Vocabulary

A Part of the UNDERSTAND
Training Program

Pilot version

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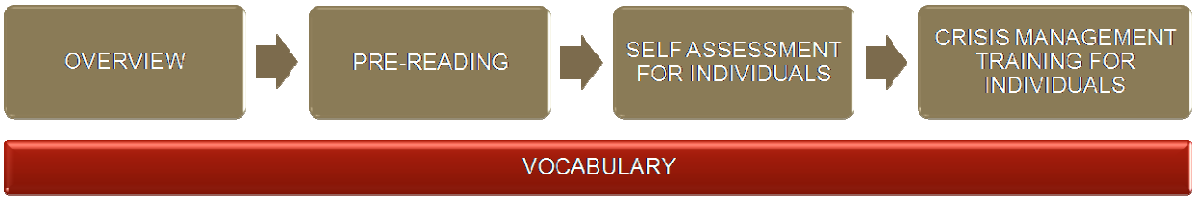
The Vocabulary is part of the UNDERSTAND Training Program. The program consists of four stand-alone but interconnected modules seen in the model below. The purpose of the Vocabulary is to provide a supplementary resource useful for implementing best practice among European transmission system operators in cross-border situations. This module is also applicable and useful throughout all parts of the UNDERSTAND Training Program.



The Vocabulary provides the individual with a highly relevant and concrete resource, useful during both training and future situations as it enables cross-border communication and understanding. The Vocabulary includes a summary of the most frequently used words and terms with definitions based on current vocabulary in the industry and international standards. It can be used for individual self-studies.

Terms related to Incident Preparedness and Operational Continuity Management

Term	Definition	Reference	Local language translation
Alarm/Alert	A formal notification that an E/I/C has occurred which may develop into a Business Continuity Management or Crisis Management invocation.	The Business Continuity Institute (Glossary)	
Consequence	Outcome of an event NOTE 1: There can be more than one consequence from one event NOTE 2: Consequences can range from positive to negative. NOTE 3: Consequences can be expressed qualitatively or quantitatively. [ISO/IEC Guide 73]	ISO/IEC Guide 73	
Crisis	Any incident(s), human-caused or natural, that requires urgent attention and action to protect life, property, or environment	ISO/IEC Guide 73	
Critical activity	Any function or process that is essential for the organisation to deliver its products and/or services	ISO/PAS 22399	
Disaster	Event that causes great damage or loss	ISO/PAS 22399	

Term	Definition	Reference	Local language translation
Disruption	Incident, whether anticipated (e.g., hurricane) or unanticipated (e.g., a blackout or earthquake) which disrupts the normal course of operations at an organisation location NOTE: A disruption can be caused by either positive or negative factors that will disrupt normal operations.	ISO/PAS 22399	
Emergency	Sudden, urgent, usually unexpected occurrence or event requiring immediate action NOTE: An emergency is usually a disruptive event or condition that can often be anticipated or prepared for but seldom exactly foreseen.	ISO/IEC Guide 73	
Escalation	The process by which an E/I/C is communicated upwards through an organisation's Business Continuity and/or risk E/I/C management reporting process.	The Business Continuity Institute (Glossary)	
Event	Occurrence of a particular set of circumstances NOTE 1: The event can be certain or uncertain NOTE 2: The event can be a single occurrence or a series of occurrences. NOTE 3: The probability associated with the event can be estimated for a given period of time. [ISO/IEC Guide 73]	ISO/IEC Guide 73	
Hazard	Possible source of danger, or conditions physical or operational, that have a capacity to produce a particular type of adverse effects	ISO/PAS 22399	
Impact	Evaluated consequence of a particular outcome	ISO/PAS 22399	
Impact analysis	Process of analysing all operational functions and the effect that an operational interruption might have upon them	ISO/PAS 22399	
Incident	Event that might be, or could lead to, an operational interruption, disruption, loss, emergency or crisis	ISO/IEC Guide 73	
Incident management plan	Clearly defined and documented plan of action for use at the time of an incident or disruption, typically covering the key personnel, resources, services and actions needed to implement the incident management process	ISO/PAS 22399	

Term	Definition	Reference	Local language translation
Incident preparedness	Activities, programs, and systems developed and implemented prior to an incident that may be used to support and enhance mitigation of, response to, and recovery from disruptions, disasters, or emergencies	ISO/PAS 22399	
Incident Preparedness and Operational Continuity Management (IPOCM)	Systematic and coordinated activities and practices through which an organisation optimally manages its risks, and the associated potential threats and impacts there from	ISO/PAS 22399	
Mitigation	Limitation of any negative consequence of a particular incident	ISO/PAS 22399	
Operational continuity management OCM	Holistic management process that identifies potential impacts that threaten an organisation and provides a framework for building resilience with the capability for an effective response that safeguards the interests of its key stakeholders, reputation, brand and value-creating activities NOTE: Operational continuity management also involves the management of recovery or continuity in the event of an incident, as well as management of the overall program through training, rehearsals, and reviews, to ensure the operational continuity plan stays current and up-to-date.	ISO/PAS 22399	
Operational continuity management program	Ongoing management and governance process supported by top management and resourced to ensure that the necessary steps are taken to identify the impact of potential losses, maintain viable recovery strategies and plans, and ensure continuity of functions/products/services through exercising, rehearsal, testing, training, maintenance and assurance	ISO/PAS 22399	

