



Risk Management and ISO 31000 in Bulgaria

Interview conducted for isotc262.org
with

Nevena Kolarova, chair of Bulgaria's mirror committee to ISO/TC 262

Nevena Kolarova graduated from the Technical University of Sofia as an engineer with a specialty in Internal Combustion Engines. She also holds a graduate degree in Standardization and Quality Management from the Technical University in Sofia. Nevena Kolarova has professional and research experience in the field of automobile production. With more than 30 years of professional experience with the Bulgarian national standardization body BDS. She is Chairman of the Technical Committee TC 34 *Quality Management and Conformity Assessment* and lead auditor for ISO 9001 quality management systems at TÜV Rheinland Bulgaria. She is also an approved lecturer at TÜV Rheinland Bulgaria.

isotc262.org: *Nevena you are the chair of Bulgaria's mirror committee to TC 262. Can you briefly introduce BDS, the Bulgarian Institute for Standardization, your national standardization organization in Bulgaria, please?*

Nevena: The Bulgarian Institute for Standardization (BDS) is the National standardization body in Bulgaria, established in 1946 to act as the coordinator of the Bulgarian standardization system, to represent the Republic of Bulgaria in CEN, CENELEC and ISO, IEC, as well as to disseminate voluntary standards under the National Standardization Act (2005). BIS is a non-governmental organization with members representing governmental and non-governmental organizations, industry associations, producers and traders, scientific institutions, consumer associations, etc. BIS keeps up-to-date information about standardization projects activities and national standards on its website <http://www.bds-bg.org>.

isotc262.org: *Did you adopt ISO 31000 as a national standard in Bulgaria and what were the reasons for this decision?*

Nevena: The International Standard ISO 31000 was adopted in the Republic of Bulgaria as a national standard with translation into Bulgarian - BDS ISO 31000: 2011.

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

Nevena: There is a national legal framework relating to the identification and management of occupational risks, insurance risks, bank risks, etc. European and international standards relating to risks in different economic sectors apply. There are no national standards in this area.

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

Nevena: Organizations interested in the implementation of ISO 31000 in the Republic of Bulgaria encompass a wide range of organizations (industrial, commercial, administrative, etc.), project managers, analysts (political, industry, etc.) wishing to achieve their planned economic and social objectives, to increase their professional reputation and to exist in today's dynamic and insecure world.

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

Nevena: In most Bulgarian organizations, different risk management practices have been introduced. Risk management is mandatory for public administration organizations. Most Bulgarian manufacturers are small and medium-sized enterprises with unstable flow of small orders, which is a major obstacle to development of risk management framework in line with ISO 31000.

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

Nevena: TC 34 will be involved in developing risk standards based on the available national expertise. The future standard will describe in more detail the systematic and logical process of identifying, analyzing, and then assessing how to influence identified risks and provide additional practical guidance on implementation 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?*

Nevena: In addition to integrating risk management with the core business processes, it is necessary to create synergies between all aspects of the management system, such as quality management, environmental management, safety management, security management, compliance, financial and managerial accountability, and even event management, which can be financially transferred to other organizations. These separate



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ISO/TC 262 Risk management

management systems must form an integrated management system based on the organization's policy and strategy. Even when there are separate management systems to manage certain risks, the organizational framework for risk management needs to be expanded to include them. We hope to see further development of analysis and establishment of risk indicators and formation of general indexes for uncertainty.

isotc262.org: *What advice can you give to interested parties in Bulgaria who want to offer their input to the work of ISO/TC 262 and [name of mirror committee] and who should they address?*

Nevena: TC 34 is the Bulgarian mirror committee to ISO/TC 262 and is open to receive input in developing risk standards from all interested parties and participation of experts with available national experience. The chairman and the secretary are responsible for the work of TC 34 *Quality management and conformity assessment* [[website](#)]*.

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

*you will find contact information on the website