



## **Safety guidelines for University staff on mission abroad to areas at geopolitical and social-health risk**

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## Work Groups



**UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI TRIESTE**

### **Coordinator**

*Università degli Studi di Trieste:*  
*prof.ssa Ilaria Micheli (delegata CUCS),*  
*prof.ssa Roberta Nunin,*  
*dott.ssa Carla Savastano,*  
*dott.ssa Elisa Dalle Sasse,*  
*dott.ssa Roberta Bensi,*  
*dott. Giorgio Scip*



**UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI TORINO**

*Università degli Studi di Torino:*  
*prof. Egidio Dansero (delegato CUCS),*  
*prof.ssa Barbara Gagliardi,*  
*dott.ssa Marta Montanini,*  
*dott.ssa Manuela Ciarrocchi,*  
*dott.ssa Alessandra Pachi*



1506  
**UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI URBINO  
CARLO BO**

*Università degli Studi di Urbino "Carlo Bo":*  
*prof.ssa Francesca Declich*



**UNIVERSITÀ DI NAPOLI  
L'ORIENTALE**

*Università di Napoli L'Orientale:*  
*prof.ssa Daniela Pioppi,*  
*prof.ssa Antonia Soriente (delegata CUCS)*



**UNIVERSITÀ  
DI PISA**

*Università di Pisa:*  
*prof. Gabriele Tomei*



**UNIVERSITÀ  
CATTOLICA  
del Sacro Cuore**

*Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore*  
*prof. Pier Sandro Cocconcelli*



**UNIVERSITÀ  
di VERONA**

*Università degli Studi di Verona:*  
*prof.ssa Stefania Pontrandolfo*  
*prof.ssa Emanuela Gamberoni*



**CRUI**  
Conferenza dei Rettori  
delle Università Italiane

**CRUI**  
*prof. Maurizio Tira*  
*dott.ssa Marina Cavallini*  
*dott.ssa Maria Antonietta Ciclista*

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*Linee guida per la sicurezza nelle missioni all'estero in zone a rischio geo-politico e socio-sanitario del personale delle Università*

# 1. FOREWORD

« *The arts and sciences as well as their teaching are free.* »  
(article 33, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph of the Constitution of the Italian Republic)

Growing globalisation brings to the fore in scientific communities around the world the increasingly pressing need to collaborate in research projects abroad, also in areas subject to geopolitical instability and to social health fragility.

The story of Giulio Regeni has also opened up the debate within the scientific community in relation to the limits, admissible or not, that research should set itself. Can intellectual integrity and honesty, combined with the enthusiasm with which a young researcher typically dedicates to his work, be reason enough to pass the limits beyond which the safety of those engaged in research is placed at risk? The focal point is thus safety; those who travel for work, research or study cannot afford to neglect some fundamental steps; at the same time, those who authorise the mission need to be aware of all the elements that characterise it.

The purpose of the guidelines herein is to provide a handy consultation tool for teaching and research staff, PhD students, temporary research assistants and research fellows, doctorate students, expert language collaborators and technical-administrative staff of Italian universities travelling abroad for work and/or research to areas of geopolitical and social health fragility. The aim is to identify, and to suggest to Italian universities, possible indications that can be freely adopted (also with modifications) in full respect for their autonomy.

The guidelines herein, therefore, arose first and foremost from the widely felt need to protect people employed abroad for work. Various Italian universities have been working on the topic since 2016, when the University of Trieste started up several discussions, training courses and meetings at national and local level. In the same year, the University of Naples, l'Orientale, organised a study day in memory of Giulio Regeni; in 2018, the University of Ferrara organised a conference dedicated to the safety of students and workers employed abroad; the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna of Pisa started several discussions on the duty of care and the safety of researchers; finally, the Dipartimento di Culture Politiche e Società (Department of Political Cultures and Societies) of the University of Turin carried out research on the issue of safety in its student mobility projects, while the University of Pavia coordinates the Erasmus+ project *Strategic Partnership Security and Safety of students and staff moving abroad-UNISAFE*, which has the goal of creating tools for universities to improve the safety of their personnel and students during international mobility.

