

Risk Management & Contingency Planning: The Impact of the Geopolitical Situation

Laila Odiņa,
CEO of RIX Riga Airport

The best-connected airport in the Baltics

Direct links to primary business and trading centres

90+

Direct destinations

30+

Unique destinations not offered by regional competitors

Home base airlines:

airBaltic, Ryanair, Smartlynx, Norwegian



Management of Operational Continuity at Riga Airport

Ensuring the protection and operational continuity of Riga Airport as a critical infrastructure facility is **a continuous and complex process**.

It is **systematically planned, organized, and updated** by identifying a wide range of risks, and by planning the necessary resources and actions to mitigate those risks and eliminate their consequences.

Emergency Management and Business Continuity Management



Emergency Management

A set of technical, organizational, legal, and political measures aimed at reducing the likelihood of an undesirable event occurring and minimizing the potential impact of its consequences.



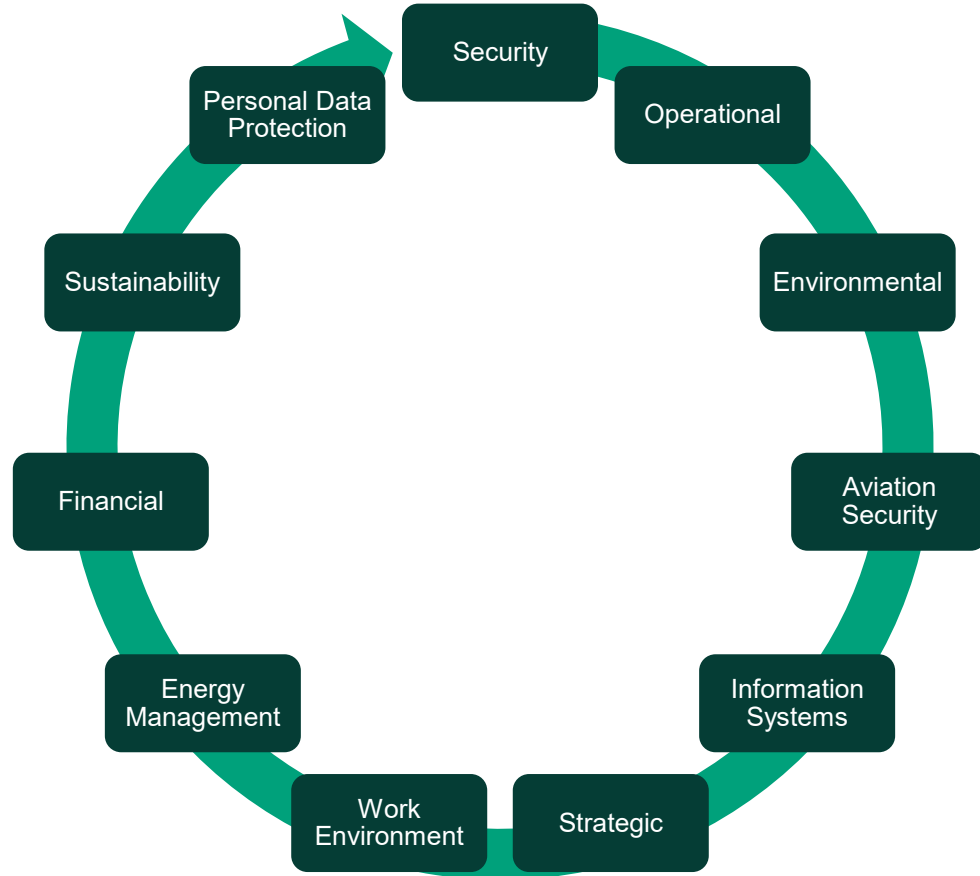
Business Continuity Management

A comprehensive management process that identifies potential critical incidents and their possible impact on airport operations. It ensures the airport's ability to respond effectively in such situations while simultaneously protecting the airport's reputation, assets, and reducing resource losses.

