



EU-CSIRT collaborative environment dedicated to rail

A co-designed Model and Platform

Cybersecurity in Railways, ENISA-ERA Conference

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Background & context

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Research, findings & requirements

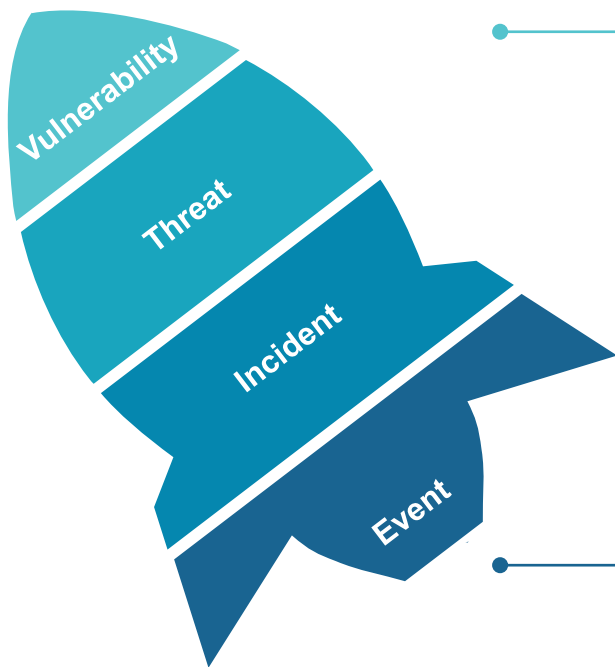
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CHIRP4Rail: model & platform

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Conclusions & Issues for discussion

4SECURail – CSIRT Key definitions (according to ENISA*)



Vulnerability

The existence of a **weakness**, design, or implementation error that can lead to an unexpected, undesirable event **compromising the security of the computer system**, network, application, or protocol involved.

Threat

Any **circumstance** or event **with the potential to adversely impact an asset** through unauthorized access, destruction, disclosure, modification of data, and/or denial of service.

Incident

An **event** that has been assessed as having an actual or potentially **adverse effect on the security** or performance of a system.

Event

Occurrence of a particular set of circumstances (certain or uncertain; single occurrence or a series of occurrences).

* <https://www.enisa.europa.eu/topics/threat-risk-management/risk-management/current-risk/risk-management-inventory/glossary>

4SECURail – CSIRT Background, Aim and Objectives

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Background

The Shift2Rail programme has called for work on defining a draft **CSIRT organisational framework**, supported by a draft and **demonstrated CSIRT Platform**, and has selected the 4SECURail project to deliver this CSIRT task.

Objective 1

To **define stakeholder requirements** for a European Rail CSIRT collaborative activity, and to co-design with them a first draft CSIRT model for open consultation.

Objective 3

To **identify relevant platforms** to support CSIRT collaboration and, based on requirements and CSIRT model, specify and adapt to meet CSIRT needs.



Aim

The main aim is to **deliver a pilot CSIRT co-designed by the relevant rail stakeholders** (Rail CISOs + Rail SOCs + Rail IT security teams, etc.) along with a **working pilot platform** (collaborative environment) also co-designed with those stakeholders.

Objective 2

To **test and validate the draft CSIRT model**, and to obtain sufficient feedback and co-design input to release the final CSIRT model to support organisational collaboration, as well as collaborative platform design.

Objective 4

To **test and updated the CSIRT collaborative environment** to ensure meeting user needs.

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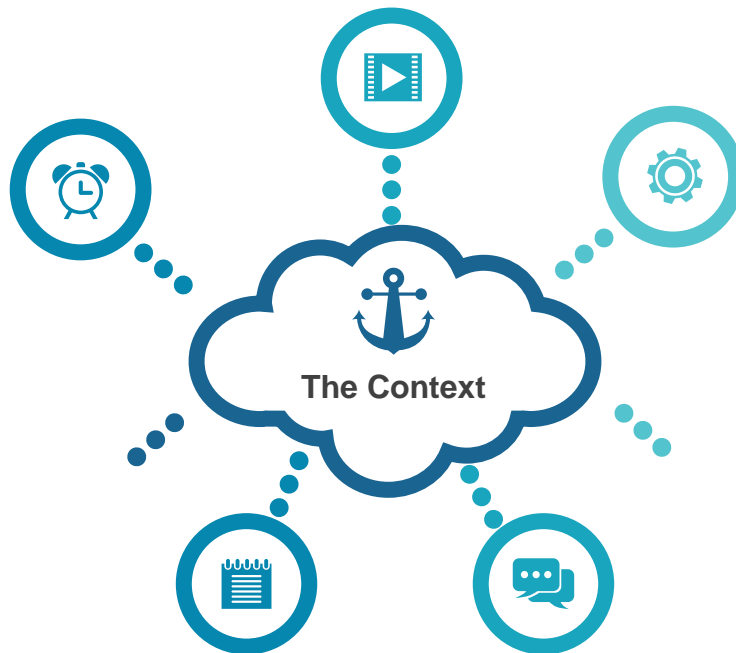
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4SECURail – CSIRT Context

Single European Railway Area (SERA)

- Railways are a strategic area of European Shared Infrastructure and are one of the **most extensive cross-border and pan-European “essential services”**.
- Railway information networks and digital services are interconnected to facilitate the **SERA concept**.
- All European railway infrastructure, both physical and IT/OT, can be conceived as a **single network**.
- SERA depends on **cross-border inter-organisational collaboration** to ensure effective and safe operation of European railway business.



NIS Directive

- NIS ensures a **European framework for cyber security**:
 - ENISA / National CSIRTs (MS) / Cooperation Group/ European CSIRT Network / ISACs (Sectors).
- European railways are both **Operators of essential services** (OES) and **Critical Infrastructures** (CI).
- Railway OES also depends on **Digital Service Providers** (DSPs) who deploy and manage systems and services.
- Railway OES and DSPs must a) take **appropriate security measures** and b) **notify serious incidents**.
- Within a single rail OES, *identification of threats and response to threats* are coordinated by an **internal security team** (e.g., a CSIRT, SOC, IT-OT security team, etc.)
- At pan-European level, an **intrusion at any point can result in damage at other points** of SERA: collaboration is clearly demanded.
- Therefore, the potential benefit of a **European Railway CSIRT** involving security teams from multiple Rail OES.

4SECURail – CSIRT Context

CSIRT and ISAC

- A CSIRT is a "team of IT security experts whose main business is to **respond to computer security incidents**. It provides the services to handle them and support their constituents to recover from breaches."
- An ISAC is a "**sectoral member-driven organisation** to collect, analyse and disseminate information on cyber-threats, so as to help critical infrastructure owners and operators protect facilities, staff and customers from cyber threats"
- While the basic difference between a CSIRT and an ISAC is clear (response versus information sharing), it is necessary to highlight the ER-ISAC potential to **capitalise on collaboration and coordination** and to steer the proposed 4SECURail CSIRT Threat Intelligence platform.