To put into practice the acquired knowledge useful for the preparation of this document, at the indication of the CRUI (Conferenza dei Rettori delle Università Italiane) (Association of the Rectors of the Italian Universities) a work group was created within the CUCS (Coordinamento Universitario per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo) (University Coordination for Cooperation in Development), coordinated by the University of Trieste, on the subject of "Mobility protocols in critical contexts", in which the Universities of Turin, Pisa, Urbino, Verona, L'Orientale of Naples and the Università Cattolica (Catholic University of Milan) have all participated.



*Linee guida per la sicurezza nelle missioni all'estero in zone a rischio geo-politico e socio-sanitario del personale delle Università*

The starting point was the idea of guaranteeing free research, but in full awareness of the risks and responsibilities of each actor involved. It is a reminder to the academic community that university officials too have a responsibility closely connected to their role and in respect for the rules of the host country.

The theme of safety revolves around two fundamental concepts: that of the '*duty of care*', that is, the responsibility of universities to protect their employees in the carrying out of their working activities, and that of '*doing no harm*', that is, the responsibility not to bring about any type of harm to participants in research projects.

The aim is to enable the employee and the person directly in charge involved to acquire greater awareness and adopt appropriate behaviour during the transfer. The analysis will also be based on the awareness that risk perception is subjective and dependent on past personal experiences.

Within the work group, the necessity emerged to emphasise the difference between the research activity itself and co-operation for its development: the former generally involves strong institutions such as research institutes, while the latter also often involves collaboration with partners who are weak from the institutional viewpoint. In co-operation for development, some of the more structured NGOs, such as Emergency or the Red Cross, already have in place safety procedures for their collaborators, in the awareness that freedom of action ends where the right to personal safety begins, both of the collaborators and those whom they meet and with whom they interact *in loco*.

On the topic of insurance, it is also useful to bear in mind that the stipulation of any insurance policy whatsoever should not be considered in itself a guarantee of safety for the carrying out of research activities in a country at risk<sup>1</sup>. (a fragile country from the geo-political and social health viewpoint).

Freedom of research is the essence of the autonomy of universities, which at the same time need to establish the framework and presuppositions of the right to the said freedom. If universities intend to accomplish the task of “creating public value”, the environment in which those who produce science need to move is that of combining science with safety<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Montanini, M., 2018, p.51.

<sup>2</sup> Ajani, G., Cavallo Perin, R., Gagliardi, B., dell'Università degli Studi di Torino, “L'Università: un'amministrazione pubblica particolare”, Federalismi.it, 2017. Disponibile al link: [https://iris.unito.it/retrieve/handle/2318/1644354/349625/Ajani\\_CavalloPerin\\_Gagliardi.pdf](https://iris.unito.it/retrieve/handle/2318/1644354/349625/Ajani_CavalloPerin_Gagliardi.pdf)

## 2. EXAMPLE OF A POSSIBLE CLASSIFICATION OF THE ACTIVITIES

- a) **Activities generally devoid of specific risks<sup>3</sup>, excluding those of the physical/natural kind:**
- participation in seminars, meetings and conferences, as speaker or participant;
  - participation in work meetings and other meetings;
  - teaching activities in the lecture room.
- b) **Activities entailing specific risks within a different work organisation (non-Italian, or under the direction of others). These include all activities entailing a risk of accidents, potentially exposing a worker to biological, chemical or physical agents, such as:**
- activities carried out in research laboratories;
  - activities carried out in health and care structures;
  - participation in geological, maritime, naturalistic, archaeological or veterinary campaigns.
- c) **Activities entailing specific risks under the direction of the university of provenance in conformity with prevailing safety legislation of the host institution or country. These include all activities entailing a risk of accidents, potentially exposing a worker to biological, chemical or physical agents, such as:**
- activities carried out in research laboratories;
  - activities carried out in health and care structures;
  - the organisation and carrying out of geological, maritime, naturalistic, archaeological or veterinary campaigns.
- d) **Activities carried out in anthropic risk areas, such as:**
- sociological field research activities;
  - activities with local institutions and intermediate social organisations.
- e) **Activities carried out in areas at physical/natural risk:**
- by this we mean those activities involving risk for the worker carried out in areas at risk of physical/natural events. The risk does not involve specific types of activity; it lies in the particular nature of the area in which such activities take place. These activities are carried out as free research, under the direction of a non-Italian institution or on behalf of a university.

