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IRSC 2025

Advancing Railway Safety through Innovations and Collaborations

Hong Kong, China 25th - 30th November 2025

The Importance of Global Cooperation in the Field of Rail Safety

Mark Topal-Gökceli, CTO
ÖBB (Austrian Federal Railways)

ÖBB facts & figures | Austrian Federal Railways

5.7bn. €
revenue

114m. €
EBT

47500
Employees

511 m.
Passengers
(train and bus)

94% Punctuality

Kilometres travelled by rail per inhabitant 2023*

100%
renewable energy for traction
on ÖBB network

9
hydroelectric
power plants

80m.
net tonnes
per year

18
countries

1150 trains per day

Revenue in mil. Euros 2024

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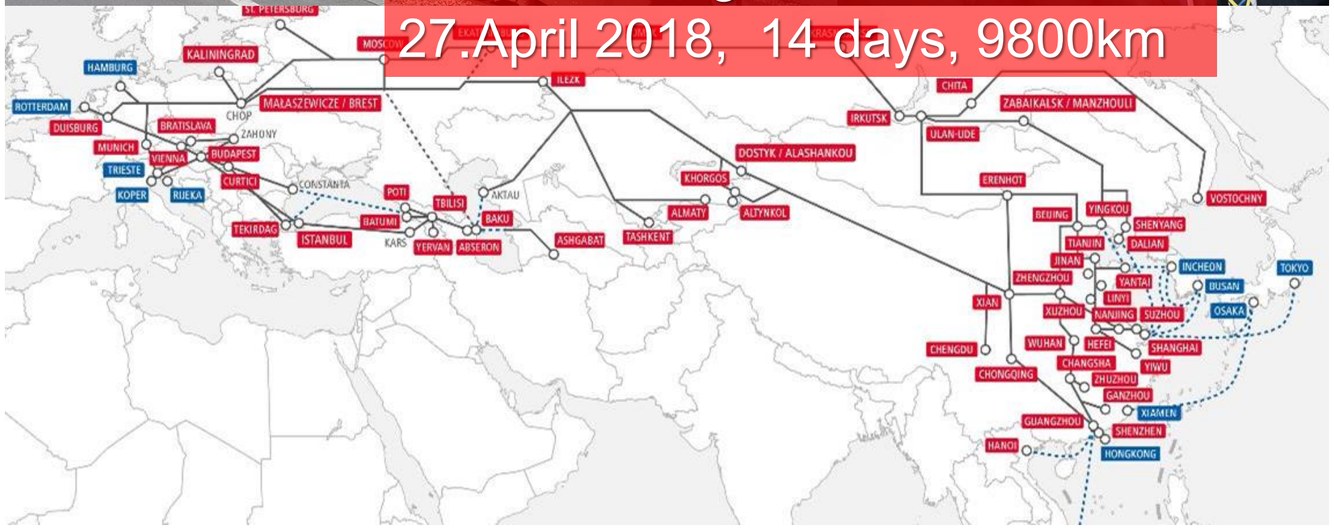
From Chengdu to Vienna | From Vienna to Hong Kong

1st train Chengdu - Vienna
27.April 2018, 14 days, 9800km



AUSTRIA VIENNA 2024 IRSC INTERNATIONAL Railway Safety Council

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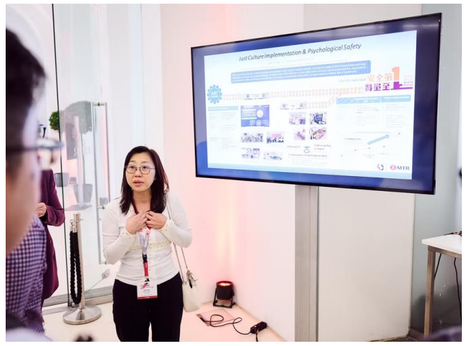
Learnings from IRSC2024

- Safety is a **continuous journey**
- Safety does **not stop at national borders**
- Shared challenges: technology, **human factors**, climate
- Innovation is not just about technology — it's about **connecting people, ideas** and experiences
- IRSC2024 highlighted the **power of international dialogue**, collaboration, and mutual learning.