Essential Services

ENISA review of rail stakeholders identifies the following rail **essential services**:

- Operate traffic on network
- Security of passengers and goods
- Maintain railway infrastructure and trains
- Plan operations and book resources
- Carry goods and passengers
- Provide "operations" information to passengers and customers
- Manage billing and finance
- Sell and distribute tickets

UIC

The UIC **hosting the ER-ISAC initiative** to support and coordinate ER-ISAC activities.

X2RAIL-3







The other Shift2Rail initiative (X2RAIL-3 – CSIRT Concept) will deliver a **feasibility study defining a common criteria** for the implementation and setup of a single European rail CSIRT.

4SECURail – CSIRT Context

Based on the previous analysis, the following general needs can be identified:



These needs identify some general requirements that help to define the potential EU Rail CSIRT Model.

-  Collaborate in support for **cyber security response**.
-  Share **threat intelligence** concerning incidents, threats (known and new) and mitigation (strategies and measures).
-  Build teams for handling **collaborative response** and supporting recovery.
-  Engage **relevant digital service providers (DSPs)** and **equipment suppliers** in collaborative response.
-  Ensure all essential services, as defined by ENISA study, **are addressed**.
-  Define manual or automatic **sharing mechanisms**.

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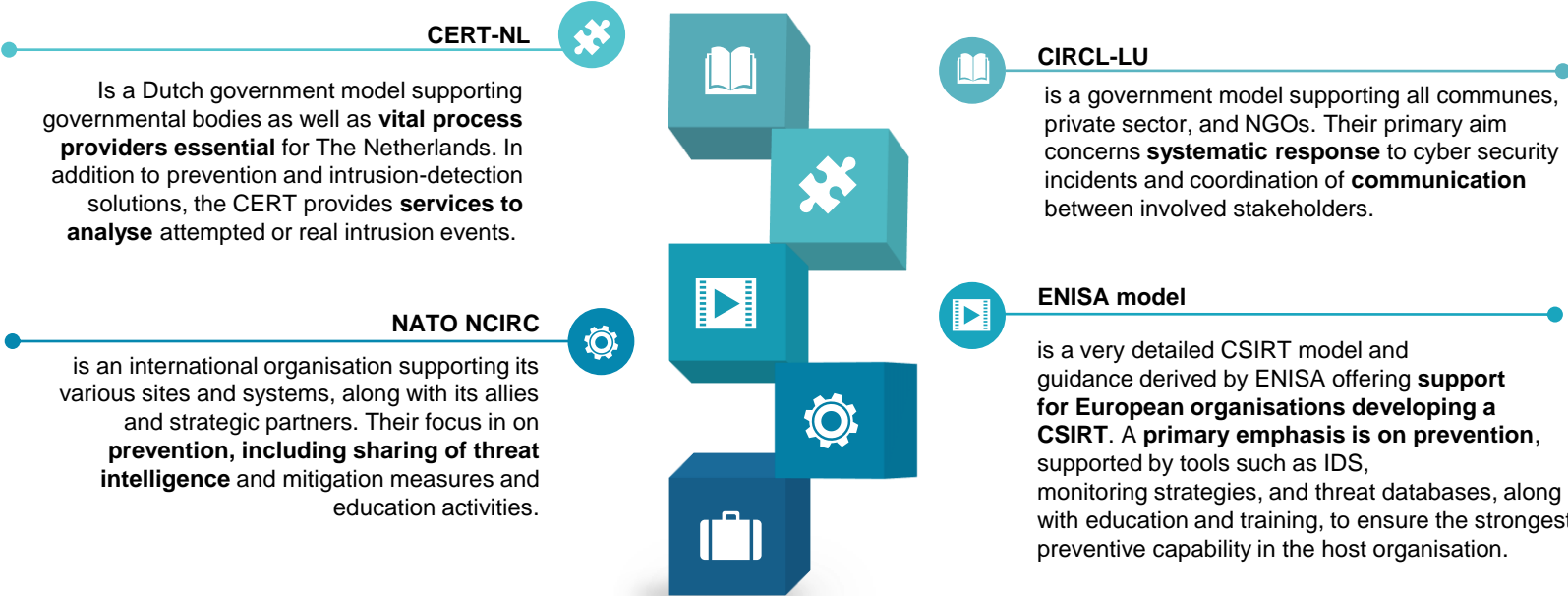
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4SECURail – CSIRT Desk Research

CSIRT Examples: Significant features of Relevance to EU Rail



CSIRT Coordination Examples: Coordinating CSIRTs

CERT-CC Computer Emergency Response Team

- This "Coordination Centre" started in 1988 by the U.S. Department of Defence.
- Provides **CSIRT coordination**, incident reporting, security audit, sharing threat intelligence, artefact analysis and education of cyber experts.

CSIRT Network established under NIS

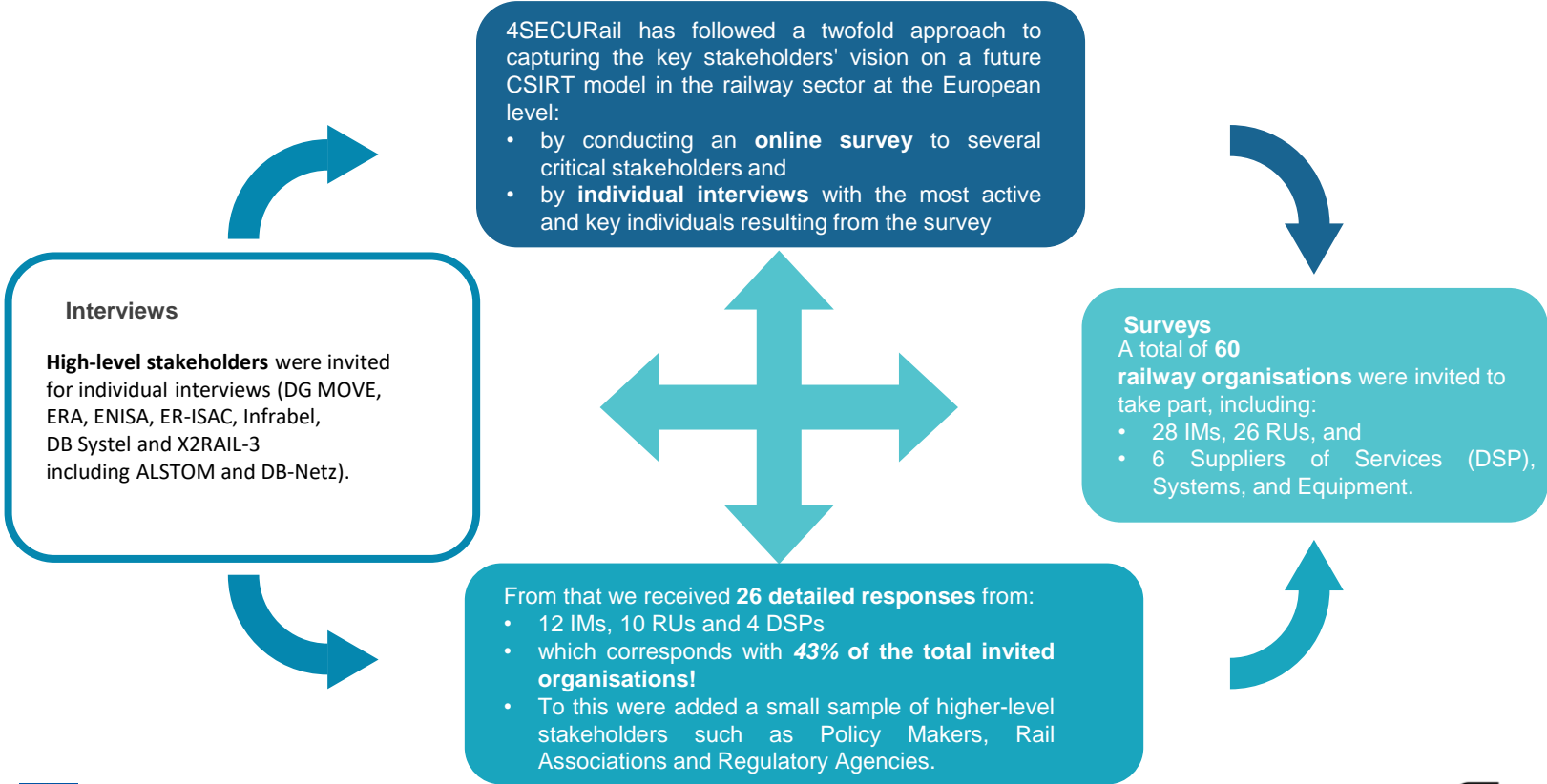
- ensures **strategic cooperation** between EU Member States in ensuring cybersecurity, including exchange of information on threats and incidents.
- Primary activities include **coordination of MS CSIRTs**, promoting awareness of cyber security, reporting on threats and incidents, providing alerts, coordinating cross-border cyber security, pan-European exercises, and relevant studies and support for policy development.