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<sup>3</sup> In certain contexts, the freedom of expression of opinions or of criticism of a regime in a purely academic environment entails great risk.

### 3. RISK ANALYSIS <sup>4</sup>

#### 3.1 Foreword

Workers (lecturers, researchers, expert language collaborators and technical-administrative personnel), PhD students and undergraduate students who go abroad for work or research are required to adopt suitable conduct at the moment of application for authorisation of the mission, before departure, on arrival at their destination and during the carrying out of the mission.

As already mentioned, the perception of risk is always subjective, various factors contributing to its calculation, including past personal habits and experience, awareness of the dangers and subjective cost/benefit assessment. Hence, individual judgement will always play an irreplaceable role, on the basis of the individual's "capacity for observation, analysis of people and situations, and improvisation in the face of unforeseen events"<sup>5</sup>.

However, an attitude of "scientific humbleness", of openness and understanding of the situation in which one is going to work, albeit for brief periods, and the awareness that access to information is not a right, but always depends on the willingness of those who hold it, enable the worker to acquire a better knowledge of local culture and a greater ability to adapt. The said awareness and flexibility aid in the acceptance of the worker's work on the part of the local community and can be a valid presupposition for the containment of some of the risks linked to research work. In addition, they can guarantee greater collaboration in the research activity and more possibilities for the development of the research<sup>6</sup>.

#### 3.2 Geopolitical and social health risk analysis

On missions abroad to areas that are fragile from the geo-political and social health viewpoint, it is always imperative not to underestimate the risks linked to the area, so as to avoid a false sense of security and invulnerability. A geopolitical and social health risk analysis should always be guided by foreseeability, *«that is, the reasonable and concrete possibility that it [the feared event – ed.] will happen»*<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> For a definition of risk, see point 5 "Glossary".

<sup>5</sup> Abenante, D., "La ricerca sul campo in India, Pakistan e Afghanistan: i fattori di rischio" in Sclip, G., a cura di, "Sicurezza accessibile. La sicurezza sul lavoro dei ricercatori in zone a rischio geopolitico. Cos'è la normalità fra intelligence e terrorismo?", EUT Edizioni Università Trieste, 2017, p. 35, available at the following link: <https://www.openstarts.units.it/handle/10077/15628>

<sup>6</sup> Abenante, D., 2017, p.35 and 3, available at the following link: <https://www.openstarts.units.it/handle/10077/15628>

<sup>7</sup> Nunin, R., "Attività di ricerca e rischio geopolitico: prime considerazioni in tema di profili giuridici della valutazione e delle responsabilità", in Sclip, G., a cura di, "Sicurezza accessibile. La sicurezza sul lavoro dei ricercatori in zone a rischio geopolitico. Cos'è la normalità fra intelligence e terrorismo?", EUT Edizioni Università Trieste, 2017, p.117, available at the following link: <https://www.openstarts.units.it/handle/10077/15628>. On the subject of safety abroad, the following publications are also recommended:

However, both the geo-political and the health risk may be:

- localised in certain areas of the country visited;
- limited to certain particular temporally and /or spatially limited places or contexts (such as social groups, headquarters of associations, health clinics or welfare centres);
- generalised and lasting, as in the case of the recent pandemic;
- generalised, but limited in time, as in the case of contaminations or atmospheric pollution peaks.

### 3.3 Main aggravating factors

Each risk situation may be aggravated by an accentuated situation of personal or contextual vulnerability. The factors coming into play are of varying nature:

- environmental factors: endemic diseases, climatic conditions, health and hygiene conditions, productive activities not conforming to the norm, productive activities entailing a high risk of accidents, the presence of sensitive targets;
- cultural factors: local practices and customs, religious factors, extremism;
- logistic factors: differing living standards, poor maintenance of the communication network (buildings, roads and bridges);
- socio-political factors: hazards that influence the conduct of local communities, the presence of criminal organisations, common crime, terrorism;
- factors deriving from the incorrect carrying out of bureaucratic procedures: the absence of a visa, visa errors, expired passports, the failure to comply with other requisites specified by immigration legislation at border checks or beyond, the absence of the authorisation for carrying out research activities;
- situational factors relative to specific situations in which the research is carried out, such as violent contexts, environments in which chemical agents are used, research in isolated places or at night, research with sensitive subjects (minorities, opposition groups).
- factors deriving from the positioning of the workers and from how they are perceived: for their origin, gender, age, religious beliefs, as spy or informer in the pay of third parties;
- factors correlated to the psychological sphere: stress, anxiety, depression, etc.;

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consigliano anche i seguenti volumi: Sclip, G., a cura di, “Studio, ricerca, volontariato e lavoro, all'estero: quale sicurezza?”, EUT Edizioni Università Trieste, 2022; Sclip, G., a cura di, “Donne all'estero e sicurezza”, EUT Edizioni Università Trieste, 2022.





