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IRSC 2025

Advancing Railway Safety through Innovations and Collaborations

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Enhancing railway safety culture through Peer Review

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Background

- Inspired by the nuclear industry (WANO)
- 2018: ERA initiated the development of Peer Review methodo
- 2022-2023:EC funded TWINNING II project coordinated by UIC
- Peer review exercises conducted in ÖBB, Infrabel & CFL Cargo
- 2024: UIC is coordinating all Peer Reviews at international level
- Since 2025: 3 Peer Reviews conducted at SNCF, Lisea-Mesea and Eurotunnel
- In 2026: 4 peer reviews will be conducted (DB Cargo France and 3 other to come)

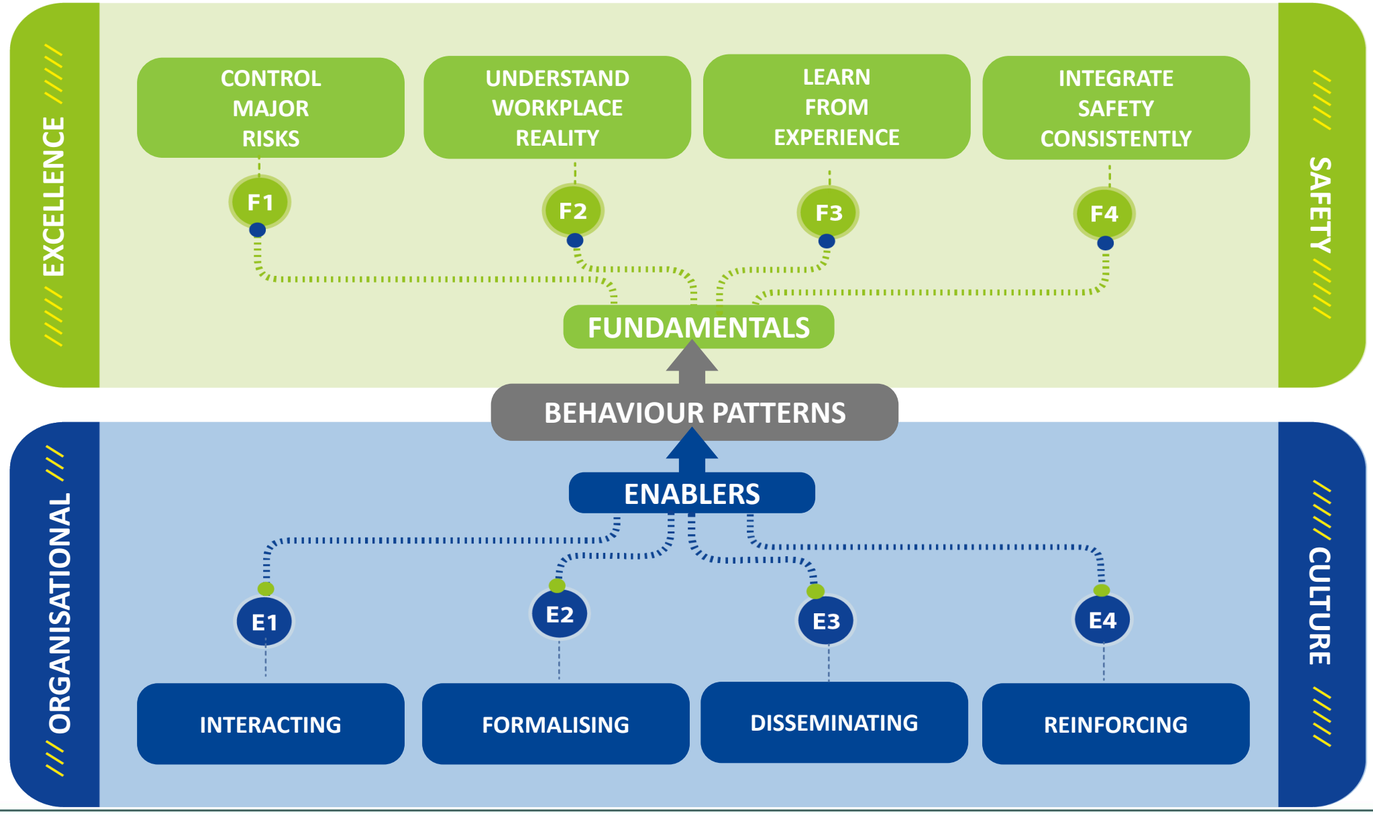
Objectives of the Peer Review

Aims to identify the safety practices, safety perceptions and safety behaviors of the various actors in the organisation