FIRST CSIRT Network

- is a confederation of trusted computer incident *response teams* (not all CSIRTs) who **cooperate to support each other in handling security incidents**.
- Members fund FIRST as a **non-profit enterprise** providing security team development and support, training, threat intelligence sharing, coordinating members in supporting each other (best practices + during incident response).

4SECURail – CSIRT Surveys & Interviews



4SECURail – CSIRT Workshop, Advisory Board and X2RAIL-3

CSIRT Coordination Examples: Coordinating CSIRTs

CSIRT Workshop, June 9th, 2020 online

- Organised by UIC together with Hit Rail and Tree Technology.
- Attended by **25 participants** from several IMs and RUs as well as representatives from ER-ISAC, ENISA, ERA and X2RAIL-3.

CSIRT Advisory Board meetings

- Compounded by a group of **external independent experts** from DG MOVE, Expleo from France, Cervello from Israel and UIFE
- Main discussion and advise was about **sharing experiences on how to build trust** between stakeholders involved in information sharing and cooperation.

Collaboration with Shift2Rail X2RAIL-3

- Several meetings with X2RAIL-3 were organised to **receive feedback and inputs** on the CSIRT model defined by 4SECURail.
- Output of 4SECURail project (model and demonstrator) will be used by X2RAIL-3 to **deliver a feasibility study** on challenges and recommendation for a single European CSIRT dedicated to rail.

4SECURail – CSIRT Functional Requirements

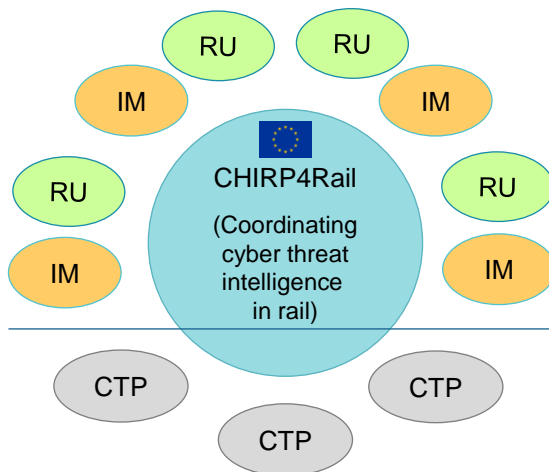
The evident need to coordinate information exchanges between railway security teams for EU-wide cyber security suggests a model that is **data driven, and bottom-up**:

- identifying **what data is to be shared** between rail security teams;
- identifying an **operational strategy to enable exchange**, supported by technical and operational schemes;
- identifying a **suitable management model** to facilitate and ensure 1 and 2.

Based on the requirements collected in the previously reported activities, we have identified the need for exchanges of different kinds of data and information flows among the key actors.

Key Actors:

- **IM / RU Rail Security Teams (RSTs):**
 - Formed as a CSIRT, CERT, SOC or any other operational form.
 - Operational at national level.
- **CHIRP4Rail:**
 - EU level Rail CSIRTs Threat Intelligence coordination - **CHIRP4Rail Platform Operator (CPO)**.
 - Operational at EU level; intelligence coordination role.

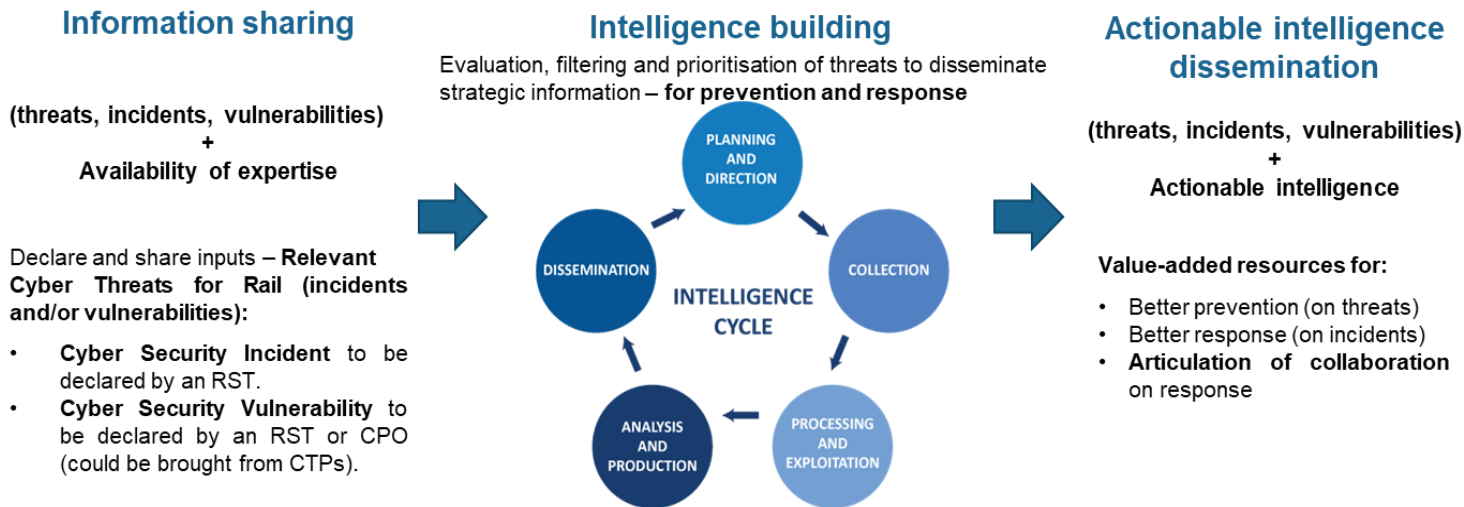


Cyber Threat trusted Partners (CTPs)