Term	Definition	Reference	Local language translation
Operational continuity management team	Group of individuals functionally responsible for directing the development and execution of the operational continuity plan, declaring an emergency/crisis situation and providing direction during the recovery process, both pre-and post-disruptive incident NOTE: The operational continuity management team may include individuals from the organisations as well as immediate and first responders, stakeholders, and other interested parties.	ISO/PAS 22399	
Operational continuity OC	Strategic and tactical capability, pre-approved by management, of an organisation to plan for and respond to conditions, situations and events in order to continue operations at an acceptable predefined level NOTE: Operational continuity is the more general term for business continuity. It applies not only to for-profit companies, but organisations of all natures, such as non-governmental, public interest, and governmental organisations.	ISO/PAS 22399	
Operational continuity plan OCP	Documented collection of procedures and information that is developed, compiled and maintained in readiness for use in an incident	ISO/PAS 22399	
Operational continuity strategy	Approach by an organisation that will ensure its recovery and continuity in the face of a disruptive event, crisis or other major outage	ISO/PAS 22399	
Operational continuity team	Group of individuals responsible for developing, executing, rehearsing, and maintaining the operational continuity plan, including the processes and procedures	ISO/PAS 22399	
Organisation	Group of people and facilities with an arrangement of responsibilities, authorities and relationships NOTE: An organisation can be a government or public entity, company, corporation, firm, enterprise, institution, charity, sole trade or association, or parts or combinations thereof.	ISO/PAS 22399	
Prevention	Measures that enable an organisation to avoid, preclude, or limit the impact of a disruption	ISO/PAS 22399	

Term	Definition	Reference	Local language translation
Probability	Extent to which an event is likely to occur NOTE 1: ISO 3534-1:1993, definition 1.1 gives the mathematical definition of probability as “a real number in the scale of 0 to 1 attached to a random event. It can be related to a long-run relative frequency of occurrence or to a degree of belief that an event will occur. For a high degree of belief, the probability is near 1.” NOTE 2: Frequency rather than probability may be used to describe risk. NOTE 3: Degrees of belief about probability can be chosen as classes or ranks, such as - rare/unlikely/moderate/likely/almost certain, or - incredible/improbable/remote/occasional/probable/frequent. [ISO/IEC Guide 73]	ISO/IEC Guide 73	
Recovery Time Objective (RTO)	Time goal for the restoration and recovery of functions or resources based on the acceptable down time in case of a disruption of operations	ISO/IEC Guide 73	
Resilience	Ability of an organisation to resist being affected by an event	ISO/PAS 22399	
Response program	Plan, processes, and resources to perform the activities and services necessary to preserve and protect life, property, operations, and critical assets NOTE: Response steps generally include incident recognition, notification, assessment, declaration, plan execution, communications, and resources management	ISO/PAS 22399	
Risk	Combination of the probability of an event and its consequences NOTE 1: The term "risk" is generally used only when there is at least the possibility of negative consequences. NOTE 2: In some situations, risk arises from the possibility of deviation from the expected outcome or event.	IEC 60300-3-9, ISO/IEC Guide 73	

Term	Definition	Reference	Local language translation
Risk acceptance	Decision to accept risk NOTE 1: The verb "to accept" is chosen to convey the idea that acceptance has its basic dictionary meaning. NOTE 2: Risk acceptance depends on the risk criteria. [ISO/IEC Guide 73]	ISO/IEC Guide 73	
Risk assessment	Overall process of risk identification, analysis and evaluation NOTE: Risk assessment involves the process of identifying internal and external threats and vulnerabilities, identifying the likelihood of an event arising from such threats or vulnerabilities, defining critical functions necessary to continue the organisation's operations, defining the controls in place necessary to reduce exposure, and evaluating the cost of such controls	ISO/PAS 22399	
Risk communication	Exchange or sharing of information about risk between the decision-maker and other stakeholders NOTE: The information can relate to the existence, nature, form, probability, severity, acceptability, treatment or other aspects of risk. [ISO/IEC Guide 73]	ISO/IEC Guide 73	
Risk criteria	Terms of reference by which the significance of risk is assessed NOTE: Risk criteria can include associated cost and benefits, legal and statutory requirements, socio-economic and environmental aspects, the concerns of stakeholders, priorities and other inputs to the assessment. [ISO/IEC Guide 73]	ISO/IEC Guide 73	
Risk management	Coordinated activities to direct and control an organisation with regard to risk NOTE: Risk management generally includes risk assessment, risk treatment, risk acceptance and risk communication.	ISO/IEC Guide 73	
Risk reduction	Actions taken to lessen the probability, negative consequences, or both, associated with a risk. [ISO/IEC Guide 73]	ISO/IEC Guide 73	