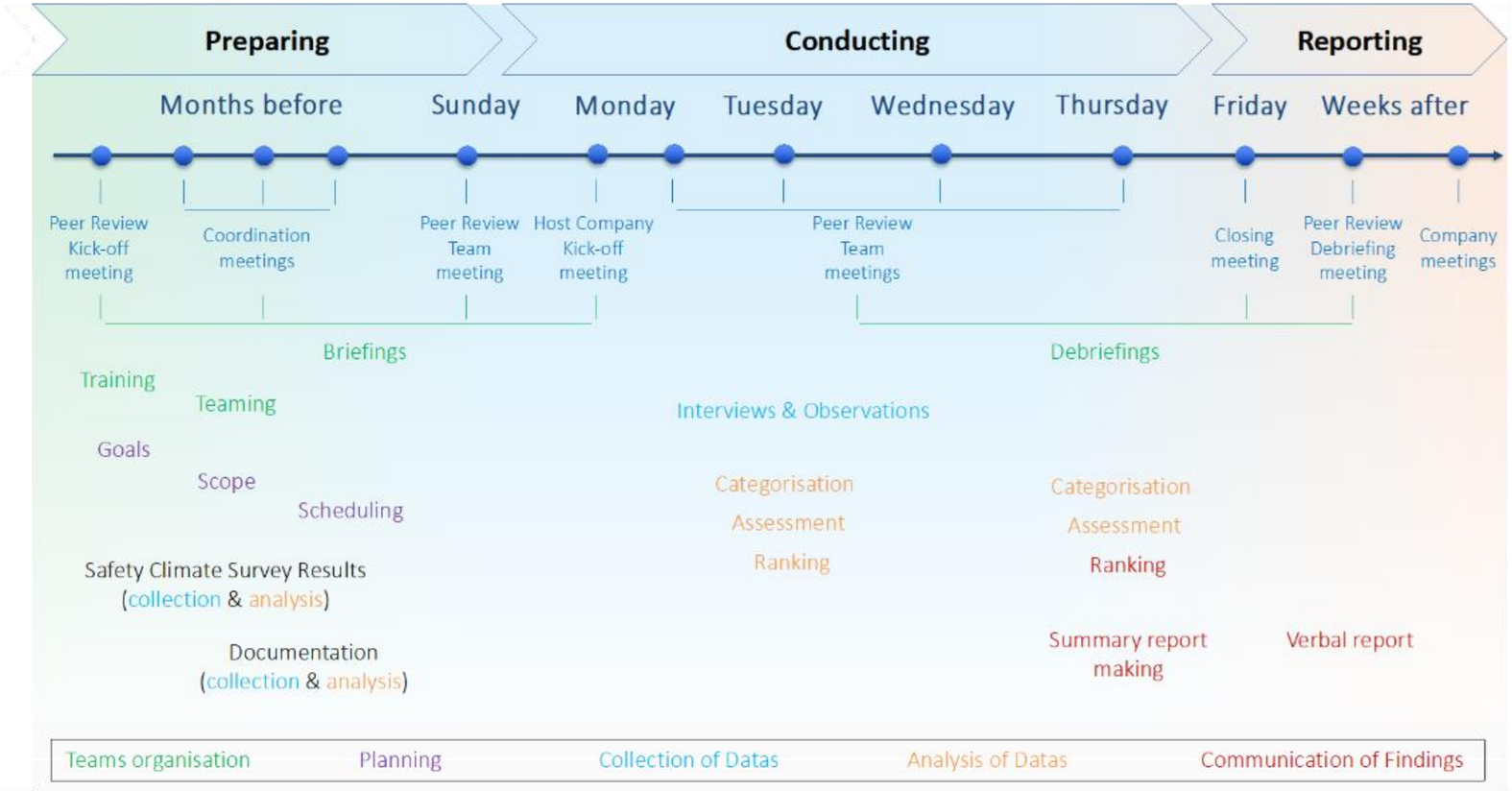
Carried out with volunteer UIC members, a Peer Review aims to strengthen the effectiveness of the safety culture and thus improve safety performance

Methodology

The ERA Safety Culture model



Preparing


Preparing
Conducting
Reporting
Months before
Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Weeks after
Peer Review Kick-off meeting
Coordination meetings
Peer Review Team meeting
Host Company Kick-off meeting
Peer Review Team meetings
Closing meeting
Peer Review Debriefing meeting
Company meetings
Briefings
Debriefings
Training
Teaming
Goals
Scope
Scheduling
Interviews & Observations
Categorisation
Assessment
Ranking
Categorisation
Assessment
Ranking
Safety Climate Survey Results (collection & analysis)
Documentation (collection & analysis)
Summary report making
Verbal report
Teams organisation
Planning
Collection of Datas
Analysis of Datas
Communication of Findings

Conducting

WHAT IS A PEER REVIEW IN PRACTICE?