- Public bodies (e.g., National CERTs, European CSIRT Network –ECN–)
- Rail DSPs and equipment suppliers
- Commercial rail threat intelligence providers (e.g., cybersecurity industry)

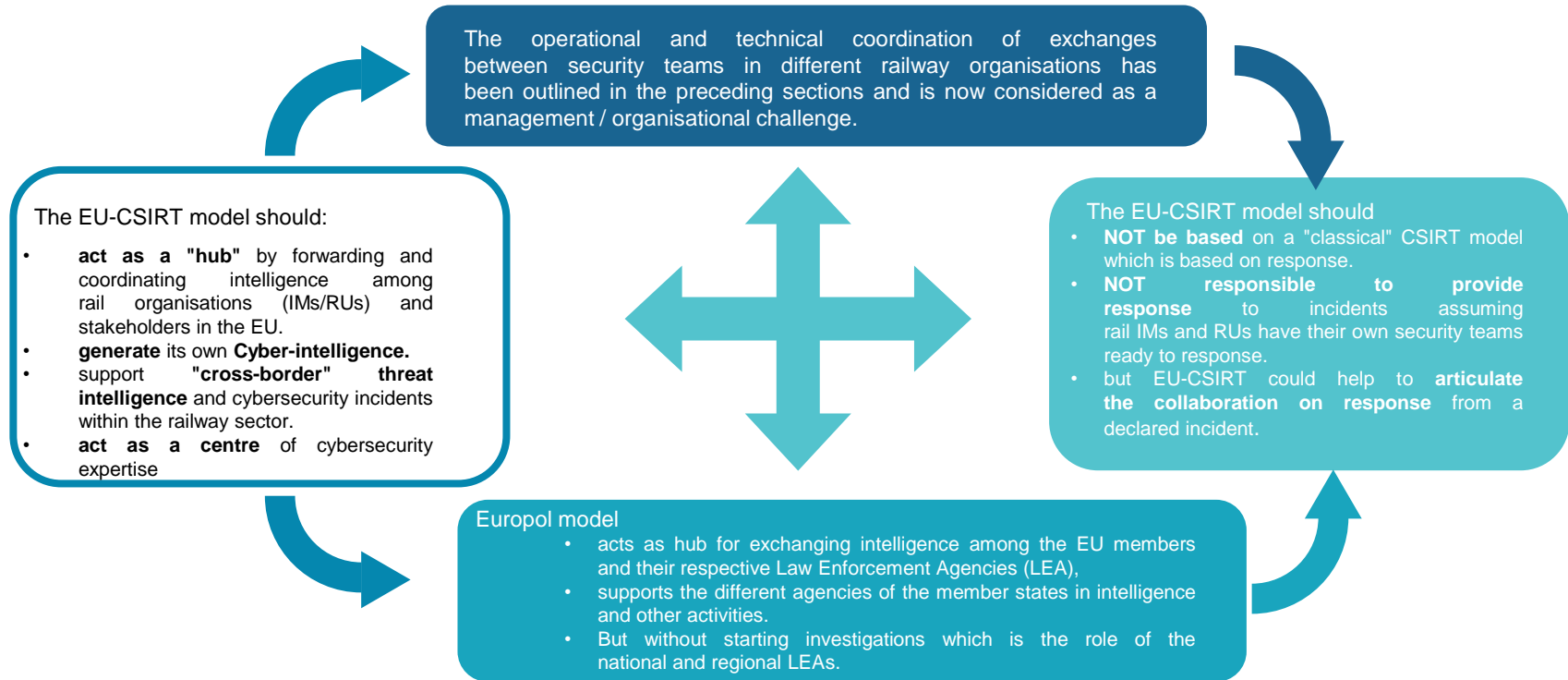
4SECURail – CSIRT Functional Requirements

From information sharing to intelligence: a value-adding process



- These data sharing and information flow will determine the **functional model** and the necessary operational and **organisational features** required to support such exchanges.
- The data and information to be exchanged between railway security teams may **need to be anonymised depending on the content** and the trust relations established among the security teams.

4SECURail – CSIRT Organisational Requirements



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4SECURail – CSIRT - CHIRP4Rail Concept and Rationale

The need:

Pan-European collaborative environment for cyberthreat information and intelligence sharing in Rail

The context:



The opportunity:

The **CHIRP4Rail** concept - Collaborative threat Intelligence Platform for Rail



4SECURail

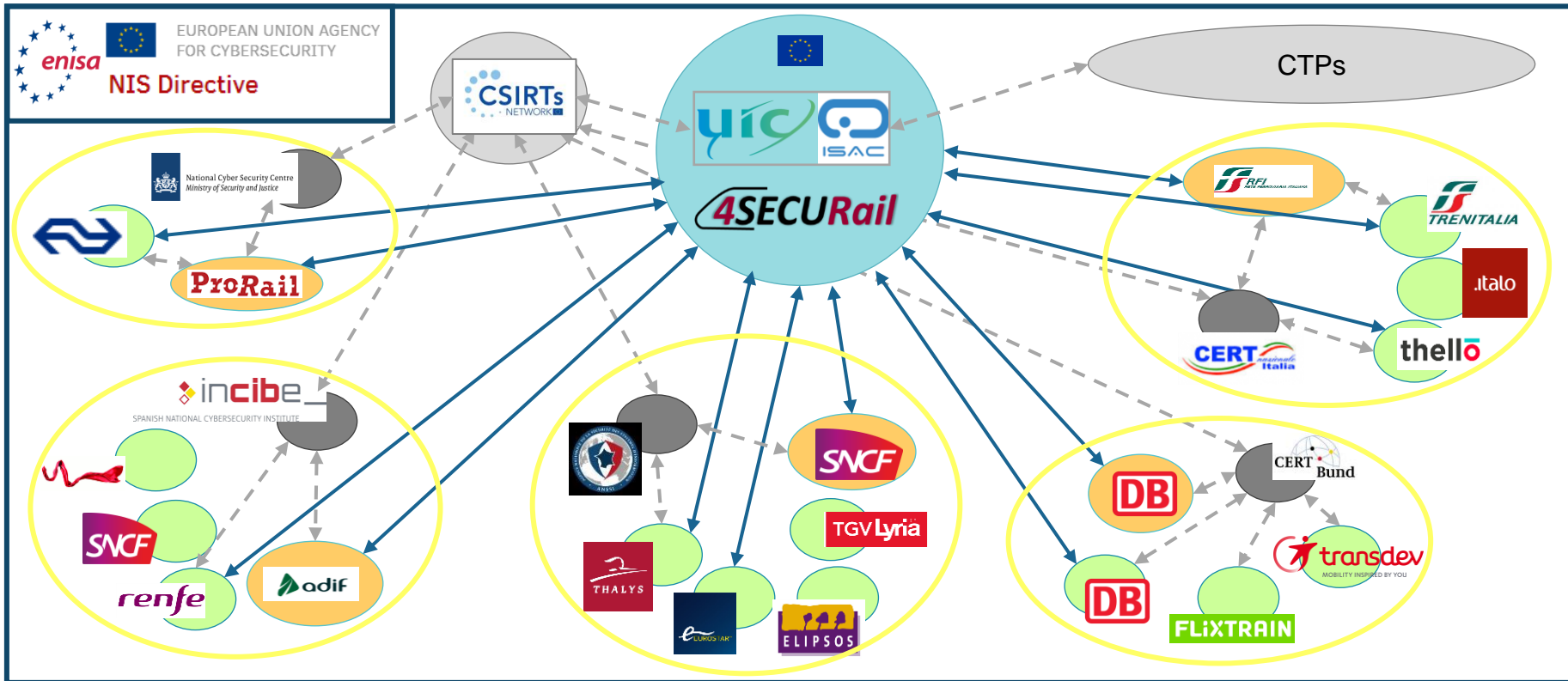
The CHIRP4Rail approach:

- A hub, "umbrella" model for Rail-OES collaboration
- Coordinated and capitalised by the ER-ISAC



- And UIC as key facilitator





● CHIRP4Rail platform

● Infrastructure Managers RST

● Railway Undertakings RST

● National Authorized CERTs/CSIRTs

● CyberThreat Intelligence providers (CTPs)

● Member states

4SECURail –CHIRP4Rail Mission and Objectives

Mission

Support information sharing and threat intelligence generation among the rail cybersecurity teams.



Objective

Structure a bottom-up dialogue among European rail cybersecurity teams



Objective

Provide effective means for information sharing among rail stakeholders



Objective

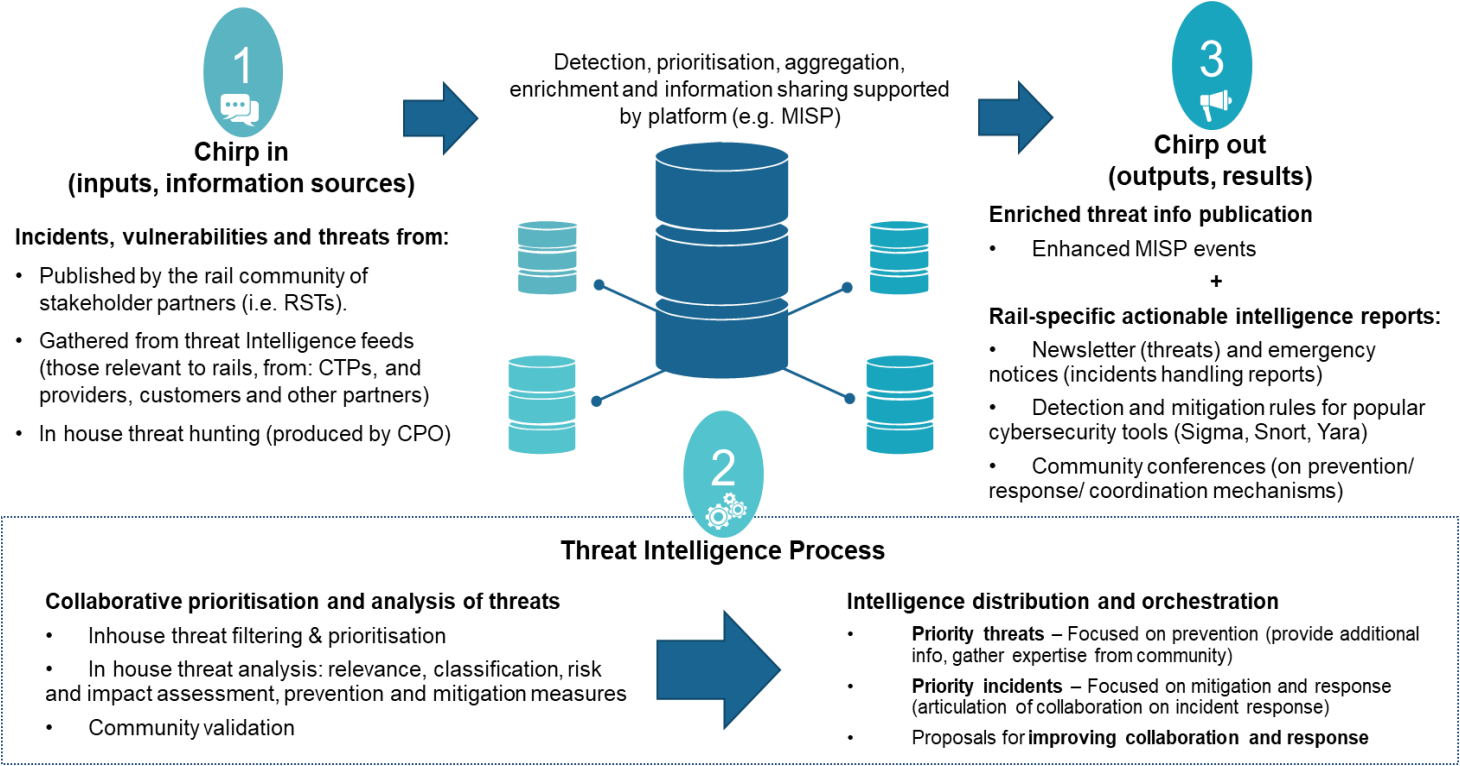
Build community and trust among rail cybersecurity stakeholders