→ Perfect foundation for:
"***Advancing Railway Safety through Innovations and Collaborations***"



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Safety strategy | Think logic, keep it simple

Strategy and principle:

- **Safety** (as a perfect aspired state) is what we want, but **cannot be managed directly**
- We need to **manage the corresponding risks**
  - **Identify** them (system view)
  - **Understand** them (root and background)
  - **Counter** them (technology wherever possible and feasible, processes, human/safety culture)
  - **Accept** them (to a certain part)

Challenges and potential areas of failure:

- **Lack of full picture** of what needs to be protected (sub-system view)
- **Not** being in the position **to see all the risks**
- **Lack of understanding** what is “behind” the risk
- Implementing measures with **low or in-efficient effect**
- Being **careless** should not be mistaken as being brave

ÖBB corporate culture | Living Safety is the foundation of all ÖBB activities

WE BEFORE ME

TAKE INITIATIVE

INSPIRING SERVICES FOR OUR CUSTOMERS

LIVING SAFETY

I work attentively and behave in accordance with the rules. I always lead by example and am a role model for others.

- Be a role model.
- Be attentive.
- Wear protective equipment.
- Keep things in order.
- Work in compliance with the rules.

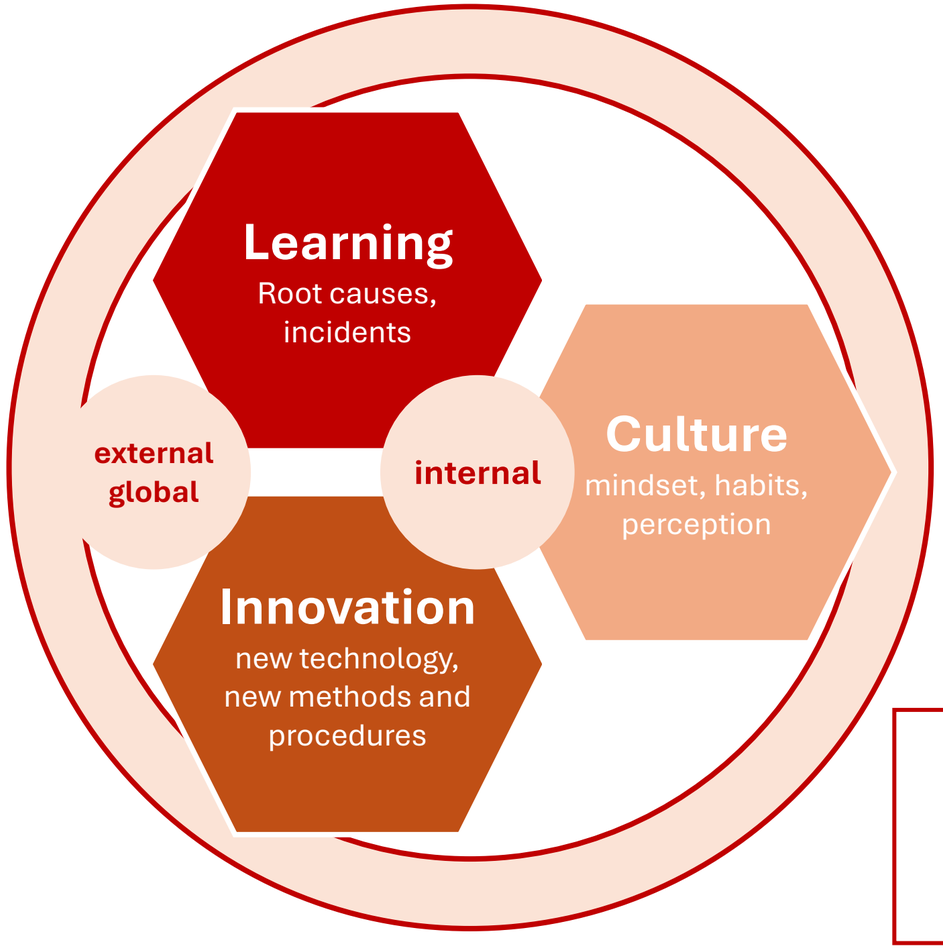
I take care of myself and my colleagues. I openly address unsafe actions or situations.

- Look out for one another.
- Address unsafe actions.

I actively contribute to learning from mistakes: this means identifying and eliminating causes so that we can improve.

- Learn from mistakes.
- Identify & eliminate causes.

Global collaboration | Opportunities through cooperation in all safety fields



The international dimension is key to advance railway safety and accelerate progress.

- Sharing experiences and best practices across borders
- Global exchange builds common understanding
- Cooperation strengthens resilience in a changing world
- Knowledge exchange enhances expertise
- Openness and accurate analysis of incidents and near-misses drives improvement globally
- Overcoming cultural barriers enables effective safety practices.
- Positive safety culture encourages open communication, mutual awareness & systematic learning (also: economics)

>> Combining safety culture, global cooperation & innovation leads to safer and more successful railways

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www.irsc2025.com

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