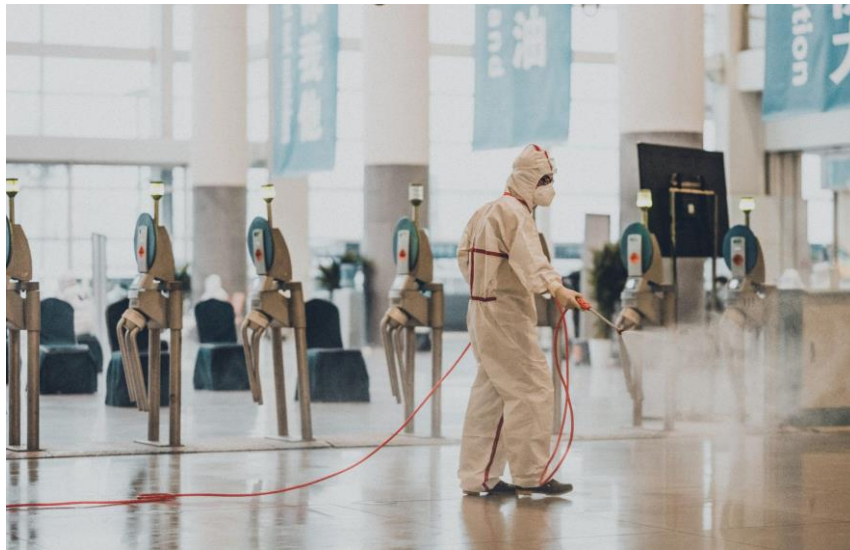




# PRESS RELEASE

## ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE WITH CLEAN AND SAFE PUBLIC TRANSPORT: UITP PARTNERS WITH ISSA AND GBAC



BRUSSELS, 25 MARCH 2021

**The discussion over cleanliness and disinfecting have been important talking points for the public transport sector during COVID-19.**

Public transport employees have worked tirelessly to **implement extra cleaning procedures** on board and at stations to make sure that the **safety, comfort and needs of passengers continue to be met.**

From the very start of the pandemic, UITP's mission has been to **support its members to share best practices and scientific knowledge** to keep public transport safe during COVID-19.

Collaborating with external partners and stakeholders is always a top priority for UITP and by joining forces with **ISSA – the worldwide cleaning industry association** and **GBAC**, its **Global Biorisk Advisory Council™**, we can continue to strengthen our responses to the ongoing international situation.

This new partnership will provide **recommendations for the public transport sector**, to adjust their cleaning and disinfecting practices to ensure service excellence and safety of their services, and offer **the GBAC STAR™ accreditation** for transport providers.

When the coronavirus pandemic began, public transport had to **react to an emergency situation** and tested many different cleaning and disinfecting products and procedures.

This has had a big impact on operations and costs for operators and authorities.

As the pandemic will remain a priority for quite some time, it is important for the sector to **review the current practices and to adapt them**, with the help of experts, to **maximise the safety of the public transport networks**, but also to keep the costs under control.

*“Public transportation is a vital service in society that people must rely on as they return to their routines after Covid-19 lockdowns. It is our duty to help passengers and employees develop assurance in their safety as ridership levels increase. Part of that confidence building comes from validating your protocols and communicating the many steps you are taking to protect people...now is a time when multiple disciplines must work together to protect public health and help local economies recover, making your infection prevention programs vital to a faster, safer recover.”*

**Patricia Olinger, Executive Director of ISSA's Global Biorisk Advisory Council**

### ***What will this new partnership bring to public transport and our members?***

**A new survey has been conducted with UITP members** to identify current practices. Based on the results of this survey, ISSA and GBAC have identified the **“dos & don'ts” for cleaning and disinfection** in public transport environment.

Our first webinar through **our collaboration ISSA and GBAC took place earlier this month, “Achieving excellence with clean and safe public transport”**, bringing together expert speakers from Germany, Australia, Belgium and the US to discuss the latest findings and developments.

Those survey recommendations were presented in the webinar and will be developed in **a future Action Point Report, to be released next month.**

*“Working with our international membership on how best to react to the ongoing global pandemic continues to be a top priority for UITP. By collaborating with leading voices, such as the expertise at ISSA, we can expand our knowledge and output even further. Sharing research and insight allows us to take a closer look at how to best adapt cleaning and disinfection to ensure the highest level of safety for public transport employees and passengers, and strengthen the response of the sector to the coronavirus pandemic.”*

**Karine Sbirrazzuoli**

**Deputy Director of Knowledge and Innovation at UITP**

UITP members will receive **a special discount when applying for this accreditation programme**, which will review protocols for fleets, stations, depots, shelters and corporate facilities.

### **[Learn more about our response to COVID-19 within public transport](#)**



## FOR EDITORS



**(UITP) The International Association of Public Transport** works to enhance quality of life and economic well-being by supporting and promoting sustainable transport in urban areas worldwide. As a passionate champion of sustainable urban mobility, UITP is internationally recognised for its work to advance the development of this critical policy agenda. With more than **1800 members** in **100 countries**, UITP has a long history to its name, and is the only worldwide network to bring together all public transport stakeholders and all sustainable transport modes. Visit the [newsroom](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

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