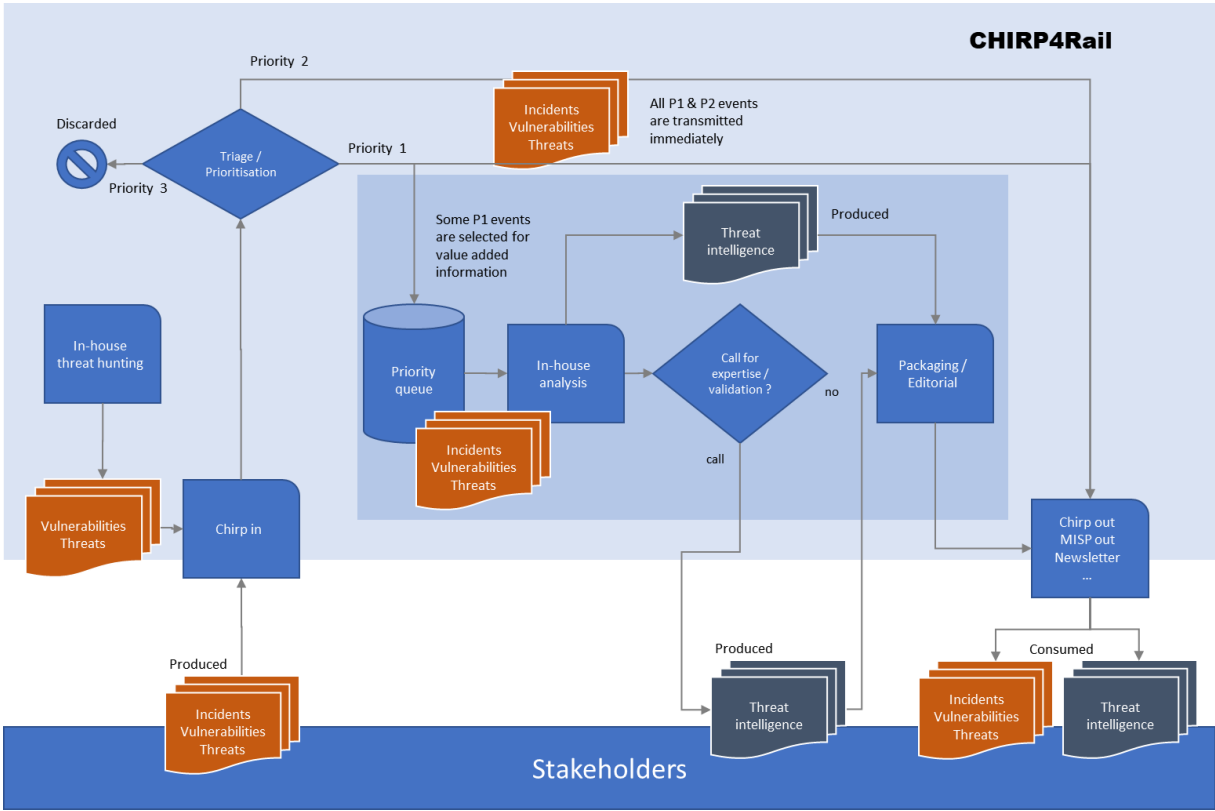
Objective

Leverage information and expertise to produce rail-specific cybersecurity intelligence

4SECURail – CHIRP4Rail Functional Model – Workflow



4SECURail – CHIRP4Rail Functional Model – Workflow



4SECURail – CHIRP4Rail Organisational Model

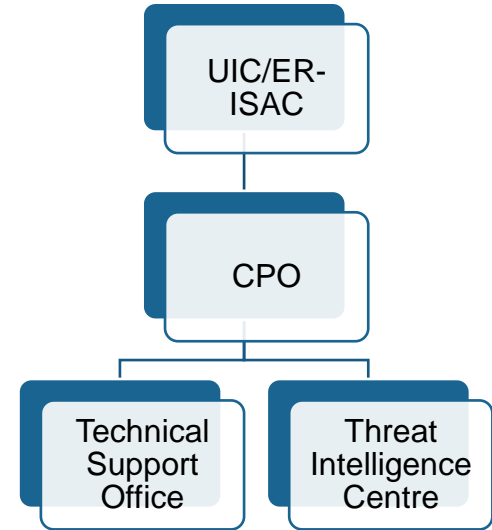
The proposed functional model shall be expressed as an organisational form among the key actors, based on key role and main functions:

Actors	UIC/ER-ISAC	IM/RU RSTs	CTPs	CPO
Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steer the CHIRP4Rail Model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a Member 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a Trusted Partner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the collaborative platform
Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the CHIRP4Rail Model • Coordinate with the European CSIRT Network (ECN) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share relevant threats • Receive actionable intelligence • Coordinate with national CSIRT and rail DSPs and suppliers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share relevant vulnerabilities for rail • Coordinate with national CSIRT and RSTs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a secure communication platform • Provide actionable intelligence • Provide technical support to RSTs and CTPs

4SECURail – CHIRP4Rail Management Model

Based on the above proposed organisational model, the management structure should be **simple and based on UIC/ER-ISAC** bodies and the trusted CPO.

- The UIC/ER-ISAC bodies should:
 - **Select** the trusted CPO,
 - **Manage** on a day-to-day basis the CPO,
 - **Coordinate** activities with the ECN.
- The CPO should provide:
 - **Highly available** and secure multiple communication channels.
 - A **secure platform** (databases and tools) for information sharing and actionable intelligence dissemination.
 - A **technical office** supporting all the actors involved.
 - A **centre for threat intelligence** expertise.



4SECURail – CHIRP4Rail Technical Model

Data Model

Modelling Cyber-Incident, Threats or Vulnerabilities relevant within the Rail sector

- Based on **MISP**
- **Event** as the high-level entity

Control of sensitive information

- Traffic Light Protocol (TLP)
- Information flow configuration (local, all the organisations, custom group)

Taxonomy

Classify and organise Events

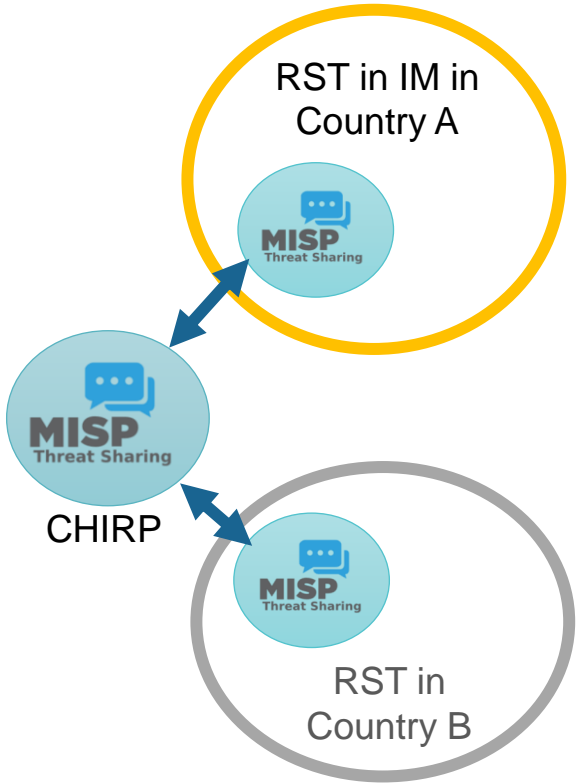
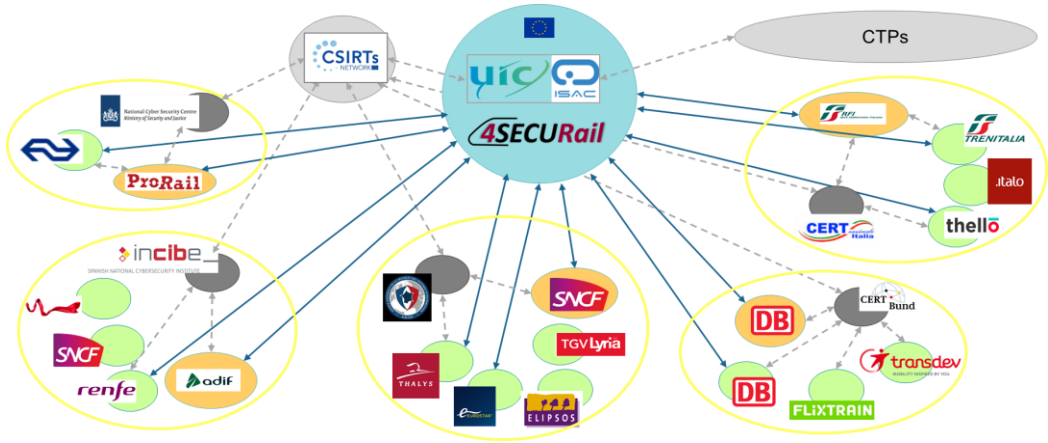
- A **common vocabulary** among different organisations.
- **Better and quicker understanding**, high-level category

