



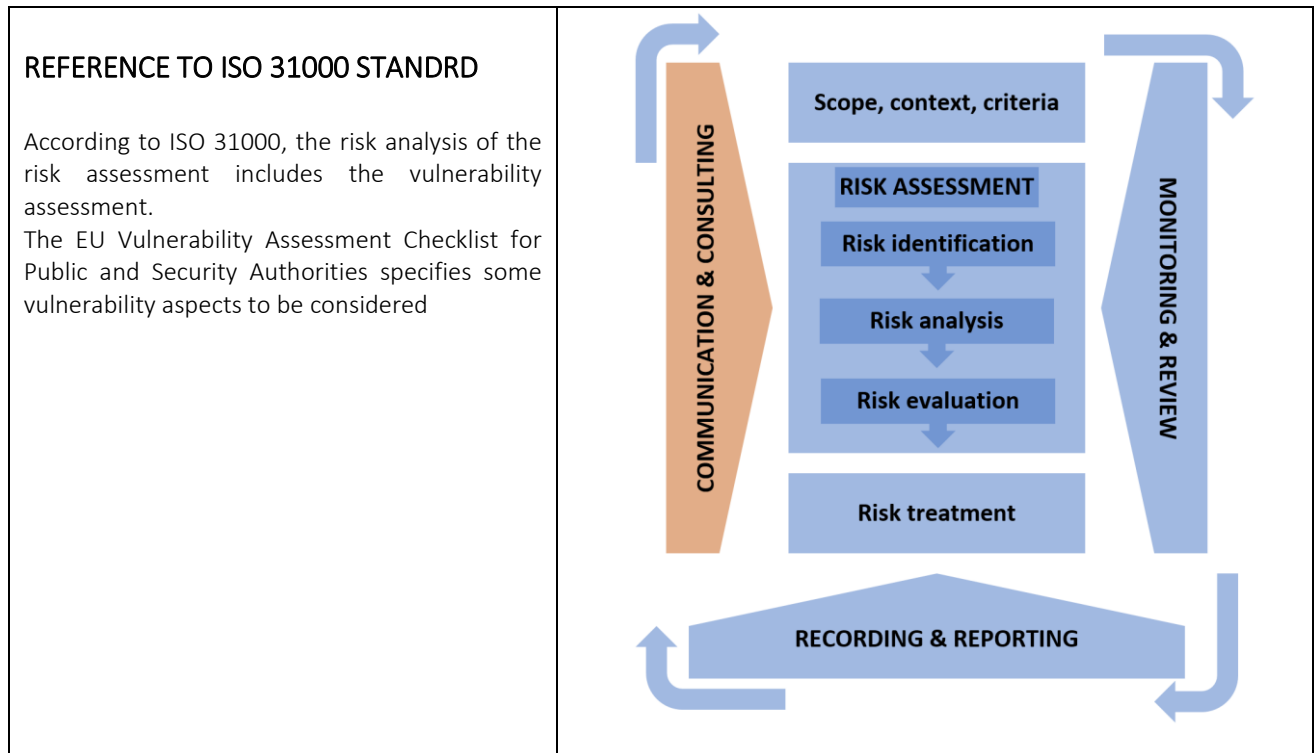
EXERCISE FOR SECURITY STUDENTS

Terrorism Risk Assessment of Public Spaces

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BACKGROUND:

In accordance with ISO 31000, the EU has published the article "Terrorism Risk Assessment of Public Spaces for Practitioners", which is a very useful tool for the city official or security operator. It presents the EU Vulnerability Assessment Checklist for Public and Security Authorities. The checklist is a very useful tool (<https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/pps/items/674909/en> Published 22-4-2020)



GOAL OF THIS EXERCISE:

Students will become familiar with vulnerability assessment in the risk analysis process in the field of terrorism.

TASK DESCRIPTION FOR STUDENTS:

- 1.** Form groups as instructed the teacher
- 2.** Your task now is to choose a large famous square in your city/town and we will simulate that there is a high risk of a terrorist attack with a vehicle as a weapon and with this information each group will have to analyse the vulnerability of the chosen square according to the checklist in the attached article.
- 3.** It is important to create informative material that is easily understandable and visually attractive. We recommend using visual editing tools such as Canva, Infogram, or Piktochart to create the material. Canva also allows free downloads for the created materials. You can find beginner tutorial videos on YouTube:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLATYfhN6gQz8GiTG_nUxVar8ycrt9hJxL
- 4.** Present your material and explain the information included in it:
Why exactly this target group was chosen, why the information included in the material is important for a specific target group and what knowledge the target group will gain by getting acquainted with the informative material.