- factors linked to inadequate or absent protection of participants in research or their sources, exposure of sensitive subjects, divulging of reserved information, etc.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Montanini, M., 2018., pp.27-28.



## 4. INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL STEPS TO BE FOLLOWED BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER TRANSFERS ABROAD TO AREAS AT GEOPOLITICAL OR SOCIAL-HEALTH RISK

### 4.1 Preparation for the mission

The preparation stage of the journey should initially involve consulting the web site of the Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Ministry for Overseas Affairs and International Cooperation) (MAECI) ([www.viaggiaresicuri.it](http://www.viaggiaresicuri.it)), where you will find the updated information about your country of destination and any emergency situations that need to be borne in mind.

In addition, the following steps must be taken:

- Gain information about the country of destination (social, political and security context, local traditions, customs, habits and religions), for which you can also consult the MAECI portal ([www.viaggiaresicuri.it](http://www.viaggiaresicuri.it));
- Download onto your mobile phone the Unità di Crisi della Farnesina (Farnesina Crisis Unit) app, where you will find useful information about your country of destination; as a further guarantee, you may wish to download a geolocalisation app;
- Register on the website <https://www.dovesiamonelmundo.it/home.html> (you can do this via the above mentioned Unità di Crisi della Farnesina app);
- First and foremost, consult the MAECI «lists» of countries «at risk» and the information provided by the MAECI Crisis Unit (<http://www.viaggiaresicuri.it/>).
- Consider also:
  - a) any indications of the European Union;
  - b) the reports of international organisations (such as the web site of the UN Human Rights High Commission - <https://www.unhcr.org>) or those of non-governmental associations with an international reputation (such as: Human Rights Watch, countries section - <https://www.hrw.org>; Amnesty International, which publishes an annual report on the human rights situation in all countries, in addition to various thematic reports and reports on individual countries;
  - c) the information of the UK Foreign Office (<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>); of the USA Dept. of State (<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages.html>) or of the Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires Etrangères (<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/conseils-aux-voyageurs/conseils-par-pays-destination/>);
- Check for obligatory vaccinations and, in general, find out what health precautions you will need to take;



- Consult a qualified health officer;
- Check the validity of your personal documents, identity card and passport (if your passport has a residual validity, ensure that this is sufficient to cover the duration of your trip and is in line with the requirements of your country of destination - for example, some countries require a residual validity of at least 6 months – and that there is at least one blank page for stamps). Also take with you a photocopy of your documents and passport (to be kept in a different place from that of the originals);
- Do not forget to take your European Union healthcare insurance card (TEAM – on the back of your health card) if your destination is an EU country;
- (for trips outside the EU) Check whether you will need health insurance and be sure to take out adequate coverage, including not only medical treatment and therapy but also potential repatriation by emergency airlift or transfer to other countries;
- (In the case of trips to countries with poor-quality health services) Provide yourself with a selection of medicines and medical devices that may be needed in an emergency;
- (If you habitually take certain medicines) Take with you an adequate supply of commonly used medicines and the specific medicines you take for particular therapies, ensuring beforehand that it is permitted to import these medicines into your country of destination and procuring any accompanying documents required for them;
- Apply for the overseas mission (you can do this online if the university has a computer system) by submitting your application to the head of your structure of appurtenance.

## 4.2 Risk Assessment

### **Teaching and research staff, temporary research assistants and research fellows, PhD students, students, expert language collaborators, and technical-administrative staff**

Risk assessment is a 'learning by doing' operation allowing to evaluate the level of risk awareness of the person in mission and of their supervisor, and to fill in any gaps in information on the risks involved before departure<sup>9</sup>.

