WORKING GROUP 3

REPORT M12

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Introduction

Throughout the first year of this COST Action Network, AlertHub's Working Group 3 (WG3) has concentrated its efforts on developing an open-access knowledge platform to advance understanding and practice in disaster communication and warning systems across Europe. The group's work has evolved from initial conceptual discussions to practical design, partnership building, and concept testing, with special progress achieved in establishing a cooperation with the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Library (part of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network, UCPKN).

When WG3 was launched, its main questions reflected both ambition and caution: how to avoid duplication with existing European initiatives, how to ensure continuity beyond the life span of AlertHub, and how to manage issues of copyright, security restrictions, and multilingual accessibility. Early stakeholder input emphasized that AlertHub should not reproduce existing resources but instead add value by linking to and building on European civil protection agency work. These considerations set the stage for a constructive dialogue with the UCPKN, which emerged as a natural partner for WG3's long-term goals

By April 2025, WG3 had already begun to articulate a strategy of "platform linking." Instead of building a stand-alone repository, the group proposed to create a dynamic website that would present AlertHub's work while connecting directly with resources housed in UCPKN. This solution promised both added value and sustainability: while AlertHub would provide curation, thematic clustering, and analytical framing, the long-term maintenance of materials would be anchored in an established European infrastructure. The idea was tested through trial uploads to the UCPKN Knowledge Linrary.

Virtual Meetings with DG ECHO

A turning point came in the spring of 2025, when WG3 established direct dialogue with DG ECHO, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations.

- **27 May 2025 — First Meeting with DG ECHO**
  Participants: Florian, Corina, and Åshild from WG3 met virtually with Stacey Vickers, Stakeholder Communications Coordinator of the Knowledge Network Online Platform and Community Building, and her colleague Ana from the Knowledge Library. The discussion focused on potential modes of collaboration between AlertHub and the UCPKN. Stacey welcomed the initiative and agreed to explore the proposal further with colleagues inside DG ECHO.
- **Early June 2025 — Follow-up with DG ECHO**
  A few days after the first meeting, DG ECHO confirmed its readiness to collaborate further. This endorsement marked a crucial step in embedding WG3's platform into an EU-wide framework.

- **Subsequent Meeting with the Knowledge Library Team (July 2025)** A smaller group — Åshild and Fuzel from WG3, together with Ana and Alexandra from the UCPKN Knowledge Library — met to discuss the logistics of linking AlertHub's resources with the Library. The group agreed on the creation of a dedicated resource-type tag (e.g., "emergency alert," "emergency warning," or "emergency communication") to enable easy filtering and display of AlertHub-relevant content. WG3 members will finalize the title of the tag in upcoming meetings

These meetings laid the foundation for a structured collaboration, ensuring that AlertHub's knowledge platform will be interoperable with UCPKN from the outset.

Activities at DIGeMERGE 2025, University of Oulu

WG3's cooperation with DG ECHO and the Knowledge Library was consolidated during the **DIGeMERGE Conference** at the University of Oulu (14–15 August 2025). On the final day, **15 August 2025**, WG3 held its workshop from 14:00 to 17:00.

- **Participants**: Åshild Kolås, Fuzel Shaik, Roberta Raducu, Lambros Lambrinos, Galina Pisoni, Premysl Rasulek, Lacin Idil Öztig, Stine Bergersen, and Mourad Oussalah from WG3, along with Monica Bira from WG4.
- **Opening Update**: The session began with an update by Åshild Kolås on the collaboration with DG ECHO and the UCPKN Knowledge Library, highlighting the May and June meetings and the agreement to create a dedicated tagging system.
- **Website Demonstration**: Fuzel Shaik presented a live demonstration of the AlertHub website prototype. Participants provided feedback on design, usability, and content integration, which Fuzel committed to refine after the workshop.
- **Integration Discussion**: A central part of the workshop was devoted to the integration of UCPKN's database and upload functions with AlertHub's planned open-access platform. Participants debated the technical and thematic aspects of interoperability and agreed on an overall design plan that emphasized user-friendliness and reliability.
- **Outcome**: By the close of the session, WG3 had finalized the conceptual design of the AlertHub Knowledge Platform and confirmed its alignment with UCPKN. The workshop was judged highly productive, both for consolidating WG3's internal consensus and for confirming the feasibility of the partnership with DG ECHO.

Conclusion

By September 2025, WG3 has achieved remarkable progress. Its cooperation with the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Library has moved from exploratory talks to concrete implementation steps, including the design of a tagging system, trial content uploads, and a finalized platform design. Through virtual meetings with DG ECHO staff and the Oulu workshop, WG3 has ensured that its platform will be sustainable, interoperable, and embedded within the EU civil protection framework.

The year's work demonstrates the value of AlertHub's collaborative ethos: rather than duplicating existing efforts, WG3 has leveraged partnerships to ensure continuity and impact. The basic foundation is now laid for the development of a lasting European resource that will support emergency responders, planners, and researchers in the years to come.