X2-Rail-1 Taxonomy

- **Threats in the railway landscape.**
- Deliverable 8.2 "Security Assessment"
- "Name of Taxonomy: Category": "Threat"

X2RAIL 1

4SECURail – CHIRP4Rail Platform (prototype)



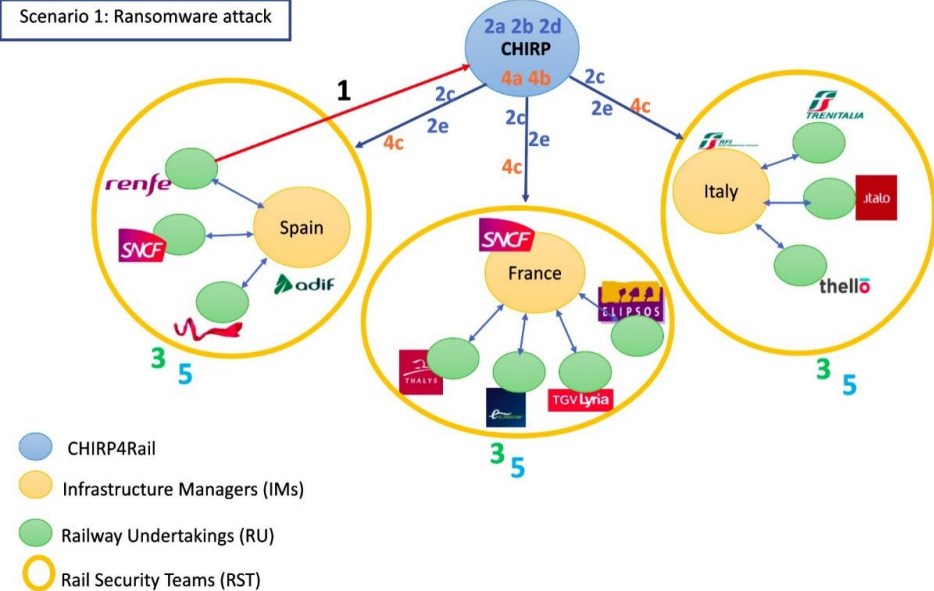
Recreation of Threat Intelligence information sharing in the RST community:

- Threat / Incident report
- Detection of malware campaigns
- Identification and correction of IT/OT vulnerabilities
- ...

4SECURail – CHIRP4Rail un use (use case examples)

Example 1: Ransomware case

Scenario 1: Ransomware attack



- CHIRP4Rail
- Infrastructure Managers (IMs)
- Railway Undertakings (RU)
- Rail Security Teams (RST)

CHIRP flow

1. **Spear phishing notification:** An RST discovered an attempt of attack, and reported to CHIRP
2. **Early in-house analysis:** CHIRP analysts perform “in-house analysis” to expand information about this threat:
 - a. Technical details of the malware (family, goal, IoCs).
 - b. Event update with findings (URLs, Yara rule).
 - c. Share finding with RST community.
 - d. Further analysis with OSINT reveals context.
 - e. CHIRP analysts update info with new URLs.
3. **RST Notification (1):** RST community get feedback; they can update their systems with information provided by the CHIRP.
4. **Further malware analysis:** CHIRP continue analysing malicious files in-depth for understanding the malware behaviour:
 - a. Static and dynamic analysis reveals lateral network move.
 - b. Threat Hunting reveals malware variants (samples).
 - c. Notification updated with TTPs (Tactics, Techniques and Procedures) used by attackers.
5. **RST notification (2):** The RST community can update their defence and detection mechanisms based on the TTPs reported by the CHIRP

4SECURail – CHIRP4Rail un use (use case examples)

Example 1: Ransomware case

Time	Event	Source	Input Filters	Global Actions	Administration	Alert
2023-03-09 08:00:00	Payload delivery	Microsoft Word				Event
2023-03-09 08:00:00	Other	File in folder				Event
2023-03-09 08:00:00	Other	File in folder				Event
2023-03-09 08:00:00	Payload delivery	malicious doc				Event
2023-03-09 08:00:00	Payload delivery	malicious doc				Event
2023-03-09 08:00:00	Payload delivery	malicious doc				Event
2023-03-09 08:00:00	Payload delivery	malicious doc				Event
2023-03-09 08:00:00	Malicious sample	malicious sample				Event
2023-03-09 08:00:00	Artifact dropped	malicious doc				Event
2023-03-09 08:00:00	Payload delivery	malicious doc				Event
2023-03-09 08:00:00	Malicious doc	malicious doc				Event
2023-03-09 08:00:00	Malicious doc	malicious doc				Event

Spear Phishing detected with suspicious file.

Delegation of the publishing of the Event to another organisation

Warning: You are about to request another organisation to take ownership of this event.

Target Organisation: CHIRP local

Desired Distribution: Recipient decides

Delegation of incident for protecting sensitive information

Attribute (Yara rule) proposed (orange)

Malicious doc reported by IM's RST.

Delegation of event publication to CHIRP (pseudo-anonymisation)

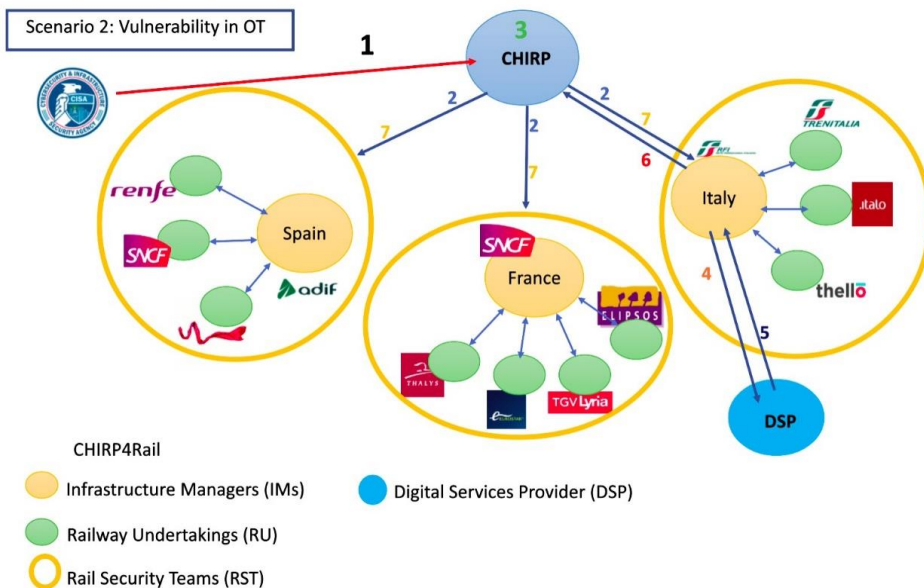
Attribute (Yara rule) proposed (orange) by the CHIRP.