### **Special suggestions regarding health care**

Areas at social-health risk often coincide with the South of the world and emerging countries, which also require a higher level of health precaution than other destinations.

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<sup>9</sup> Montanini, M., 2018.

It is therefore advisable for applicants to consult before departure the Medical Officer and their own General Practitioner and to evaluate with them their own health conditions.

Italian Law 833/78 and subsequent amendments establish a consultancy service for “travellers” in the context of infection control. The consultancy is managed by operators of the Public Health Department with the collaboration of the Medical Officer, of specialists and infectious disease specialists, pharmacists from the Health Authority or other pharmacists, linguistic mediators, travel agencies, etc.

Vaccinations can be mandatory or recommended. Vaccinations are to be considered in addition to and not in place of general disease prevention behaviours.

Some diseases cannot be prevented even by vaccination: Dengue, HIV, Tuberculosis, Chikungunya, Schistosomiasis, Sleeping Sickness (African Trypanosomiasis), the different Parasitosis.

It is therefore recommended to bring along:

- Any medicines habitually used; in this regard, however, it should be remembered that, for the air transport and entry into some countries of certain medical devices and/or any drugs necessary for the treatment of chronic morbid conditions, it is necessary to obtain a special certificate to be issued before departure by an appointed doctor. It is therefore suggested to always consult the website <http://www.viaggiare Sicuri.it/approfondimenti-insights/saluteinviaggio> before departure for updated information;
- Medicines for travel sickness, against vomiting, and colics; a broad-spectrum antibiotic; antidiarrheal medications; eye drops; dressing materials; a thermometer; tweezers; scissors; ointments for insect bites, sunburn, and skin infections;
- Sun screens, antimalarials, and insect repellents are also useful.

In those areas with an ongoing health emergency which necessitates to limit the transmission of diseases and reduce exposure, prophylaxis measures allow both to avoid contact with infectious agents and to prevent the onset of the disease in the event of contagion.

Counselling is therefore essential to reduce the probability of contracting a disease and/or of complications for the individual, to protect the community of the country in which the research will be carried out, and the community of one's country of origin, upon return.

In addition to risks of infection, other risk factors may be related to the weather, the environment and the fact that acclimatisation is a slow process. It is therefore advisable to:

- Beware of the risk of heatstroke or the consequences of too cold a climate;
- Beware of the risk of dehydration;
- When using private means of transport, make stops or take turns driving;



- Beware of contacts with animals and insect bites;
- Be informed of the epidemiology of local diseases.

For a more in-depth picture of the health situation in the various countries of the world, it is always advisable to consult the MAECI website – Viaggiare Sicuri: <http://www.viaggiariesicuri.it/approfondimenti-insights/saluteinviaggio>, and specifically the sections “Malattie del viaggiatore” (Traveller’s diseases”) – listing main diseases – and the section “Fonti istituzionali” (Institutional Sources).

### 4.3 Pre-Departure Training

In the Consolidated Act on health and safety at work, a distinction is made between the concept of training and that of information:

- *«training»: educational process through which to transfer to workers and other subjects of the company’s prevention and protection system specific knowledge and procedures useful for the acquisition of skills for safely carrying out their tasks in the company and for the identification, minimisation and management of risks;*
- *«information»: set of activities aimed at providing knowledge useful for the identification, minimisation and management of risks in the workplace [...]»<sup>10</sup>.*

Pre-departure training or refresher courses may include training days spread over the academic year to which all those travelling for research/work reasons are invited.

Training/refresher courses are also useful and recommended for the supervisors of workers going abroad, both as regards their possible responsibilities and the strategies to be adopted in the event of an emergency<sup>11</sup>.

The organisation of specific training for dangerous areas and situations can be carried out on request for concrete needs.

The training aims to create and shape the perception of risk, as a “complex interaction between cognitive, motivational, and social variables that often inhibit the translation of knowledge into corresponding behaviours” (Rubaltelli e Maas 2016, “Percezione del rischio e azione”). Not being possible to intervene on all the components, training affects cognitive variables and therefore the identification, weighting and assessment of risks. In this way, people are encouraged to “focus on the consistency between the research methods used, their own and others’ safety protection practices and the ethical principles to which they refer”.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Consolidated Act on health and safety at work, art. 2.

