

Warning Communication Knowledge Network AlertHub

COST ACTION 23126

We are pleased to share with you the first edition of our AlertHub newsletter. This space is designed to keep all project members informed and connected.

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About **ALERT HUB**

The AlertHub project (COST Action CA23126) aims to establish a European network of researchers and practitioners, focusing on enhancing warning communication and disaster management, particularly in response to the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events resulting from climate change.

Welcome!

AlertHub brings together warning communication expertise mainly from across Europe, but also from diverse regions worldwide. As climate change presents borderless challenges, our network's aim is to contribute to building resilient disaster communication and warning systems.

Please help us to spread the word and engage with even more researchers and practitioners working in the field.

*Florian Meissner & Corina Buzoianu
Action Chair and Action Vice-Chair*

Our Network



Upcoming



Alert Conversations

Alert Conversations series is an initiative dedicated to advance the understanding of warning communication through the insights of both leading scholars and practitioners, thus enhancing collaborative networks and contributing to knowledge transfer.



Within the AlertHub project, activities are organized into four dedicated Working Groups (WGs), each aimed at strengthening collaboration and bridging the gap between research and practice in disaster warning systems, particularly those related to climate change, across Europe. While WGs 1, 2, and 3 each concentrate on specific thematic areas, WG 4 plays a cross-cutting role, synthesizing outcomes and ensuring effective communication and dissemination of results throughout the COST Action. Below, you'll find updates from each WG highlighting recent progress, ongoing tasks, and opportunities to contribute.

WG1 Mapping extant data and research on disaster communication and warning systems in Europe

WG 1 focuses on conducting a comprehensive meta-analysis of studies on warning communication across Europe, identify best actions in disaster communication and warning systems. In doing this, activities such as secondary data analysis, curation of data, stakeholder consultations, and reporting will be conducted.

Contact persons: Bengt Johansson & Sten Torpan

WG2 Mapping challenges of implementing effective warning communication

WG2's activities revolve around identifying and analyzing challenges of implementing efficient warning systems across Europe, (as they are showcased both in academic literature as well as in grey literature). In doing this, the identified challenges will be categorized and clustered, in order to better pinpoint the roots of the existing challenges as well as to spot potential patterns.

Contact persons: Yijing Wang & Heini Ruohonen

WG3 Create an open-access knowledge platform on disaster communication and warnings systems across Europe for researchers, practitioners and policymakers

WG3 is focused on establishing a detailed concept for the structure and format of the knowledge sharing platform, that will eventually comprise data, insights, best practices examples - provided by the other working groups .

Contact persons: Åshild Kolås & Fuzel Ahamed Shaik

WG4 Disseminating knowledge of best practices in Europe

WG4 has a key role in supporting the communication campaign that aims to share the knowledge produced around the best practices showcased by WG3 (but not only), contribute to disseminating the networking events, workshops and meetings. WG4 has also an active role in contributing to expert consultation and reporting.

Contact persons: Renata Matkevičienė & Bianca Toniolo

Past activities



September 17, 2024 – First meeting in Brussels

Our first in-person gathering took place at the COST Association headquarters in Brussels, officially launching AlertHub. The meeting introduced the project's objectives and the vital role of Management Committee (MC) members. Key outcomes included initial planning of activities, election of leadership positions, and early discussions on resource allocation and events.



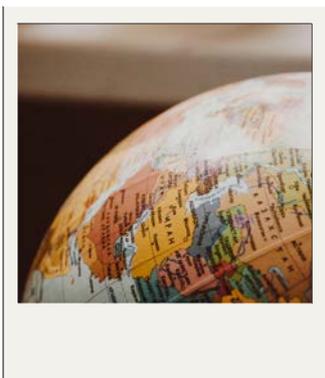
February 25-26, 2025 – Committee meeting in Cologne

The MC and Working Groups (WG) convened in a hybrid format at Macromedia University of Applied Sciences in Cologne. At this point, AlertHub had grown to include 88 registered members from 30 of the 40 COST countries. Leadership updates, the launch of the first dissemination grant, and plans for future academic outputs were discussed. The group also explored options for developing an open-access knowledge platform aligned with EU initiatives.

June 23, 2025 – Welcome to our Global Advisory Board

At the end of June, we proudly introduced the members of our Global Advisory Board (GAB) – a diverse and high-level group of experts in risk and crisis communication, as well as disaster preparedness, from around the world.

Welcome to Jesús Arroyave, Aizhana Dzhumaliev, Joel Iverson, Ngoc-Son Le, Angella Napakol, Juan-Andrés Rincón González, Matt Seeger, Deanna Sellnow, Tim Sellnow, Farrukh Shahzad, and Steven Venette.



June 25, 2025 – #AlertConversations with Dr. Matthew Seeger, professor at Wayne State University

We officially launched the #AlertConversations series on June 25 with an insightful session on communicating flood warnings. The session explored, amongst others, theoretical models behind warning systems and public understanding and perception of risk in diverse contexts.



Grants

This year, we have launched three calls for applications for grants to support small projects or activities connected to your WG or the broader AlertHub. For updates on future grant opportunities, be sure to check the COST Action website regularly – and don't miss upcoming calls!



Network updates

New Communication Channel: WhatsApp Community

To improve and simplify our internal communication, we've launched an AlertHub WhatsApp Community. This platform will help us stay connected and share updates more efficiently. Please click the appropriate link below to join your group:



- [General Community – open to all members](#)
Once inside, you can also join specific WGs of interest.
- [MC Members – for Management Committee members only](#)
- [Core Group – for Core Group members only](#)

Survey: Emerging Technologies in Risk Communication

Please help us share this survey on emerging technologies in risk and crisis communication. [Take or share the survey](#) with this link. Developed by our ECREA partners, this study is highly relevant to AlertHub, especially regarding AI-driven tools. Communication professionals across our network are encouraged to participate.

