

English Version

Public transport - Operating raw data and statistics exchange

Transports publics – Échange de données brutes
d'exploitation et de données statistiques

Öffentlicher Verkehr - Betriebliche Rohdaten und
Austausch statistischer Daten

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European foreword

This document (CEN/TR 17370:2019) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 278 “Intelligent transport systems”, the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document is the Technical Report (TR) of Operating raw data and statistics exchange (OpRa) that contains information needed to define precisely the contents of what could be the scope of the following Technical Specification (TS) or European Norm (EN).

0 Introduction

0.1 General

The Public Transport (PT) sector, particularly for Public Transport Operators (PTO) and Public Transport Authorities (PTA), has identified the necessity to develop a data strategy, based on the cost and value, focusing on the strategic benefits of data. It is crucial that mobility stakeholders are not only able to compete against potential new market entrants, but also need a suitable environment to develop new business models and services. Public transport is becoming a data-enabled or data-driven business and should answer different local conditions.

This led to the need to standardize data analysis in Public Transport to understand formally how information can be created as added value and indicator calculation can facilitate moving from a qualitative analysis of the PT service towards a quantitative one.

In this perspective, OpRa (Operating raw data and statistics exchange) defines a minimum set of Public Transport raw data needed as PT quantitative analysis enabling factor.

This document is an informative document that describes the approach followed to perceive this goal and the results got.

0.2 Transport modes

OpRa takes most public transport modes, except air transport, into account. This specifically includes rail, bus, metro, tramway, trolleybus, ferry, coach, funicular railway, suspension railway, and rack railway.

0.3 OpRa management information

Management information deals with functions analysing production data in order to evaluate the service quality or to take corrective measures in planning and managing operations. In PT, for instance, the study of operational data (e.g. observed run times, passenger load) collected during service operations is an input for strategic planning (e.g. how and when to amend the schedules), tactical planning (e.g. when to undertake a certain control action), quality follow-up, etc.

Management information uses, therefore, two main types of data:

- data resulting from the planning stages, i.e. theoretical data on the production orders (e.g. timetables, run times, driver rosters, etc.);
- data describing the daily actual production (e.g. observed passing times, actual number of passengers, missed interchanges, modifications operated to the plan, etc.).

Advances in technology, in particular as regards data storage, allow the provision of all the necessary underlying data in production databases, against which the desired requests can be made by PT managers. Consistent data structures for management data will make the design of such requests easier, and offer the flexibility required to OpRa exchange PT raw data, in order to enable indicators calculation. Raw data is identified according to specific use cases and, where applicable, defined and described in Transmodel format. In this perspective, the exchange will be performed using similar NeTEx modalities, for compatibility reasons.

0.4 OpRa exchanging data modality

Similarly, to NeTEx, the primary software resource from implementing an OpRa interface will be based on XML schema; at this stage, a full schema has not been designed yet.

Two main variants of the schema will be available each providing a different protocol for embedding the same content model subschemas.

- a) **Simple OpRa documents exchange:** (see *NeTEx_publication.xsd*). A schema to use with NeTEx documents input or output by a system that are exchanged as files using FTP, email etc.
- b) **OpRa document exchange using SIRI HTTP requests:** (see *NeTEx_siri_SG.xsd*). A schema that embeds the OpRa elements in a sequence of HTTP messages that define request/response and publish/subscribe interchanges for exchanging data. Requests use OpRa elements to specify the desired data. Responses wrap in version frames. The messages are specializations of the SIRI framework.

0.5 Motivation

Measured Public Transport data describing the public transport network fulfilment are essential for studies, control, service improvement and contractual relations between stakeholders. It is important that they can be shared among PTO, PTA, engineering and design office, researchers, and other actors in a clear and unambiguous way, in order to provide accurate and intelligible information.

Furthermore, the OpRa covered scope is fully complementary to other existing exchange standards and allows covering one of the small remaining gaps of public transport standardization, with particular references to Transmodel, NeTEx and SIRI.

NeTEx (CEN/TS 16614-1 to 3) is an exchange protocol dedicated to scheduled public transport data, based on the Transmodel (EN 12896) conceptual data model. NeTEx supports the exchange of information relevant to public transport services for passenger information and AVM systems and is divided into three parts:

- Part 1: network topology exchange;
- Part 2: timetables exchange;
- Part 3: fare information exchange.

SIRI (EN 15531-1 to 5) is complementary with NeTEx and provides operators and manufacturers with a standard framework for exchanging data concerning public transport real-time information, along with a set of functional services for specific types of real-time data. As for NeTEx, the underlying conceptual definitions used by SIRI are provided by Transmodel. SIRI and NeTEx share the same communication protocol.

Using these standards, scheduled and real-time information can be made available for passenger information, and for operations and for process review. However, there is still one final aspect missing, just after real-time: to provide information about what has actually been performed, with the same overall view as for scheduled information. Such data allows a feedback loop to improve existing services.

The OpRa work is therefore about operating raw data and statistics, regularly requested by PTA, aims to meet that need.

0.6 CEN Standards context

OpRa work has been developed under the aegis of CEN draws on a number of existing national Public Transport Service scenarios and EU standards.

The keystone is the Transmodel standard, a conceptual model that names and represents PT info concepts for a wide set of functional areas and can be used to compare and understand different models. Transmodel project outputs have been used both to underpin a number of CEN concrete data standards such as NeTEx, SIRI or IFOPT¹. It underpins many national standards to allow for harmonization and interoperability. Transmodel generic model has been used to develop OpRa and OpRa-specific requirements itself being updated to include OpRa additions provided also some of Transmodel enhancements (present in prEN 12896-8, concerning Management Information and Statistics).

CEN (Comité Européen de Normalization) is Europe's standardization body. It divides its work into committees covering different aspects of industry and technology. OpRa work is formally produced by Technical Committee 278, Work Group 3, Sub-Group 10. Other TC 278 WG 3 sub-groups handle the related standards, in particular, Transmodel (SG4 Reference data model), SIRI (SG5 Service Interface for Real-time Information) and NeTEx (SG9 Network and Timetable EXchange).

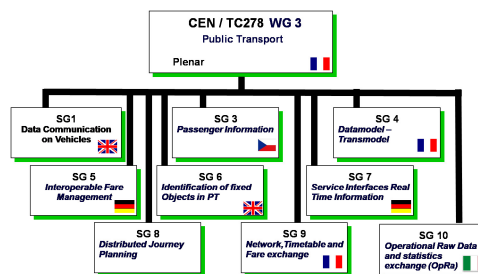


Figure 1 — CEN TC 278 WG 3 Sub-groups

0.7 CEN process and participants

The CEN process requires a working sub-group to develop a candidate specification, which is then sent to national mirror groups for review and comment, with voting stages for approval and adoption. Work on OpRa has involved delegates from France, Hungary, and Italy. Evolution of EU PT standards and OpRa for rail with TAP/TSI compatibility.

The following countries have shown interest for the activation of OpRa work:

- 1) Austria (ASI);
- 2) Czech Republic (UNMZ);
- 3) Denmark (DS);
- 4) France (AFNOR);
- 5) Hungary (MSZT);
- 6) Italy (UNI);
- 7) Netherlands (NEN);

¹ IFOPT has been included in Transmodel Part 2: Public Transport Network (EN 12896-2) and is no more a standalone standard.