<sup>11</sup> Montanini, M., 2018.

<sup>12</sup> Montanini, M., 2018, p.46.

The table below shows which safety skills can be acquired through a complete and updated pre-departure training.

Type of training/information	Acquirable skills
Knowledge of political, social and cultural context, as well as of the intrinsic dynamics of non-verbal communication	Understanding of possible sensitive situations and risky environments
Knowledge of research purposes, research tools and techniques, ethical principles, and debated and conflicting issues	Ability to identify research techniques and tools based on context, participants and research objectives; ability to motivate one's choices and awareness of one's role and limits
Simulation of emergency or problematic situations	Ability to react quickly and effectively; ability to identify possible problematic situations and avoid them;
Communication of one's research	Ability to communicate the type and objectives of one's work in a different way according to one's interlocutor
Trip planning and joint risk assessment	Awareness of possible risks and ability to identify and modify protection tools before departure
Information on the university security system	Awareness of roles and responsibilities, forms and limits of protection

#### 4.4 Period abroad: practical suggestions

Once at destination, the worker should:

- When buying a local SIM card, remember to register the new number on the website <https://www.dovesiamonelmundo.it/home.html>;
- Register on their mobile phone the local contacts' (*tutor*, secretariat of the host institution, etc.) telephone numbers and the emergency numbers of the destination country and acquire, if necessary, a satellite telephone which can also be used in case of emergency where the usual communication networks are interrupted;

- If the country of destination is considered a country at risk, also inform the Italian diplomatic representation (Embassy, Consulate) of the details of the trip <https://www.esteri.it/it/servizi-consolari-e-visti/italiani-all-estero/>;
- Be aware that in non-EU countries where there is no Italian Consulate or Embassy, an Italian citizen has the right to the diplomatic and consular protection of another EU country present with its own Diplomatic Representation;
- Refrain from sharing personal information with strangers or people with whom there is no relationship of mutual trust;
- Refrain from reporting to third parties not directly involved in the research information on one's sector of employment, details on duties and obligations, motivations, etc. (an overly expansive behaviour, characteristic of many Italians, could represent a critical issue with people belonging to different cultures or social environments where confidentiality is a *modus vivendi*);
- Never say anything more than necessary and not think that one's "openness" could be functional for greater integration into the environment in which one is currently working;
- Adopt an attitude of confidentiality and reserve in the exchange of news and in expressing judgments capable of hurting the sensitivity of others without realising it;
- Avoid expressing judgments, criticism, or hasty opinions on religious or political issues in public, particularly regarding governments or life in the country (in certain countries nationalism is stronger than in the West);
- If moving to another area or territory for work or personal reasons, inform local police authorities, the embassy and one's family of the route, the new destination and the period of stay;
- Respect the laws and regulations in force in the host country;
- Avoid photographing or filming places of worship, military installations, public infrastructures, where prohibited;
- Avoid crowded meeting places and/or demonstrations;
- Avoid, whenever possible, travelling alone;
- Avoid getting involved in attractive but ill-defined offers;
- Adopt adequate hygienic and sanitary precautions (e.g. drink only from sealed bottles, avoid adding ice to drinks, eat only well-cooked meat and vegetables, etc.);
- Wear appropriate and not-showy clothing (especially in places of worship);
- Have participants in one's research sign the informed consent form;

- Adopt measures apt to protect computer data, taking care to perform, for example, the so-called 3 – 2 – 1 backup, which consists in always having at least 3 copies, on at least two different devices/technologies (therefore in addition to the copy on the device one's using, at least one hard disk, NAS or external sim – USB sticks are not recommended because they have a high fault rate). At least the third copy should be archived in one of the cloud services now accessible to everybody at a more than moderate cost. It is essential that the execution of backup copies takes place automatically through dedicated software or services.

During the mission, the worker undertakes to consult the website <http://www.viaggiaresicuri.it> at least on a weekly basis and, in the event of a significant change in the risk conditions with respect to the moment of departure, even if not yet such as to determine the obligation to return immediately, is required to promptly report this change to their own institution and to scrupulously comply with the indications of the Crisis Unit of the MAECI, especially in the case of explicit indication to re-enter Italy.