Term	Definition	Reference	Local language translation
Risk tolerance	Total amount of risk that an organisation is prepared to accept, tolerate, or be exposed to at any point in time	ISO/PAS 22399	
Risk transfer	Sharing with another party the burden of loss or benefit or gain, for a risk NOTE 1: Legal or statutory requirements can limit, prohibit or mandate the transfer of certain risk. NOTE 2: Risk transfer can be carried out through insurance or other agreements. NOTE 3: Risk transfer can create new risks or modify existing risks. NOTE 4: Relocation of the source is not risk transfer. [ISO/IEC Guide 73]	ISO/IEC Guide 73	
Risk treatment	Process of selection and implementation of measures to modify risk NOTE 1: The term “risk treatment” is sometimes used for the measures themselves. NOTE 2: Risk treatment measures can include avoiding, optimising, transferring or retaining risk. [ISO/IEC Guide 73]	ISO/IEC Guide 73	
Simulation exercise	Test performed under conditions as close as practicable to real world conditions	ISO/PAS 22399	
Source	Item or activity having a potential for a consequence NOTE: in the context of safety, source is a hazard [ISO/IEC Guide 73]	ISO/IEC Guide 73	
Stakeholder (interested party)	Person or group having an interest in the performance or success of an organisation NOTE: The term includes persons and groups with an interest in an organisation, its activities and its achievements, e.g. customers, partners, employees, shareholders, owners, the local community, first responders, government and regulators.	ISO/PAS 22399	

Term	Definition	Reference	Local language translation
Tabletop exercise	Test method that presents a limited simulation of a disruption, emergency or crisis scenario in a narrative format in which participants review and discuss, not perform, the policy, methods, procedures, coordination, and resource assignments associated with plan activation	ISO/PAS 22399	
Testing	Activity in which some part(s) of the operational continuity plan(s) is followed to ensure that the plan(s) contains the appropriate information and produces the desired result	ISO/PAS 22399	
Threat	Potential cause of an unwanted incident, which may result in harm to individuals, a system or organization, the environment or the community	ISO/IEC Guide 73	
Top management	Directors and officers of an organization that can ensure effective management systems, including financial monitoring and control systems, have been put in place to protect assets, earning capacity and the reputation of the organisation	ISO/PAS 22399	
Vulnerability	A measure of the extent to which a community, structure, service or geographical area is likely to be damaged or disrupted, on account of its nature or location, by the impact of a particular disaster hazard.	OECD Glossary of Statistical Terms	

Terms related to the energy industry

Term	Definition	Reference	Local language translation
Area control	Electrical system able to adjust their production while maintaining trade with other interconnected power systems to the values programmed, and able to contribute to the adjustment frequency of the interconnection.		
Balance dispatcher			
Control centre	A set of equipment destined to the control and the exercise of RTN or a power system user (other than a Production System).		
Control room			

Term	Definition	Reference	Local language translation
Control system	A set of calculation systems, data transmission lines and equipment that make possible the control, with safety and economy of the overall power system.		
Curve load	Diagram which express as a function of time, the power required by an electric grid.		
Distribution	Is the transport and transformation of electricity on high, medium and low voltage distribution networks for delivery to final customers.		
Distribution network	Any network with mandatory connection of third except for the national transmission grid, and the portion of the network owned by the company Ferrovie dello Stato SpA, which does not form part of the national transmission network.		
Distribution system			
Electrical grid	All plants, lines and stations for moving electricity and the provision of the necessary ancillary services .		
Emergency Condition of a power system	Functioning of the power system in which, because of failure or disruption, we have the violation of operational limits on the network and / or a not-current of a part of load .		
Emergency plan	Automatic and manual procedures implemented in operating critical conditions to avoid or limit the decommissioning of the power system or a part of it.		
Extraordinary Maintenance	It is realised for the renovation and extension of the useful life of a plant, without involving amending the rule of consistency and functional specifications as specified in Annexes 1, 2a and 2b in the Convention type Manager - Owners.		
Failure	Downfall of an electric component or a condition of danger to persons or property, which would require the immediate decommissioning of a network element. The failure can be: a. Temporary, when it is removed from automatic opening and closing sequences of interruption devices; b. Standing in all other cases		
Grid management			
Grid supervisor			