4SECURail – CHIRP4Rail un use (use case examples)

Example 2: Ransomware case

CHIRP flow

- 1. Vulnerability report:** CISA published a public vulnerability on a specific device, together with mitigation recommendations. An automatic alert at CHIRP has identified this as relevant for rail. After analysis, triage has been ranked high as it impacts a critical component in railway, in particular in high-speed tunnels.
- 2. RST Notification (1):** CHIRP alerts RSTs at IMs. They can manage internally how to mitigate, considering recommendations.
- 3. In-house analysis:** CHIRP analysts have been monitoring the Internet and discovered a public exploit. They update the information about the exploit, and effective countermeasures – RST Notification (2).
- 4. Supplier's involvement:** RST has discovered the vulnerability would impact other components. The OT supplier is involved in fixing.
- 5. Supplier's update:** A firmware update is published. This will protect infrastructure without compromising other components.
- 6. Event update notification:** The RST updates the event on the CHIRP with info about the new firmware version fixing vulnerability.
- 7. RST Notification (3):** The RST community update their information, and check updates for their devices.



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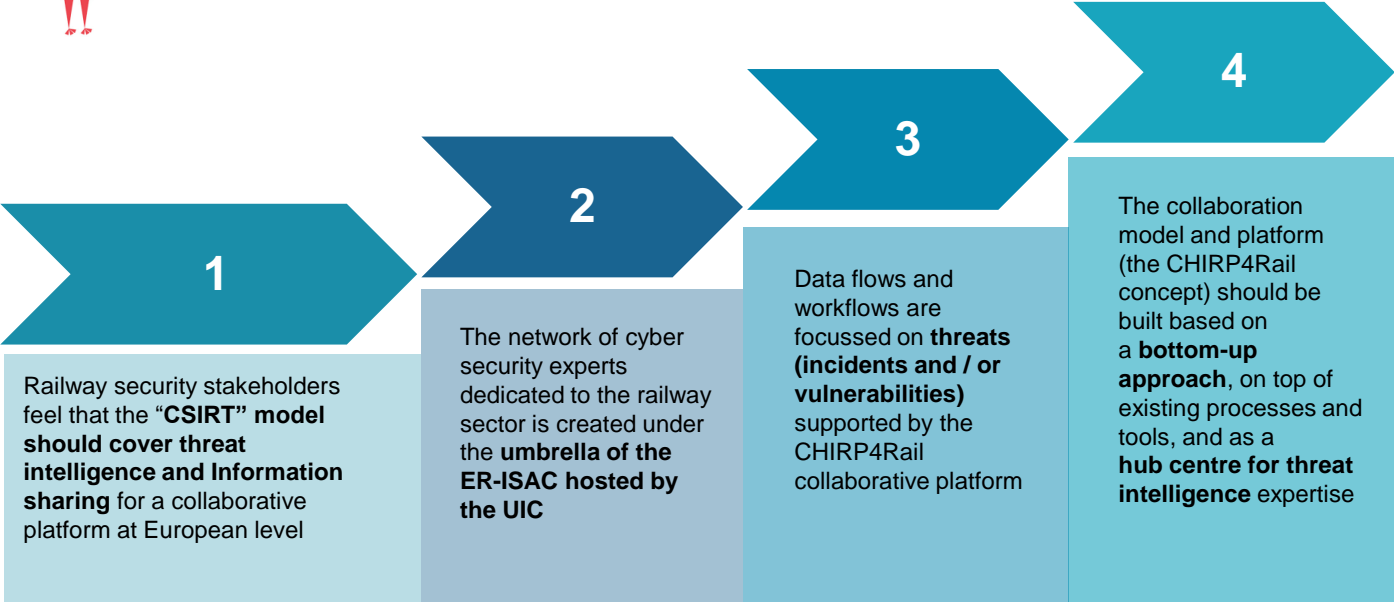
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Conclusions & Issues for discussion

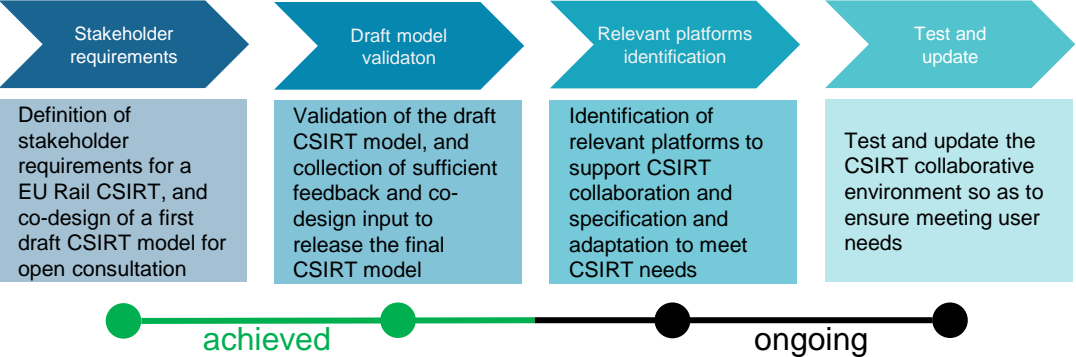
4SECURail – CHIRP4Rail – Conclusions



CHIRP: “Sharp sound made by small birds”



4SECURail – CSIRT Project Status



CSIRT Workstream

- Requirement definition finished
- Final CSIRT model released
- Currently working on the CSIRT platform

<https://www.4securail.eu/Documents.html>

4SECURail – CHIRP4Rail platform: trust building?

What could be the community engagement mechanisms to encourage contributions?

Initiative 1

Get fully support from ER-ISAC, the UIC and the rail national CISOs.

Initiative 2

Get early adopters capable of leading the implementation of the CHIRP4Rail platform.

Initiative 3

Get valuable and relevant information, avoid noise and information overload.

Initiative 4

Deliver actionable intelligence to prevent real threats relevant to rail.



Initiative 5

Deliver an easy-to-use and highly secure platform.

Initiative 6

Guarantee voluntary and anonymous sharing of threat intelligence information.

Initiative 7

Provide suitable and useful training to the users.

Initiative 8

Provide additional community tools such as a Technical Forum.

4SECU*Rail*

Thank you for your attention

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Ardanuy