TASK DESCRIPTION FOR TEACHER / TRAINER:

The teacher's tasks are as follows:

- 1.** Create students' groups (not more than 4 people in one group is recommended).
- 2.** Explain the task to the students, emphasizing the importance of developing skills to effectively communicate safety information to colleagues and the public. It is recommended to present the Study on skills of young security specialists:
<https://security.turiba.lv/2022/12/06/what-skills-young-security-specialists-are-missing/>
- 3.** Assist students in selecting the target group and the focus of informational material. Provide examples and guidance if needed.
- 4.** If students lack experience and skills in using visualization tools such as Canva, Infogram, or Piktochart, provide an introduction and basic training on one of these visual editing tools.
- 5.** Evaluate the informational materials developed by students and discuss their content, providing recommendations for improvements.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS THAT THE STUDENT ACQUIRES THROUGH THIS ASSIGNMENT:

- Working in a group
- Working under time pressure
- Presenting and arguing
- Multidisciplinary and critical thinking skills
- Ability to work in a team
- Ability to communicate effectively
- Digital skills (visual editing skills)
- Familiarity with the EU Vulnerability Assessment Checklist for Public and Security Authorities

<https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/pps/items/674909/en>

- **“Vulnerability Assessment**

Vulnerabilities are the inherent weaknesses of a potential target. Critically assessing vulnerabilities in the context of attack scenarios will inform decision-makers on effective deterrence and mitigation measures, strategies to minimize exposure, emergency management plans and enhanced resilience. Vulnerabilities are threat-specific, setting-specific and time-specific.



Figure 4: Vulnerability Assessment Components

The *EU Vulnerability Assessment Checklist* [16] provides a set of factors to consider and practical questions to ask during the vulnerability assessment of different types of public spaces across a broad range of identified threats.

Public space vulnerabilities are categorized according to the different access/entry/exit phases to a public space and are linked to possible attack scenarios and considerations. There are additional vulnerability assessment matrixes for insider threats and drone attacks. The vulnerability aspects to consider are:

- Access roads to venue
 - bottlenecks (possible vehicle-borne explosion impact, also for adjacent pedestrian traffic)
 - alternative access/exit roads
 - proximity to major road infrastructure, residential areas, other transport infrastructure

- access to large/heavy vehicles
- Parking and transport facilities
 - Particularities of the entry flows (tunnels, shuttles, narrow lanes)
 - Adjacent public places
 - Situation of the parking/transport facilities in respect to the public place
- Pedestrian access
 - bottlenecks (possible person-borne IED, active shooter incidents)
 - Surrounding structures that may be used by terrorists
 - Public transport
- Entry / exit points
 - crowd conglomeration
 - vulnerability to attacks outside the protected perimeter
 - emergency exits
 - electronically operated equipment (lifts, mobile barriers, etc.)
- Access controls
 - Positioning of access controls in a way not causing crowd conglomeration
 - Possibility to break through access controls
- Open access public places
 - possibility to re-channel the crowd flow
 - vulnerability of crowds at entry and exit points outside of the public space
 - presence of shelter from a possible shooting/vehicle ramming attack
 - protection from drone attacks
- Structural resilience
 - Possibility of fragments /structural parts collapsing
 - Other buildings/structures in proximity
- Internal security measures
 - Means to check / stop attackers
 - Control of service staff/vehicles
 - Insider threat and internal controls

Systematic and continuous terrorism risk assessment for public spaces is essential for the prioritization, planning and implementation of effective mitigation solutions. In practice, there are no attack-proof solutions and there will always be the acceptable risk factor to weigh in on the decision-making process. Still, the aim of terrorists is to achieve the highest degree of havoc with their attack, thus they would naturally be attracted to exploiting the exposed vulnerabilities of public spaces. **The implementation of mitigation measures which address systematically analysed risks will provide increased resilience in case of a terrorist attack and its presence will in itself act as a dissuasion for terrorist targeting.**