In case of permanence on the field despite the worsening of the risk conditions, the worker must regularly send a service communication to their own home institution in order to keep it constantly informed of the situation.

#### **In case of emergencies (attacks or major physical/natural events):**

- Avoid the affected area or leave it as soon as possible;
- Stay at home/in the hotel for as long as necessary to restore a more normal situation;
- Keep informed through the media and follow the instructions of local authorities;
- Inform the local diplomatic representation, if possible, of one's location;
- Inform one's family of one's safety, if possible, (via SMS, social media, telephone). The family must then inform the Farnesina Crisis Unit.

The website <http://www.viaggiaresicuri.it> contains suggestions from the civil protection on the behaviour to adopt in the event of natural disasters.

#### **4.5 Post-return monitoring and publication of the post-mission form**

Upon returning from the mission, the worker will have to fill in an evaluation form on the mission and the country, underlying the critical issues encountered, with particular regard to security issues.

The form must be made available to the entire academic community, in order to create a sort of historical archive of the missions and a document that can be consulted for future missions.





Keeping track of previously addressed critical issues and risks is also helpful for planning more targeted and timely protection and response strategies.

To this end, a copy of the post-mission evaluation form must be sent to the University's Internationalisation Service, which will be responsible for collecting the risk assessment experiences during missions and for sharing them with the academic community.



## 5. GLOSSARY

### MAECI

Italian Ministry for Overseas Affairs and International Cooperation.

### RISK (R)

Risk represents the possibility that the nefative effects of an adverse event will occur, according to the formula:  $R = D \times V \times E$ , where D = dangerousness (i.e. probability of the occurrence of an event); V = vulnerability and E = exposure<sup>13</sup>.

### ANTHROPIC RISK

This category includes events mainly due to human responsibility, such as – for example – accidents involving means of transport, industrial risks, biological contamination.

### GEOPOLITICAL RISK

This is the risk that derives «from more or less overt and recognised situations of political instability within a certain national and/or geographical context – often linked, to limit ourselves to a few examples, to the presence of the so-called “low intensity” conflicts or the recurrence of serious terrorist attacks, or regime changes marked by episodes of more or less widespread violence – and such as to at least partially undermine security»<sup>14</sup>. Cultural factors, local customs and traditions, presence of criminal organisations, common delinquency, terrorism, religious factors, presence of extremism can influence this level of risk.

### PHYSICAL RISK

This category includes events mainly due to physical/natural causes, such as – for example – climatic adversities, endemic diseases and hydrogeological events (landslides, floods), seismic events (earthquakes, tidal waves, etc.).

### RISK PERCEPTION

This is a subjective risk assessment, given by the combination of a cognitive assessment with an empirical and emotional assessment.

### RISK MITIGATION

Set of measures aimed at reducing, in a preventive manner, one or more of the elements that add to the risk, i.e. one or more among dangerousness, vulnerability and exposure. For each type of risk, it is possible to intervene only on some of the components.

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<sup>13</sup> Varnes & IAEG, 1984.

<sup>14</sup> Nunin, R., 2017, p. 116, available at the following link:  
<https://www.openstarts.units.it/handle/10077/15628>.

## 6. REFERENCE REGULATIONS

- Presidential Decree 382/1980;
- Legislative Decree 165/2001.
- **Consolidated law on health and safety at work (Legislative Decree n. 81/2008, Consolidated law on safety at the workplace);**
- **DVR of the home University;**
- Law 240/2010;
- Law 79/2022;
- European Union directives (e.g. Directive n. 89/391/CE on health and safety; Directive n. 97/71/CE on the posting of workers in the context of the provision of services, as amended by Directive (EU) n. 2018/957);
- EC Regulation n. 593/2008 of the European Parliament and of the European Council of 17.06.2008 on the law applicable to contractual obligations;
- Civil Code;
- Ministerial Decree 363 of 1998 “Regolamento recante norme per l’individuazione delle particolari esigenze delle università e degli istituti di istruzione universitaria ai fini delle norme contenute nel D. Lgs. n.626/1994, e successive modificazioni ed integrazioni”;
- Legislative Decree n.151/2015.

Given their non-binding nature, since there is no general application obligation for public universities, the following are indicated only for those entities that also apply them:

- Legislative Decree n.231/2001;
- ISO 31030:2021 standard.