AlertHub WG 1 methodological report on the data accessibility gap in disaster communication

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Abstract

Comparative disaster communication research assumes that countries can be studied through a shared research protocol: the same questions can be asked, the same variables can be coded, and the results can be compared across national cases. The material reviewed for this report shows that this assumption is only partly valid. Official documentation on disaster communication and warning systems is not evenly available, searchable, complete, translated, or operationally transparent across countries. The resulting data accessibility gap is not merely a practical inconvenience for researchers. It limits comparison, but is also a signal about how civil protection systems document responsibilities, make warnings intelligible, and enable knowledge transfer before emergencies occur.

This report compares 25 researcher-submitted country protocols with LLM search compilation covering 32 countries. The 25-country overlap includes Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Kosovo, Lithuania, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, and Ukraine. The LLM protocol additionally covers Albania, Cyprus, Finland, Ireland, Kyrgyzstan, Slovakia, and the United States. The researcher protocols contain about 162,500 words and 357 URLs, while the LLM protocol contains about 433,600 words and 4,571 URLs. However, since word and link totals are sensitive to search repetitions, protocol URL placeholders and hyperlinks hidden behind text, these are not direct measures but rather indications of actual accessibility.