Airport Business Continuity Planning



Airport Business Continuity Risks

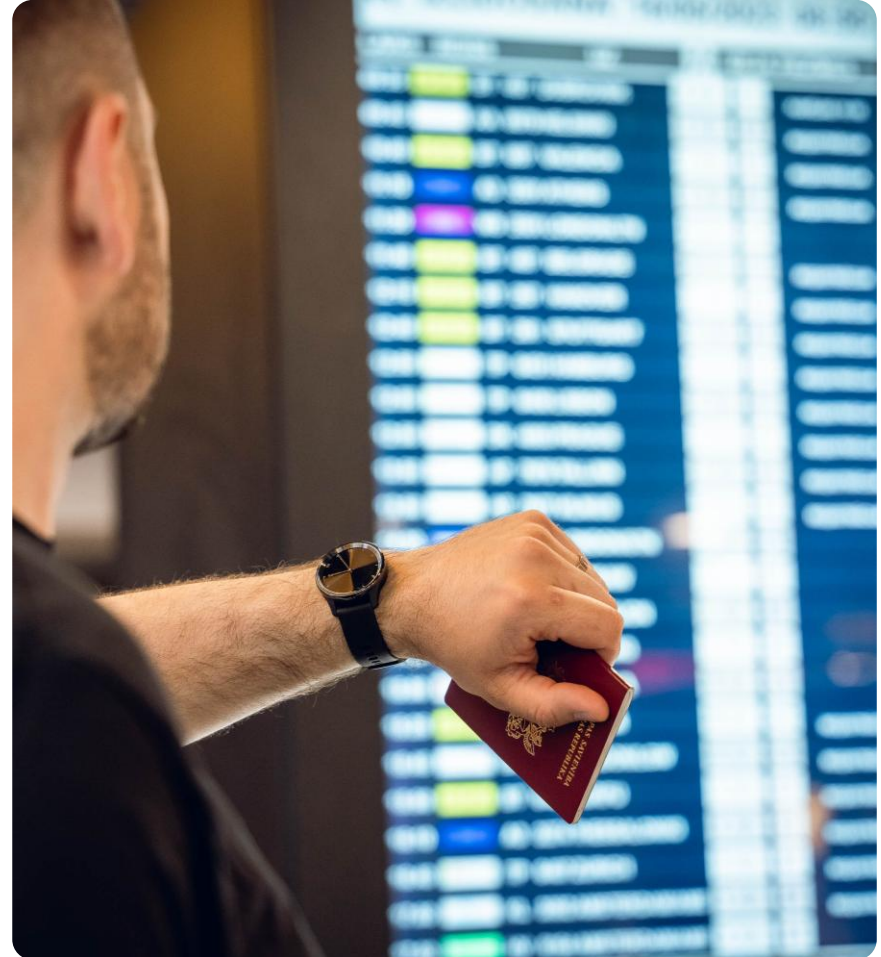


Riga Airport Business Continuity and Recovery Plan

21 business continuity scenarios have been developed, assessing various risks based on the potential impact on the company's operational activities, strategic goals, finances, and reputation.

Scenarios were selected based on the criticality of processes, including:

- Information systems
- Electricity supply
- Other measures that strengthen the airport's resilience against external threats, including cyberattacks.



What were we prepared for?



Safety

Safety Management System



Aviation Security

Aviation Security Management System



Business

Business Resilience Management System

What were we not prepared for?



Hybrid war



Military threat

January 13, 2025

 **Latvian Public Media**

In Rīga +11

IMPORTANT » Defence Border Rail Baltica Coalition  War in Ukraine 2025 municipal elections Straum

Planes redirected from Rīga Monday due to drone presence

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Aija Kinca/Latvijas Televīzija

January 14, 7:37 | Transport |  **LETA** | Authors: LSM+ English (Latvian Public Media)

On Monday, January 13, evening, three planes that were scheduled to land at Rīga Airport were diverted to other airports due to a drone detected in the landing trajectory of the planes, said Aivis Vincevs, Head of Operational Situations at the Civil Aviation Agency (CAA) to LETA.

Drone incident at Riga airport: what was missed and what can we expect in the future?

LETA February 6, 2025

 Facebook  Twitter



Photo: Edijs Pālens/LETA

No malicious intent was found in the actions of any officials involved in the  drone incident that occurred at Riga International Airport on the 13th of January, as concluded by the committee composed by the Ministry of Transport following the order from Prime Minister Evika Siliņa.

Riga Airport to procure drone detection system following UAS sightings

January 21, 2025 Counter-UAS systems and policies

Following reports of unauthorised drones in the airspace above Riga International Airport last week, Latvia's Ministry of Transport says it will improve the Civil Aviation Agency's and other institutions' ability to respond to drone incidents.