01 **One week** is spent on-site at the company being peer reviewed from Sunday afternoon to Friday lunchtime.
The team comprises **one supervisor and three pairs of reviewers**.

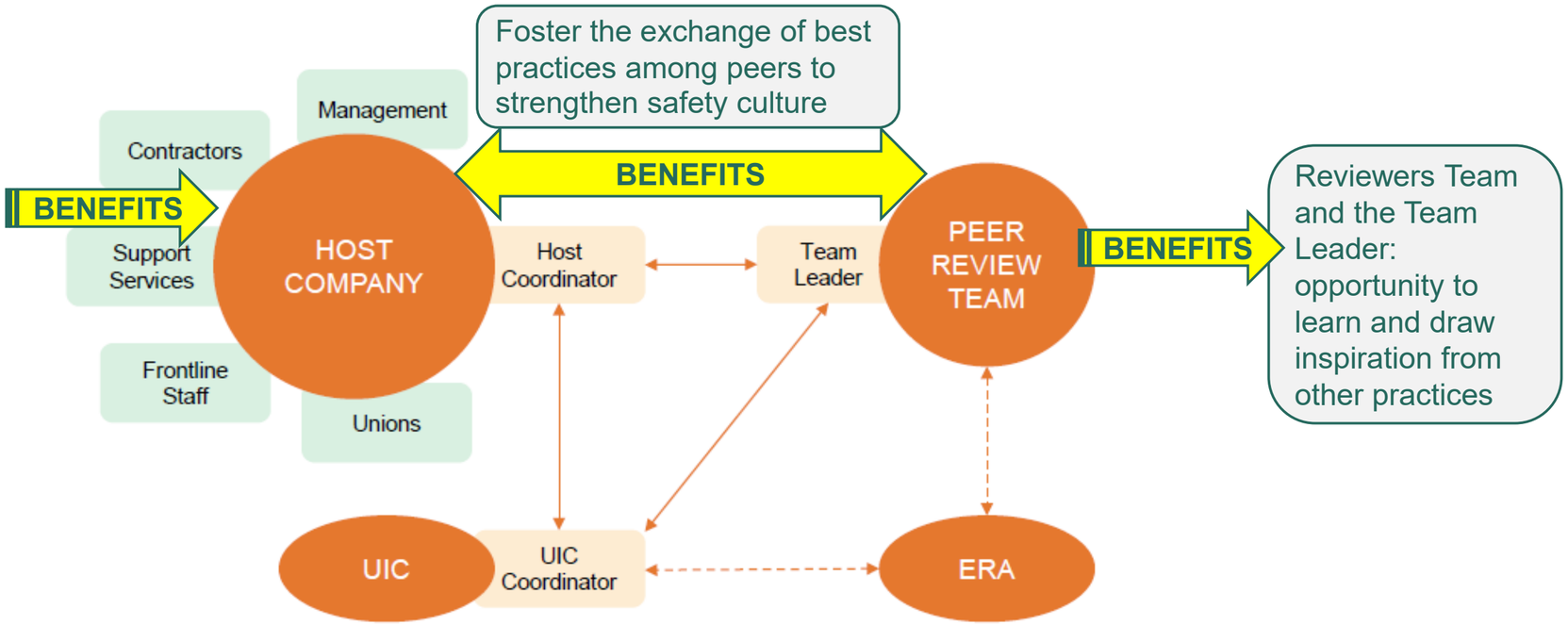
02 Samples (observations/individual interviews/focus groups/etc.) are taken **from the Monday to the Wednesday**.

03 **On the Thursday**, the data is collated according to the “safety culture model attributes”. The final report is also drafted.

04 **On the Friday** morning, a meeting is held with the company’s management for a feedback session and presentation of the completed report with key findings and recommendations.

Key benefits and outcomes

- Stronger integration of Human and Organisational Factors (HOFs) and safety culture into management systems and daily operations,
- Heightened safety awareness in everyday work contexts, driving overall improvement in safety system performance,
- Enhanced communication and collaboration across hierarchical levels and teams,
- Comprehensive report highlighting organisation strengths and areas for improvement,
- Greater transparency and trust within the organisation.



Return of experience: 2 levels

- Conducting a debrief after each peer review to continuously enhance the approach.

- Support service after the report has been submitted:
  - Expert assistance in the understanding of the safety culture markers and underlying concepts.
  - Delivery of tailored information to support and reinforce the development of the action plan.

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