

## Risk Management and ISO 31000 in Italy

Interview conducted for isotc262.org  
with

### Roberto Ravaglia, Secretary of Italy's mirror committee to ISO/TC 262



Roberto Ravaglia is the secretary of the Italian mirror group to ISO TC 262. He is a nuclear engineer, with about 30 years of experience in standardization, in particular in the fields of safety of machinery, maintenance, services, security, training and qualification of people, and contractual aspects. Working in a National Standardization Body he currently acts more as an expert of standards rather than an expert of "risk management".

**isotc262.org:** *Roberto you are the secretary of Italy's mirror committee to TC 262. Can you briefly introduce UNI, Ente Nazionale Italiano di Unificazione, your national standardization organization in Italy, please?*

**Roberto:** UNI is a National Standardization Body, with the typical role of the same bodies in all other countries, including the task to organize a national position, asking the stakeholders, to all ISO and CEN standardization activities of Italian interest.

**isotc262.org:** *Did you adopt ISO 31000 as a national standard in Italy or didn't you adopt it and what were the reasons for this decision?*

**Roberto:** ISO 31000:2009 was adopted and translated in Italy and is available as UNI ISO 31000

**isotc262.org:** *What is risk management based on in Italy (e.g.: are there any laws, regulations, national standards or other rules?) and what is the impact of risk management in Italy?*

**Roberto:** I have collected some information with the help of Gennaro Bacile, the convenor of the Italian Group on Risk Management, who knows the history from the beginning. In 2002 UNI carried out a survey in order to know the role of risk management based on needs of Italian organizations. The result was that risk management (RM) was confused with assurance management and sometime referred only to IT security. The 42% of

respondents answer that no RM activity was carried out in their organization or they do not know what RM really was.

The above result pushed UNI to create the RM WG with the assignment to develop a terminological standard, the Italian vocabulary of RM terms and definition, the UNI 11230:2007. The same WG took part in ISO 31000:2009 and ISO Guide 73:2009 development and now is the mirror group of ISO/TC 262.

Actually, the RM knowledge is a little bit better now than in 2002, thanks to UNI 11230 and ISO 31000; the publication of ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 in 2015 (and other Management System Standards based on the High-Level Structure of Annex SL); these have all lead to a growth in interest for RM and for ISO 31000 in Italian organizations.

There are many laws or legal documents in Italy (often arising from EU regulations or Directives) in which there is either directly or indirectly a requirement for formal risk assessment and relevant risk treatment according to the evaluation and prioritization, actions to address identified risks in many specific fields, such as (but not limited to):

Occupational Health and Safety, anti-bribery, protection of the environment, food chain (from production to catering service), chemicals, etc. Furthermore ISO 31000 is very often referred to in many conferences and/or guidelines on how to meet above requirements, even in those dedicated to Civil Service Staff.

isotc262.org: *Who are the key stakeholders of risk management in Italy?*

**Roberto:** Of course, risk management involves all organizations. The most active experts in our mirror committee are coming from industry (petrochemical, energy, railways), from the areas of certification, Universities, Ministries and consultants.

isotc262.org: *What are the biggest obstacles for integrating risk management in all organizational activities – an essential principle of ISO 31000 – for managers in Italy?*

**Roberto:** We have no information about obstacles from the members of our mirror committee. Specific situations should be considered but we are not aware of general problems.

isotc262.org: *How does your mirror committee involve itself in standard development at present and how do you see this developing in the future?*

**Roberto:** Of course, it is the first priority of the Italian mirror committee to comment and to prepare the Italian position in TC 262. The group has been established to develop and to adopt standard in the field of risk management.

**isotc262.org:** *What are the key developments your mirror committee hopes to see in ISO 31000 and in risk management standard development in general at an international level over the next years?*

**Roberto:** It is impossible to give a general answer, that can depend upon the situation. The only possible consideration is that the intention of the mirror committee is to contribute to a global agreement and application of ISO 31000.

**isotc262.org:** *ISO 31000 globally quickly became one of the bestselling and most well recognized standards in ISO. What do you think about the future of the standard – particularly in Italy – and how will it change to adapt to new challenges?*

**Roberto:** The importance of ISO 31000 is well recognized but a reliable answer should be given by the most involved stakeholders.

**isotc262.org:** *What advice can you give to interested parties in Italy who want to offer their input to the work of ISO/TC 262 and UNI CT 043 GL2 and who should they address?*

**Roberto:** Our mirror committee UNI CT 043 GL2 seems well constructed. Of course, if new stakeholders want to give their contribution the only possible recommendation is to become part of the mirror committee and help the group to prepare suitable proposals to ISO TC 262. They can contact me: [roberto.ravaglia@uni.com](mailto:roberto.ravaglia@uni.com) for specific information!

**isotc262.org:** **Thank you very much!**

**Roberto:** I hope that the above answers can support the communication of TC 262. I will try my best to give more contacts at the Italian national level.