at the planning stage. During the process there are multiple mandatory documents that must be made. These include for example:

- Fire inspection minutes
- Event logs
- Meeting minutes

Dynamic and continuously improving emergency plan serves also as a recording and reporting tool.

---

### References

Finland Assembly Act 530/1999. Accessed 10.2.2023.

[https://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/kaannokset/1999/en19990530\\_20020824.pdf](https://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/kaannokset/1999/en19990530_20020824.pdf)

Finland Rescue Act 379/2011. Accessed 10.2.2023.

<https://www.finlex.fi/en/laki/kaannokset/2011/en20110379.pdf>

Ruisrock. 2022a. Accessed 3.12.2022. <https://ruisrock.fi/en/info/>

Ruisrock. 2022b. Accessed 3.12.2022. <https://ruisrock.fi/en/sold-out-ruisrock-makes-a-stellar-comeback-attracting-a-total-of-105-000-visitors/>

Varsinais-Suomen pelastuslaitos 2019. Accessed 10.2.2022.

[https://www.vspelastus.fi/uutinen/2019-10-02\\_valtakunnallinen-turvallisuuspalkinto-varsinais-suomeen](https://www.vspelastus.fi/uutinen/2019-10-02_valtakunnallinen-turvallisuuspalkinto-varsinais-suomeen)