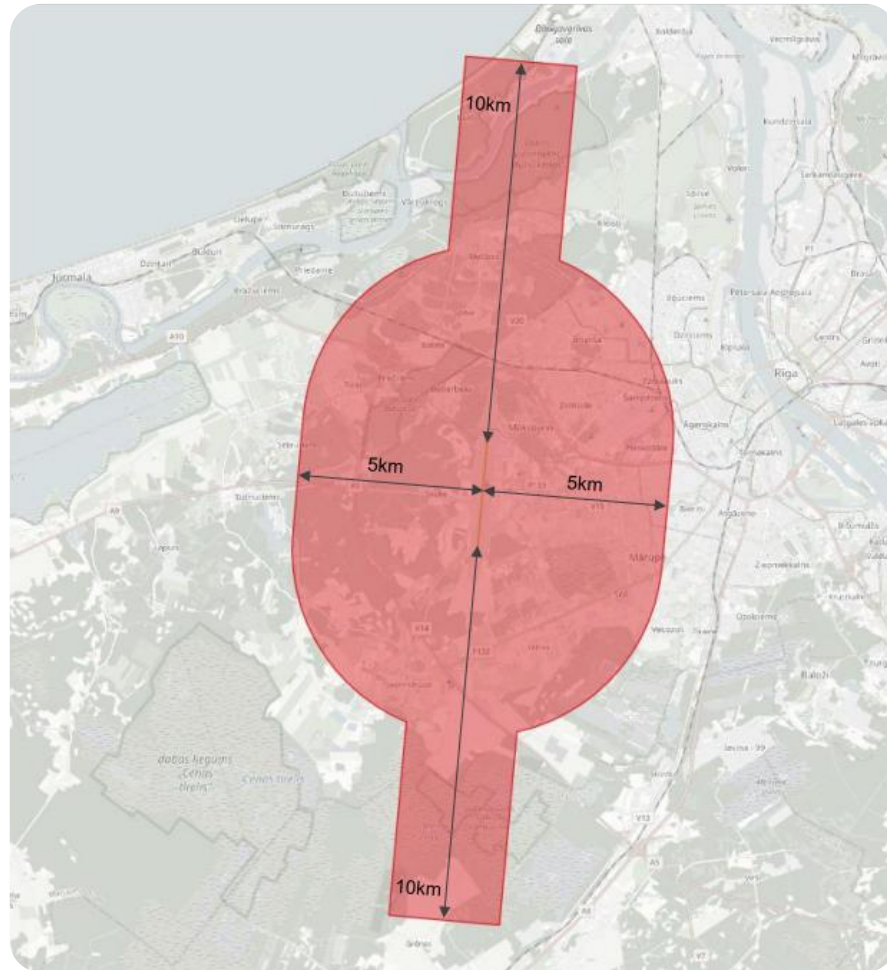
After January 13, 2025: Drone Threat Mitigation

- Cooperation of all involved institutions to:
 - Identify necessary changes in legislation
 - Create a multi-layered drone detection and defense solution at the airport
 - Create a precise response algorithm and cooperation mechanism between airport, State Police, municipal police, National Guard, etc
- Training
- Airport's Drone Unit



RIX Multi-layered Drone Detection and Defense Solution

- A multi-layered drone detection and defense solution uses a combination of sensors to create a comprehensive defense against UAS:
 - radars
 - radio frequency (RF)
 - electro-optical (EO) etc
- By integrating different layers, system overcomes the limitations of a single technology to reliably detect, track, and classify threats, before a suitable response is chosen from a range of mitigation options.



Riga Airport's Role in Military Mobility

Riga Airport is NATO's reserve airfield in Latvia.

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, the presence of military aircraft, cargo, and personnel at Riga Airport has significantly increased.

In 2024, the Canadian Tactical Aviation Unit was deployed at Riga Airport with helicopters.

Preparation for a military threat:

- Airport's National Guard unit
- List of critical personnel
- Cooperation with National Armed Forces (passenger evacuation plans, bomb shelters etc)



Conclusions

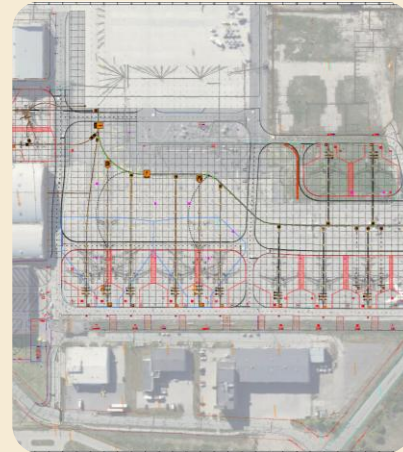
- Hybrid war conditions require a reassessment of risk management processes:
 - Risks can no longer be viewed in isolation (e.g., safety, aviation security, business)
 - Emerging threats are complex and may simultaneously impact multiple areas
 - An integrated risk management system must be developed

Key challenges:

- Shift in mindset
- Risk classification
- Allocation of responsibilities
- Cross-sectoral risk management teams

Development Continues Despite New Threats

- Regular review of forecasts
- Updated Medium-term Strategy
- Masterplan 2050
- Development projects:
 - Passenger terminal extension
 - RIX Airport City
 - Reconstruction of Apron 4
 - Sustainability and innovations



Thank you!

RIX