Term	Definition	Reference	Local language translation
Interconnection of electricity grids	Connection of electrical grids to transfer electricity.		
Interconnections			
Interruption unannounced	Interruption in all cases where users have not been warned with appropriate means and with an advance of not less than one day. Disruption without notice can be classified as: a. long (or long-term) Interruption if it is longer than three minutes; b. Short (or short-term) Interruption if it is longer than a second and no longer than three minutes; c. Transient interruption if it lasts no more than a second.		
Interruption with notice	Stop due to scheduled interventions and manoeuvres on the network, after a communication to the users of the interruption time period, with appropriate means and with an advance of not less than one day.		
Load dispatcher			
Maintenance	Operations and interventions aimed at maintaining or restoring efficiency and smooth operation of electrical equipment, in view of decay in performance.		
Market Balancing (MB)	The market, under the Marketplace Service Dispatching (MSD), for the supply of resources necessary to balance.		
Market for settlement of congestion (MRC)	The market expected under Marketplace Service Dispatching (MSD), for the supply of the necessary resources to resolving congestions.		
Maximum total carrying capacity on interconnection with foreign	Maximum imports carrying capacity on the network interconnected lines with the electrical systems of other neighbouring countries.		
Monitoring	A set of actions to identify the current operational state of a power system.		
National grid			
Network	One or more external electrical not production systems.		

Term	Definition	Reference	Local language translation
Network Management	A set of activities and procedures that determine the functioning and forecasting operation, in any condition, of an electrical network; these activities and procedures include the management of electricity flows, interconnection devices and ancillary necessary services, and the decisions of system maintenance and development		
Network Transmission	It is composed by all lines of a network used to carry electricity, usually in large quantities, from production centres to areas of distribution and consumption.		
Normal condition of a power system	Situation where the total load demand is satisfied, there are no violations of a steady-state operating limits of the system components and all provided safety criteria are satisfied (the n-1 criterion).		
Normal warning condition of a power system	The overall load demand is satisfied, there are no violations of a steady-state operating limits of the components, but provided the safety criteria are not satisfied.		
Ordinary Maintenance	Activities performed on plants or on a part of them for maintaining or restoring efficiency and smooth operation, with regard to performance decay, without changing substance or function of plants: a. Periodic or cyclical maintenance if the activity concerns interventions provided at regular intervals regardless of external causes ; b. predictive maintenance if it is consequent to verification or monitoring of plants functioning ; c. occasional maintenance, after an anomaly; the routine occasional maintenance is separate: i. differible maintenance if it's possible to carry out it at least one week from the time when the anomaly is communicated to Terna; ii. not differible if it must be carry out as soon as possible no later than one week after communication to Terna of anomaly in order to avoid danger to persons or property or the occurrence of a failure; d. Maintenance at fault if the activity is following the occurrence of an anomaly.		

Term	Definition	Reference	Local language translation
Outage	Condition in which the voltage at the delivery terminals of electricity is less than 1% of the rated voltage.		
Power stations	Is a part of a network, it is closed and concentrated in a very particular site, used to share electricity between the lines of a network both to transfer electricity networks between different voltages, and to transform the Electricity to the lowest usable voltage.		
Probabilistic reliability	National electricity system Reliability, it is evaluated with probability of failure criteria of one or more components of the system.		
Programmed Maintenance	Maintenance of duration equal to or more than 5 days as in annual plan of unavailability.		
Programming	Planning to use in a given time, production and transmission available means to meet the energy needs while respecting the quality and continuity of service		
Recovery routines			
Restoration of a power system	There is a situation in which is verified a partial or total load fault, so they carry out the restoration of the system in normal condition.		
Short-circuiting	Accidental, direct or with an intermediary impedance contact between the line conductors or between them and the earth.		
Supervision	A set of acts thanks to which the current status of the power system is identified.		
Telecontrol system	Collection of data transmission equipment that allows remote management of plants and the control and measurement of supply to customers.		

Term	Definition	Reference	Local language translation
Time elimination failure	Time occurring from the failure until the final extinction of arc in the switch. It is also the time necessary to eliminate the failure by the protection equipment and interruption of the circuit's portion affected by the fault. If there isn't an automatic closing device, the time of fault removal is that between the beginning of failure and the interruption of fault current. If some automatic closing devices are installed, the elimination failure time is the amount of spent current failure time during a re-closing cycle (OCO) (provided that the duration of the cycle does not exceed 5 s). If there are devices that perform automatic later re-closing, any subsequent failures must be viewed as independent on the first.		
Transmission	Transport and transformation of electricity on the interconnected high and high voltage network for delivery to customers and distributors.		
Unified Network Management	Coordinated management of all portions of the network.		
Voltage	The term, taken alone, is not very significant, but it has different meanings according to which it was associated (high, low voltage)		