

Interactions between national culture and safety culture in European Air Traffic Management

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Air Traffic management refers to the flow of aircraft from one airport to another. It is a 'high' risk industry, where mishaps have potentially catastrophic consequences (e.g., the 2002 Überlingen mid-air collision in 2002). Most countries in Europe have one prominent national Air Navigation Service Provider (ANSP), these are typically staffed by domestic staff (e.g., controllers, engineers) with safety practices being shaped by European and country-specific regulations, and organizational and national characteristics (e.g. traffic flows, national culture). With Europe progressing towards a universal ATM system (a 'single sky'), ensuring a strong and positive "safety culture" (i.e. norms and behaviours in relation to safety and risk) across all nations within an ATM system is essential for ANSPs to work together to safely coordinate flight traffic. In this paper, we report on the development of the first measurement model for reliably assessing safety culture in diverse national cultural settings (i.e. ANSPs operating in different countries), and explore associations between national culture and the safety culture of ANSPs.

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